

YOUTH ROUND TABLES FOR BUILDING A PARADIGM OF ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

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ACTIVE PEOPLE ASSOCIATION
ACTIVISTS



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INTRODUCTION



Purpose of the Event:

- The main goal is to advocate for climate justice. This means promoting fair and equitable treatment of all people in the creation and implementation of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Climate justice addresses the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities and seeks to ensure that these communities have a voice in decision-making processes.

Youth Participation as the Central Focus:

- The event emphasizes the active involvement of young people in climate justice efforts. It recognizes that youth are not just future stakeholders but current agents of change who can bring fresh perspectives, energy, and innovative solutions to climate action. Youth participation also helps to ensure that policies are reflective of diverse needs and priorities, especially those of younger generations who will face the most severe impacts of climate change.



Connecting Youth with Policy-Making:

- The event aims to create a platform for dialogue between youth, policymakers, and other stakeholders. By facilitating these interactions, the event encourages mutual learning, knowledge exchange, and the co-creation of strategies for effective climate governance.

Promoting Novel Mechanisms for Participation:

- It seeks to explore new and strengthened mechanisms for youth participation, meaning it wants to find innovative ways to involve young people more deeply and effectively in climate action. This might include creating new roles for youth in decision-making processes, employing digital tools for engagement, or developing new forms of policy advocacy.



Building Leadership and Advocacy Skills:

- The event also focuses on empowering young leaders by enhancing their skills in advocacy, policy dialogue, and civic engagement. This empowerment allows them to actively contribute to discussions, shape policies, and drive initiatives that align with climate justice goals.

Systemic View of Climate Change Governance (CCG):

- Emphasizing a systemic approach means looking beyond individual actions to consider broader structures and policies that influence climate change governance. It encourages understanding the interconnectedness of various governance levels (local, national, international) and the roles youth can play at each stage.

EVENT CONTEXT



1. Connection to the Larger Project: "Youth Participation and Climate Justice":

- **Integrated Approach to Youth Engagement:**

This event is a crucial part of a broader initiative aimed at enhancing youth participation in climate governance. The larger project focuses on empowering young people to play an active role in climate action, especially through systemic empowerment and by addressing structural barriers to participation.

- **Amplifying Youth Voices in Climate Justice:**

The event aims to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and considered in climate policy and decision-making processes. It aligns with the project's broader goal of creating spaces for youth-led dialogues, policy hackathons, and action-led initiatives, thereby contributing to both youth empowerment and climate justice.

- **Promoting Intersectionality and Inclusivity:**

As part of the larger project, this event emphasizes the need to address multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization (e.g., gender, socioeconomic background, ethnicity) that affect young people's participation. By doing so, it aims to make climate justice efforts more inclusive and representative of diverse youth perspectives.



EVENT CONTEXT

2. Relevance to EU Youth Dialogue Priorities and Goals:

- **Alignment with EU Youth Dialogue:**
- The event directly contributes to the priorities set by the EU Youth Dialogue, which focuses on empowering young people to participate actively in democratic and civic life. It supports Goal #9 of the EU Youth Strategy ("Creating spaces and participation for all") by providing a platform for youth to engage in climate justice advocacy.
- **Enhancing Civic Competencies:**
- The event aligns with the EU Youth Dialogue's objectives by focusing on building critical competencies among youth, such as critical thinking, participatory skills, and project design related to climate justice. This aligns with the goal of enhancing civic education and enabling youth to become more effective and informed citizens.
- **Promoting Policy Dialogue and Youth Involvement:**
- It furthers the EU's aim of developing youth participation in policy dialogue, especially around climate justice issues. By engaging both youth and policymakers, the event promotes meaningful exchanges and collaboration, thus fostering a culture of co-creation in policymaking.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Promoting Novel Mechanisms for Youth Participation



- **Innovation in Engagement:**

This objective focuses on experimenting with and promoting innovative methods for youth to engage in climate governance. It suggests moving beyond traditional forms of participation (like consultations or public forums) to more creative and inclusive mechanisms, such as digital platforms, policy hackathons, participatory budgeting, and youth-led research initiatives.

These new mechanisms aim to lower barriers to entry, making participation more accessible to diverse groups of young people, including those from marginalized or underserved communities.

- **Adapting to a Changing Landscape:**

In a rapidly evolving digital and social landscape, novel mechanisms can adapt to the communication styles, preferences, and technological fluency of today's youth. For example, using social media, virtual reality tools, or online petitions can engage youth more effectively and at scale.

Promoting new mechanisms also addresses the need for agility in governance processes, ensuring that youth participation remains relevant and impactful in a changing world.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Fostering New Leadership Roles



- **Empowering Young Leaders:**

This objective is about identifying, nurturing, and empowering young leaders who can take on active roles in climate governance and advocacy. It involves providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, gain visibility, and assume decision-making positions.

By fostering new leadership roles, the event aims to build a pipeline of informed and capable youth leaders who can influence policies and lead climate justice initiatives at various levels (local, national, and international).

- **Diversity in Leadership:**

Fostering new leadership roles also means promoting diversity in leadership by supporting young people from different backgrounds, including those who are often underrepresented in leadership positions, such as women, indigenous youth, and youth from rural or migrant backgrounds.

This approach helps ensure that the leadership landscape is more inclusive, reflecting the diverse experiences and perspectives of youth, which is crucial for comprehensive and equitable climate solutions.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Enhancing Cooperation Among Youth NGOs and Policymakers



- **Bridging Gaps Between Stakeholders:**

This objective seeks to improve collaboration and dialogue between youth organizations, NGOs, and policymakers. By bringing these groups together, the event aims to foster mutual understanding, share best practices, and build coalitions for effective climate action.

Enhanced cooperation can lead to the co-creation of policies that are more reflective of youth needs and perspectives and encourage shared ownership of climate justice goals.

- **Strengthening Policy Impact:**

Effective cooperation between youth and policymakers can increase the impact of policies related to climate justice. It ensures that policies are informed by the lived experiences and insights of young people and are therefore more likely to be both effective and equitable.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Developing Youth Participation in Policy Dialogue on Climate Justice



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ROUND TABLE FORMAT



Encouraging Equal Participation



Engagement Through Active Participation



Fostering Constructive Policy Development



Facilitating Open Exchange of Ideas



Connecting Diverse Stakeholders



YOUTH AGENCY IN CLIMATE JUSTICE: KEY POINTS



New Leadership Roles and Types of Youth Agency

- **Diverse Leadership Models:** Youth leadership in climate justice includes roles like innovators, educators, policy influencers, community mobilizers, digital activists, and environmental entrepreneurs, reflecting diverse contributions beyond traditional advocacy.

- **Types of Youth Agency:**

Formal Agency: Participation in structured processes like youth advisory boards or policy forums.

Informal Agency: Grassroots activities like climate strikes, social media campaigns, or community awareness initiatives.

Collective Agency: Collaboration within groups (NGOs, networks) to amplify impact.

Intersectional Agency: Representation from diverse backgrounds (e.g., women, LGBTQ+, indigenous youth) to ensure inclusive participation.

YOUTH AGENCY IN CLIMATE JUSTICE: KEY POINTS



How Youth Can Shape Climate Policies and Actions

- **Policy Development Participation:** Youth contribute to national and international policy processes, ensuring climate justice principles are part of agreements like the Paris Agreement.
- **Policy Hackathons:** Collaborative events where youth develop innovative policy solutions with stakeholders.
- **Youth-Led Movements:** Initiatives like Fridays for Future have pressured governments to adopt stronger climate policies.
- **Local and Regional Climate Councils:** Youth advise on community-specific climate strategies, ensuring policies reflect their perspectives and needs.
- **Climate Tech Innovation:** Youth-led startups develop scalable solutions for climate challenges (e.g., carbon capture tools, clean energy apps).
- **Research and Advocacy:** Conducting studies on the intersection of climate change and social justice to influence policy decisions.
- **Digital Activism:** Using social media and digital tools to raise awareness and mobilize public support for climate justice.

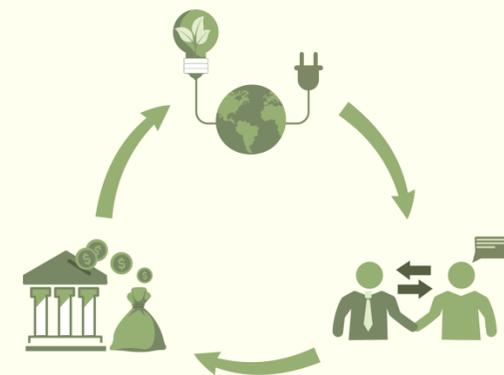
SYSTEMIC VIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE (CCG): CONCEPT AND IMPORTANCE IN FOSTERING MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- **Definition:**

Climate Change Governance (CCG) refers to the complex set of rules, practices, policies, and institutions that shape how society addresses climate change. It involves decision-making processes at various levels — local, national, and international — and includes a wide range of stakeholders such as governments, NGOs, private sector actors, and civil society.

Systemic View of CCG:

- A systemic view of CCG looks at climate governance as an interconnected, multifaceted framework rather than a collection of isolated actions. This perspective considers all levels of governance (policy, politics, polity) and recognizes the interdependence between various elements such as political structures, economic systems, social norms, and environmental practices. It emphasizes that effective climate governance requires coordinated efforts across different sectors, scales, and actors.



INTERSECTIONALITY



Intersectionality is a framework for understanding how various aspects of a person's identity—such as race, gender, socio-economic status, and disability—intersect to create unique experiences of oppression or privilege. In the context of youth participation in climate justice, intersectionality helps identify and address the specific barriers faced by different groups within the youth demographic.

Targeted Outreach and Recruitment:

- **Identifying Marginalized Groups:** Use data and community feedback to identify which youth groups are underrepresented. This may include girls, indigenous youth, youth from low-income backgrounds, or those living in rural areas.
- **Tailored Communication:** Develop outreach materials and recruitment strategies that resonate with the specific needs and cultural contexts of these groups. For instance, using community languages and culturally relevant imagery can make participation more accessible.

POLICY HACKATHONS

Objective: Policy Hackathons are collaborative events where participants work intensively over a short period to develop innovative solutions or strategies. In the context of climate justice, these hackathons aim to generate actionable policy recommendations and creative approaches to addressing climate issues.

Engagement Strategies:

Diverse Participation

- **Youth Involvement:** Young participants bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. By involving youth from diverse backgrounds, including marginalized communities, the hackathons can address a broader range of climate justice issues.
- **Public Authorities:** Including policymakers ensures that the solutions proposed are feasible and can be integrated into existing frameworks. Their presence helps bridge the gap between youth ideas and policy implementation.



POLICY DIALOGUES

Objective: Policy Dialogues are structured discussions between stakeholders, including youth, policymakers, and other relevant actors, aimed at fostering mutual understanding, sharing insights, and developing joint strategies on climate justice.

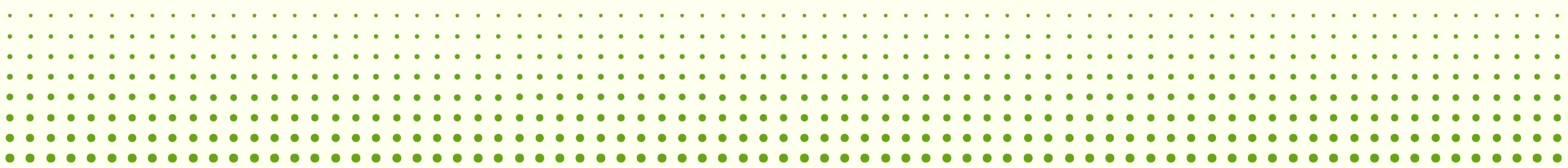
Engagement Strategies

1. Inclusive Dialogue Formats:

- **Round Table Discussions:** These provide an equal platform for all participants to voice their opinions, ensuring that youth perspectives are heard alongside those of public authorities.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Engaging formats such as workshops allow for in-depth exploration of specific issues and encourage active participation.

2. Focused Topics:

- **Climate Justice Themes:** Dialogues center on key topics related to climate justice, such as equitable climate action, adaptation strategies, and the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.
- **Policy Gaps:** Discussions identify and address gaps in existing policies, exploring ways to enhance their effectiveness and inclusivity.



POLICY DIALOGUES

3. Knowledge Exchange:

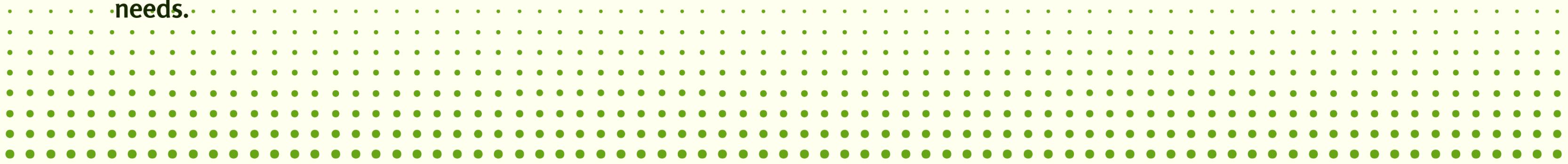
- **Expert Contributions:** Input from climate experts and policymakers enriches the dialogue, providing evidence-based insights and facilitating informed discussions.
- **Youth Perspectives:** Youth participants share their experiences and ideas, highlighting the urgent need for innovative and inclusive climate policies.

4. Consensus Building:

- **Joint Recommendations:** Dialogues aim to build consensus on policy recommendations and strategies. This collaborative approach ensures that proposed solutions are comprehensive and supported by various stakeholders.
- **Policy Integration:** Recommendations from the dialogues are presented to policymakers for consideration and potential integration into broader policy frameworks.

5. Long-Term Engagement:

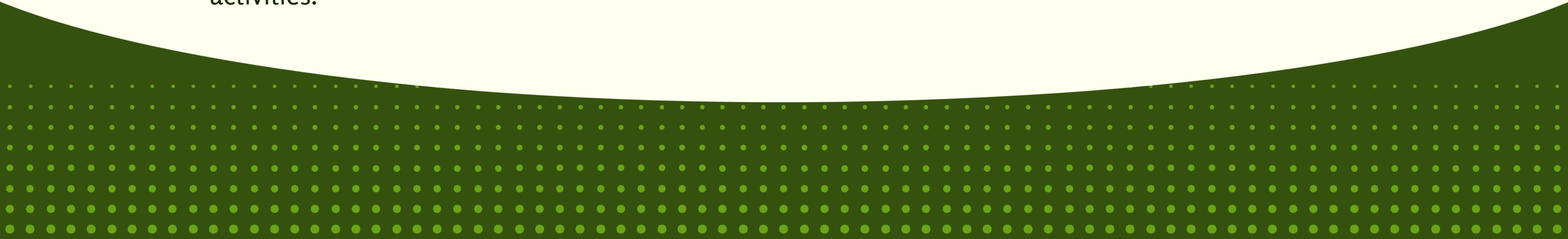
- **Ongoing Communication:** Establishing channels for continuous dialogue ensures that youth and policymakers remain engaged in climate justice discussions beyond the event.
- **Feedback Loops:** Regular feedback mechanisms help to refine policies and strategies based on new insights and evolving needs.



IMPROVED YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



IMPACT

- **Enhanced Participation:** The event aims to increase the active involvement of young people in climate justice discussions and initiatives. This can lead to a more dynamic and representative engagement of youth in the decision-making processes that affect their futures.
 - **Skills Development:** Participants are likely to gain valuable skills in leadership, critical thinking, and participatory practices, which can further their ability to advocate for and implement climate justice measures.
 - **Networking Opportunities:** By interacting with peers, policymakers, and activists, youth participants can build networks that will support their future engagement in climate justice and other civic activities.
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POLICY INFLUENCE



IMPACT

- **Informed Policy Dialogues:** By involving policymakers in the event, the discussion can bridge the gap between youth perspectives and policy formulation. This can lead to more informed and youth-inclusive climate policies.
- **Advocacy and Recommendations:** The event can produce actionable recommendations that policymakers can integrate into their strategies and frameworks, making climate justice policies more responsive to the needs of youth.
- **Long-Term Policy Shifts:** Continuous engagement through policy hackathons and dialogues may influence longer-term policy trends towards more inclusive and ambitious climate action.



THANK YOU!

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