



AZMUN Foundation

**Sy. No. 60, Huskur Village & Sy. No. 151, Bommenehalli Village,
Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560049**

Phone: +91 (810) 650-0777

Email: Contactayonizmun@gmail.com



Policy Brief — Youth Involvement in Climate Action (UNFCCC Focus)

Introduction and Executive Summary

As climate change intensifies each year, young people are playing a major role in raising awareness and tackling its consequences. They are becoming entrepreneurs, negotiators, and leaders during this crucial time. Despite being among the victims of climate change, youth demonstrate their critical importance in this decisive moment. This report outlines existing mechanisms, identifies key obstacles, showcases successful youth-led



AZMUN Foundation

**Sy. No. 60, Huskur Village & Sy. No. 151, Bommenehalli Village,
Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560049**

Phone: +91 (810) 650-0777

Email: Contactayonizmun@gmail.com

initiatives, and presents four targeted policy recommendations to strengthen youth voice and influence in UNFCCC decision-making.

UNFCCC and Its Youth Engagement Mechanisms

- **YOUNGO:** The official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC, YOUNGO is a vibrant global network of youth activists and NGOs that shape intergovernmental climate change policies.
- **Care About Climate:** A youth-led non-profit that empowers individuals to advocate in climate-related decision-making through education and training.
- **Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE):** This agenda aims to engage all members of society in climate action through education, public awareness, and international cooperation.
- **UNICEF:** Present in 36 countries, UNICEF advocates for child-centered climate adaptation and resilience-building, ensuring compliance with the rights of children and adolescents.
- **Conference of Youth (COY):** YOUNGO runs various formats of COY to empower youth and formally bring their voices to UNFCCC processes.

Key Challenges Young People Face in UNFCCC Participation

- **Financial and Travel Hurdles:** Attending COPs is expensive, creating an inequitable system where privileged voices are amplified.
- **Participation Disparity and Inclusion Gap:** Disadvantaged youth face greater impacts of climate change and are often excluded from decision-making processes.
- **Oversight and Accountability:** Lack of established monitoring and evaluation systems limits tracking of youth recommendations and their impact on policy outcomes.
- **Burnout and Psychological Strain:** The slow pace of multilateralism leads to emotional distress and burnout among youth climate advocates.



AZMUN Foundation

**Sy. No. 60, Huskur Village & Sy. No. 151, Bommenehalli Village,
Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560049**

Phone: +91 (810) 650-0777

Email: Contactayonizmun@gmail.com

- **Lack of Institutional Power:** YOUNGO has no voting rights, limiting youth influence in negotiations and decision-making.

Successful Youth-led Climate Initiatives

- **India Youth Climate Network (IYCN):** Founded in 2008, IYCN empowers Indian youth to take effective action towards climate change and improve representation in global forums.
- **Zero Hour:** An intersectional movement started in 2017 that focuses on climate awareness, art festivals, and climate marches, addressing issues like capitalism and racism.
- **Climate Cardinals:** This initiative educates diverse communities about climate issues, translating information into over 100 languages and reaching over 500,000 people in 41 countries.

Policy Recommendations

- **Integrate Sustained Youth Seats:** Establish a UNFCCC Youth Participation Fund to cover costs for delegates from disadvantaged regions.
- **Establish an Intergenerational Accountability Mechanism:** Create a space within the UNFCCC Global Stocktake for formal youth responses to climate action findings.
- **Guarantee Meaningful Procedural Roles for Youth:** Create formal youth observer slots in key agenda items and encourage national delegations to include youth representatives.
- **Mainstream Intersectional Inclusion KPIs:** Require disaggregated participation data and set minimum targets for representation from marginalized youth groups.

Conclusion



AZMUN Foundation

**Sy. No. 60, Huskur Village & Sy. No. 151, Bommenehalli Village,
Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560049**

Phone: +91 (810) 650-0777

Email: Contactayonizmun@gmail.com

The work undertaken with and by youth is crucial to raise government ambition in climate change agreements. Tackling climate change requires coordinated action and informed efforts by individuals. Strengthening both formal and informal education on climate change is essential, as is fostering partnerships between governments, NGOs, and youth organizations for joint environmental initiatives. Plans must also focus on enhancing the resilience of youth in rural communities in underdeveloped and developing countries.