



National Youth Statement Report 2024 | Nepal

Prepared by :

LCOY Nepal 2024

Youth Action for Sustainable and Eco Nepal (YASEN)
& Sustainability Week Kathmandu (SWK)

“Future in Focus : Amplifying the Youth Voices”

Local Conference Of Youth (LCOY) Nepal 2024, officially endorsed by YOUNGO – the children and youth constituency of UNFCCC , aimed to empower Nepalese children and youth by providing a unified platform for learning, discussion, and solution to the pressing climate crisis and its negative effects. As a national version of the Global Conference of Youth (COY), the outcome contributes to the national and international climate policies and actions including Nepal's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 and UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 29).

Recalling Climate Change Policy (2019), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) , Nepal's Second NDC (2020) , National Youth Policy(2015). Reassuring Sustainable Development Goals 2015 (SDGs) , Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD), Declaration on children, youth and climate action , General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change.

Recalling previous LCOYs in Nepal and Reaffirming demands and commitments set in LCOY Nepal 2023 “Vision to Action , Youth Leading the Way for Climate Action in Nepal”, that calls for inclusive and equitable participation in climate decision-making, transparency in climate finance, clean energy promotion, divestment from fossil fuels, prioritization of marginalized groups , and effective research and innovation to combat the climate crisis and build a sustainable future for Nepal.

We gathered 200 individuals together at LCOY Nepal 2024 to learn and express on the ground realities of young people to address the adverse impacts of changing climate from the mountains to the plains.

We stand with the added responsibility and opportunity to express the needs and demands of childrens and youths from all across the country to combat the climate crisis. The world is facing the triple planetary crisis viz; climate change, air pollution and biodiversity loss exacerbating the vulnerabilities and inequalities in the communities; it's high time we act on it “IT'S NOW OR NEVER”. It is for us, the next generation and our upcoming future.

The National Youth Statement is prepared through series of virtual consultations, informative sessions, group workshops, panel discussions, interactive sessions, Q & As, online feedback survey and experts feedbacks on four key themes - Children and Youth Engagement in NDCs, Addressing Climate Loss and Damage, Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Resilience, and Capacity Building and Networking. The statement incorporates the voices of about 1500 individuals representing diverse socio-demographic backgrounds of the country, an advocacy tool for discourse on the pressing climate crisis faced by Nepal.

We call upon all of you to join your hands together with us to achieve the vision to create a safe, sustainable and resilient future for all. We present our call to action upon:

1. Capacity Building and Networking:

Youth participation in the climate discourse has often been undermined due to limited capacities and skills required for actions and solutions. So, we demand for dedicated capacity and skill building programs and initiatives for children and youths for meaningful climate actions.

- **Climate education:** Inclusive climate education and awareness programs should be promoted and mainstreamed for children and youths, reaching out to the vulnerable and targeted groups to leverage their capacities.
- **Research and Innovation:** We demand for more rigorous investments in youth led interdisciplinary research projects and innovations to facilitate youth-led initiatives and promote climate action.
- **Networking, Skill, Technology and Knowledge Exchange:** Children and youth centered initiatives should not be confined to a particular area, instead skill, technology and knowledge exchange programs among the children and youths from different regions should be promoted. Dedicated mechanisms or platforms should be created for knowledge and skill exchange and networking among children and youth.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Enhance and reinforce collaboration and partnership amongst the government agencies, civil society organizations, private sectors, indigenous people, young people, other vulnerable groups for implementing the plans and programs effectively and efficiently.

2. Engagement of children and youths in NDC 3.0 and other climate related policies and activities:

Climate Action and advocacy cannot stand tall without the engagement of Children and Youths. We emphasize that policies and campaigns should be launched considering what the next generation demands for. **“Nothing about us, without us”**. We demand for the inclusive engagement of children and youth into climate policies for a stronger climate action.

- **Dedicated section for children and youth:** We urge the government to establish a youth desk and network at MOFE to institutionalize representation, amplify voices and consolidate climate action led by children and young people across Nepal. We demand to assign NDC youth focal points to enhance and recognize the contribution of the young generation in NDCs.
- **Youth engagement in policy building:** We demand for the inclusive representation of children and youth in the policy building processes in all three tiers of government from the planning to monitoring; the diversity and inclusion of young people should be ensured. Youths should be at the table of decision making and climate negotiations.
- **Children and youth friendly and responsive policies:** Children and youth are not only the victims of the climate crisis but also the key stakeholders and agents of change. Therefore, policies should be children and youth friendly with long term and short term targets. We urge the government to uphold priorities identified by children and youth across the world by signing the “Children, Youth, and Climate Action Declaration” made during COP 25 in Madrid.
- **Youth mobilization on the ground:** Special initiative should be taken by the local government to leverage the power of young people thereby mobilizing and engaging them in each stage of local development and climate resilient actions. Local levels should promote child clubs , eco-clubs and youth networks and channelize finance focusing on children and vulnerable populations.

3. Indigenous knowledge and practices for climate resilience:

The large pool of climate resilient and sustainable indigenous knowledge and practices honing from the diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of Nepal has not yet been recognized well. We call on the government and concerned authorities to document and share those valuable assets widely.

- **Integrated approach to mainstream indigenous knowledge and practices:** Indigenous knowledge, rooted in deep relationships with the land and adaptable to the natural world, is crucial for effective climate solutions. It should be recognized, restored, documented, and integrated with modern science and policies for a safer, resilient, and sustainable future.
- **Ensuring Indigenous Peoples Right and Participation :** Recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples as vital custodians of locally led adaptation and other climate solutions. Ensure their effective participation in climate negotiations at all levels to address historical inequalities and leverage their invaluable knowledge for a sustainable future.
- **Intergenerational Indigenous Knowledge Transfer:** Guided by Indigenous elders, the new generation can learn nature based solutions, sustainable living, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem preservation. This invaluable knowledge is essential for climate science, policy, and action, helping youth monitor and adapt to climate shifts.

4. Addressing Climate Loss and Damages :

Children and youth are on the frontline of the adverse impacts due to changing climate. Despite their minimal contribution, they are the one who bears the severe loss and damages. Therefore, we urge upon all to recognize climate justice as a fundamental right and address adverse impacts upon children, young people, women and vulnerable communities.

- **Planned and sustainable development:** We demand for planned, sustainable and resilient development in order to mitigate the severe impacts from climatic and non-climatic disasters like heat waves , wildfires , GLOFs and so on.
- **Weather monitoring and Early warning systems:** Remote sensing and data satellite provisions should be developed for weather monitoring and multi-hazard

early warning systems leading to effective disaster risk reduction and management therefore minimizing loss and damage substantially .

- **Evidence based climate policies and actions:** Plans and policies when developed should integrate and be based on scientific data and evidence for climate actions that are effective to address loss and damage.
- **Dedicated finance for children and youths:** The government should allocate dedicated financial resources for addressing the special needs and requirements of children and young people especially those from vulnerable and marginalized communities.

5. Climate Finance:

The current financial mechanism at national and international level is not accessible and effective to reach the targeted and vulnerable communities. We call for investment in children and young people to support youth-led innovations and actions with simplified , transparent and accountable climate financing mechanisms.

- **Inclusive Financial Accessibility:** Implement simplified and accessible climate financing mechanisms specifically designed to reach vulnerable and targeted communities, ensuring equitable distribution of funds.
- **Support to Youth-Led Innovation:** We urge to establish dedicated climate finance programs that prioritize and support youth-led innovations and actions, providing grants, and technical assistance.
- **Transparent and Accountable Mechanisms:** We call for an increase in investment for children and young people along with transparent and accountable financial mechanisms that involve local children, young people and communities in decision-making processes and regularly monitor and report on fund allocation and impact.

LCOY Nepal 2024 “National Youth Statement” is grounded in the recognition of children and youths as pivotal stakeholders in climate action, aligning with global commitments under the Paris Agreement, national and international treaties. It represents the commitment and aspirations of Nepalese youth towards addressing climate change, promoting environmental conservation, and empowering marginalized communities. We will make sure to regularly track and follow up the progress made further to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations proposed. Together we can create a sustainable and resilient future, one where the undermined voices of the younger generation are addressed.

References

- Nepal Climate Change Policy 2019 (Climate Nepal) Nepal's Climate Change Policy (2019)
- Nepal Climate Change & Development Portal Nepal's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- (UNFCCC) Nepal's Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 2020)
- National Youth Policy (2015) of Nepal:
- Sustainable Development Goals 2015 (SDGs): You can find the SDG documents here.
- ParisAgreement –
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/parisagreement_publication.pdf
- <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030> Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): CBD Official Website.
- Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action: Children, Youth, and Climate Action Declaration.
- General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment: General Comment No. 26.- <https://childrightsenvironment.org/consultation/>