POSITION PAPER FOR COP29

BY YES-EUROPE & EYEN

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND THE NEED TO FOSTER YOUTH AND LOCAL LED ACTION TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

EYEN
YOUTH ENERGY

YES - Europe
Young leaders in Energy and Sustainability

Abstract

This position paper from YES-Europe and EYEN highlights the critical role that sustainable cities and youth-led initiatives play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. As cities account for around 70% of global emissions, they must be key players in both mitigation and adaptation efforts. The paper advocates for enhanced multilevel governance, urging greater inclusion of local stakeholders, non-state actors and especially youth in the UNFCCC processes, strategies, and outcomes. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of financing local and youth-led climate action while calling for expanded education and training programmes to equip young people with the skills necessary to drive a just sustainable transition. This paper builds on the initiatives of previous COPs, pushing for more ambitious climate policies and the institutionalisation of frameworks that empower cities and communities to take meaningful climate action. By fostering local leadership and empowering youth, the paper argues that sustainable and resilient cities can contribute significantly to achieving a just transition and equitable climate solutions for all.

Table of Contents

A. About YES-Europe 4

B. About EYEN 5

C. About this Position Paper 6

D. Introduction 7

E. Who is Being Affected? 8

F. Our Call to Action 9

G. Recommendations on the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme and the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme at COP29 18

H. Recommendation on the establishment of a dedicated Energy Negotiation track 21

I. Closing remarks 22

About YES-Europe

YES-Europe unites students and young professionals from a wide range of energy and sustainability backgrounds across Europe. By engaging at local, national, European and global levels, our mission is to empower young people to play a meaningful role in the net zero transition of their regions. As a grassroots organisation, we want to emphasise the need for Parties to enhance the inclusion of local communities in the UNFCCC process. This year's efforts build upon the Energy Transition Careers Compass. The Compass, a tool which was developed in collaboration with the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) in light of COP28,[1] was designed to guide young people through the various stages of the energy transition job ecosystem. We believe that empowering local communities with the necessary knowledge and skills to actively participate in the process - as well as providing them with meaningful opportunities for involvement - is crucial to prevent societal backlash against climate initiatives and ensure the success and resilience of the net-zero transition.

1 https://youthenergy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/BOOKLET-Energy-Transition-Careers-Compass_EYEN.pdf

About EYEN

The European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) is the think tank placing youth at the centre of the European energy transition. We believe in a future where the European youth is instrumental in shaping a just and sustainable energy transition. EYEN will achieve this by building intergenerational trust, equipping youth with adequate knowledge and skills and creating spaces for them to act. EYEN is a non-profit volunteer-led association uniting 21 youth energy-focused member organisations, consisting of more than 2,000 young professionals and students operating in more than 15 countries at European, national, and local levels. EYEN also engages and cooperates with more than 25 international organisations, institutions and companies to support and execute youth projects in the energy transition. Alongside the Energy Transition Careers Compass,[2] our other flagship projects are the European Youth Energy Forum (EYEF), gathering more than 50 youths every year to discuss specific energy-related issues and propose concrete solutions,[3] this year focused on sustainable cities, and the Young Energy Consumers (YEC) research project, investigating the impacts and solutions for youth when addressing the critical issues of energy poverty and consumers' engagement in Europe.[4]

2
ibid
3
https://youthenergy.eu/position-papers/
4
https://youthenergy.eu/young-energy-consumers/

About this Position Paper

Following EYEN and YES-Europe's presence at COP28, the organisations recognised the need to continue advocating for decisive international action to achieve the global climate and environmental targets and empower youth being affected by the climate crisis to take an active part in its alleviation. The window of opportunity to limit global warming within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is rapidly closing. Despite the urgency of the matter, progress at previous COPs has been slow, especially when it comes to the implementation of specific measures, negotiation track systems and policies as well as the engagement of non-party stakeholders, including youth and marginalised communities.

Introduction

The world is at a critical point in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. While cities are responsible for around 70% of global emissions, primarily due to buildings and transportation,[5] they are also on the front lines of climate change impacts and have emerged as pioneers in developing climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions. Consequently, to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, we must significantly engage our cities and local communities in climate decision making.

To effectively build on these subnational efforts, global negotiations and frameworks play a crucial role. In line with the urgent call for multilevel action made in the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, cities and regions can significantly contribute to the execution of national climate targets.[6] C40's research shows that investing in urban climate action can halve emissions and create 33% more jobs compared to business as usual.[7] This allows mayors to combat climate change while improving health and social issues. However, for cities to fully realise this potential, efforts must be fully integrated into national and international frameworks. True progress requires cities and regions' leaders to be actively involved in developing, implementing and monitoring climate action under the UNFCCC and other international fora. Collaboration is key to ensuring that urban areas and local communities work together during all stages of the policy cycle in terms of adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage strategies.

5
https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/cities-and-climate-change#:~:text=Estimates%20suggest%20that%20urban%20areas,contributors%20(IPCC%2C%202022)
6
https://www.gmfus.org/news/cop27s-missed-opportunity-failing-engage-cities
7
C40 cities to drive the creation of 50 million good, green jobs by 2030 - C40 Cities; Green & Just Transition - C40 Cities

Climate action must be based on principles of a just transition. The upcoming discussions at UNFCCC COP29 will be pivotal in advancing climate-resilient and equitable transitions in regions all over the world. This goes beyond mitigation efforts, as cities that are already bearing the brunt of extreme heat, droughts, flooding, and sea-level rise are placing increasing focus on adaptation measures.[8]

Who is Being Affected?

More than half of the global population lives in cities and by 2050 the urban population is expected to increase its current size by more than 50%.[9] At the same time, the latest UN-Habitat's report launched at SB60 (60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies) reveals that only 27% of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have strong urban content.[10] With the remaining ones including moderate to no urban mentions.

In addition, more than half of the global population is under the age of 30[11] and about 90% of young people are from the Global South.[12] Youth, especially from developing countries, are among the most affected by the inadequate global action to advance climate change mitigation and climate justice. The urban youth, in particular, are expected to see the worst impacts of global warming due to an absence of vegetation, otherwise present in rural areas.[13] As such, enhancing youth participation is crucial not only because of the unique challenges they face but also due to the creative potential they can bring to devise innovative solutions tailored to the local contexts. As rights-bearing citizens, young people deserve meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes that affect them. Engaging youth is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it is also a prerequisite for successful and higher-impact climate initiatives.

8 https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/why-is-climate-change-adaptation-important-for-cities-and-how-are-they-adapting/; https://monitor.eurocities.eu/climate-adaptation/

9 https://www.un.org/uk/desa/68-world-population-projected-live-urban-areas-2050-says-un

10 https://www.c40.org/news/ndcs-urbanised-bonn/

Our Call to Action

We call upon Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to accelerate the climate-resilient and just transition in urban areas, by facilitating a better integration between the UNFCCC COPs and subnational governments. In particular, we urge Parties to:

1. **Formalise multilevel governance within the UNFCCC framework;**
2. **Enhance the meaningful participation of non-state actors and youth in the UNFCCC process;**
3. **Support and promote the participation of regional authorities and marginalised local communities in the development and implementation of UNFCCC climate strategies at the national level;**
4. **Finance the net-zero transition through increased support for local projects; and**
5. **Enhance community awareness of global climate initiatives and improve access to both formal and informal climate and sustainability education.**

11 https://globalchildren.georgetown.edu/posts/are-we-prepared-to-serve-the-youngest-half-of-the-global-population

12 https://www.gci.cam.ac.uk/overview/events/halfway-sdgs-conference-lessons-south-2022/outputs/challenges-youth-and-work-global#:~:text=About%2090%20per%20cent%20of,are%20in%20the%20Global%20South

13 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877705815026387

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Formalise multilevel governance within the UNFCCC framework

Building on Parties' commitment to include all stakeholders in the process as confirmed in the Glasgow Climate Pact, we call on all Parties to actively collaborate with subnational governments to advance multilevel climate action. We acknowledge the progress achieved during the past COPs to foster multilevel action in the UNFCCC process through initiatives such as the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action; COP27 Presidency's Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe); COP28 Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS); COP28 Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change, and COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP).

However, further efforts and resources are required to ensure that these initiatives attract all necessary stakeholders and resources and translate into meaningful engagement both at the international and national levels. A better coordination mechanism between existing efforts could avoid duplication of work and fragmentation, enable knowledge sharing between and within national and subnational actors and improve the quality and impact of multilevel participation within the UNFCCC decision-making process. Therefore, we urge Parties to:

A) Strengthen existing initiatives and improve the complementarity and synergies between them. We call for both increased commitment by Parties to multi-stakeholder initiatives such as CHAMP and reinforcing their implementation at the local levels. For example, by outreaching to local governments and establishing a permanent platform that facilitates continuous national-subnational cooperation on relevant UNFCCC negotiation topics.

B) Institutionalise a regular dialogue platform between national and subnational governments such as the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change

and facilitate the inclusive participation of other non-party stakeholders (NPS), including young people. This would be in compliance with Global Stocktake (GST) Para 161 and underpinned by the existing initiatives such as CHAMP, which can enhance this cooperation. This could provide the necessary space to discuss how to turn political declarations and outcomes from COPs into concrete actions on the ground with the support of NPS. The outcomes of this forum should also feed into the UNFCCC negotiations and processes.

Enhance the meaningful participation of non-state actors in the UNFCCC process

In line with Action 55 of the UN Pact for the Future, we call on Parties to provide meaningful opportunities for the participation of non-state actors in the UNFCCC negotiations, including young people, local communities, women, trade unions, indigenous people, academia, etc. and ensure that the outcomes of these deliberations are feeding into the negotiations. We commend the recognition of youth in the UNFCCC process, including through the establishment of the Youth and Children Constituency (YOUNGO), the acknowledgement of the need to ensure meaningful youth participation, and representation in the Glasgow Climate Pact and Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment as well as the establishment of the Children and Youth Pavilion and Youth Climate Champion

However, many Parties have still not involved youth as full stakeholders in the process both at the national and international levels. Youth inclusion is a two-way process, which requires both sides to develop the skills and willingness to collaborate meaningfully.

A) Parties should establish open and regular channels of communications with non-state actors, including through strengthening collaboration with the High-Level Champions, so as to give NPS and frontline communities, including marginalised groups, the opportunity to influence the negotiation outcomes and not just share their opinion.

B) We urge Parties to proactively engage youth throughout all stages of the UNFCCC negotiations instead of ceremonially consulting them at the final stage with little possibility to influence decisions. In the UNFCCC space, this can take the form of pre-sessional and on-site consultative meetings; youth inclusion in Party delegations; youth-led climate forum for dialogue between Parties and youth (as stipulated by paragraph 65 of Glasgow Climate Pact); guarantee the effective participation in technical dialogues and enhanced opportunities for intervention; sponsoring youth participation in conferences, etc.[14] While capacity-building for youth to engage in political processes is often emphasised, the need to build Parties' capacity to effectively involve youth and vulnerable groups is less discussed even though it is just as essential.

ON THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Support and promote the participation of regional authorities and marginalised local actors in the development and implementation of UNFCCC climate strategies at the national level

Paragraph 9 of the Global Stocktake emphasises the importance of ensuring that climate action considers equity principles and the needs of vulnerable populations. It underscores the necessity of broad stakeholder engagement to address existing inequalities and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of climate policies. In line with this passage, we believe that inclusive and effective stakeholder involve-

14 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/YOUTH%20STOCKTAKE%20on%20UNFCCC%20PROCESSES%208%2012%2023.pdf

ment in policy-making holds the potential to mitigate existing inequalities by ensuring the consideration of marginalised perspectives. This fosters greater transparency, enhances community support and results in more effective and sustainable outcomes.

To achieve the goals of a just transition, this principle shall be obliged not only at the international and national level, but also within the local scope. To this end, the effective inclusion of local authorities in UNFCCC-related national climate strategies, as well as broader community engagement at the local level in UNFCCC-related processes are essential.

A) We call for the effective inclusion of local governments in the development, implementation and monitoring of UNFCCC climate strategies such as NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). By incorporating the perspectives of subnational governments that are closer to affected communities, climate action plans can be made more inclusive and effective in addressing the specific needs of all community members. To achieve this, it is important to adopt an all-of-government and all-of-society approach, coordinating efforts across all levels of government and societal groups.

B) The quality and acceptance of proposed policies depends on the active involvement of all segments of society, including businesses, trade unions, academia, civil society, and especially vulnerable groups. Initiatives such as TownHall COPs[15] should be rolled out more widely as they can bring climate negotiations closer to people, foster trust in institutions, counter misinformation, and promote climate policies that are inclusive, representative, and just. Furthermore, national and regional authorities should make dedicated efforts to institutionalise the involvement of young people and marginalised communities in respective decision-making processes. Involving youth at the local levels through platforms such as Youth Climate Action Councils[16] can facilitate the development of future-proof, innovative, and equitable climate solutions.

15 https://talkofthecities.iclei.org/townhall-cops-energizing-global-stocktake-towards-and-beyond-cop28/

16 https://icleiusa.org/resources/preview-youth-climate-council-startup-toolkit/

In addition, it can foster grassroot leadership, wider community support, and a sense of ownership of the transition. Therefore, we urge Parties to engage young people through, among others, inclusion in national strategy meetings, regular consultation with youth representatives, setting up youth advisory groups, organisation of youth events, online surveys and consultations, social media outreach, etc.[17] Moreover, it is also essential that Parties develop a regular feedback mechanism to inform youth on how their input was considered as well as methods of tracking the effectiveness of youth participation.

Financing the Transition through Increased Support for Local Projects

Current climate finance flows to cities are estimated at around USD 384 billion annually, which falls significantly short of the USD 4.5 to USD 5.4 trillion needed each year until 2030 to support low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development and infrastructure.[18] To effectively address the climate crisis and its widespread impacts, cities require much greater financial support and easier access to funding. This includes developing innovative, investor-ready financing models and creating favourable conditions for climate finance to reach local levels. In this respect, national governments, international organisations, and financial institutions play a critical role in offering the necessary technical and capacity-building support while ensuring that finance is directed to local projects. However, advancing a multi-level climate finance agenda is often not prioritised in global negotiation forums such as COP.[19] Therefore, we urge Parties to provide increased and sustained financial support for local projects as a critical component of a just transition.

A) Better integration between UNFCCC COPs and local levels can be achieved through targeted financing for local projects. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance, established under the Paris Agreement, aims to provide at least USD 100 billion annually from 2025 to support developing nations in mitigating and adapting to climate change. This new public finance provision goal

17 https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-05/UNDP-Elevating-Meaningful-Youth-Engagement-for-Climate-Action-2.pdf; https://iclei.org/e-library/unlocking-the-power-of-youth/; https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/youth-engagement/playbook/

should be ambitious, needs-based, non debt-inducing and additional to any existing financing, such as official development assistance. The funding must be directly accessible to local stakeholders to empower them to lead green projects. Creating robust and inclusive financial mechanisms will enable subnational governments and communities, particularly from developing countries, to access climate finance quickly, aligning with local priorities to foster environmental stewardship and support vulnerable populations.[20] Financing should also adhere to Just Transition Criteria, ensuring social equity, job creation, and community engagement, especially for marginalised groups, are prioritised in climate investments.[21]

B) We further call for facilitating access to finance for youth-led sustainable projects, including from multilateral institutions and funds as well as national resources to support NDC aligned local projects. According to a recent analysis only 0.76% of grants from the largest climate foundations target youth-led climate justice initiatives.[22] Youth thereby face significant challenges in the green transition, including limited access to resources, underrepresentation in decision-making spaces, burdensome bureaucratic processes and inadequate support for skills development. Major barriers are the lack of access to funding as well as the lengthy and complicated regulatory processes, which hamper youth's ability to become agents of change within their communities. The complexity of financial processes and exclusionary practices often distance young people from applying for climate finance. Despite these obstacles, youth are finding ways to innovate and develop alternative financing mechanisms. Successful youth-led initiatives demonstrate that, with the right support, young people can overcome financial and administrative barriers. We commend the discussions at the ECOSOC Youth Forum,[23] focusing on overcoming financial barriers, leveraging technology for fundraising, exploring alternative financing methods and seeking mentorship to enhance their climate projects. Youth-led projects are key to regional development, especially in the energy transition. POWERYOUTH, funded by the LIFE Programme, is one example, empowering over 1,000 young people in Europe to lead energy communities.[24] Similarly, the Ghana Youth Environmental Movement has

18 https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Full-Report_Accelerating-Urban-Climate-Finance-in-Low-and-Middle-Income-Economies.pdf

19 https://www.gmfus.org/news/cop27s-missed-opportunity-failing-engage-cities

engaged local communities in climate action through multiple awareness raising campaigns.[25] These initiatives highlight that by providing targeted financing and support, we can enable young leaders to drive a more sustainable and equitable future.

Enhance community awareness of global climate initiatives and improve access to both formal and informal climate and sustainability education.

Notable strides have been made in raising climate awareness and providing education through the UNFCCC's Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) initiative. However, to ensure equitable access to climate education, we urge Parties to integrate mandatory climate and environmental topics into formal education systems, making climate literacy a core part of school curricula. Additionally, governments should support the incorporation of sustainability topics across university programs and provide accessible training opportunities for practitioners and workers looking to transition into green jobs. Informal education must also be strengthened through public awareness campaigns (incl. on UNFCCC main negotiation topics and respective national positions), community programs, youth activism and media outreach to ensure that climate-related knowledge reaches diverse groups and fosters greater public engagement.

While education, reskilling and upskilling are essential for preparing young people to adapt to the evolving global economy and job market, these efforts will fall short without significant reforms. The existing gaps in social and digital infrastructures limit access to knowledge, particularly for marginalised communities. Without interactive and inclusive approaches to information sharing, those already vulnerable will continue to be left behind, preventing equitable access to climate education and opportunities. Therefore, YES-Europe and EYEN encourage Parties to integrate green career paths into formal youth education, as well as provide

20

https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lcas-cop28-open-letter.pdf;
https://community.youth4climate.info/group/7/discussion/youth-engagement-climate-finance-challenges-and-opportunities

training to young professionals, displaced by green innovations. Efforts like EYEN's Career Compass,[26] built in 2023, continue this positive momentum by introducing a more targeted approach to climate change and sustainability education and moving past general awareness to distinct action paths for youth to achieve a lasting impact. By incorporating a specific career path focused training in formal education programs and informal retraining initiatives, societies can move beyond base level awareness to a more impactful participation in the green economy.

21
Just Transition Criteria - a practical tool for fund managers | Impact Investing Institute
22
https://youthclimatejusticestudy.org/less-than-1/
23
https://community.youth4climate.info/group/7/discussion/youth-engagement-climate-finance-challenges-and-opportunities

Recommendations on the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme and the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation, Ambition and Implementation Work Programme at COP29

We commend the considerable milestones achieved at COP28, but the progress on the negotiation tracks related to the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) and the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) has been slow and insufficient, as seen at SB60.[27] This was due to superficial conversations, limiting formats, and persistent disagreements. Discussions focused on past actions rather than specific policy implementation, while the break-out room format hindered practical dialogue. Countries reiterated fixed positions, particularly around means of implementation and international cooperation, leading to a reluctance to fully engage. This resulted in only procedural improvements and deferred significant work to future meetings, such as COP29 in Baku. The urgency of the climate crisis demands more rapid and decisive action.

In regard to the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme, Parties should embrace justice as a guiding principle in the negotiations, incorporating the different types of justice such as procedural, intergenerational, distributive, restorative, and climate justice as guiding principles in the discussion and the imple-

24 https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE22-CET-POWERYOUTH-101120687/empowering-youth-for-energy-community-actions

25 https://gyemgh.org/about.php

mentation and international cooperation, leading to a reluctance to fully engage. This resulted in only procedural improvements and deferred significant work to future meetings, such as COP29 in Baku. The urgency of the climate crisis demands more rapid and decisive action.

In regard to the United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme, Parties should embrace justice as a guiding principle in the negotiations, incorporating the different types of justice such as procedural, intergenerational, distributive, restorative, and climate justice as guiding principles in the discussion and the implementation of its outcomes. Parties should strengthen the integration between climate, social, and economic policies as well as adopt an intersectional approach to policy-making by measuring the socio-economic impacts of both climate action and inaction on all societal groups. NDCs and long-term strategies need to be underpinned by just transition considerations and social investments, including investments in basic infrastructure, education, skills development, and social protection measures. Moreover, Parties must ensure that all societies have access to renewable energy, which is affordable and reliable.

Appropriate communication, education, and awareness-raising strategies regarding the transition (both among the public and across governmental entities) is necessary to ensure that the perspectives of all marginalised groups are taken into account. In this regard, proper education, training, reskilling, and upskilling opportunities for both the existing workforce and young people are pivotal. This also means reforming the education system which is often not fit for the current job market. Parties should also protect vulnerable workers, employed in fossil fuel-related sectors by providing support and opportunities for transitioning to more sustainable livelihoods. This approach should be grounded in respect for human and labour rights and guided by social and civic dialogue on the regional, national, and international levels, including during the UNFCCC negotiations.

We acknowledge that finance is needed to support the integration of just transition considerations. Parties shall ensure the quality, predictability, transparency and that the type of finance that falls under the NCQG supports a global just transition in-

26
Energy Transition Careers Compass - European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)
27
SB60 Blog: Navigating the Just Transition Work Programme – Insights and Challenges - Climate Strategies

stead of perpetuating existing injustices. Parties shall address existing finance gaps such as between Global North and Global South countries; gaps between financing for mitigation, adaptation, and for loss and damage. Additional sources of finance should be considered in this respect, most importantly, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and their reallocation to just transition efforts, but also wealth tax, tax on financial transactions, windfall profit tax on fossil fuel companies, carbon levy on private jets and yachts, etc.

Given the present repercussions of historical injustices and the higher contribution of developed countries to the current climate crisis, we call for the equitable allocation of burden to ensure that just transition pathways are possible for all. International cooperation should primarily be delivered through means of implementation, including financial support for the most affected countries. At its core, just transition must support the equitable transformation of our fossil-fuel based, extractive and wasteful economic system, which exacerbates existing inequalities into a resilient, circular, bio-based economy that promotes the wellbeing of current and future generations. The COP29 decision on the JTWP should include specific policy-related action points, to be implemented both on the national and international level.

In regards to the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation, Ambition and Implementation Work Programme and its mandate to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation in this critical decade in a manner that complements the global stocktake, we call on Parties to review and improve the modalities of the programme so as to guarantee that the implementation and continuation of the programme results in substantive outcomes on fossil fuel phase out and the development, deployment and dissemination of renewable energy technologies. This can be achieved inter alia by having high-level political messages on mitigation in the annual report and CMA decision at each COP session.

Pursuant to Paragraph 186 of the Global Stocktake, we believe that the MWP should provide a space for meaningful discussions and decisions on the relevant GST outcomes such as the aims listed under Paragraph 28, including tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030; phasing-down of unabated coal power; transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equi-

table manner; substantially reducing non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally by 2030; phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, etc.

We urge Parties to submit updated NDCs which are aligned with the first GST and with the 1.5°C degree goal of the Paris Agreement. The NDCs should include economy-wide reduction targets that cover all Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and sectors, and are underpinned by concrete policies and measures in line with Parties' commitments under the UNFCCC and GST outcomes.

In the context of urgency and the need for immediate, deep and sustained reductions in GHG-emissions, the MWP should allow for the opportunity to follow up on topics of previous years. Furthermore, we urge Parties to enhance international cooperation, including through scaling up finance and facilitating technologies transfer and address challenges and barriers faced in scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.
Lastly, we call on Parties to improve coordination and collaboration between the MWP, the JTWP, and the Response Measures workstream to ensure a just and equitable transition to low-emissions economies and societies.

Recommendation on the establishment of a dedicated Energy Negotiation track

Aiming to meet the targets of cover Decision 1/CMA.5 Para 28, we urge Parties to establish a dedicated energy negotiation track within the framework of UNFCCC negotiations in order to reform multilateral energy governance, discuss technology research, transfer and financing, strategic energy connectivity planning, and create a global consensus on the definition of "clean" energy sources. This should be done via an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process that also includes young people.

Closing remarks

As the world faces the urgent challenge of limiting climate change, it is imperative to recognise the vital role of local communities and youth in shaping the future of climate action. This position paper has outlined the ways in which local-level engagement, multilevel governance, and youth participation can drive the global transition toward sustainability. With the 1.5°C target hanging in the balance, the upcoming COP29 must prioritise these efforts, enhancing cooperation between global, national and local actors, and ensuring that financing reaches those most in need of support. By strengthening education, skills development and access to resources, the global community can not only mitigate climate impacts but also build more inclusive and resilient societies. YES-Europe and EYEN remain committed to advocating for a climate-resilient future, where local action and youth leadership are at the forefront of transformative change. Let us seize this opportunity to drive forward ambitious and equitable solutions for the well-being of present and future generations.