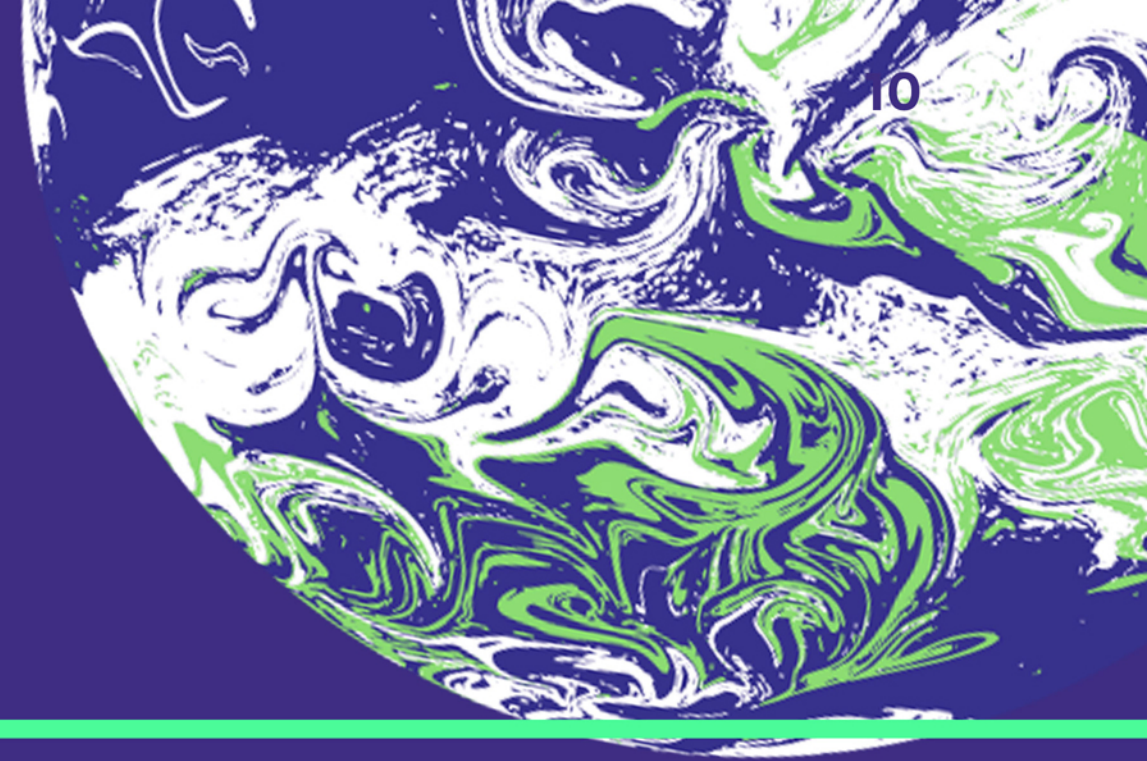


PRE-COP26 YOUTH SUMMIT IN GHANA REPORT

OCTOBER 2021



STRATEGIC
YOUTH NETWORK
FOR DEVELOPMENT



ACRONYMS

COP	Conference of Parties
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
COP 26	26th Conference of Parties
CTF	Common Time Frames
GoG	Government of Ghana
C4C	Children 4 Climate Action
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

PURPOSE OF GATHERING

SOLOMON YAMOAHA,
PARTNERSHIP & NETWORKING COORDINATOR

At the inception of the meeting, Solomon expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all participants and mentioned that the gathering is to provide a space for young people to share knowledge, experiences about COP and to network with others as this engagement is a learning curve for many young people.



OPENING REMARKS

CHIBEZE EZEKIEL,
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

In his opening remarks, Chibeze highlighted that the focus of the session is for young people to voice out their views and ask all the necessary questions to obtain some knowledge on COP negotiations. He added that the Ghanaian climate team of negotiators will share with the participants their experiences and expectations from this year's COP meeting.



KEY STATEMENTS FROM PARTNERS

MARINE HAYEM (COOPERATION ATTACHE; COOPERATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPART(FRENCH EMBASSY))

Marine was glad she had the honour to speak on behalf of the French Embassy. The following are some key highlights of her speech:



The French Embassy in Ghana is very committed to fighting climate change because we all feel the impact.

The Embassy also ensures that support is given to Ghana to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

One of the top priorities of France has been the implementation of the Paris Agreement of COP 21.

The French Embassy supports activities with high youth participation and those that raise awareness of youth activism.

ALESSANDRA OLIVA, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSIONS, ITALY EMBASSY IN GHANA

Alessandra was delighted to be a part of the conference and commended the Strategic Youth Network for Development for development efforts such as this.

She admonished that the participation of youth in the governance process was crucial and the Italian Embassy was in support of it.

She added that ensuring youth engagement, not for this year's COP but the years ahead, is of critical importance since the impact of climate change is gaining more speed in the economies of Ghana and the rest of Africa.



#YOUTH4CLIMATE CONFERENCE, MILAN - ITALY

PATIENCE AGYEKUM, SYND POLICY TEAM AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOCAL POINT

Patience shared her experience of the sequel of events that took place at the Youth4Climate Driving Ambition Event held in Milan, Italy in September 2021. She mentioned that after the launch of the conference, participants took time to develop proposals on sectors affected by climate change which were submitted to their Ministers during the intergenerational dialogue at the Ministerial Conference. Below are some key highlights of the conversation:

**01**

Young people have become more aware of climate change and are poised to build a more climate-conscious society.

02

Young people demanded meaningful youth engagements in decision making processes since they are successors.

03

Young people were also of the view that capacity building is of great essence to climate action and that such events should integrate workshops and training sessions to build their capacities.

REMARKS FROM PANELISTS



PROFESSOR SETH OSAFO (LEGAL ADVISER TO THE AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS (AGN) TO THE UNFCCC)

Professor Osafo first congratulated SYND for organising such a timely event and young representatives on their preparedness for COP26. He advised them to stay focused at the conference as the influx of people will be about 40,000 more than the total population in Glasgow.

01

He outlined many rudiments and mechanisms of the Conference and stated how complicated it can be if one is ill-prepared.

02

He also congratulated SYND for coming up with such an extremely informative fact sheet about COP.

03

He mentioned to participants how important it is to be well informed about COP and provided the link to the UNFCCC website (unfccc.int) to visit for more information.

04

He advised that many young people should develop an interest in climate change and its related issues.

REMARKS FROM PANELISTS:

DR. DANIEL BENEFOH (NATIONAL FOCAL POINT TO THE UNFCCC)

Dr. Benefoh was enthused to join in the discussion. He remarked that it is important to note 3 things at COP26;



1 Where investments will go.

2 How negotiations will affect government policies

3 Multinational companies and countries that will be affected by the negotiations

He concluded with some vital statements as follows:



REMARKS FROM PANELISTS



DR. ANTWI-BOSIAKO AMOAH (NATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON ADAPTATION)

Dr. Amoah's submission focused on rationale for participating at COP and how Ghana can benefit from it.

Some key issues he shared were:

1

Negotiators choose a path to follow depending on the interests of the country.

2

Tenacity is an important ingredient to leverage on to achieve your desired outcome at COP

3

Even though Ghana is a sovereign country, it aligns her interest with that of the African Group of Negotiators and other negotiation blocs.

4

Sustainable, reliable finance is imperative for Ghana's fight against climate change.

5

Ghana needs to benefit from Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and make the best out of it.

REMARKS FROM PANELISTS

GAWUSU-TOURE KASSIM (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GREENER IMPACT INTERNATIONAL AND JUNIOR NEGOTIATOR ON COMMON TIME FRAMES WITH THE AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS.

In his submission, Gawusu-Toure noted that COP provides a learning and networking platform for young people and junior negotiators like himself.

Below are some highlights of his remarks:

- Climate empowerment must be of keen interest to young people
- Common Time Frames (CTF) was still a pending issue yet to be settled at COP 26 and parties are looking forward to that.



DISCUSSION SESSION (Q&A)

Q1

Are we hoping the Ghanaian delegation will advocate against galamsey since it is mostly perpetrated by foreigners?

Galamsey is a national issue and not a negotiation interest. Even though it is detrimental to our environment, the onus is on us to strategically eliminate it.

ANS.1

Why are young people not given the opportunity to lead negotiation teams but frequently in the background?

Q2**ANS.2**

Young people should not be in a rush to lead the front. They need to go through a training process to be well prepared for the task.

Q3

What is GoG doing to rope young people in climate action?

Government has had consultations with youth groups on the NDCs and it is the responsibility of young people to find the opportunities and/or gaps in the NDCs as entry points to engage and become relevant.

ANS.3

Climate Change has changed lifestyles. How can it be taken advantage of through the green economy?

Q4**ANS.4**

Making a case for young green entrepreneurs is our best bet. There are many young green entrepreneurs whose businesses need to be funded. Hence, creating promotional platforms such as this Summit will put them in the limelight for funding.

CHIBEZE EZEKIEL - CLOSING REMARKS

In bringing the summit to a close, Chibeze remarked that SYND will organise:

- A post-COP session will be held to among others take stock of COP26 and provide avenues for young people to actively participate in the implementation of government's commitments.
- Its last session of the ROAD TO COP26 webinar series in the month of November.
- Children 4 Climate (C4C) Action relaunch this year

One of the key next steps that SYND is considering is to trigger discussions with relevant stakeholders to support a training programme for selected young participants as Junior Negotiators.





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