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COP27 ACE Day: Youth Demand Quality Climate Education

Tuesday, 15 November 2022

14:30 – 15:30 EET



Youth Demand Quality Climate Education COP27 ACE Day session

Background

- It is increasingly recognized that education and learning¹ are crucial for addressing the climate emergency. Education can aim to teach us to live harmoniously within our planetary boundaries, as part of a shared ecosystem. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) reorients education to empower learners of all ages to act for environmental integrity, economic viability and a more equitable society. Education for Sustainable Development has been recognized to have the power to make progress across a wide range of sustainable development challenges and specifically across all of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals by the UN General Assembly in 2017.
- Recent UNESCO findings² show that around half of the 100 countries reviewed had no climate change mentioned in their national curriculum frameworks. While 95% of surveyed teachers felt teaching climate change is important, less than 30% felt ready to teach about climate change in relation to their local context. With 75% of youth saying that they are frightened about their future, young

¹ Formal and non-formal education, as well as informal learning.

² Learn for our Planet (2021), Getting every school climate-ready (2021) and Teachers have their say (2021)

people were at the forefront at COP26 in Glasgow and the pre-COP Youth4Climate event in Milan in 2021, calling upon governments to change education systems to ensure every learner is empowered with the needed knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes to lead the green social transformation.

- Recalling Berlin Declaration on ESD (2021) which demanded ‘climate action as a core curriculum component’, UNESCO launched the Greening Education Partnership during the UN Transforming Education Summit in September 2022. The Partnership is to bring together key stakeholders, including Member States and International Organizations, to accelerate action in 4 main action areas: *Greening Schools* through a whole-school approach to ESD; *Greening Learning* by integrating climate education into school curricula; *Greening Capacity & Readiness* by empowering teachers and supporting policymakers; and *Greening Communities* by ensuring community resilience through lifelong learning.
- Starting with the Greening Learning action area, UNESCO organized a series of survey and consultations targeting young people to document their needs and demands on climate change education. The findings showed that 70% of the surveyed youth cannot explain climate change in detail, nor having any information about it. Yet, 91% of the respondents want to have more climate change taught at school, across the curriculum, through experiential, solution-driven and action-oriented approaches to benefit from true quality climate education.
- The new UNESCO publication titled ‘Youth Demand Quality Climate Change Education’ will be launched on the occasion of Youth Day, 10th November, and UNESCO will organize a technical panel discussion to deep-dive into key findings on the report. In particular, recommendations from speakers on translating youth asks into concrete actions with an emphasis on curriculum guideline will be discussed.

Objectives

- To capture the demands of young people on their vision of quality climate change education
- To compile ideas from key stakeholders to translate youth asks and demands into concrete actions, particularly into curriculum guidelines for policy-makers and educators.

Time and Venue

- When: **15 November 2022** (ACE Day) **14:30-15:30** local time
- Where: UNESCO Pavilion, COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Agenda

Tuesday 15 November 2022	
Moderator: Won Jung Byun , Programme Specialist, Section of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO	
14:30-14:35	Opening
14:35-14:45	Presentation of the key finding from the UNESCO COP27 Publication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Ezekiel Nyanfor, youth representative from Liberian Youth for Climate Actions (LYCA)
14:45-15:25	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Maryam Bello, Youth representative from Technovation (remotely)• Gimnazija Jožeta Plečnika (Ljubljana, Slovenia), School that took part in the Running Out of Time campaign, The World Relay and Foundation of Environmental Education with the support of UNESCO.• Ms Carolina Oliveira Dias, Youth representative from YOUNGO• Mr Ahmad El Baghdadi, teacher from Teachforall (remotely)• Ms Antonia Wulff, Director of Research, Policy and Advocacy at Education International (remotely)• Ms Sarah Margono Samsudin, Project Officer, Education for Sustainable Development section, UNESCO• Message from 9,000 young people from World's Largest Lesson Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions from the audience (on-site and online)
15:25 – 15:30	Closing

Outputs

- Young people's views compiled into the UNESCO publication 'Youth demand climate education as part of UNESCO's "Greening Every School Flagship" presented and discussed.
- Ideas on how the demand of the youth can be translated into curriculum guidelines and concrete actions to transform education collected.

Technical specifications

- The session will be held as an in-person event at COP27 with the possibility of online engagement and Livestream to be confirmed in due course.
- The session is conducted in English.

Organizers and partners

- UNESCO, World's Largest Lesson, Foundation for Environment Education (TBC)

Contact

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More details will be made available on the [UNESCO ESD webpage](#).