

UNDER EMBARGO: WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER, 12:30 PM AZT/GMT+4

INTERGENERATIONAL COALITION CALLS FOR UNIVERSAL YOUTH CLAUSE IN NDCs

Baku, Azerbaijan – A cross-sectoral coalition of organizations is urging governments to adopt a Universal NDC Youth Clause in updated national climate plans, acknowledging that a whole-of-society approach and direct collaboration across generations is essential for effective NDC delivery.

Launching at the Children and Youth Pavilion at COP29, organizations including UNICEF, UNESCO, Bezos Earth Fund, Climate Crisis Advisory Group, The B Team and C40 are inviting all Parties to pledge to the three pillars of the Universal NDC Youth Clause, marking a decisive first step toward fostering sustained youth inclusion in climate policy implementation. With the February 2025 NDC submission deadline fast approaching, this is a critical window to ensure intergenerational collaboration in Parties' national climate plans. By adopting the clause, governments signal their commitment to:

- **APPRECIATE:** that children and young people are important drivers of climate action.
- **COLLABORATE:** with youth stakeholders on the implementation of national climate plans to integrate their perspectives and communities.
- **EDUCATE:** children and young people on climate change impacts and solutions to empower the next generation of climate champions.

The coalition is already in discussions with several governments who are expected to announce commitments to the Youth Clause in the coming days.

The Universal Youth Clause reaffirms the youth inclusion obligations agreed upon in the Paris Agreement, the first Global Stocktake, and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) initiatives. Sample language for the Clause, crafted by youth organisers at Care About Climate, aligns closely with the youth inclusion guidelines from UNDP, UNICEF, and UNESCO.

The initiative has been developed through a partnership between Care About Climate, We Are Family Foundation, and Groundswell. It is endorsed by UNICEF and UNESCO, with the full list of co-sponsors including: Bezos Earth Fund, The B Team, Climate Crisis Advisory Group, The Climate Reality Project (Europe Branch), C40, Project Everyone, and youth organizations Engajamundo, Green Africa Youth Organization, Loss & Damage Youth Coalition, YOUNGO, and Youth4Nature.

Russell Reed, Lead Delegate, We Are Family Foundation: “Young people are leading some of the most effective and ambitious climate movements in history, but too often our voices remain absent from high-level decision-making processes. By making this pledge, governments

will take a pivotal step toward engaging youth as partners and collaborators, making a safe and equitable future on Earth all the more possible.”

Hailey Campbell, Co-Executive Director, Care About Climate: “Decision-makers of today are writing the future for young people. The Universal NDC Youth Clause is an invitation to partner with youth and follow through on promises of intergenerational collaboration to ensure that young people can be active participants in shaping their future. Our goal is 100% adoption of the Universal NDC Youth Clause, establishing a strong foundation for a more equitable and intergenerational climate movement ahead of COP30 in Belém and for generations to come.”

Jarê Aikyry, Co-Executive Director, Engajamundo Brazil: “It’s extremely important that NDCs around the world incorporate and include youth in their goals. And, in addition, that countries seek mechanisms to facilitate the participation of Indigenous youth, Afro-descendants, from local communities in the construction of these goals and their public policies. There is no present or future without the youth of the territories.”

Christiana Figueres, Global Optimism: “Including the youth clause in updated national climate plans should be an absolute no-brainer for countries. It’s not only the right thing to do, it’s a tool to ensure impact. Decision-making and implementation of climate policy will only be as effective as we need it to be, if it has genuine intergenerational collaboration at its heart.”

Luisa Neubauer, Climate Activist: “The youth climate movement has been instrumental in delivering climate policies around the world. Now, we need governments to make sure youth are at the table to implement just and inclusive climate action, and adopting the Universal NDC Youth Clause is a crucial step.”

Learn more about the campaign for a Universal NDC Youth Clause at universalyouthclause.org.
Direct any campaign inquiries to universalyouthcampaign@gmail.com.

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For campaign inquiries: universalyouthclause@gmail.com

For media interviews:

Sunita Ramani, Greenhouse Communications

T : +44 (0) 7563 519 415 / sunita.ramani@greenhouse.agency

Jasmine Adams, Greenhouse Communications

T : +44 (0) 7304 079 622 / jasmine.adams@greenhouse.agency

About the Children and Youth Pavilion

The Children and Youth Pavilion (CYP) is a platform at COP29 for events, discussion, education, creativity, policy briefings, and media engagement for children and young people.

The programme is led and curated by young people. The CYP enables the bringing together and amplification of the voices of young people from across the world.

The space will also give youth entities the opportunity to engage with influential stakeholders and decision-makers (including country delegations) to secure new commitments and decisions that advance the youth climate agenda.

The Pavilion will also be a space for strategic discussions and advocacy, where young people can promote the importance of child and youth engagement in order to ensure that Parties recognise the importance of youth in advocacy, policy, and implementation.

You can learn more about the Pavilion through our website, which provides details of our presence at COP27 and COP28.

[Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Website](#)

The 24 youth-led entities organising the pavilion include: African Youth Climate Hub; African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC); Arab Youth Council For Climate Change; Care About Climate; Centre for Global Education (#Decarbonize project); Climate Live; ClimaTalk Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN); EmpoderaClima; Fridays For Future - MAPA; Generation Climate Europe (GCE); Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO); IAAS -; International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences; International Forestry Students Association; Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC); Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), SDG7 Youth Constituency, Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Sendai Stakeholder Children and Youth Group, Migration Youth and Children Platform, and UNCCD Youth Caucus; MENA Youth Network; Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization; Refugee Coalition for Climate Action; Water Youth Network; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS); World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM); Youth and Environment Europe; YOUNGO

About Care About Climate

Care About Climate is a youth-led organization breaking barriers to intergenerational collaboration for climate action by strengthening the skills and confidence of young people to engage in climate policy spaces at home and in international spaces.

About We Are Family Foundation

WAFF was co-founded in 2002 by music icon Nile Rodgers, and dedicated to the vision of a global family by creating programs that promote cultural diversity while nurturing and mentoring the vision, talents and ideas of young people who are positively changing the world. WAFF is largely based on Nile's personal history of joining the Black Panther Party at the age of 16, leading to his belief that "young people must be authentically engaged in system change and decision-making processes at all levels."

WAFF works with young people (ages 13-29) who are creatively trying to solve the world's biggest social issues, implementing programmes and building ecosystems that propel the impact of this generation's social entrepreneurs, activists, innovators, creatives, and policy shapers. Focus areas include civic and community engagement, education, equity, climate justice, criminal justice reform, technology and data, LGBTQIA+ rights, Indigenous rights, accessibility and disability rights, and systems interrogation.

WAFF worked in partnership with The Possibilists and the University of Vienna to produce a global study on 'Intergenerational Collaboration', assessing the successes and failures within and beyond institutional systems. In the context of this study and WAFF's broader mission of collaboration across different generations, it emerges as an indispensable tool for finding solutions to humanity's most pressing problems.

Because problems that span generations require leadership that does too.

We Are Family Foundation: [Website](#) | [Global Study](#) | [Instagram](#)

About Mission 2025

Mission 2025 is a coalition of businesses, mayors, investors, cultural leaders, health leaders, scientists and youth activists inviting governments to ratchet upcoming national climate plans in line with the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.