



SEATS AT THE TABLE

A Youth Vision for COP30

FOREWORD

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As we approach COP30, we are reminded that the decisions made at this conference will shape the world young people inherit. Yet, too often, young voices are absent from the very conversations that decide our future. That is why ClimaTalk works tirelessly to amplify youth voices in international climate policy. This booklet is part of that effort. It shows that young people are not standing by - we are here, we are loud, and we expect to be heard.

The words collected here come from young people from different regions, backgrounds, and experiences. What unites them is urgency, determination and hope. We are the generation that will live longest with the consequences of climate action - or inaction. Our voices matter not only because of what is at stake, but because we are already shaping solutions.

For most young people, attending COP is simply not possible. It remains an exclusive and expensive space. That is why we commit to lifting up the youth who are present at COP30 as well as those around the world whose lives are deeply affected by the decisions made there.

Hope, for us, is not passive. It is action. It is young people coming together, collectively pushing for stronger policies, demanding climate justice, and refusing to be ignored. This booklet is a testament to that active hope. As you read these words, remember what youth voices make clear: what is at stake is nothing less than our shared future on this planet.

YOUNG PEOPLE AT SB62

The Meetings of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation (SBI) and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) happen twice a year – once in early June and once in November directly before the Conference of Parties (COP). Thereby, the June Meetings always serve as a preparation for COP as Parties and Observers prepare, draft, and negotiate texts that often become the foundation for decisions at COP.

**During
SB62, youth
showed up!**

– as national youth delegates in the front row at the negotiation tables, as part of observer organisations, and as activists outside the venue demanding more ambitious climate action. Despite their underrepresentation, youth voices are becoming louder and are hopefully being heard.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FROM COP30 LEADS

Young voices are instrumental in the fight against climate change. They bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the table, and have the energy, ambition, and mindset to become drivers of lasting change. Hence, youth leadership matters insofar as it can influence the direction and outcomes of negotiations.

With COP30 taking place in Brazil and the Incoming Presidency's focus on Just Transition, we hope to see greater inclusion and participation of young people, Indigenous Peoples, and other minorities.

Climate change affects everyone and must therefore be addressed by society as a whole.





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Dr Amy Munro-Faure & Emma Heiling

YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR COP30

We are living through the climate crisis now. Floods destroy our homes, food insecurity undermines our futures, and displacement and economic hardship shape our daily lives. Not only are we witnesses to this crisis but we are leaders, innovators and changemakers in our communities.

Yet, at climate negotiations our young voices are too often treated as tokenistic. At COP30 in Belém, this must change.



Youth must be **equal** **partners** in negotiations, not observers.



Goodness Samuel Iffu

We bring urgency, creativity, technical expertise, lived experience, and the determination to hold decision makers to account. **Without our leadership, there can be no ambitious or just climate action.** Symbolic presence on panels and side events is not enough. We must sit at the negotiating tables, with the power to shape outcomes on finance, national commitments, adaptation and loss and damage. Our role must be embedded within the very structures of decision-making.

“As a young Nigerian passionate about climate action, my hope for COP30 is that youth inclusion goes beyond symbolic presence and becomes genuine participation. We are not just future leaders—we are present changemakers, living daily with the harsh impacts of climate change, from flooding to food insecurity.”

- Goodness Samuel Iffu

Barriers to participation must be dismantled.



Too many young people, especially those from the Global South, Indigenous communities and climate-vulnerable regions, are excluded by financial and logistical barriers. The high cost of travel and accommodation means that important voices get silenced. If youth participation is to be meaningful, resources must be allocated to ensure affordable access and dedicated long-term funding. **True inclusion means creating conditions that allow all young people to contribute, not just those who can afford to be present.**



“My wish would be for the COP30 Presidency to set aside accommodation for youth delegates at an affordable price and with a specific focus on underrepresented regions. Without adequate youth involvement, going beyond symbolic participation, there cannot be a successful COP at Bélem.”

- Reinout Debergh

Reinout Debergh



Stephanny Olivieri



Climate justice and intergenerational equity must guide COP30.

The most affected people and regions must be at the heart of decisions. Climate justice demands the redistribution of resources, the dismantling of extractive systems and the introduction of policies that protect livelihoods and rights. It means safeguarding vital ecosystems such as the Amazon in ways that uphold the dignity of present and future generations. It means ensuring that a just transition from fossil fuels is not only a slogan but a reality, informed by the experiences of communities on the frontlines.



“A truly just transition must center the lived realities of those at the margins, ensuring that their knowledge, lived experiences, and leadership shape the pathways forward.”

- Stephanny Olivieri

YOUTH are innovators and changemakers.

We connect science with policy, and we bring forward creative strategies through culture, storytelling and education. Climate education is not an afterthought but a foundation for action, equipping all generations to understand the crisis and how to act. **Youth must be trusted to play a central role in translating knowledge into solutions, in shaping narratives and in driving ambition.**

“I hope to see youth not only included but trusted as co-creators of climate solutions — including those using art, culture, and storytelling to spark systemic change. Our lived experiences, creative strategies, and local leadership must be seen as central to shaping just and inclusive climate futures.”

- Gunjan Nanda



Gunjan Nanda



This is our collective vision and our demands are clear:

1

Youth must be present in national delegations and negotiating teams.

2

Affordable access and funded participation of youth must be guaranteed, with mentorship and structures to sustain their leadership over time.

3

Intergenerational equity must be written into the outcomes of COP30, and decisions need to reflect the lived realities of those on the frontlines.

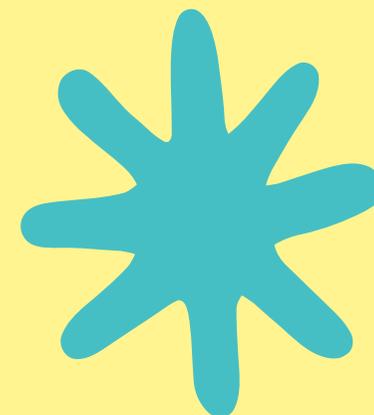
4

Climate education must be prioritised, with youth-led innovations recognised and trusted as essential drivers of change.

COP30 must be a turning point where youth are not invited as a formality but empowered as co-leaders. [We are not the leaders of tomorrow, we are leaders today.](#)



To ignore young people is to undermine the possibility of meaningful climate action. To work with young people is to ensure a fairer, bolder and more resilient future for all.





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Delegates' inputs

Delegates	Their wishes, hopes, and future vision of youth inclusion at COP30
Reinout Debergh	COP30 has been referred to as the least inclusive COP so far. This is because of very high costs for accommodation. This is particularly problematic for youth delegates from developing countries who are already underrepresented. My wish would be for the COP30 Presidency to set aside accommodation for youth delegates at an affordable price and with a specific focus on underrepresented regions. Without adequate youth involvement, going beyond symbolic participation, there cannot be a successful COP at B��lem. With negotiations as slow as ever, we need the abundant enthusiasm and passion of young people to move us forward.
Rachel Ojo	My hope for COP30 is that youth are not only included but also actively integrated into the decision making process. I hope to see all countries having young people as part of their negotiating team and more room for young people to be empowered to question decision makers and hold people to account. It is also an opportunity to educate ourselves and to unite in pursuit of the common goal.
Goodness Samuel Iffu	As a young Nigerian passionate about climate action, my hope for COP30 is that youth inclusion goes beyond symbolic presence and becomes genuine participation. We are not just future leaders—we are present changemakers, living daily with the harsh impacts of climate change, from flooding to food insecurity. I wish to see young people given space to influence negotiations, shape policies, and co-create solutions alongside decision makers. My vision is a COP where youth voices are treated as equal partners, ensuring climate justice, fairness, and accountability for all communities, especially those most vulnerable.
Immaculate Zimba	I wish for young people to be fully included in COP30 because we are the generation most affected by climate change. My hope is that our voices, ideas and solutions will be taken seriously not just listened to as a formality. Youth bring creativity, energy, fresh ideas and commitment when it comes to building a sustainable future. I dream of a COP30 where young people sit at decision-making tables, shaping policies that protect both people and the planet. My vision is for a just and inclusive climate movement where no youth is left behind, and together we create change for future generations as well.

Delegates' inputs

Delegates	Their wishes, hopes, and future vision of youth inclusion at COP30
Emaan Danish	<p>My hope for COP30 is that youth will not just be seen as participants but as partners in shaping climate ambition. We need structured spaces for young negotiators, climate justice advocates, and innovators to co-lead decisions—especially on finance, NDCs, loss and damage, and adaptation. True inclusion means shifting from tokenism to trust, from consultation to co-creation.</p>
João Maria Botelho	<p>As we look towards COP30 in Belém, my hope is that youth are no longer treated as a symbolic presence, but as core partners in designing climate ambition. We bring not only urgency and creativity, but also technical capacity and lived experience. Youth inclusion must mean co-leadership, in negotiations, in implementation, and in the shaping of climate finance. The Amazon must not only be protected, it must be governed with intergenerational justice at its heart.</p> <p>– João Maria Botelho, Founder of Generation Resonance, EU Climate Pact Ambassador, Forbes 30 Under 30 in Sustainability</p>
Aayush Dwivedi	<p>At COP30, I hope to see youth not just included, but genuinely empowered—shaping negotiations, holding leaders accountable, and co-designing solutions. We are not future stakeholders—we are today's frontline. Our vision is a COP where youth perspectives drive ambition, equity, and justice at every table.</p>
Anvitaa	<p>Our hope for COP30 is to see youth not just included, but empowered as co-creators of climate solutions — especially those from frontline regions like the Himalayas. At Alsisar Impact, we work with women and Indigenous youth who are already leading change in the Third Pole. Their voices must shape global policy. We wish for a future where young people from vulnerable communities are seen not as victims, but as visionaries driving a just, resilient, and climate-sensitive world.</p>
Maha El Mahdaoui	<p>As we look toward COP30, my hope is that youth participation evolves from symbolic presence to structural influence. We don't need more panels, we need policies co-designed with us. True youth inclusion means access to decision-making spaces, funding for implementation, and accountability mechanisms that reflect intergenerational justice. We're not the future, we are the frontline now.</p>

Delegates' inputs

Delegates	Their wishes, hopes, and future vision of youth inclusion at COP30
Axel Eriksson	Putting the most affected people's and areas at the heart of decision making.
Gabriele Casella	YAS's wish for COP30 is to see youth more actively involved in bridging the worlds of science, technology, and climate diplomacy. Young people can play a key role in amplifying the reach of evidence-based decision-making by serving as translators between climate scientists and negotiators. We believe that youth with both strong technical expertise and a sensitivity to international diplomacy can help close the gap between scientific knowledge and climate action.
Rita Lousa	Food is central to life and livelihoods - I hope COP30, in Brazil - one of the most important countries for global food systems -, puts food systems at the center. As a solution to climate mitigation, as an urgent priority for adaptation and finance, and also recognizing the crucial need for food security and nutrition. Not only youth working in food value chains are disproportionately affected, children and youth futures are also highly dependent on access to food and nutrition. It's an intersectional challenge that cannot be further ignored.
Gunjan Nanda	In spaces like the COPs, I hope to see youth not only included but trusted as co-creators of climate solutions — including those using art, culture, and storytelling to spark systemic change. Our lived experiences, creative strategies, and local leadership must be seen as central to shaping just and inclusive climate futures.
Hale Brown	Youth inclusion needs to be financed and equitable, with priority to Global South participants!
Theodora De Pasquale	I envision youth playing a central role in COP30, not just as observers but as active decision-makers shaping climate policy. My hope is that young voices are meaningfully included in negotiations, with their ideas and innovations taken seriously. True inclusion means providing resources, mentorship and platforms for youth to co-create solutions alongside governments, businesses and civil society. I wish for COP30 to become a turning point, where intergenerational equity guides action, ensuring that those who will inherit the future are empowered to define it today, driving bold and just climate solutions.

Delegates' inputs

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Sama Samy	I hope to see youth voices at COP30, actively contributing to decision-making. Youth can be a powerful resource to drive climate action with their fresh ideas and unique perspectives.
Oliver	I hope that intergenerational equity will be mentioned in the COP decisions, as it will be today's children and youth who will suffer the most severe consequences of climate change.
Stephanny Ulivieri	A truly just transition must center the lived realities of those at the margins, ensuring that their knowledge, lived experiences, and leadership shape the pathways forward. This includes addressing historical responsibility and ensuring genuine solidarity from actors in the Global North—not through symbolic gestures, but through the redistribution of resources, and structural reforms that dismantle extractive systems. Youth inclusion at COP30 must go hand-in-hand with climate justice, intergenerational equity, and a deep commitment to system change.
Nouha Salhi	Our presence within the multilateral climate sphere is rejuvenating the global climate action. This SB is for me a turning point, aside from all skepticism and speculation on potential agreements mostly from the Global South's perspective, our voices as youth negotiators are now being heard and bridging the North-South divide will soon be a reality. In the end of the day, climate justice be it in terms of mobility, economic rights development is a path and we are taking it one step at a time.
Elsy Milan	If young people don't have a seat at the table, then they need to create their own table.
Sa'ed Alnawasrah	As a youth advocate from the MENA region, I believe climate justice must start by addressing structural inequalities—especially the financial and logistical barriers that limit meaningful youth participation. At COP30, I hope to see greater commitment to supporting youth from the Global South, particularly those working in climate-vulnerable regions like ours. We don't lack ideas or passion—we often lack access. A just transition means nothing without inclusive and supported participation.