



Collective Action Plan Youth Participation in National and Local Adaptation Plans

We, the youth and representatives from Asia and the Pacific are alarmed by the disastrous impact and risks that our countries are facing due to climate change. We recognize the need for adaptation to reduce our vulnerability and ensure the continuance of our livelihoods. While we welcome the government's initiative in developing national adaptation plans (NAP) and local adaptation plans (LAP), it should induce meaningful participation of youth in all its processes. As a key stakeholder that will be faced with the consequences of action or inaction today, the youth must not be excluded in the response for the coming tomorrow. The youth have displayed great passion and willingness to be part of the solution, as such, their participation is vital to realize adaptation action on the ground.

We have highlighted several action points that can be undertaken by national and local leaders to incorporate youth participation in NAP and LAP processes.

The first steps leaders can do to secure robust participation of youth are to:

1. Recognise youth as equitable partners and afford equal value to their voices by facilitating safe spaces for meaningful engagement of diverse representation of youth including indigenous, religious, rural, diverse SOGIESC, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities through intergenerational dialogue with elders and current decision makers;
2. Mainstream recognition of youth as a key stakeholder by emphasizing the significance of youth roles in the development and/or review of the NAP and LAP; and
3. Initiate youth engagement programmes within the NAP and LAP processes and keep the youth informed of the outcome of their engagement, particularly on their inputs.

To meaningfully incorporate youth involvement, their presence must be notable throughout the following stages:

1. Within the **planning stage**, youth can be involved to contribute ideas and suggestions for local authorities. This is possible through:
 - a. Outreach to youth individuals and communities;
 - b. Youth capacity building on the risks, impact and vulnerabilities due to climate change, the need for adaptation and the different levels of government systems that can support the plan's implementation;
 - c. Facilitating consultation sessions with youth for risks and vulnerability assessment for potential areas most likely impacted and for groups with heightened vulnerability (i.e. those with poor living conditions, minority status based on gender, sexual orientation, disability, etc), indicators setting, adaptation plan drafting and budgeting; and



- d. Establishment of youth working groups with a diverse representation of youth communities to develop communication strategies that are inclusive, culturally responsive and reflective of known barriers to communicating with the most vulnerable population groups.
2. Within the **decision-making stage**, the youth can be involved in the creation of policies by being allowed to analyze and scrutinize draft policies prior to their finalization.
3. Within the **monitoring stage**, the youth can be involved to track the plan's outputs and objectives through the establishment of a system/platform for officials to inform youths of existing data for each indicator and the parameters used for its assessment.
4. Within the **evaluation stage**, the youth can be involved to provide feedback for the plan's implementation by:
 - a. Being included as part of the evaluation team to assess the result and impact of the adaptation plans particularly on youth groups; and
 - b. Being designated as the target respondents for the evaluation survey or forum.

Furthermore, in bolstering wider participation of youth and raising communities' awareness, leaders are encouraged to:

1. Allocate funding and engage expert resources such as academics, researchers or government representatives for youth mentorship programmes, advocacy and projects on climate adaptation;
2. Resourcing and supporting youth coordinating structures like the National Youth Commission (or similar local structure) to better coordinate and represent the voices of young people.
3. Translate the NAP and LAP to vernacular or local common languages that are easily understood by members of the community;
4. Socialize climate change including its health risks into all levels of education curriculum;
5. Socialize and promote NAP and LAP through local influential figures, celebrities or artists;
6. Utilize social media platforms as channels for youth aspirations and supporting the mobilization of youth movements to mainstream implementation of NAP and LAP;
7. Strengthening cooperation with other countries to exchange best practices of inclusivity for youth participation within the NAP and LAP processes.

We, the youth and representatives of Asia and Pacific recognise and commend the support that we have received from our elders and leaders in the past. We also recognise our collective role and responsibility towards the implementation of the NAP and LAP at our respective locale. As young people and emerging leaders, we envision a future where our voices are amplified through the support of our leaders as we are recognized as equitable partners in development discussions and processes, especially on issues that affect us.

“Nothing about us without us”