

THEME: BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR COP27 WITH YOUTH IN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION SYMPOSIUM

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM COMMUNIQUE

HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2022, KICC, NAIROBI, KENYA

PREAMBLE

We, the Youth Participants at the **Youth in Climate Change Action Symposium** have met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23rd September 2022 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre - KICC, Nairobi for the youth symposium themed: “*Building Momentum for COP27 with Youth in Climate Change Action Symposium*”.

We express our gratitude and appreciation to all partners who include the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), and the World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy, who supported the youth in organizing a successful symposium and putting together the symposium communique, and the African Growth Initiative - AGI of Brookings Institution for supporting two youth representatives to attend COP27 in Egypt.

We acknowledge the importance of collective responsibility in addressing climate change effects to achieve global goals and provide the current and future generations with clean and habitable environment.

We note that climate change is a major global issue, having been recognized since the first international conference focusing on the environment, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the “*Earth Summit*,” held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992. The Summit outcome was an appreciation that the sustainable development goal is attainable regardless of whether it is at the local, national, regional, or international level.

Kenya is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ratification, which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. In addition, Kenya has ratified other climate-related frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) among other frameworks. The Sustainable Development Goal No. 13 obligates countries to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

The Constitution of Kenya guarantees that the State shall utilize the environment and natural resources for the benefit of the people of Kenya and shall encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment.

We appreciate that in Kenya, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is mandated, through Executive Order No. 1 of 2022, to coordinate Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and within County Governments to advance actions on climate change, through formulation and coordination of policies and programmes. While the Constitution of Kenya provides strong guarantees for quality of environment, inadequate implementation and/or operationalization of climate-related laws especially at the county level impedes the progress and meaningful action on climate change action in Kenya and, subsequently, the realization of a clean environment.

Despite the existence of a plethora of policies, legal frameworks and administrative practices addressing climate change, this symposium underscores the need to integrate the youth in climate change action and design programmes that are focused on actions to empower the youth to combat climate change.

We therefore note that most climate-related interventions and programmes are under-resourced and exclude the voice of the youth, and effectively has limited youth involvement in climate change action matters.

Therefore, **WE**, the **Youth in Climate Change Action Symposium** make the following Resolutions:

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM RESOLUTIONS

POLICY AREA	POLICY INTERVENTION	RESPONSIBILITY
THEME 1: ENHANCING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE		
1. Access to technology for innovative Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance youth access to information on climate smart innovations and technologies by establishing digital platforms that embrace the prevailing information and communication technology. Develop and facilitate capacity building in skilling the youth to engage effectively in CSA innovations. This includes setting up CSA hubs to nurture the innovations. 	National Youth Council; Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
2. Access to knowledge, education, and information on CSA practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish County Youth Resource Centres staffed with instructors trained in CSA, ICT, and agribusiness skills. This will ensure availability/existence of a one-stop knowledge centre in each county. Integrate CSA training into the school curricula to nurture knowledge at different stages in the education system. 	Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Education
3. Access to finance by the youth to invest in CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a financing architecture that accommodates various options for collateral to secure credit for youth activities in CSA. Promote CSA as an agribusiness venture to attract the financial institutions to come up with innovative instruments that finance appropriate youth activities. 	National Youth Council; The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project; Kenya Climate Innovation Centre
4. Youth access to land for CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide public land for youth to practice CSA as they transition to owning their own land. 	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; Ministry of

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access to land with subsidized land rates. Enact laws that empower land management/use committees to address cultural factors that hinder youth from accessing land. 	Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
5. Effective implementation of policies and programmes that support CSA practices among the youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream monitoring and evaluation in all institutions in the CSA space to support effective implementation of CSA programmes and policies. 	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts
6. Youth attitude towards agriculture in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Package the CSA practices in a way that they are attractive to the youth and make the agricultural sector a more innovative and profitable venture. 	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development; Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts
THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR YOUTH		
1. Create awareness on plastic waste management by the youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalize the Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022, which recommends integration of waste management in the education curriculum at all levels. Use media to relay information on best practices in plastic waste management. 	National Environment Management Authority; Ministry of Environment and Forestry
2. Use of appropriate technology in plastic waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote use of upgraded and appropriate plastic waste management at each stage of the value chain. Set up innovation hubs that help the youth in improving the technology in waste management. Establish waste management sites in localized areas to ensure proper plastic disposal. 	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, National Environment Management Authority, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute; Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer trainings for the youth in waste management to enable them undertake recycling as a viable business venture. 	
3. Promote market for recycled plastic products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of recycled plastics products to encourage plastic waste recycling. • Provide incentives to support youth in recycling plastics. 	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute; Ministry of Trade, Investment and Industry
4. Financing youth activities in plastic waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make budgetary provision that caters for youth in plastic waste management. • Develop a recognition mechanism for youth-led organizations in sustainable plastic waste management sector. 	The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Counties; African Development Bank; UN agencies
5. Plastic Waste Management Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish waste segregation facilities to encourage efficient management of plastic waste. • Create awareness on the various types of plastics to support appropriate segregation of waste. 	Ministry of Trade, Investment and Industry; Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute; National Environment Management Authority
6. Partnerships for plastic waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create partnerships in plastic waste management at the global, national and the county level to facilitate technology transfer, product development and market reach. 	National Environment Management Authority; Ministry of Environment and Forestry
THEME 3: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR YOUTH IN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION		
1. Capacity building in financial management for the youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance institutional capacity of youth organizations in financial management by focusing on accounting and audit systems, and financial modelling. 	The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Safaricom; IMF, World

		Bank; African Development Bank
2. Building capacity of the youth organization in climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map out the training needs for youth organizations in climate action to help come up with focused training programmes. • Put together sensitization programmes for the youth to understand climate change matters and emerging issues for effective delivery. 	KIPPRA; African Capacity Building Foundation; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy
3. Capacity building in communication, negotiation skills and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity building in communication and negotiation to enhance skills of youth in climate change action. • Encourage youth organizations to identify their niche to help attract focused partnerships. 	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; World Bank; UNEP
4. Capacity Building in research, policy formulation and climate modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity building programmes in research, policy formulation and climate modeling to enhance understanding on the effects of climate change actions undertaken by the youth. • Establish short-term training programmes for the youth to build their skills as professionals. 	KIPPRA; The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; African Capacity Building Foundation; World Bank; IMF; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy
5. Capacity in climate-related proposal writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance skills in grant proposal writing for climate change action projects to enable the youth to compete effectively for funding. 	KIPPRA; Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; African Capacity Building Foundation; World Bank; IMF; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy

6. Youth access to information on climate change action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and enhance ICT infrastructure in the rural and remote areas to enable dissemination and access to information on climate change. 	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy; Counties
THEME 4: FINANCING YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION		
1. Youth capacity in mobilizing funding for climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equip youth with skills and competencies in climate action to enable them write grant-winning proposals. Build capacity for the youth in project management to undertake high impact and sustainable projects in climate change. 	KIPPRA; UNEP; World Bank; IMF; African Capacity Building Foundation; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy
2. Umbrella body to coordinate and regulate youth-led organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an umbrella body to oversee and coordinate youth-led organizations in climate change actions. 	The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Attorney General; National Youth Council
3. Knowledge in financial instruments for climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote knowledge on climate finance instruments by creating platforms with information on all organizations providing funding for climate change, which includes information on fund accessibility, requirements, funding ceilings, etc. Youth to create a platform for sharing information on available options for financing and impacting financial literacy. 	IMF; UN agencies; African Development Bank; The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Counties
4. Accountability and tracking mechanisms for climate change funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide tracking and reporting mechanisms for climate change financial flow to help in monitoring trends in investments in climate-related projects and the completion rate especially for the youth-led organizations. Develop monitoring systems that allow tracking of climate expenditure from the national budget to the grassroot level where youth are implementing climate action projects. 	The National Treasury and Economic Planning; IMF; UN agencies; Counties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve tracking mechanisms of climate sensitive expenditure in the national budget to address climate change. • Make provision under the Global Green Climate Fund to finance programmes led by grassroots youth organizations. 	
5. Mainstream youth in planning and policy making process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create platforms for youth to engage and to air their voices in relation to youth-led climate change projects, their needs and contributions to climate action. 	KIPPRA; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy; The National Treasury and Economic Planning; Counties; Parliament
6. Youth networking and engagement in climate change action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth to seek opportunities to participate in international climate change high level meetings such as Conference of Parties for exposure and networking. • Support grassroots youth organizations through the locally led climate action programme as part of local initiative. • Youth to establish an umbrella body to consolidate their voice and build a network that works as a platform to engage with government, development partners, and other networks 	KIPPRA; Ministry of Youth, Sports, and the Arts; National Youth Council; UNEP; World Resources Institute/New Climate Economy

Thank you all

Presented on 23rd September 2022 at the KICC, Nairobi, Kenya