



Submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmaps Consultations

By:

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1. Introduction

Youth Action for Climate Change Organization (YACCO) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the COP30 Presidency's consultative process on the development of the two Roadmaps under the first Global Stocktake (GST1).

As a youth-led organization based in South Sudan, a highly climate-vulnerable and fragile context, we bring frontline perspectives shaped by lived experiences of recurrent flooding, prolonged droughts, displacement, food insecurity, and ecosystem degradation. In our context, climate change is not a future risk it is a present and escalating reality affecting livelihoods, stability, and development.

We commend the COP30 Presidency for its commitment to an inclusive and participatory process. We underscore that meaningful youth engagement is essential to ensuring climate solutions are intergenerationally just, locally grounded, and globally ambitious.

2. Cross-Cutting Principles

We recommend that both Roadmaps be guided by the following principles:

- **Equity and Climate Justice:** Reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with particular attention to least developed countries (LDCs).
- **Intergenerational Equity:** Ensuring that present actions safeguard the rights and futures of young and unborn generations.
- **Inclusive and Meaningful Participation:** Institutionalizing the role of youth, Indigenous peoples, women, and local communities in decision-making processes.
- **Science-Based and 1.5°C-Aligned Action:** Anchoring all measures in the best available science and consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Establishing measurable targets, clear timelines, and robust monitoring, reporting, and verification mechanisms.

3. Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (Paragraph 28.d/GST1)

3.1 Key Recommendations

a) Just and Equitable Energy Transition

- Develop nationally determined fossil fuel transition plans by 2028, aligned with development priorities and energy access needs of developing countries.
- Establish reskilling and social protection programs by 2030 for workers and communities dependent on fossil fuel value chains.

b) Scaled-Up and Accessible Climate Finance

- Developed countries should fulfill and scale up climate finance commitments beyond USD 100 billion annually, prioritizing grant-based and concessional finance.
- Create dedicated funding windows for youth-led clean energy initiatives by 2027, including simplified access procedures for grassroots organizations.

c) Renewable Energy Access and Decentralization

- Prioritize decentralized renewable energy systems (e.g., solar mini-grids) to achieve universal energy access in underserved and rural communities by 2030.
- Strengthen technology transfer and local capacity-building mechanisms, particularly in LDCs and fragile contexts.

d) Phase-Out of Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- Adopt time-bound national plans to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2030, with safeguards to protect vulnerable populations.

e) Institutionalizing Youth Engagement

- Establish formal youth advisory bodies within national energy governance frameworks by 2027, ensuring sustained participation in policy design and implementation.

4. Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation (Paragraphs 33 and 34/GST1)

4.1 Key Recommendations

a) Community-Led Forest Governance

- Recognize and legally secure land tenure rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities by 2030.
- Scale up community-based forest management programs, supported by direct financing mechanisms.

b) Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Restoration

- Commit to large-scale reforestation and ecosystem restoration targets by 2030, aligned with biodiversity and climate goals.
- Promote climate-resilient agroforestry systems that enhance livelihoods while restoring ecosystems.

c) Addressing Structural Drivers of Deforestation

- Strengthen national regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to address unsustainable agriculture, illegal logging, and weak governance.
- Encourage sustainable land-use planning and integrated rural development strategies.

d) Climate Finance for Forest Protection

- Ensure direct access to climate finance for local actors, including youth-led and community-based organizations, by simplifying funding procedures.
- Increase results-based finance for forest conservation efforts, particularly in high-risk regions.

e) Youth Engagement and Climate Education

- Integrate forest conservation into national education curricula and public awareness programs by 2028.
- Support youth-led innovation in forest monitoring, including digital and community-based approaches.

5. Regional Perspective: Frontline Realities

In many African contexts, including South Sudan, climate change is intensifying fragility, displacement, and food insecurity. Recurrent flooding has displaced communities and destroyed livelihoods, while prolonged droughts undermine agricultural productivity. At the same time, heavy reliance on biomass energy contributes to deforestation, creating a cycle of environmental degradation and poverty.

We emphasize that:

- Energy poverty and environmental degradation must be addressed simultaneously, through integrated and context-specific solutions.
- Fragile and conflict-affected settings require tailored approaches, including flexible financing, capacity support, and risk-informed implementation.

As youth from a frontline context, we stress that delayed climate action is not theoretical it is already shaping our daily realities and limiting our future opportunities.

6. Implementation and Accountability

To ensure effective delivery, we recommend:

- Establishing clear milestones and timelines aligned with the Global Stocktake cycle.
- Conducting regular progress reviews, with publicly accessible reporting.
- Ensuring formal inclusion of non-state actors, particularly youth organizations, in monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms, including independent review processes.

7. Conclusion

YACCO stands ready to support the implementation of these Roadmaps through advocacy, community engagement, and youth mobilization.

We call on the COP30 Presidency to ensure that these Roadmaps are ambitious, equitable, and actionable, reflecting both global urgency and the lived realities of vulnerable communities.

The success of COP30 will depend on our collective ability to translate commitments into tangible outcomes. Youth are not only stakeholders we are essential partners in delivering inclusive, durable, and transformative climate solutions.

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