



Stronger Together for Climate



The British Council's programme and campaign, [The Climate Connection](#) was implemented in partnership with a diverse range of UK and overseas partners and networks designed to engage young people in climate action through culture and education. It supported the UK and Italian joint ambition to make COP26 the most inclusive COP ever. To that end, the British Council crowdsourced the views of more than 8,000 young people from diverse backgrounds across 23 countries to find out what their priorities are for climate action; their views were captured in a [Global Youth Letter](#).

The [Stronger Together event series](#) (September 2021 to February 2022) were organised by the British Council in partnership with the EU Africa Foundation with the support and co-funding of the British Embassy in Italy. They were part of the broader Climate Connection programme and comprised one training for young journalists and four focus groups with young activists, artists, entrepreneurs and researchers, who gave their input to the [Global Youth Letter](#) by reflecting on how they can advocate for climate and act on tackling climate change. These Young Leaders from across Europe and Africa put forth their requests and recommendations and engaged in active discussion with policy makers on the Stronger Together for Climate Policy Dialogue event.

1. Training for Young Journalists

The solution-based, climate themed journalism training received great interest from young professionals in Africa and in Europe with 60 applications in total. It was led by intelligent journalism experts, the [Pioneers Post](#) and it took place in the end of September 2021. The tailor-made training included five sessions during which participants got input on climate issues and journalism, on key contemporary approaches as well as on practical tips. The training was spread through four days and engaged participants for three to four hours per session:

Session 1: The role of journalism in the climate crisis (context, SDGs, etc)

Session 2: An introduction to solutions journalism - taking a 'solutions-led- approach to reporting on climate issues

Session 3: Practical skills training: Video/mobile journalism

Session 4: Practical skills training: Social media

Session 5: How to leverage your skills - including practical tips on pitching and 'expert' input from specialist climate writers

Participants gave very positive feedback for the training and practiced their learning through authoring climate themed articles which they posted on the media they're working in as young professionals.

The links to the online articles coming from a range of countries in Europe and in Africa can be found as follows:

Belgium: [The Brussels Morning](#)

Burundi: [Yaga Burundi](#)

Greece: [Popaganda](#)

Kenya: [TV47](#)

Nigeria: [Campus Reporter](#)

Nigeria: [News Upfront](#)

Uganda: [Nile Post](#)

UK: [Aspect Magazine](#)

Zimbabwe: [Enthuse Magazine](#)

"The project has improved my knowledge of climate issues and better ways to report them; I plan to share lessons learnt with my colleagues. Personally, I have gained an amazing network of young journalists from across the globe from participating in this project and I look forward to producing more climate stories as well as collaborating with them."



A., Nigeria

2. Focus Groups

Focus groups were organised as two- hour sessions in October and November 2021 and were led by experienced facilitators from the pool of trainers of the British Council and the Africa Europe Foundation. Facilitators shaped a set of guiding questions to stimulate discussions and get young people's views. The structure of the sessions entailed:

- A 30-minute introduction; setting the aims of the session and group building
- A 60-minute dialogue and discussion on the three questions most voted on and
- A 30-minute slot for identifying three key points, presenting graphic harvester's work and of having a short debriefing and oral evaluation.

The Focus Group sessions provided an intercultural exchanging platform for young participants which enabled them to hold meaningful discussions and present their views on the topics of the [Global Youth Letter](#). We received a great interest from across the two continents with 178 participants expressing interest in joining the focus groups. A selection was made based on the role profile and taking into consideration a balance in geographical and gender criteria.

Focus Groups participants were called to reflect and answer the following questions:



1. In our role as young activists/artists/entrepreneurs/researchers, what can we do to widen public awareness, deepen individual understanding and promote community literacy around climate action?



2. How can we ensure that our questions, concerns and ideas reach the ear of policy-makers, how can we influence them and how do facilitate consistent and effective two-way communications between those who decide, those who influence, and those living daily with the consequences of decisions?



3. As young activists/artists/entrepreneurs/researchers, what can we do to optimise the positive use of social media platforms to influence the combating of climate change and the encouragement of effective climate action?



4. In your view, how can civil society organisations collaborate and leverage their unique positions, to mobilise the wider community in awareness raising, building capacity and taking practical action to combat climate change?



5. What can and should be done to support young people to work collectively to enhance their potential as role models and exemplars for the wider communities, in particular across generational divides?

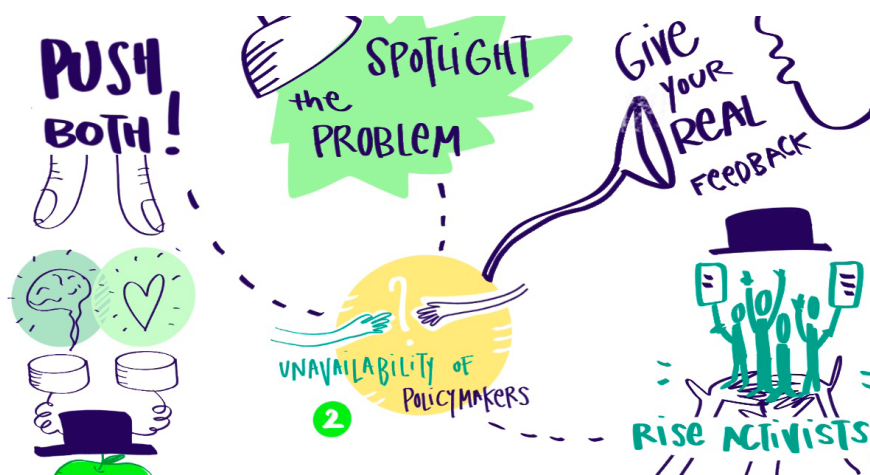


6. Young people have a particular position as inheritors of the consequences of climate change, and the beneficiaries of climate action. How can this generation be practically supported in becoming more widely and deeply involved in; awareness raising, practical social action, influencing, and decision-making.

Participants of the focus groups provided very positive feedback about the sessions and expressed the desire to connect and stay in touch, which they were encouraged to do through the digital tools we used during the meeting.

2a. Focus Group – Activists

The International Networking Event was the closure event of the implementation of the Active Citizens' Programme in 6 pilot countries. Its aims were to inspire a network of young Active Citizens and to create opportunities for dialogue on issues around Climate Change, based on the ideas presented in the [Global Youth Letter](#). It took place online, on Tuesday 5 October, with 6 participants from Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Poland. Participants presented their Social Action Projects and shared their vision for collective action for the climate.



A summary of outcomes and key statements of young activists, as follows:

We, the young activists of the Active Citizens network in Europe would like to declare that we are very aware and concerned about the gravity of climate change and we find it is necessary to:

- Raise awareness through educational workshops, where people exchange stories in a non-academic manner.
- Encourage the development of new approaches to tackle climate change, by modelling a shift in mindset from 'heart to hands'.
- Learn from and model the principles of permaculture by embedding the lessons from systems in nature, into our daily habits.
- Find fun and engaging ways to talk about climate justice and embed a broader awareness and deeper understanding of climate change across our communities.
- Utilize our ability for creative learning to support and empower people.
- Stress the fact that having a healthy natural environment around us cultivates our inner balance and enhances our well-being.
- Change the perspective and the narrative around climate change into something more realistic, more flexible and more creative.
- Support people in exploring their intrinsic motivation and unique reasons for tackling climate change.
- We need to employ different approaches for different target groups and adjust to their language and mindset.
- Give rise to policy makers that have grassroots activist background.
- Reach out directly to policy makers, but also influence the influencers.
- Use arguments that utilize existing laws and policies to convince policy makers.
- Use the social media to organize grassroots conversations and actions.
- Organisations and the third sector should be more involved in the fight against climate change. They should act as a bridge between policy makers and the public. They have an obligation to reach out to rural youth and include them in the struggle.
- It is not fair to put the burden of tackling climate change on the young generations. We all have a responsibility in different levels and amounts.
- Grassroots organisations should be more involved in decision making.
- It is not beneficial for a few privileged people to make all the decisions. Young people should have a seat on the table and youth organisations should be invited to consult on countries' strategy.
- Young people should be supported through formal and non-formal education to acquire the tools to explore their ideas, their visions and thrive!

2b. Focus Group - Artists

The focus group for artists took place online, on Monday 18 October, hosting 10 young artists from African and European Countries. For more than two hours, participants engaged in dialogue, raised stimulating points and developed their statements based on the ideas presented at the [Global Youth Letter](#).

Two different digital tools were used: [a padlet](#), where we posted all the questions and sent them to participants in advance to comment on. Padlet has a feature that allows participants to "like" a post, therefore we asked them to vote which three questions were more relevant to them, so that we discuss them in priority. The second tool that was used was the [jamboard](#), which we used for group building purposes as a notebook for working in smaller groups.

An interesting idea that came up was that young artists from Europe have a different view altogether on what climate change means and how accountable they are about it, compared to artists from Africa, where they produce much less of an energy footprint. All participants agreed that climate change is an urgent matter to which they have to respond to, as young people and as young artists, by using their art as a tool to talk about important issues, like climate challenges.



The main questions that participants picked for discussion were the following:

1. What can we do, through art, to widen public awareness, deepen individual understanding and promote literacy around climate change?
2. How can the young generation of artists collaborate and leverage their unique position, to mobilize the wider community in awareness raising, building capacity and taking practical action to combat climate change?
3. What kind of support would artists need to be effective influencers and role models in their communities, in particular across generational divides?

The three main outcomes that were stressed by almost everyone in the meeting were that artists want to fight for:

- a seat at the table of decision making.
- an open attitude toward artists from communities, decision makers, and politicians.
- funding, support and securing venues from governments.



As follows, the main statements and key insights that emerged during the focus group:

- Art is a bridge, a universal and creative language which can be used to raise empathy and educate. It should be open and inclusive for everyone, including people with disabilities and fewer opportunities.
- Artists have to come together, network and change the narrative around climate challenges.
- Artists are not just spectators. Artists should play a more influential role. They should be role models. We need to get all artists involved, educate them on digital tools and encourage them to become influencers.
- Politicians and governments see artists as outsiders, so there is no equal dialogue at the moment. Art is seriously underrated, underfunded and, therefore, severely damaged.
- Art institutions have a responsibility to raise awareness through art production. They have a stronger voice than individual artists.
- We need to incorporate climate issues in all art displays. Young artists especially can express messages in creative and innovative ways. We should make an effort to develop environmentally themed digital campaigns to raise awareness and understanding of the effects of climate change through visually captivating artistic animations, photos, films, audio podcasts, etc.
- We should have performances in undermined/destroyed areas by climate challenges and more exhibitions that put climate change to the forefront.

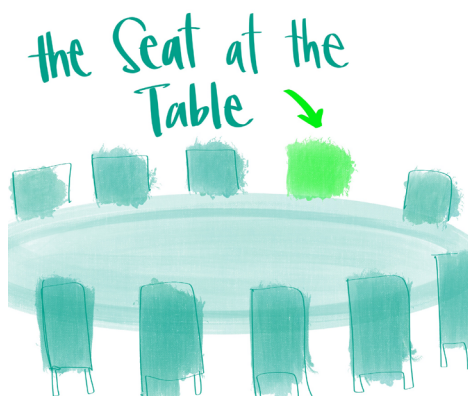
- The lack of funding and of spaces to work is hindering the work artists do as well as to the role they can play as stakeholders of climate issues. We need more residencies for artists, programmes that skill young people and capacity building among artists themselves.
- We should go back to our roots, search in the past for sustainable ways used by older generations.
- We can combat climate change, by organizing events and festivals that will bring artists together in creating sustainably. We should be putting focus on creating eco-friendly design solutions, use less of print billboards-paper base, and create with more sustainable material. Stakeholders should promote artists that work in sustainable ways.
- Create and promote Community Centers, which could serve both as places of creation and rehearsal for artists, but also places where community members and people of different age groups can be taught artistic practices and generally as a central meeting point for different members of the community.
- Organize workshops, gatherings, and focus groups like this one, because they are fundamental tools in building a community.
- Reconnect to older generations of artists by awarding them and filling the inter-generational gap.
- Create inclusive tools of communication: promoting activism and supporting social activists.



“What a blessing it has been to be part of this focus group. It has left me with rebellious hope about the role of artists as vital players and stakeholders in this climate crisis. And it has strengthened my faith in my generation in future debates. I want to thank you for this initiative and I hope to hear from you again”



Lies, Belgium



2c. Focus Group - Entrepreneurs

The focus group for entrepreneurs took place on-line, on Wednesday 3 November, hosting 9 young entrepreneurs from African and European Countries. For two hours, participants engaged in dialogue, raised stimulating points and developed statements based on the ideas presented at the [Global Youth Letter](#).

Stronger Together Event Series / March 2022

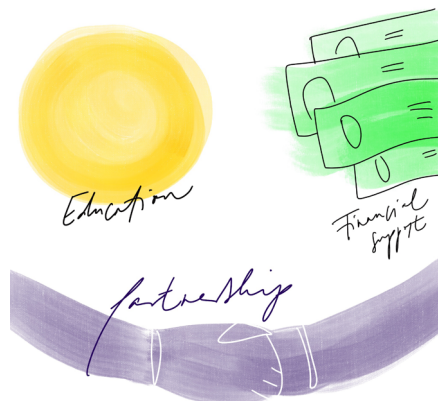
We used two different digital tools: [a padlet](#), where we posted all the questions and sent them to the participants in advance to comment on. Padlet has a feature that allows participants to “like” a post, so we asked them to vote which three questions were more relevant to them, so that we discuss them in priority. The second tool that was used was the [jamboard](#), which we used for group building purposes as a notebook for working in smaller groups.

An interesting idea that came up was that entrepreneurs, however green or sustainable their endeavours are, feel that the world holds them accountable for climate change itself and that they need to prove their environmental awareness, because they are considered to be on the other side of the fight. All participants agreed that climate change is an urgent matter to which they have to respond to, as young people as well as entrepreneurs, by using their financial, social and business status as a tool to talk about important issues, like climate challenges.



The main questions that the participants selected for a deep dive discussion were the following:

1. What can we do, as entrepreneurs, to widen public awareness, deepen individual understanding and promote literacy around climate change?
2. How can we use our enterprises to advocate for change to decision makers? How can we ensure that our questions, concerns and ideas reach the ear of policy-makers?
3. What kind of support would entrepreneurs need to be effective influencers and role models in their communities, in particular across generational divides?



The three main outcomes that were stressed by almost everyone in the meeting were that entrepreneurs want to fight for:

- Capacity building and education for entrepreneurs on climate issues.
- Investments and financial support of start ups and small / medium enterprises (SME)
- Fostering partnership and cooperation between entrepreneurs.

As follows, the main key points and requests outlined during the focus group discussions:

- It is important to show to the world that, as entrepreneurs, we not only have to chase profits but we can also achieve success in all areas, by creating social impact and environmental impact, namely by doing business that improves lives and sustains our planet.
- Business success is usually connected with capitalism and over-consumerism, but we have to take on a different approach: Use cross-sectoral communication and become the change-makers that we are. We have to focus on the 3 Ps of successful and ethical business endeavours: Profit-People-Planet.
- Indeed, efficiently tackling climate change will require significant disruptions and significant societal and economic transitions. Energy will need to rely less and less on fossil fuels, transportation will become electric, real estate will become cleaner and consume less energy. The number of sectors facing drastic changes related to the fight against climate change in the next 10 to 20 years is almost limitless.
- What we have as entrepreneurs are ideas and projects which should be used to advocate for climate preservation. We are living proof that ideas can actually be turned into actions.
- Education is very important. We lack the knowledge about sustainability and climate change and we often make mistakes which could be avoided by being more informed.
- Businesses are shifting from a linear economy to a circular one. Partnerships should be fostered through efficient incubators to support impactful strategies.
- Entrepreneurs should use the media coverage to raise awareness.
To make an impact through social media, we must go beyond the business to make an impact.
- We should bring social media platforms on board as they have a wide reach and can inspire more people to join the climate race. Cooperation with influencers and other entrepreneurs is crucial, if we want to make a change.
- Entrepreneurs should align their companies' values with a sustainable production and should be held accountable for not respecting an eco-friendly supply chain when they get support. For example, we should think about how we package our products.
- Capacity building and training of entrepreneurs should be fostered.
- Governments should provide incentives for enterprises to make eco-friendly businesses. For example, reduction of the overall production costs, financial support, green investment and tools to scale up the impact and political will are crucial.
- Entrepreneurs must take part in working groups for policy making in every country, which should be available and accessible to them.
- They have to come together and engage in environmental activism, so that their voices are joined with others and hopefully reach the ears of policy makers around the globe.
- Finally, entrepreneurs are role models in their community. We should teach by example and live a sustainable life.



“The meeting offered a platform for collaboration, provided useful information and insights for practical strategies on working towards climate resilience with other active young people.”



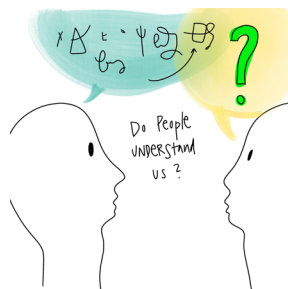
M., Cameroon

2d. Focus Group- Researchers

The focus group for researchers took place online, on Friday 5 November, hosting 7 young researchers from African and European Countries. For two hours, participants engaged in dialogue, raised stimulating points and developed statements based on the ideas presented at the [Global Youth Letter](#).

Two different digital tools were used: [a padlet](#), where we posted all the questions and sent them to the participants in advance to comment on. Padlet has a feature that allows participants to “like” a post, so we asked them to vote which three questions were more relevant to them, to discuss them in priority. The second tool that was used was the [jamboard](#), which we used for group building purposes as a notebook for working in smaller groups.

An interesting idea that came up was that, researchers, most with green or sustainable research, feel that they are working inside their laboratories, with no contact to the real world and that in order for them to use their findings to actually make a difference, they need to change that fact, come out of the lab, take off the white coat and talk a simple, understandable language. All participants agreed that climate change is an urgent matter to which they have to respond to, as young people as well as researchers, by using their scientific, social and academic status as a tool to talk about important issues, like climate challenges.

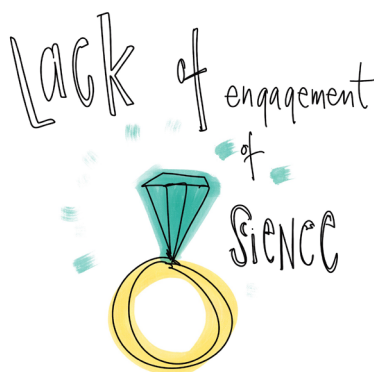


The main questions that the participants selected for a deep dive discussion were the following:

1. What can we do, as researchers, to widen public awareness, deepen individual understanding and promote literacy around climate change?
2. How can we use our research to advocate for change to decision makers? How can we ensure that our questions, concerns and ideas reach the ear of policy-makers?
3. What kind of support would researchers need to be effective influencers and role models in their communities, in particular across generational divides?

The three main outcomes that were stressed by almost everyone in the meeting were that researchers need:

- to be empowered for talking about their research through training and mentorship.
- to fill the gap between science and local communities by using a more understandable and accessible language
- to work more towards the implementation of their research by coming out of their laboratories, in order to make an actual difference and raise awareness on climate change.



As follows the main key points and requests outlined by researchers during the focus group:

- As researchers, we should be at the forefront of implementing policies and raising awareness, because we have the information and the data.
- Some countries, especially in Africa, do not lack good policies, they lack good implementation strategies.
- Most researchers are not equipped to disseminate information into a broader context and that's where there should be collaboration. We should surround ourselves with our colleagues who have the same goals as we do.
- There is a huge gap between research conducted, researchers and communities. We have to try and overcome the barriers to implementation and apply our research and findings in real life. We need to test our hypotheses starting from the local community.
- Research should not be limited to the academic language so it would be understood by everyone. To bridge the gap, it's important to deliver the findings in a simpler, understandable language. Sometimes even, we have to translate findings in local languages – not all communities are comfortable with understanding English.
- We need funding from the governments to be able to continue doing research which discovers and supports ways to tackle climate change.
- There is a need to combine research and practice and engage in intersectoral communications, so that findings have a wider application and make more sense to non-researchers.
- We, the researchers, are responsible for understanding and transmitting information to the community, but we need training, mentorship and practice to do that.
- We can use the educational systems to deliver research findings and information.
- We want to see more researchers involved in municipality gatherings and community-based discussions. Also, researchers should be represented in governmental posts.
- Advocacy should be well studied and based on thorough research. Ideas should be backed by data which would help activists and NGOs.
- Researchers should have financial support and mentorship. Think tanks and research institutes should provide the necessary network and resources to transfer the knowledge and give researchers the chance to be closer to decision makers.
- The lack of engagement of the community with science should be corrected by raising awareness and fostering understanding among populations on issues such as climate change.
- There is a lack of engagement with science and a lack of scientific literacy. As researchers we need to become more humanized and earn people's trust. We should disseminate information through social media and use all the open channels of communication.

“Many policy makers need to be trained in the field of climate change. Only by receiving real scientific data and realizing the importance of what's at stake, can they make decisions and adapt laws so as to respond to the current climate crisis.”





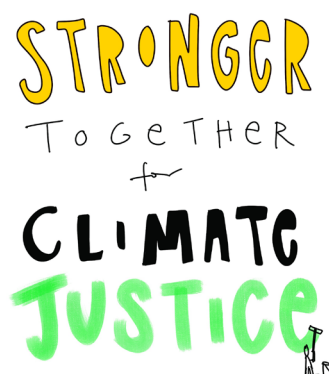
3. Stronger Together for Climate Policy Dialogue – 15 February 2022

The Stronger Together Policy Dialogue took place online, broadcasting from Brussels on 15 February 2022 during the Africa – EU week as part of the Europe-Africa Business Forum (EABF).

The event focused on the policy recommendations resulting from young people following COP26 and looking ahead to COP27, including the outcomes of the COP26 Youth Summit in Milan, input from key policy speakers and a roundtable discussion with youth.

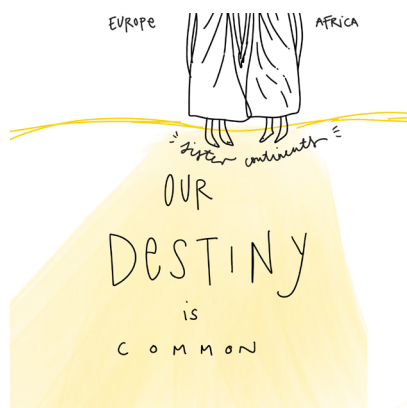
Invited speakers included:

- Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Green Deal, and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy, European Commission
- Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland, Chair of the Elders and Honorary Co-president of the Africa Europe Foundation.
- Nigel Topping, High Level Climate Action Champion for UN climate talks, COP26
- Lucy Waruingi, Executive Director for the African Conservation Centre.
- Amira Saber, Egyptian MP, secretary general of the foreign relations committee.
- Nathan Méténier, Climate Justice Advocate and United Nations Youth Advisor.
- Aya Chebbi, Former African Union Youth Envoy, Diplomat and Chair of the Nala Feminist Collective
- Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council



The discussion hosted a number of diverse speakers, more than 230 online participants and a well-balanced group of youth representatives from the partners' networks.

The moderator of the event, Dharmendra Kanani, Chief Spokesperson for Friends of Europe and Moderator of the AEF Talking Africa-Europe series, introduced the event and presented the [Stronger Together video](#) where young people expressed their opinions and recommendations on the topic of climate crisis. He stressed that this is a discussion about the active involvement of young people in the debate around climate change.



He then gave the floor to **Frans Timmermans**, the European Commission Executive Vice-President and leader of the Commission's work on the European Green Deal. The Commissioner, in his short statement, stressed that Europe and Africa have a common destiny. No continent will prosper if the other doesn't, because they complement each other. Africa has hardly contributed to the climate crisis, but it suffers greatly from Europe's emissions that have led to the rise of temperature. To create a coherent agenda, the Commissioner proposed that Africa should consider Africa's priorities, put them forward and the rest of the world will comply. Responding to young people's comments, the EVP suggested that a plan, especially for Africa that has huge energy needs, would be to make people owners of their own energy. Africa can also gain from an enormous energy opportunity for the future, namely, green hydrogen. It has the potential to invest in renewable solar infrastructure, store the energy produced in hydrogen and then market this energy on the global market. This will create interrelationships between Europe and Africa that will last for generations and will be to the benefit of both continents. Africa suffers greatly by a problem that was not created there; Frans Timmermans concluded.

The floor went next to **Aya Chebbi**, a Former African Union Youth Envoy, Diplomat and Chair of the Nala Feminist Collective. She focused her comment on three points: Engagement, Leadership and, finally, the Green Deal and what it means for Africa.

The conversation of young people now is about decolonising the Africa-Europe partnership, she mentioned. African people cannot be excluded from discussions that take place in Europe because of reasons of mobility and vaccine equity between the two continents. We need to move to intergenerational co-leadership, she stated. Young people are not asking for participation, but co-leadership, she explained, to be part of the decision making and have the resources to endorse these decisions.

Thirdly, on the Green Deal and its meaning for Africa, she expressed the view that it seems to be saving the environment, but, in reality, it is saving European Economy. We are talking about green recovery, but is Europe imposing foreign policy at the expense of Africa's development aspiration, she wondered in conclusion.

Finally, as a response to a question about what would be the alternative to natural gas, Aya mentioned that Africa accounts for 3% of the world's carbon emission, we should not pretend that Africa is the problem. The true challenge is whether or not Europe will reach its goals, she declared.

Nathan Méténier, Climate Justice Advocate and United Nations Youth Advisor, spoke next and conveyed his experience from the CoY (Conference of Youth), pre-COP and COP26. Young people, at this point, are demanding not to participate in climate action, but to work together with policy makers for climate justice. He stressed the importance of the abolition of fossil fuels by 2023 and made three points:

- a. The climate finance, with the amount of loans and private funds that go to the global South are maintaining colonialism and North-South injustice.
- b. Capacity building, information and education.
- c. Climate finance is maintaining colonial power relationships between the global north and the global south. Young people demand funding for everything that they do, without loans which have too many strings attached. Moving from just being invited to actually being heard needs funding, he concluded.

In turn, **Kayleigh Murray**, climate justice advocate and researcher based in South Africa, took the floor after Nathan, stressing the fact that the dialogue on climate and participation is vast. In Africa the majority of local adaptations to damages that occurred by climate change is enacted by local communities and is based on indigenous knowledge and traditional ways of dealing with climate issues. Youth make up the fabric of society and are the main actors of change. Researchers, she mentioned, have predictive models, that are based on evidence, that are accurately predicting what is going to happen. However, in order for this to work, it needs policy to guide it and funding to support it. Because, when people are informed about the changes that are going to occur, they are more likely to react, she stated.

Shawgi Ahmed, African leader for African Diaspora and Refugees, talked about “co-creation”, the idea of creating change, policy and action together with the young people. We are creating a table but it does not include everyone and we have to adapt to the needs of the youth, he demanded.

Mary Robinson, first female President of Ireland, Chair of the Elders and Honorary Co-President of the Africa Europe Foundation stated that we have to listen to the young people, because they are asking for the responsibility of decision making. But we also have to listen to the needs of different countries. Decision making will be improved greatly if we put youth and women at the table and create a more inclusive COP. Resources are indeed important, and it is our hope that funding will increase in COP 27, she concluded. She raised 3 issues:

- Access to energy (even gas as a transition energy)
- Climate adaptation finance should be doubled by 2025
- Loss and damage, how we are going to have funding to ensure safety and cope with hurricanes, floods etc.

Nigel Topping, High Level Champion for Climate Action at COP 26, mentioned that COP26 in Glasgow was a success and a failure at the same time. It overdelivered in terms of ambition and urgency on the one hand, but it showed how far behind the global community is in terms of tackling the climate issues. It is important to develop clean technologies at a low cost. Policy makers should build on 3 things

- To deliver all the promises from Glasgow
- Mobilise the finance
- Better investment on infrastructure and damage loss

Amira Saber, Egyptian MP, Secretary General of the Foreign Relations Committee was very excited to have the next COP in Egypt, to help the voice of the global south be heard.

Global north is responsible for the problem and this should be the starting point of all negotiations, she said. Our generation has been living the dramatic consequences of the climate crisis. So now is the time for youth to be on every table: the table of decision making, of negotiations, of consulting. Youth, innovators, entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives should be the heart of the talk.

H.E. Ambassador **Raouf Saad**, Chairman of the National Bureau for the Implementation of the Association Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned that Egypt is working very actively to secure the success of the next COP; trying to ensure that it is not a repetition of previous conferences. To ensure that it will move from commitments to implementation. Egypt is holding this conference on behalf of the African countries to promote the African priorities. The plan is to include more young people in the next COP through a forum, which will run with an agenda and recommendations addressing to COP27 representatives, he stressed.

The word was later given for commentary to **Lucy Waruingi**, Executive Director of the African Conservation Centre who stressed the point that we need to prioritise youth engagement in the climate action value chain, from delegates, to negotiators. Central to that is leadership: It is time to move from activism to action. Give them the space to be active players, by providing them with mentorship, resources and networks to address policy makers.

In his closing remarks, **Scott McDonald**, CEO, British Council highlighted that young people as change makers need to be at the forefront of the discussion and we aim to create space for meaningful dialogue between youth and policy makers. Only by working together we can succeed. Only by stressing the values that guide our work, fairness equity and inclusivity.

The **young people** who were invited to share their views made clear and powerful statements. Many of the speakers expressed the need of a **“Made in Africa” COP**. They expressed the feeling that there is a sense of Eurocentricity in the discussions, which results in frustration for young people, especially in African countries.

Key points and requests in the discussions:

- The conversation of young people now is about decolonizing the Africa-Europe partnership. African people cannot be excluded from discussions that take place in Europe because of reasons of mobility and vaccine equity between the two continents. Since the next COP will take place in Africa, **we request funding for young Africans to participate in the delegations.**
- The issue of leadership is generational: The average age of Africa's population is 20 years old, but the average age of Africa's leaders is 64. **We need to move to intergenerational co-leadership.** Young people are not asking for participation, but co-leadership, to be part of the decision making and have the resources to endorse these decisions. **We demand 35% of youth to be institutionalized in every COP and EU Summit.**
- The climate finance, with the amount of loans and private funds that go to the global South are maintaining colonialism and North-South injustice. **Young people demand funding** for everything that they do, without loans which have too many strings attached. Moving from just being invited to actually being heard needs funding.
- **We need capacity building, information and education in order to become changemakers.** Young people that are involved in the climate issues in Africa in the fields of Art, Research and Entrepreneurship do not have the frameworks necessary to get the knowledge from these specific fields out, communicate it to the public and make it reach the communities.
- **Researchers have predictive models** that are based on evidence, that can accurately predict what is going to happen. However, in order for this to work, **it needs policy to guide it and funding to support it.** Because, when people are informed about the changes that are going to occur, they are more likely to react.
- **Climate adaptation finance should be doubled by 2025.**
- **Investment on infrastructure loss and damage:** how we are going to have funding to ensure safety and cope with hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters.
- All the promises from COP26 in Glasgow should be delivered.
- Our generation has been living the dramatic consequences of the climate crisis. So now is the time for youth to be on every table: the table of decision making, of negotiations, of consulting. Youth, innovators, entrepreneurs and civil society representatives should be the heart of the talk.
- To switch to renewable solutions, **we need infrastructure and therefore funding.** Changes do not happen overnight.
- Technology can help us end corruption and be transparent.
- We need to address the **historical injustice.** The influence of Climate Change has everything to do with the fact that countries have not undergone the same development.
- Give us, the young people, the space to be active players, by **providing us with mentorship, resources and networks** to address policy makers.

Building up on the UK's work ahead and during COP26, the Stronger Together for Climate event series managed to mobilise hundreds of youth networks and to engage youth across Europe and Africa in meaningful discussions and interaction with prominent policy makers on the critical topic of climate. The final event, the Stronger Together for Climate policy dialogue served as a youth COP26 follow up event passing over to COP27.

KEEP the
CONVERSATION
HERE

