GREEN RISING UKRAINE 2026



YOUTH STATEMENT UKRAINE 2026

The voice of Ukrainian youth on climate, resilience, and a green future—
a future we are building in unity with the entire world.

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Greetings from the youth representatives of Ukraine, who aspire to have their voices heard at COP31!

We, young people with open minds and passionate hearts, have conducted in-depth research into the climate and environmental challenges facing our world, explored contemporary approaches to addressing them, and examined the relevant international instruments governing the actions of states.

Driven by our determination to bring about meaningful change and give future generations a chance at a brighter future, we have developed a comprehensive set of recommendations addressing ecosystem and community resilience, climate education, waste reduction, and the expansion of climate action opportunities for society.

We firmly believe that this Youth Statement puts forward valuable proposals that deserve the attention and commitment of the international community and, most importantly, their implementation.

Let us unite the efforts of all generations and people from every corner of the world, doing everything within our power to mitigate the existing and prevent the future impacts of human-induced climate change, while safeguarding the invaluable ecosystems of our planet!

ON THE RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES

Preamble

The States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, participating in COP31,

Recognising that natural ecosystems constitute the foundation of climate stability, food and water security, public health, economic prosperity and social resilience;

Acknowledging that the degradation of natural systems, biodiversity loss, land-use change, pollution, the spread of invasive alien species and anthropogenic climate change are mutually reinforcing;

Recognising that natural ecosystems perform critical infrastructure functions, including the regulation of the water cycle, carbon sequestration and storage, and protection against floods, droughts, erosion and extreme temperatures;

Reaffirming the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Aarhus Convention, the Espoo Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention and the Helsinki Convention on

the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;

Recognising that cities and human settlements are not isolated built-up spaces, but integral components of natural ecosystems that depend on the condition of soils, water resources, forests, rivers and biodiversity;

Acknowledging that unsustainable urban planning exacerbates the impacts of climate change, including heatwaves, floods, droughts, water scarcity, air pollution and the loss of natural habitats;

Emphasising that community resilience must be ensured not only through engineering infrastructure, but also through the preservation of natural systems, access to safe housing, green spaces, clean water and low-carbon transport;

Emphasising the principles of environmental harm prevention, precaution, the polluter-pays principle, intergenerational equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities;

Seeking to move beyond voluntary environmental declarations towards measurable, adequately funded and accountable commitments;

Hereby recommend the adoption of the following international principles, standards and mechanisms:

1. Recognition of ecosystems as critical infrastructure

1. Ecosystem functions, including climate regulation, water purification, pollination, soil fertility preservation and protection against natural hazards, should be taken into account when making public budgetary, infrastructure and economic decisions.
2. The destruction of ecosystems that provide critical ecological functions, including climate regulation, carbon sequestration and storage, the maintenance of water balance, biodiversity conservation, soil fertility, and protection against natural hazards, should be recognised as a threat to environmental, food, and water security at both national and international levels.
3. States should establish and enforce legal mechanisms to protect ecologically irreplaceable areas, including through the designation of special protection regimes and the restriction or prohibition of activities that may result in irreversible ecosystem destruction, biodiversity loss, or the disruption of their critical ecological functions. Effective monitoring mechanisms, legal accountability, and proportionate penalties for violations of established environmental protection requirements must be ensured, alongside an obligation to compensate for environmental damage and restore affected areas.
4. States should integrate natural ecosystems into national strategic planning systems as critical infrastructure essential to public safety and the functioning of the economy.

2. Prioritising the Prevention of Environmental Harm over Subsequent Compensation

1. Preventing ecosystem degradation should take precedence over the subsequent compensation for or restoration of environmental damage.
2. States should establish risk-based screening procedures for economic activities, plans and programmes. Those activities likely to cause significant adverse environmental impacts should be subject to appropriate environmental impact assessment, while strategic environmental assessment should be applied to relevant policies, plans and programmes. The scope of assessment should be proportionate to the nature, scale, location and potential cumulative impacts of the proposed activity.
3. States should ensure the following hierarchy of environmental harm management: avoidance of harm; minimisation of unavoidable impacts; restoration of damaged ecosystems; and compensatory measures only for residual damage that cannot be addressed through other means.

3. Mandatory restoration of degraded ecosystems

1. Each State should develop a National Restoration Plan identifying: priority restoration areas; responsible institutions; required funding; implementation deadlines; environmental performance indicators.
2. National plans should be aligned with the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly the target of ensuring that at least 30% of the areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems to be under effective restoration by 2030 (Target 2).

3. Restoration should be based on natural ecological processes, native species, genetically appropriate planting material and the restoration of natural hydrological regimes.
4. Monoculture plantations, artificial green spaces and other ecologically inadequate substitutes must not be recognised as equivalent to the restoration of natural ecosystems.
5. States should ensure long-term monitoring of restored areas to verify actual improvements in their ecological condition.

4. Protection of ecological connectivity

1. States should establish and maintain ecological corridors between natural areas to ensure species migration, genetic exchange and adaptation to climate change.
2. The construction of roads, railways, industrial facilities and energy infrastructure should include measures to preserve wildlife migration routes and hydrological connections.
3. The fragmentation of natural areas should be recognised as a separate category of environmental impact.
4. Ensuring ecological connectivity should be a mandatory component of spatial planning.
5. States should strive to effectively conserve at least 30% of terrestrial areas, inland water areas, coastal and marine areas by 2030, prioritising areas with high ecological integrity and ecological corridors, in accordance with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

5. Prevention of the spread of invasive alien species

1. Each State should establish or strengthen a national biosecurity system aimed at preventing the introduction, spread and establishment of invasive alien species.
2. States should introduce national lists of priority invasive species and their pathways of introduction and spread, including trade, transport, tourism, agriculture and aquaculture.
3. The following measures should be introduced:
   - biological risk assessments of imported plants, animals, seeds and other biological materials;
   - mandatory inspection and disinfection of high-risk equipment, vehicles, containers and gear;
   - control of ballast water and biofouling on marine vessels;
   - monitoring of aquaculture, trade in live organisms and online trade in exotic species;
   - early detection and rapid response to newly emerging invasive populations;
   - prohibition of the use of invasive alien species in landscaping, reforestation and land reclamation programmes.
4. In the event of the detection of a new invasive species, procedures should be established for promptly notifying neighbouring States, assessing risks and coordinating joint responses.
5. States should establish financial reserves to enable the rapid local eradication or control of invasive populations at the early stages of their spread.

6. Biosecurity should be incorporated into international trade and transport standards, in compliance with World Trade Organization rules and relevant international conventions.

6. Protection of natural carbon sinks and reservoirs

1. States should ensure the conservation and restoration of natural carbon sinks and reservoirs, including forests, peatlands, wetlands, seagrass meadows, mangrove ecosystems and soils.
2. States should promote the restoration of drained peatlands through rewetting and introduce measures to prevent peat fires.
3. The destruction of natural carbon reservoirs must not be considered acceptable on the grounds that carbon credits have been purchased or trees have been planted elsewhere.
4. National climate plans should include assessments of the condition of natural carbon sinks, the risks of their degradation and measures for their long-term conservation.
5. Climate projects should be assessed not only in terms of emissions reductions, but also in terms of their impact on biodiversity, water resources, soils and local communities.

7. Protection of climate refugia

1. States should identify areas whose geographical, hydrological and microclimatic characteristics may enable species to survive under changing climatic conditions.
2. Such areas should be given priority in nature conservation planning.
3. States should ensure the preservation of ecological corridors connecting climate refugia.

4. The destruction of critical habitats of threatened species must not be permitted without an appropriate assessment of alternatives and in accordance with applicable nature conservation legislation.

8. Global protection of water resources

1. States should ensure integrated management of river basins, lakes, groundwater, wetlands and marine ecosystems.
2. Activities that pose a risk of transboundary water pollution should be subject to prior assessment and notification of potentially affected States.
3. The following measures should be ensured:
   - control of industrial and agricultural discharges;
   - reduction of excessive nutrient inputs;
   - modernisation of wastewater treatment systems;
   - protection of drinking water sources;
   - restoration of natural floodplains and riparian buffer zones;
   - monitoring of microplastics, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants.
4. Shared water resources should be managed through an ecosystem-based approach and international cooperation.
5. States should ensure the protection of water infrastructure (hydraulic structures, water abstraction facilities and wastewater treatment plants essential to public water security and ecosystem health) during armed conflicts in accordance with applicable international humanitarian law, including Articles 54-56 of Additional Protocol I, Articles 14-15 of Additional Protocol II, where applicable, and relevant rules of customary international humanitarian law.

Their deliberate destruction should be documented as environmental damage.

9. Soil protection and combating land degradation

1. States should introduce systematic monitoring of soil conditions, including soil organic carbon, erosion, salinisation, pollution and biological activity.
2. Contaminated and degraded lands should be subject to risk assessment, remediation or ecological restoration.
3. States should prevent the conversion of natural ecosystems into agricultural, industrial and urban areas without prior environmental impact assessment and consideration of alternatives.
4. Lands contaminated by explosive ordnance should be incorporated into soil monitoring systems and subjected to humanitarian demining that takes environmental consequences into account, including the minimisation of damage to soils, habitats and water bodies.

10. Environmental restrictions in spatial planning

1. Each State should introduce mandatory environmental spatial planning at national, regional and local levels.
2. Decisions concerning the location of industrial, energy, transport and residential facilities should take into account:
   - the ecological value of the area;
   - the risk of habitat fragmentation;
   - the water balance;
   - climate risks;
   - potential impacts on public health;
   - cumulative impacts on ecosystems.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be applied to plans and projects in proportion to their potential risks.
4. The formal completion of an environmental assessment must not be used as a substitute for a genuine analysis of alternatives, including the option of not proceeding with a project.

11. Environmental responsibility of businesses

1. States should introduce mandatory requirements for large enterprises and entities with significant environmental impacts to assess, prevent and disclose risks to biodiversity and ecosystems.
2. Businesses should ensure the traceability of raw material origins and the absence of illegal destruction of natural ecosystems throughout their supply chains.
3. Enterprises should disclose information on their dependence on ecosystem services, impacts on biodiversity, water and land footprints, pollution, restoration measures and environmental risks throughout their supply chains.
4. Disclosure requirements should be aligned with existing international standards, including the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the ISSB IFRS S1/S2 Standards and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), in order to avoid duplication of reporting.
5. States should introduce mechanisms of liability for environmental damage and ensure public access to information about the environmental risks associated with business activities.

12. Participation of local communities in nature governance

1. States should guarantee the participation of local communities in the planning and management of natural resources that directly affect their lives.
2. Indigenous Peoples should be able to participate in decisions concerning their traditional territories, resources and cultural heritage, with due respect for their rights, including the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in cases provided for under international law.
3. States should ensure mechanisms for public oversight, consultation and appeal against decisions that may cause significant environmental harm.
4. States should ensure the protection of individuals and organisations defending environmental rights against pressure, harassment and strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

13. Climate and environmental security of communities

1. Each State should assess the vulnerability of communities to floods, droughts, fires, erosion, sea-level rise, extreme heat and other climate-related hazards.
2. Local development plans should include assessments of environmental and climate risks.
3. States should ensure that communities have access to clean water, healthy soils, green spaces and natural areas.
4. States should develop plans for population relocation and infrastructure preparedness where necessary due to the consequences of climate change.

5. Climate- and environment-related displacement should be addressed through rights-based, non-discriminatory and participatory approaches. Member States should ensure access to adequate protection, housing, essential services, social assistance and effective remedies, including compensation where applicable under international or domestic law. Planned relocation should respect human dignity, property rights, livelihoods, cultural identity and the right to participate in decisions affecting displaced communities.
6. States should ensure the institutional and administrative capacity of local self-government authorities through adequate human resources, methodological support, access to open data and risk assessment tools, the exchange of experience between communities and inter-municipal cooperation.

14. Environmentally responsible reconstruction of cities and ecosystems following armed conflicts and disasters

1. Call upon States to ensure the implementation of the principle of full reparation for injury caused by internationally wrongful acts, including environmental damage, in accordance with the rules of international law enshrined in the Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (Articles 31 and 34–36). Reparation should cover not only direct material losses but also the costs of assessing, preventing and remedying environmental damage, restoring damaged ecosystems, and compensating for the loss of their ecological value.
2. Call upon States to sign and ratify the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine, ensure adequate funding for its operations, and support the full functioning of an

international mechanism for compensating damage caused by the internationally wrongful acts of the Russian Federation. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the consideration of environmental claims covered by the Register of Damage for Ukraine, specifically categories B3.1 “Environmental Damage” and B3.2 “Looting or Misappropriation of Natural Resources”, including compensation for the costs of environmental assessment, clean-up and restoration, the loss of the ecological value of natural systems, and damage resulting from the unlawful appropriation of natural resources.

3. The international compensation mechanism, international financial institutions and donors should direct funding towards the reconstruction of affected countries, establishing environmental and climate criteria for reconstruction standards and ensuring transparent, independent monitoring of reconstruction funding, as well as accountability for failure to conduct environmental assessments, thereby creating the conditions for the country's ecological transformation.
4. The reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed by armed conflicts or other disasters should not automatically reproduce previous development patterns that exacerbated climate risks, pollution or the loss of natural areas. Reconstruction should follow the principle of **Build Back Better**.
5. We call upon States and international partners to integrate the principles of climate-resilient and environmentally responsible urban planning into all post-war and post-crisis reconstruction programmes.

6. We recommend establishing specialised international technical assistance programmes for communities recovering from war, particularly for pollution assessment and the restoration of soils, water systems and natural habitats.
7. We recommend introducing a unified methodology for documenting environmental damage caused by armed conflicts, including satellite data, field measurements, laboratory analyses and testimonies, and incorporating such data into international damage registers.
8. We call upon States to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of existing international crimes involving environmental damage and to support the movement on amendment to the Rome Statute establishing a clearly defined crime of ecocide.
9. Reconstruction programmes should prioritise humanitarian demining while taking environmental consequences into account.

15. Mandatory consideration of climate risks in urban planning

1. We recommend that States introduce mandatory assessments of current and projected climate risks before approving master plans, development plans, major infrastructure projects and urban expansion programmes.
2. Such assessments should cover the following risks:
    - floods, flash floods and inundation;
    - extreme heat and the urban heat island effect;
    - drought, water scarcity and soil degradation;
    - coastal erosion, sea-level rise and storm events;
    - forest and landscape fires;
    - biodiversity loss and natural habitat fragmentation;

- risks associated with the destruction or damage of critical and potentially hazardous infrastructure, particularly in the context of armed conflicts and the post-war period.

3. We recommend establishing open climate vulnerability maps of human settlements, regularly updated on the basis of scientific and statistical data.
4. New development and critical infrastructure should be directed towards safer areas, while construction in areas presenting unacceptable levels of risk should be restricted or prohibited in accordance with national legislation.

16. Preservation of natural ecosystems within and around cities

7. We call upon States to recognise natural ecosystems as an integral part of urban infrastructure and climate security.
8. Urban development plans should provide for the conservation and restoration of:
   - natural forests, steppes, meadows and other native habitats;
   - rivers, streams, floodplains, wetlands and riparian areas;
   - natural soils and areas that ensure water infiltration and retention;
   - ecological corridors that maintain connectivity between natural areas.
9. Development in natural floodplains, wetlands and other areas performing critical water regulation and natural hazard protection functions should be prevented.
10. The principle of prioritising harm avoidance over subsequent compensation should be applied. Compensatory measures must not be used to justify the destruction of unique or irreplaceable natural habitats.

11. Increasing urban density must not take place at the expense of parks, natural habitats, urban forests or public access to green spaces.
12. States should ensure a balance between housing affordability, efficient use of urban land and the preservation of natural systems.
13. Urban expansion into natural areas and valuable agricultural land should be minimised by prioritising the use of already developed or degraded sites, subject to an assessment of their ecological value.

17. Development of green and blue infrastructure

1. We call for the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into urban planning, reconstruction and the management of public spaces.
2. Such solutions include:
   - urban forests, parks, public gardens and green corridors;
   - green roofs and facades;
   - restoration of rivers, natural channels, wetlands and water bodies;
   - permeable surfaces, rain gardens and bioswales;
   - rainwater collection, storage and reuse systems;
   - natural systems for stormwater retention and treatment;
   - restoration of steppe and meadow areas using native species instead of purely decorative landscaping.
3. States are encouraged to develop national green and blue infrastructure standards that take into account local climate, natural conditions and community needs.
4. The effectiveness of such solutions should be assessed not only by the area covered by greenery, but also by their actual contribution to reducing temperatures, mitigating flood risks, conserving biodiversity and improving air quality.

18. Sustainable management of urban water resources

1. We recommend moving away from predominantly pipe-based drainage systems towards integrated stormwater and surface water management that takes the natural water cycle into account.
2. Cities should develop rainwater storage systems, reuse of treated wastewater, permeable surfaces and natural water retention areas.
3. Drinking water sources, catchment areas, groundwater and natural water bodies must be protected against development and pollution.
4. We recommend integrating the river basin approach into spatial planning: decisions concerning development should take into account consequences for the entire river system rather than only an individual land plot or administrative community.
5. We recommend ensuring that new development does not increase the volume or peak flow of surface runoff compared with the pre-urbanisation condition of the area (the principle of zero increase in runoff).

19. Financing, standards and monitoring of climate-resilient urban development

1. We call upon international financial institutions, donor countries and climate funds to establish dedicated funding streams for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient urban development.
2. We recommend developing an international system of indicators for assessing the climate and environmental resilience of cities, covering:
   - the proportion of natural areas preserved and restored;
   - public access to green spaces;
   - the level of urban overheating;

- the frequency and consequences of flooding;
- air and water quality;
- greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, transport and urban infrastructure;
- the share of construction materials reused and recycled;
- access to public transport and essential services.

3. We propose developing international recommendations on minimum requirements for climate-resilient spatial planning, which States can adapt to their natural, social and economic circumstances.
4. We call for ensuring direct access of territorial communities, particularly small communities, to international funding and technical assistance by simplifying application and reporting procedures.

20. Commitments to ensuring the resilience of ecosystems and communities

1. Strengthen international coordination among the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, with the aim of developing a coherent approach to ensuring ecosystem and community resilience, preventing duplication of commitments, and making effective use of existing institutional mechanisms.
2. Establish a dedicated work programme under the UNFCCC on ecosystem and community resilience, providing for the development of common priorities, recommendations, practical tools, and indicators for assessing resilience. The programme should facilitate

the integration of ecosystem conservation, climate change adaptation, natural ecosystem restoration, and the protection of local communities into national and international climate policies.

3. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of gaps in the existing international legal and institutional framework for ensuring ecosystem and community resilience. Such an assessment should determine the extent to which existing international agreements, their implementation mechanisms, and reporting frameworks provide an adequate level of protection for ecosystems and communities, as well as identify issues that remain insufficiently addressed.
4. Encourage the Parties to assess the necessity, added value, and institutional implications of developing a separate legally binding international instrument on ecosystem and community resilience. Such an assessment should take into account gaps in existing international law, the interaction with existing international obligations, the feasibility of ensuring compliance with new provisions, and the appropriateness of enshrining them in a separate protocol or another international legal instrument.
5. Promote the development and implementation of National Ecosystem and Community Resilience Plans, aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Such plans should include specific targets, implementation timelines, performance indicators, and the designation of responsible national authorities. It is recommended that these plans be developed within two years of the adoption of the relevant international recommendations or mechanisms.

6. Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and evaluation mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of measures aimed at ensuring ecosystem and community resilience, building on existing mechanisms under the UNFCCC and other relevant international conventions. Provide for regular assessments of progress, identification of gaps in the implementation of commitments, development of corrective measures, and transparent public access to monitoring results.
7. Ensure that environmental damage and liability for its occurrence are duly addressed within existing international legal mechanisms, including through enhanced cooperation in assessing environmental damage, restoring damaged ecosystems, and developing financial compensation mechanisms. In particular, it is recommended that the feasibility of establishing an international financial mechanism or a dedicated fund to support the restoration and enhancement of ecosystem and community resilience be assessed.
8. Ensure meaningful, transparent, and inclusive participation of scientists, representatives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, young people, civil society organisations, and local self-government bodies in the development, implementation, and evaluation of international and national measures concerning ecosystem and community resilience. Such participation should encompass all stages of decision-making, from the identification of priorities to the monitoring of outcomes.
9. Align interim targets and implementation milestones with the 2030 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement, establishing milestones for 2030, 2040, and 2050. Ensure periodic reviews of progress and the updating of measures in

accordance with scientific evidence and assessments of the effectiveness of implemented solutions.

21. International Fund for Ecosystem and Community Resilience

1. Propose the establishment of an international financial mechanism to support ecosystem resilience, providing funding for:
   - the protection of natural areas;
   - the restoration of degraded ecosystems;
   - biosecurity;
   - community adaptation to climate change;
   - biodiversity monitoring;
   - addressing the environmental consequences of war and industrial disasters.
2. Contributions from States should be determined taking into account their economic capabilities, historical contributions to global environmental problems and national circumstances.
3. Developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States should have priority access to grant funding and technical assistance.
4. Funding should be provided without imposing excessive debt burdens on vulnerable States.
5. The Fund should operate according to the principles of transparency, independent auditing and measurable environmental outcomes.
6. The Fund's mechanism should be coordinated with existing funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, in order to avoid duplication and ensure direct access to funding for territorial communities.

22. International responsibility for environmental damage

1. States should develop international mechanisms for the assessment, documentation and compensation of transboundary and other environmental damage in accordance with applicable international law.
2. States should implement the polluter-pays principle, as reflected in Principle 16 of the Rio Declaration, through appropriate national regulatory and economic instruments. In addition, consistent with Principle 13, States should strengthen national liability and compensation regimes and cooperate in developing international mechanisms for addressing transboundary environmental damage.
3. Compensation funds should be allocated, among other purposes, to the restoration of damaged ecosystems and environmental infrastructure.
4. In cases involving internationally wrongful acts, questions of State responsibility and full reparation for damage should be addressed in accordance with international law.
5. States should support the development of international mechanisms for documenting and compensating environmental damage, including damage caused to natural systems as a result of war.
6. States should endeavour to maintain and progressively strengthen existing levels of environmental protection and ecosystem restoration, consistent with the principle of progression reflected in Article 4(3) of the Paris Agreement and taking into account equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

23. Technological and scientific cooperation

1. States should promote international exchanges of scientific data, technologies and ecosystem restoration practices.
2. Support should be provided for:
   - Earth observation and remote sensing;
   - bioacoustic monitoring;
   - environmental DNA (eDNA) and genetic monitoring;
   - early warning systems for fires and pollution;
   - climate risk modelling;
   - water and soil purification technologies.
3. States should also ensure the transboundary exchange of collected data, their interoperability and joint use for ecosystem monitoring, forecasting environmental threats and ensuring timely responses.
4. Technological cooperation should take into account intellectual property rights, technology accessibility and the needs of States with limited resources.
5. Monitoring data obtained through public funding should be made openly available in accordance with the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability), with methodological support provided to communities and researchers.

24. Independent international monitoring

1. Propose the establishment of an international mechanism for assessing the implementation of commitments.
2. States should submit reports at least every two years.
3. Reporting should include quantitative and qualitative indicators, satellite data, field research findings and assessments of ecosystem conditions.

4. The international mechanism should provide for independent scientific verification of data, public access to results and participation of civil society.
5. Indicators should reflect not only the funds spent and activities undertaken, but also actual changes in environmental conditions.
6. Accountability should be provided for failure to participate in independent monitoring.
7. In cases of non-compliance, the mechanism should:
   - identify the reasons for non-compliance;
   - provide recommendations for addressing violations;
   - establish deadlines for corrective action;
   - provide technical and financial assistance to States lacking sufficient resources;
   - publish reports on progress and outstanding commitments.
8. For systematic or deliberate violations resulting in significant environmental damage, the international Protocol should provide for additional accountability procedures and dispute settlement mechanisms in accordance with international law.
9. The mechanism must not replace national jurisdiction or impose disproportionate sanctions on States with low levels of economic development.

25. Intergenerational responsibility for preserving the environment

1. States recognise that the preservation of natural systems is an obligation towards both present and future generations.
2. No short-term economic benefit should justify the irreversible destruction of ecosystems on which the lives of future generations depend.

3. States should consider establishing institutional mechanisms to ensure that the interests of future generations are taken into account in decision-making processes, including impact assessments on future generations for strategic and long-term projects.

Concluding Provision

We call upon the international community to move beyond the declarative recognition of the value of nature towards a system of legally defined, adequately funded and independently monitored commitments, and to recognise shared political objectives and standards for international cooperation in the field of ecosystem and community resilience.

The resilience of ecosystems is the resilience of communities. States that listen to their citizens, particularly young people actively engaged in shaping the future, are drivers of change.

Nature conservation is not a separate policy area, but a fundamental prerequisite for security, equitable development and the continued existence of humanity.

ON YOUTH AND CLIMATE EDUCATION

Preamble

We, the representatives of the younger generation of Ukraine, aware of the unprecedented scale of the climate crisis and its links to biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, social inequality, and food and energy security, recognise climate education as one of the fundamental prerequisites for achieving global climate goals and building a sustainable future;

Recognising that effective climate policy requires technological innovation, financial resources and political decisions, but also a society able to understand climate processes, assess information critically, grasp the consequences of individual and collective decisions and take part in implementing change;

Stressing that access to reliable, science-based and practice-oriented climate education must be ensured for every person regardless of age, place of residence, socioeconomic status or educational opportunities;

Recognising young people as the generation that will feel the long-term consequences of today's climate decisions most, and as active bearers of knowledge, innovation and civic initiative with the capacity to influence social transformation;

Expressing concern about unequal access to climate education, the insufficient integration of climate knowledge into formal and non-formal education, the spread of disinformation, and the limited opportunities for young people to influence decision-making at the local, national and international levels;

Underlining the need to move from purely theoretical teaching of environmental and climate issues to practical learning that develops systems thinking, environmental responsibility, adaptation skills, critical

analysis, interdisciplinary cooperation and the ability to create and implement climate solutions;

Referring to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, particularly its Article 12, which provides for cooperation among States in the areas of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information on climate change, the principles of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which recognise the importance of education, access to information, capacity-building and international partnership, we call upon the Parties, international organisations, educational institutions, and national and local authorities to:

1. Integrating climate education into educational systems

1. Ensure that climate change, adaptation to its impacts, biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources are integrated into primary, secondary and higher education curricula, with due regard for the age of pupils and students.
2. Develop and implement systematic professional development programmes for teaching staff, equipping them with science-based knowledge, modern teaching methods and up-to-date educational materials on climate change.
3. Expand the practical component of climate education by involving pupils and students in field research, environmental monitoring, nature conservation activities and local climate projects.
4. Ensure open access to reliable, science-based educational materials adapted to different age groups, including digital resources and learning platforms.

5. Promote the development of interdisciplinary educational programmes that combine natural sciences, social sciences, economics and the humanities for a comprehensive understanding of climate challenges.

2. Developing youth climate centres and educational spaces

1. Promote the establishment and long-term operation of youth climate centres, school environmental clubs, climate councils and other educational spaces that provide opportunities for learning, cooperation and the implementation of youth initiatives.
2. Provide such spaces with the necessary financial, material and informational resources, including laboratory equipment, digital tools, field research equipment and access to scientific data.
3. Introduce expert support programmes for youth initiatives, involving scientists, teachers, environmental specialists and representatives of civil society.
4. Support practical projects in climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, energy efficiency, ecosystem restoration and responsible waste management.
5. Develop partnerships between educational institutions, research institutions, local self-government bodies, civil society organisations and businesses to ensure the stable operation of such spaces and the scaling up of successful youth initiatives.

3. Mentoring and intergenerational collaboration

1. Develop and support mentoring programmes that connect young people with scientists, teachers, climate experts, nature conservation specialists and representatives of civil society organisations.

2. Create intergenerational platforms for exchanging scientific knowledge, practical experience and local expertise in climate change adaptation, ecosystem conservation and sustainable development.
3. Ensure that young people have access to professional internships, research programmes, practical training and professional development opportunities in research institutions, public authorities and organisations working in environmental protection.
4. Involve young participants in the joint design, planning and implementation of climate projects under the guidance of experienced professionals, giving them the chance to make decisions independently and take responsibility for results.
5. Support the exchange of experience between youth climate initiatives from different regions and countries, including through international learning meetings, conferences and joint projects.

4. Meaningful youth participation in climate policymaking

1. Institutionalise youth participation in climate policymaking by establishing permanent youth advisory councils, consultation mechanisms and other bodies at the national, regional and local levels.
2. Ensure youth representation in the development, review and evaluation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other climate strategies and programmes.
3. Guarantee that youth representatives can take part in relevant consultations and international climate processes, including within the UNFCCC, with documents published in good time and sufficient time to prepare proposals.

4. Remove the financial, geographical, language, information and other barriers that prevent young people from participating, particularly those from rural communities, small settlements and territories affected by war or climate crises.
5. Introduce transparent feedback mechanisms that allow youth representatives to track how their proposals are taken into account in the preparation and adoption of climate decisions.
6. Ensure inclusive youth representation, taking into account the diversity of experiences, social backgrounds, educational opportunities and needs of young people.

5. Financial and expert support for youth climate initiatives

1. Create dedicated grant programmes and financial instruments to support climate and nature conservation projects initiated by youth organisations and by teams of pupils and students.
2. Provide funding for the long-term work of youth initiatives as well as for individual activities, including the costs of equipment, training, expert support and project coordination.
3. Simplify grant application, financial reporting and expense verification procedures for youth teams that have no legal entity status or significant administrative experience.
4. Ensure access to advisory, legal, financial and scientific expert support at every stage of preparing and implementing youth projects.
5. Guarantee transparent allocation of financial resources and equal conditions for participation in competitions for young people from different regions, including rural areas, war-affected territories and communities with limited resources.
6. Develop partnerships among international foundations, government institutions, local authorities, businesses and civil society

organisations to expand financial opportunities for youth climate initiatives.

6. Countering greenwashing and climate disinformation

1. Develop and apply clear criteria for verifying the environmental claims of producers, companies and public institutions, requiring that they be backed by reliable data and scientific evidence.
2. Ensure transparency in corporate environmental reporting and open public access to information on the environmental impact of companies' activities and products.
3. Member States should strengthen measures against misleading commercial environmental claims and the deliberate falsification of environmental data. States also should ensure that all measures to address climate-related misinformation fully respect freedom of expression, academic freedom, scientific debate and the right to receive and impart information.
4. Integrate media literacy, critical thinking, source-checking skills and the ability to assess the reliability of environmental information into formal and non-formal education.
5. Support youth information and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at recognising greenwashing, climate disinformation and media manipulation.
6. Promote cooperation among educational institutions, scientists, journalists, civil society organisations and youth associations to disseminate verified scientific information on climate change.

7. International academic exchange and professional development for youth

1. Expand international academic mobility programmes for pupils, students and young professionals studying ecology, natural sciences, climatology, sustainable development and related fields.
2. Ensure that young people have access to international scholarships, study exchanges, professional internships, research grants and practical training programmes abroad.
3. Support the creation of joint educational and research programmes between educational and research institutions in different countries, aimed at studying transboundary environmental problems and developing shared solutions.
4. Promote the participation of young researchers in international conferences, scientific networks, climate forums and professional associations, giving them opportunities to present their research and findings.
5. Remove the financial, administrative, language and other barriers that limit young people's access to international educational programmes, paying particular attention to those from countries and regions affected by war or climate crises, or with limited educational resources.

8. Environmental responsibility in technical solutions for educational institutions

1. Introduce environmental criteria for public and municipal procurement of computers, laptops and other electronic equipment for educational institutions, taking into account the initial purchase

price as well as the environmental impact over the product's entire life cycle.

2. Give preference to equipment that is energy efficient, durable, and suitable for repair, replacement of individual components, upgrading and reuse.
3. Take into account repairability, availability of spare parts, the possibility of software updates and energy efficiency when setting technical requirements for procurement.
4. Develop transparent procedures for assessing the need to replace computer equipment, preventing the premature write-off of equipment that could continue to be used after repair or upgrading.
5. Ensure proper registration, collection, reuse and environmentally safe recycling of electronic waste generated in educational institutions.
6. Publish information on the procurement, operation, upgrading, write-off and disposal of electronic equipment, ensuring transparency in resource use and compliance with environmental criteria.

Concluding Provision

We call upon the international community, States Parties, educational institutions and civil society to recognise that climate education is a strategic foundation of global climate resilience and intergenerational justice, not an auxiliary element of environmental policy.

Transformative change succeeds or fails on society's ability to think systemically, act responsibly and draw on reliable scientific knowledge. Political declarations and technical innovation are not enough on their own. Young people are not just students in educational programmes or

future beneficiaries of decisions made by others. They are full partners and drivers of social change who already shape the climate agenda today.

By joining efforts through intergenerational dialogue, international cooperation and academic mobility, we state with conviction that investing in the education, potential and leadership of young people today is the most significant contribution we can make to a safe, sustainable and just environment for present and future generations.

ON ZERO WASTE

Preamble

Recognising that the current linear model of production and consumption is one of the key drivers of natural resource depletion, ecosystem degradation, environmental pollution and increasing greenhouse gas emissions;

Emphasising that the waste problem cannot be solved solely by expanding waste treatment infrastructure, but requires a transformation of production models, product design, consumption patterns and resource use;

Acknowledging that organic waste deposited in landfills is a source of methane emissions, while improper waste management creates long-term risks to soils, water resources, biodiversity and public health;
Emphasising the interconnection between the circular economy, climate policy, resource security, community resilience and the restoration of natural ecosystems;

Guided by the principles of pollution prevention, precaution, polluter responsibility, resource efficiency and intergenerational equity, as well as the provisions of the Paris Agreement, the Basel Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development Goal 12;
Building upon the principles of the waste management hierarchy and the experience of countries implementing separate collection systems, Extended Producer Responsibility, reuse and material recycling;

We call upon the Parties to the UNFCCC, international organisations, financial institutions, the private sector and local communities to take coordinated action towards a transition from a waste economy to a resource conservation economy.

1. Waste management hierarchy as the foundation of international policy

1. We call upon States to integrate the five-step waste management hierarchy into their national circular economy strategies and climate plans:
   - Prevention
   - Preparing for reuse
   - Recycling
   - Other recovery, including energy recovery
   - Disposal
2. We emphasise that increasing recycling capacity must not replace measures aimed at reducing resource consumption and preventing waste generation.
3. We recommend assessing the environmental effectiveness of waste management throughout the entire life cycle of materials, taking into account greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, pollution, water use and impacts on natural ecosystems.
4. We call for a gradual reduction in the landfilling of materials suitable for reuse, recycling or safe biological recovery.

2. Waste prevention and producer responsibility

1. We call upon States to introduce policies that promote the production of durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable products.
2. We recommend expanding the application of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle, under which producers bear financial and organisational responsibility for managing products at the end of their life cycle.
3. We call for restrictions on excessive packaging and incentives for reusable packaging, refill systems and material reuse.
4. We recommend developing networks for repairing, reusing, exchanging and refurbishing goods, particularly electronics, furniture, textiles and household equipment.
5. We propose integrating durability, repairability and material reuse criteria into public and municipal procurement systems.
6. States should encourage manufacturers and retail chains to provide consumers with transparent information about product composition, opportunities for reuse, repair and recycling, as well as the environmental impact of production processes. Measures should also be taken to combat greenwashing and misleading environmental claims in advertising.

3. Separate waste collection and decentralised circular economy Infrastructure

1. We call upon States to ensure the gradual implementation of accessible separate collection systems for the main streams of municipal waste, including paper, glass, metals, plastics, biowaste and household hazardous waste.

2. We recommend developing decentralised sorting and logistics hubs adapted to the needs of small and medium-sized communities.
3. Such hubs should provide:
   - initial sorting and preparation of recyclable materials;
   - baling, labelling and safe temporary storage;
   - transparent accounting of material flows;
   - designated final recyclers and regular transportation routes for collected materials.
4. We call for the establishment of digital waste traceability systems enabling materials to be tracked from the point of generation to their final recovery or disposal.
5. Access to separate waste collection infrastructure should be ensured for residents of small towns, settlements and rural communities. Collection systems should be accompanied by information campaigns, clear container labelling and publicly available information about the subsequent destination of collected materials.
6. We recommend providing technical and financial support to communities that lack sufficient resources to establish comprehensive waste management systems independently.

4. Closed-loop biowaste management systems and methane emission reduction

1. We call upon States to ensure the separate collection of organic waste and gradually restrict its landfilling without prior appropriate treatment.
2. Priority approaches to biowaste management should include:
   - prevention of food waste generation;
   - composting of organic waste;

- anaerobic digestion of suitable organic feedstock;
- safe return of compost and digestate to productive use.

3. We recommend developing municipal composting systems, local organic waste collection points and regional biological treatment facilities.
4. We call for quality control of compost and digestate, particularly with regard to heavy metals, pathogens and foreign contaminants, before their use in agriculture, landscaping and soil restoration.
5. Energy recovery from organic feedstock should be carried out in accordance with the waste hierarchy, a life-cycle approach and the need to prevent competition with the use of organic matter for restoring soil fertility.

5. Prevention of food losses and development of food-sharing systems

1. We call upon States to develop national programmes for reducing food losses and food waste at all stages of the food supply chain: production, transportation, storage, retail and consumption.
2. We recommend developing legal and organisational mechanisms for the safe transfer of edible surplus food from producers, retail chains, HoReCa establishments and educational institutions to food banks and social organisations.
3. We call for the establishment of municipal food hubs and digital platforms to coordinate the transfer of surplus food between retail chains, catering establishments, civil society organisations and volunteer initiatives, ensuring the safe collection and distribution of edible food to people in need of humanitarian assistance, in compliance with sanitary requirements and food safety regulations.

4. We recommend considering economic incentives for businesses that donate edible food for social purposes instead of disposing of it.
5. We propose introducing food loss monitoring systems in large catering establishments, schools, hospitals and other public institutions, followed by adjustments to procurement, menus and portion sizes.
6. The priority should be preventing food waste and redistributing edible food to people, rather than subsequently converting it into biogas or compost.

6. Circular practices in the HoReCa sector and the public sector

1. We call upon States to introduce resource efficiency and waste prevention standards for large catering businesses, retail chains, educational institutions and healthcare facilities.
2. We recommend developing systems for monitoring food leftovers, packaging, single-use materials and recyclable resources.
3. We propose integrating Zero Waste and circular resource use criteria into green public procurement systems.
4. We recommend establishing voluntary or legally defined independent certification systems for environmentally responsible businesses, based on verifiable indicators rather than declarations alone.
5. We call for combining economic incentives, technical assistance and proportionate enforcement measures for businesses that systematically violate waste management requirements.

7. Circular construction and reuse of construction materials

1. We call upon States to integrate circular construction principles into national building regulations, infrastructure development programmes and public procurement.
2. We recommend conducting pre-demolition material audits of buildings and structures to identify opportunities for reusing structural elements and recycling construction components.
3. We propose establishing regional centres for sorting, preparing and recycling construction and demolition waste.
4. The reuse of concrete, bricks, metals, timber and other materials should only take place after verification of their safety, quality and compliance with technical standards.
5. We call for the development of quality standards for secondary construction materials and the promotion of their use in road, residential and infrastructure construction.
6. During demolition and sorting operations, separate identification and safe handling of asbestos, chemically contaminated materials, petroleum products and other hazardous components must be ensured.
7. We recommend that international financial institutions provide funding for circular solutions in reconstruction and recovery projects.

8. Restoration of contaminated areas and development of bioremediation

1. We call upon States to develop scientific research and pilot projects involving nature-based methods for cleaning contaminated soils and water systems.

2. We recommend researching the potential of phytoremediation, bioremediation and mycoremediation using native plant species, microorganisms, fungi and their mycelium to remove toxic pollutants from soils without destroying the soil cover.
3. We call for the use of local organic waste as a substrate for biological treatment and ecosystem restoration processes directly on-site (in situ).
4. We propose establishing networks of mobile laboratories for the rapid assessment of soil and water contamination in affected communities.
5. We recommend supporting international scientific consortia investigating the effectiveness and safety of biological remediation methods for different types of pollutants.
6. Bioremediation technologies should undergo prior assessment, pilot testing and independent verification of results. Their application must not replace the necessary removal or specialised treatment of hazardous substances.
7. Particular attention should be paid to preventing the transfer of pollutants into food chains and groundwater.

9. Financing, technology transfer and international cooperation

1. We call upon international climate funds, multilateral development banks and donor countries to establish dedicated financial instruments for waste prevention and the development of circular infrastructure.
2. Priority funding areas should include:
   - separate collection and reuse systems;
   - municipal sorting and recycling centres;

- composting and anaerobic digestion;
- food banks and food-sharing systems;
- bioremediation research and pilot projects;
- digital material flow monitoring systems;
- training and institutional capacity-building for local communities.

3. We recommend ensuring technology transfer, open exchange of methodologies and training of local specialists in order to avoid the long-term dependence of communities on external suppliers.
4. Funding should take into account the needs of small communities and countries with limited financial and institutional capacities.
5. We call for transparent oversight of the use of funds and assessment of the actual environmental and climate outcomes of infrastructure projects.

10. International monitoring and measurement of performance

1. We propose developing a harmonised system of international indicators for measuring progress in waste prevention and the circular economy.
2. We recommend that States regularly report on:
   - municipal waste generation per capita;
   - the share of materials prepared for reuse and recycled;
   - the proportion of organic waste collected separately;
   - the volume of waste sent to landfill;
   - the level of food losses and food waste;
   - the share of reused construction materials;
   - methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector;
   - the volume of hazardous waste properly treated.

8. We call for ensuring open access to data, independent verification of reporting and the involvement of the scientific community and civil society organisations in monitoring.
9. We recommend assessing progress not only by the volume of waste recycled, but also by the actual reduction in waste generation, primary resource consumption, pollution and climate impacts.

11. Community and youth participation and the development of environmental awareness

1. We recognise local communities, youth organisations, educational institutions, scientists and civil society as key participants in the transition to a circular economy.
2. We call upon States to support educational programmes on responsible consumption, waste sorting, reuse, repair and the prevention of food waste.
3. We recommend establishing municipal reuse centres, repair workshops, exchange facilities and local educational and environmental hubs.
4. We propose involving youth organisations in the development of local waste management plans, monitoring their implementation and carrying out pilot projects.
5. We call for ensuring a just transition for workers in the traditional waste management sector by creating opportunities for professional training and employment in the circular economy.

Concluding Provision

We call upon the international community to recognise that waste is not merely a disposal problem, but a consequence of unsustainable patterns of natural resource use.

The objective of international cooperation should not simply be to manage more efficiently what society has already discarded, but to gradually transform production and consumption systems so that waste is no longer an inevitable outcome of economic development.

We envision a world in which resource conservation becomes the economic norm, a clean environment becomes a fundamental condition for well-being, and responsibility for material flows is shared among producers, consumers, States and the international community.

ON ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

Preamble

Recognising that an effective response to climate change requires not only political, technological and economic solutions, but also the active participation of civil society, particularly young people, in shaping, implementing and monitoring climate policy;

Emphasising that climate policy is a responsibility shared by every generation, and that trust between States, communities and young people is an essential prerequisite for ambitious and equitable climate action;

Acknowledging that education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation are interconnected components of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), essential for ensuring effective and long-term climate transformation;

Recognising young people not only as one of the groups particularly vulnerable to the long-term consequences of climate change, but also as full-fledged participants in the international climate process, capable of contributing to policymaking, decision-making, scientific research and the implementation of practical climate initiatives;

Recognising that youth participation must be not merely symbolic, but meaningful, regular, adequately funded and institutionally protected at all levels of decision-making;

Emphasising the need to eliminate institutional, financial, educational, informational and other barriers that restrict young people's opportunities

to influence climate policy, develop their own initiatives and participate in international and national climate governance processes;

Reaffirming the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), particularly Article 6, and the Paris Agreement (2015), particularly its Preamble and Articles 11 and 12; the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement; supporting the principles and objectives of United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions; and taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goals 4, 13, 16 and 17 and Targets 4.7, 13.3, 13.b and 16.7;

Reaffirming the provisions of the United Nations Pact for the Future (2024), particularly Actions 36 and 37, aimed at strengthening meaningful youth participation at national and international levels, establishing mechanisms for engaging young people in policymaking and decision-making, and ensuring their representation in international processes;

We, the youth of Ukraine, establish the following priority areas and mechanisms for strengthening Action for Climate Empowerment and call upon the Parties to the UNFCCC to undertake the following actions:

1. Institutional arrangements for youth participation in climate policymaking

1. Parties to the UNFCCC should promote the establishment and development of permanent youth climate councils and advisory bodies within national, regional and local authorities.

2. Such bodies should have clearly defined mandates, selection procedures and operational mechanisms, ensuring inclusive representation of youth organisations, all regions and diverse social groups.
3. Parties should ensure effective mechanisms for youth climate councils to participate in decision-making and climate policymaking processes, providing them with opportunities to influence not only advisory discussions but also key stages of policy document development.
4. Systematic youth engagement should be ensured in the development, review, implementation and monitoring of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), long-term low-emission development strategies and other key climate programmes and strategies.
5. States should ensure the inclusion of youth delegates in official national delegations to the Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP), sessions of the subsidiary bodies and other international climate forums, providing them with genuine opportunities to participate in consultations and the development of official positions.
6. Transparent feedback mechanisms should be introduced following youth consultations, ensuring that young people are informed about how their proposals have been used and providing explanations where such proposals have been rejected.
7. Such feedback mechanisms should be public, subject to established deadlines and include an annual report specifying which youth proposals have been incorporated, which have been rejected and the reasons for those decisions.

8. Parties, local self-government bodies, educational institutions and organisations engaging young volunteers are encouraged to ensure appropriate participation conditions, including preliminary training, activity coordination, necessary equipment and personal protective equipment.
9. Access to psychological support should be promoted for young volunteers, particularly when working in communities affected by armed conflicts, environmental disasters or other emergency situations.
10. Systems for recognising volunteer experience should be developed, including certificates, recommendations, validation of acquired competencies and recognition of such experience in university admissions, participation in public programmes, grant competitions and employment in climate-related fields.

2. Support for youth initiatives and volunteering

1. Parties should create a favourable environment for the development of youth environmental movements and initiatives aimed at the practical implementation of climate change mitigation measures and strengthening community resilience.
2. Support for youth self-organisation and civic engagement should be ensured by creating conditions for the establishment, implementation and long-term operation of youth climate projects.
3. States should promote the expansion of national and local climate volunteering programmes, engaging young people in ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, community-based environmental monitoring and addressing the consequences of pollution.

4. Climate volunteering should be provided with appropriate organisational, informational and technical support to ensure the sustainability of volunteer movements and the effectiveness of their activities.
5. Parties should prioritise support for long-term youth initiatives, facilitating a transition from isolated activities to systematic projects with measurable environmental outcomes and the potential for further scaling-up.
6. States should establish national registers and maps of youth climate initiatives to facilitate partner identification, access to resources, exchange of experience and the scaling-up of successful practices.

3. Financial and resource support for youth climate initiatives

1. States should establish specialised national, regional and local grant programmes to provide targeted funding for youth environmental start-ups, research, volunteer initiatives and innovative climate solutions.
2. Funding mechanisms should be accessible not only to registered organisations but also to informal youth groups and initiative teams, ensuring that every young person with an initiative has an opportunity to obtain support.
3. Grant procedures should be transparent, clear and accessible, providing simplified application and reporting requirements for local youth initiatives.
4. States should ensure predictable and long-term financial support for youth climate projects, creating conditions for their stable operation, development and expansion.

5. Financial assistance should be accompanied by comprehensive resource support, including access to necessary equipment, premises, scientific consultations, mentorship and partnership networks.
6. Special microgrant programmes should be introduced to support young people, informal initiative groups and volunteer associations, particularly those implementing projects at the local level. Such programmes should provide accessible and simplified application procedures, opportunities to receive advisory assistance and organisational support at every stage of implementation. It is important to ensure funding not only for short-term projects and one-off activities, but also for long-term initiatives with the potential for sustainable development, expansion and the achievement of tangible results within communities.

4. Cross-sectoral partnerships and coordination of ACE implementation

1. Parties should provide institutional support for multilateral partnerships between youth organisations, public authorities, scientific and educational institutions, businesses and international institutions to pool resources, knowledge and capacities for implementing climate initiatives.
2. Sustainable coordination mechanisms should be established among all stakeholders to promote the exchange of experience, joint planning and effective use of resources in support of youth climate action.
3. States should designate responsible institutions and individuals to coordinate the implementation of the ACE programme at the national level, with clearly defined mandates, responsibilities and adequate funding.

4. ACE coordination should include the mandatory involvement of youth representatives in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes.
5. States should decentralise ACE implementation by encouraging local self-government bodies to develop local action plans on climate education and youth engagement.

5. Inclusiveness, gender equality and support for vulnerable groups

1. Parties should guarantee equal and unrestricted access to participation in climate initiatives for young people from all regions and social backgrounds.
2. When establishing youth engagement mechanisms, the needs of young people from rural areas, frontline territories, internally displaced persons, women and persons with disabilities should be prioritised, eliminating financial, informational, physical and institutional barriers to their participation.
3. States should ensure gender-balanced representation in youth councils and delegations, as well as equal access to grant programmes, in accordance with the principles of gender equality in climate policy.
4. All barriers preventing the participation of vulnerable youth groups should be eliminated, and favourable conditions should be created for engaging activists and leaders from these groups in climate projects.
5. Inclusiveness should include accessible venues, online and offline participation formats, sign language interpretation, subtitles, accessible materials, flexible schedules and reimbursement of participation-related expenses.

6. States should expand international cooperation and the exchange of experience between youth climate initiatives, supporting joint educational, research and practical projects.
7. The integration of young people into global climate platforms and networks should be facilitated, ensuring opportunities to present their positions and participate in shaping the international climate agenda.
8. States should provide visa-free, simplified or financially accessible arrangements for young delegates and activists from countries facing mobility restrictions to participate in international climate events.

6. Access to climate information and the development of public awareness

1. Climate and environmental information should be publicly accessible by default, timely, reliable and available in machine-readable formats. Any restrictions should be prescribed by law, pursue a legitimate aim, be necessary and proportionate, and be narrowly interpreted. Particular safeguards should apply to personal data, national security, critical infrastructure and environmentally sensitive information.
2. Unified digital platforms should be established and existing information resources modernised to ensure open and inclusive access to climate reporting, government reports, educational materials and opportunities for public participation.
3. States should promote scientifically grounded climate communication, support independent journalism and improve public media literacy, effectively countering disinformation and manipulation in the field of climate change.

4. Regular awareness-raising campaigns should be organised with the involvement of youth organisations, scientists, media outlets and civil society.
5. Awareness-raising activities should demonstrate not only the threats posed by climate change but also practical solutions, opportunities for public participation, volunteering and the establishment of youth initiatives, as well as the socioeconomic benefits of climate action.
6. States should ensure open access to up-to-date and verified satellite monitoring data, environmental damage assessments and environmental quality indicators, enabling young people to conduct public environmental oversight and research.
7. Climate information should be open by default, machine-readable, available in minority languages and the languages of the respective countries, and accompanied by explanations understandable to non-specialists.

7. Integration of ACE into national climate policy, planning and monitoring

1. Parties should integrate all six ACE elements – education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation – into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans and long-term climate strategies.
2. Each State should designate a responsible national coordinating body or ACE focal point, assigning it clearly defined powers, institutional responsibilities and adequate financial and budgetary resources.
3. States should develop comprehensive national ACE action plans with measurable targets, designated implementing authorities, clear

implementation deadlines, funding sources and key performance indicators (KPIs).

4. The implementation of such plans should involve the systematic participation of youth organisations and initiatives in developing measures, identifying priorities and evaluating achieved results across all six ACE elements.
5. Regular and transparent monitoring and public reporting should be introduced to assess the implementation of ACE measures, achievements, resources used, identified challenges and gaps, as well as future strategic priorities.
6. National ACE action plans should include a mandatory youth component specifying objectives, a dedicated budget, responsible persons, youth participation indicators and reporting deadlines.

8. Science, innovation and youth participation in research

1. Parties should ensure opportunities for young scientists to participate in national and international climate research, including by promoting youth involvement in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and national scientific advisory councils.
2. Youth-led research projects in the fields of decarbonisation, renewable energy, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and nature-based climate solutions should be encouraged through grants and appropriate conditions for implementing research and practical initiatives.
3. States should support youth participation in university and youth research programmes, including through scholarships, exchanges,

internships and joint laboratories that promote the development of climate science and technology.

9. Climate security and green recovery

1. States should recognise climate risks and environmental protection as key components of national security and sustainable development, particularly in the context of post-conflict and post-disaster recovery.
2. States should establish dedicated programmes to engage young people in the development, implementation and monitoring of the green recovery of infrastructure, energy systems and ecosystems affected by military operations or natural disasters, with the participation of local communities.
3. Protection should be guaranteed for young climate activists, human rights defenders and environmental journalists working on environmental projects against all forms of persecution, intimidation or discrimination.

10. Decentralisation and local impact

1. Parties should decentralise ACE implementation by encouraging local self-government bodies to develop local action plans for strengthening Action for Climate Empowerment and engaging young people in climate projects.
2. Mechanisms should be introduced to engage young people in public consultations and participatory budgeting at the community level, strengthening their participation in addressing environmental challenges in their regions.

3. Local authorities should allocate a portion of their annual budgets to youth climate initiatives and publicly report on how these funds are used.
4. States should support the exchange of experience between cities and communities, particularly through networks of climate-ambitious municipalities, sustainability schools and joint youth projects.

Concluding Provision

We, the youth of Ukraine, call for the recognition of Action for Climate Empowerment not as a supplementary measure, but as a central prerequisite for the success of global climate policy.

We call for a transition from declarations to commitments: enshrining youth participation in legislation, allocating stable funding, opening access to data, protecting activists and integrating ACE into NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, budgets and reporting mechanisms.

Young people are not merely the future – they are part of the present, already developing solutions, generating knowledge and mobilising communities.

Providing young people with genuine authority, resources and a safe space for participation is essential to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and preserving a liveable planet for present and future generations.

CLOSING STATEMENT

Esteemed Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

The climate crisis, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, environmental pollution, and the unsustainable use of natural resources pose threats capable of depriving humanity of security, well-being, and prospects for development.

For Ukraine, these challenges are particularly acute. Russia's full-scale aggression continues to cause extensive and documented damage to Ukraine's ecosystems, natural resources, and communities. The international community must ensure that economic relations, financial flows, and gaps in the enforcement of existing restrictions do not contribute to the continuation of this aggression or undermine efforts to ensure accountability and secure reparations.

Under these circumstances, children are losing safe environments in which to grow, young people are forced to build their lives amid uncertainty, and future generations risk inheriting not only a climate-disrupted planet but also irreversible environmental losses that may eventually become impossible to address.

That is why we call upon the international community, with the active involvement of young people, to move beyond merely acknowledging the scale of climate and environmental challenges and take decisive, coordinated, and accountable action towards a systemic transformation of humanity's relationship with nature!

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