

CLIMATE DECLARATION

COP26 Joint Statement of International Youth Organisations

JOINT DECLARATION BY

- (i) Global Young Engineers Working Group on SDG13, Young Engineers / Future Leaders Committee, World Federation of Engineering Organisations
- (ii) Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) Science-Policy Interface Platform
- (iii) Members of the UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change
- (iv) YOUNGO – UNFCCC
- (v) Global Youth Climate Network
- (vi) UN Youth4Climate Pre-COP26 delegate, Latvia



NOTING THAT -

1. Youth are critical stakeholders in creating solutions and contributing to climate action;
2. Parties to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change committed to (A.2)¹ -

“Holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”;

3. Parties to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change further committed (A.3, A.4) to deliver Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which show the “highest possible ambition” to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible;
4. Notwithstanding these commitments, the latest UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Report issued on 17 September 2021 indicates that current plans would result in a global increase of emissions of 16% by 2030, instead of the halving of global emissions by 2030 required to meet Paris Agreement targets²; and according to the Report of the UN Secretary General on the Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals, global emissions of greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise despite the temporary reduction in emissions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and levels of atmospheric CO₂ are currently in excess of 412 parts per million³;
5. The International Energy Agency (IEA) in its report ‘Net Zero by 2050’ noted that there was only a narrow pathway which would allow the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target to be met, which would require plans to end all new coal mines, coal mine extensions and exploration and development of all new oil and gas production;
6. The IEA has further noted that – “Energy transitions have to take account of the social and economic impacts on individuals and communities... The transition to net zero is for and about people. It is paramount to remain aware that not every worker in the fossil fuel industry can ease into a clean energy job, so governments need to promote training and devote resources to facilitating new opportunities. Citizens must be active participants in the entire process, making them feel part of the transition and not simply subject to it.”;

¹ Authentic text of the Paris Agreement, United Nations, 2015

² “10. Total global GHG emission level (without LULUCF), taking into account implementation of the latest NDCs of all Parties to the Paris Agreement, is estimated to be around 54.8 (52.8–56.8) Gt CO₂ eq in 2025^a and 55.1 (51.7–58.4) Gt CO₂ eq in 2030,^b which are:

(a) In 2025, 58.6 per cent higher than in 1990 (34.6 Gt CO₂ eq), 15.8 per cent higher than in 2010 (47.3 Gt CO₂ eq) and 4.5 per cent higher than in 2019 (52.4 Gt CO₂ eq);

(b) In 2030, 59.3 per cent higher than in 1990, 16.3 per cent higher than in 2010 and 5.0 per cent higher than 2019.

³ Scripps Institution of Oceanography: Mauna Loa Observatory ‘Keeling Curve’ data of 16 September 2021.

7. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of 9 August 2021 on the physical science basis for climate change was endorsed by 195 governments, and details 'unequivocal' evidence of the full, irreversible impacts of human induced climate change in every region of the world, but still offers scope for limiting and mitigating the effect of such climate change provided that immediate steps are taken to address it;
 8. The impacts of extreme weather events attributable to climate change, from wildfires, droughts, flooding, tropical storms, melting polar and glacial ice deposits, sea level rise and acidification and attendant loss of critical biodiversity have increased in frequency and intensity with destructive consequences and huge economic, social and environmental impacts and costs in all regions of the world in the years since the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was agreed;
 9. According to the United Nations – Water (UN-Water), "*water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change.*" Child survival will be challenged by climate change through greater food insecurity, lesser access to safe drinking water and sanitation and changing disease environments⁴.
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NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ABOVE YOUTH GROUPS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES SHOWN, CALL ON THOSE IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY TO ENDORSE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES.

⁴ United Nations – Water (UN-Water), Water and Climate Change.
URL: <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/climate-change/>

1. CLIMATE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

- 1.1 All COP26 parties to commit to updating and implementing NDCs consistent with limiting the overall global warming to 1.5°C. The parties must adopt a legally binding target of achieving 50% reduction in emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050, ensuring a clear roadmap for every sector.
- 1.2 All COP26 parties to reach an agreement on a roadmap to stop and prohibit exploration and development of new fossil fuel projects on a timescale compatible with the 1.5°C pathway. The parties to minimize the import/export of such fuels and eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, support the transition to renewable energy, decarbonization of the power sector, scaling up energy efficiency; and amending relevant underlying basis in the international law, specifically the Energy Charter Treaty. This roadmap is to include a “just transition” to achieve an equitable and sustainable low-carbon economy and to incorporate the UN SDG universal value of “Leave No One Behind” (protecting vulnerable communities).
- 1.3 All COP26 parties to develop GHG and methane emissions mitigation strategies⁵ and commit to reducing human-caused methane emissions by a minimum of 30% of 2020 levels by 2030, e.g. by enhancing regulations in the oil & gas industry to eliminate poor practice flaring.
- 1.4 All COP26 parties to ensure reasonably practicable protection of public health and livelihoods from the adverse effects of climate change, with a particular focus on groups and communities most vulnerable to those effects, such as children and youth, women, indigenous people, elderly, people with pre-existing conditions, groups in the most affected geographical locations and low-income groups. The parties representing developed countries are encouraged to provide the necessary support to developing and least developed countries, in particular by helping to develop the response strategies and the infrastructure solutions to protect the public from the extreme weather events attributable to climate change.
- 1.5 All COP26 parties to deploy the necessary education capabilities to train more scientists and engineers, who are needed to understand the climate change mechanism better, and to conceive and implement the appropriate technologies for mitigation and adaptation, in particular in energy supply, transportation, waste management, water access and natural risks management.
- 1.6 All COP26 parties to introduce built environment regulations that are compatible with the 1.5°C climate targets, prioritise energy efficiency, fossil fuel use phase out and retrofiting. The regulations must ensure no net biodiversity loss and reasonably practicable protection of the users’ health and livelihoods from the adverse effects of climate change, giving appropriate consideration to the use of Nature-based Solutions in climate mitigation and adaptation & resilience efforts.

⁵ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), (2021). Water and climate change.
URL: <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/water-and-climate-change>

1.7 All COP26 parties to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of local communities in the creation of National Adaptation Plans. The parties are encouraged to join the Adaptation Action Coalition and foster global cooperation on addressing climate risks and building resilience. Furthermore, all countries - developed, newly developed and developing - to prepare and start implementation of National Adaptation Plans by the end of 2024. The National Adaptation Plans are to align with UNFCCC recommendations.

1.8 All COP26 parties to develop supplementary Adaptation Plans putting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the centre of their strategy, since success in mitigation actions, in building climate resilience and in reaching sustainable development goals depend on access to reliable water resources⁶.

2. INCLUSIVE ACTION – MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP & TRANSPARENCY

2.1 All COP26 parties to increase transparency of climate negotiations and ensure greater meaningful involvement of young professionals at the national and international levels; allocate more resources for capacity building to increase the number of young negotiators and their responsibilities; establish national mechanisms for early involvement of youth groups in policy development.

2.2 All COP26 parties to enhance the communication and clarity on the division of responsibilities in climate mitigation and adaptation action between national and local government, business and civil society and incorporate youth networks into the UNFCCC Climate Action Pathways, which are a part of the Marrakech Partnership.

2.3 All COP26 parties to support science, technology, innovation (STI) that include engineering as critical components to informing, advising, implementing, and monitoring impact of evidence-informed policies that contribute to climate action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Policies must be informed by both short- and long-term assessments of the environmental, social, economic, and ethical impacts of STI, with appropriate consultation of all stakeholders, including youth, women, indigenous peoples and civil society groups. This includes an assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities of the economic and social well-being of all societies and affected stakeholders within societies.

2.4 All COP26 parties to support the creation of new green jobs and development of skills for youth by advancing their participation in global green jobs initiatives, such as the International Labour Organization Green Jobs Programme, the UN Environment Programme Green Jobs for Youth, and Decent Jobs for Youth initiative; and build the coherence between the initiatives, incorporate youth networks, the UN Global Compact and the International Chamber of Commerce into development and implementation of the initiatives.

⁶ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), (2021). Water and climate change. URL: <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/water-and-climate-change>

SIGNATORIES

(i) [Global Young Engineers Working Group on SDG 13](#) was launched as part of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations' Young Engineers/Future Leaders Committee. The Working Group aims to contribute to SDG 13 targets by promoting collaboration between WFEO young engineers in climate mitigation, adaptation and STEM skills development.

Contact: Milda Pladaite (mildapladaite@gmail.com), Initiator and Lead of Global Young Engineers Working Group on SDG 13, Michelle Meaclem, Evangelos Pastras, Pulkit Kanotra, Micheala Chan, Members of the Working Group. The Working Group is hosted by the WFEO Committee on Young Engineers / Future Leaders (YE/FL). Contact: Firas Bou Diab, Chair of WFEO YE/FL (firasboudiab@gmail.com).

(ii) [Kirils Holstovs, UN Youth4Climate Pre-COP26 Delegate representing Latvia](#), co-initiator of the joint statement. *Contact: Kirils.Holstovs@gmail.com.*

(iii) The [Major Group for Children and Youth \(MGCY\) Science-Policy Interface Platform](#) is the UN General Assembly-mandated, official, formal and self-organised mechanism for young people to meaningfully engage in certain UN processes related to sustainable development. Within the MGCY, the Youth Science-Policy Interface Platform was created to enhance the meaningful institutional engagement of youth within the science, technology and innovation and science-policy interface architecture of the UN and beyond.

Contacts: Marta Galambos and Victoria Lovins, Major Group for Children and Youth, Science-Policy Interface Platform Focal Points (spiteam@unmgcy.org).

(iv) [Members of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change](#) bring the voices of young people into high-level decision making and advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of his 2020-21 Climate Change Strategy.

Contact: Nisreen Elsaïm (nisreenelsaim123@gmail.com), Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, Vladislav Kaim (kaim.vladislav@gmail.com), Paloma Costa, Sophia Kianni, Archana Soreng, Ernest Gibson, Members of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.

(v) [YOUNGO](#) is the Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (<http://youngoclimate.org/>). YOUNGO consists of many youth-led organizations, groups, delegations, and individuals working in climate change-related fields. YOUNGO is organized in different Working Groups that focus on different aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations and beyond, and work to ensure that perspectives of young and future generations are taken into account in the international decision-making processes.

Contacts: Heeta Lakhani and Marie-Claire Graf, YOUNGO Focal Points (heeta.lakhani@unmgcy.org, marie-claire.graf@unmgcy.org).

(vi) The [Global Youth Climate Network \(GYCN\)](#) is a volunteer initiative of the Youth-to-Youth (Y2Y) Community of young professionals at the World Bank Group (WBG). GYCN aims to engage the global youth community and act as catalysts to raise awareness on climate change and drive climate action. We aspire to empower youth to work on tangible climate solutions in their communities and globally.

Contact: Alona Kazantseva and Nursena Acar, Global Youth Climate Network Co-Chairs (gycn@worldbankgroup.org).

ENDORISING SIGNATORIES

(i) The [World Federation of Engineering Organizations](#) is the largest global engineering federation bringing together national engineering institutions from 100 nations and representing 30 million engineers. It is represented at major UN organisations and co-chairs the Scientific and Technological Community (STC) Major Group at the UN.

(ii) The [International Secretariat of Water - Secrétariat International de l'eau \(ISW\)](#) is a non-governmental organisation based in Montreal, Canada. The ISW envisions a world in which water is equitably accessible to all, fostering the empowerment of local actors as well as cooperation between borders, generations and institutions. ISW's mission is to initiate and facilitate actions that contribute to positive systemic changes in the framework of water governance from the local to the global level.

(iii) The [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\)](#) is a multi-stakeholder action network and intergovernmental organisation dedicated to working with countries towards the equitable, sustainable, and efficient management of water resources. We comprise 3,000+ partner organisations in over 180 countries. Our network of 65+ Country Water Partnerships and 13 Regional Water Partnerships convenes and brokers coordinated action by government and non-government actors. A long-time advocate for integrated water resources management, we draw on implementation experience at the local level and link it across our Network and to global development agendas.

(iv) [COP26 and beyond](#) (www.COP26andbeyond.com) with followers in over 143 countries, was established by Edward, Sam and William Wilson, and aims to demystify climate change and to suggest new, practical ways in which committed young people can make a real difference – before, at, and after COP26.

(v) [Charles Hendry CBE PC, Former Minister of State Business, Energy and Clean Growth of the United Kingdom.](#)

(vi) [Engineers Without Borders International](#) represents an international movement of Engineers Without Borders/Ingénieurs Sans Frontières organisations. Together the movement works towards a sustainable world where engineering enables long term positive social and global development for the benefit of people and the environment everywhere.

(vii) [Engineering for Change \(E4C\)](#) is a knowledge organization dedicated to preparing, educating and activating the international engineering workforce to improve the quality of life of vulnerable communities. E4C reaches over 1 million people with resources, talent and platforms that accelerate the development of solutions and infuse engineering rigor into sustainable development.

(viii) The [World Young Scientist Summit \(WYSS\)](#) is an annual academic event for the world's young talents, aiming to build an open exchange platform for young scientists worldwide, response to global challenges and create a better future for mankind. The Young Climate Action Summit will be launched in the framework of WYSS.

(ix) The [World Young Earth Scientists \(YES\) Network](#) is an international scientific organization for young and early career geoscientists who are under 35 years old or graduated from their PhD within 10 years. The mission of the YES is promoting the earth science for society, and Climate being one of the ten topics, within the network focus.

(x) [Resilience Shift](#) is a catalyst for positive change. Our mission is to help ensure the safety and continuity of the critical infrastructure and services that make our lives possible. From water and transportation through to communications and energy, it is essential to everything we do. We're working globally to help define this and provide pathways from theory to practice. This thinking underpins the founding of the Resilience Shift initiative. We are not just a think tank, not just a grant-making body, and not just a convening network. Our impact is achieved through a proactive approach combining all three of these.

(xi) [Engineers Without Borders Australia](#) is headquartered in Australia with offices in Cambodia, Vanuatu and Timor Leste. We see engineering as a critical enabler of positive change, offering the opportunity for our profession to step up and steward the technological changes needed, from appropriate community solutions to sophisticated technology, so that the planet, all people and all living things, thrive.



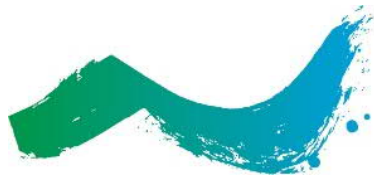
WFEO / FMOI



SIE-ISW-SIA



COP26
and beyond



Global Water
Partnership



ENGINEERS
WITHOUT
BORDERS
INTERNATIONAL

engineering FOR
CHANGE



WYSS



THE RESILIENCE SHIFT



engineers
without borders
australia