

# Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Yemen

## Rationale:

Climate change is a global phenomenon that affects all regions of the world, irrespective of their geographic location or socio-economic characteristics. Its impacts are not confined to a specific region but have far-reaching consequences that transcend borders and affect the entire planet. The consequences of climate change extend beyond environmental impacts. To respond to this existential crisis, climate action is impossible without actively engaging young people. It is vital to meaningfully engage youth and empower them to address their issues and concerns relating to climate change. Over the past couple of years, Yemen has experienced a staggering increase in the frequency of cyclones, with six striking the country, compared to the four it faced in the previous 25 years. Furthermore, the declining availability of safe drinking in Yemen has recently resulted in cholera outbreaks. Food insecurity has worsened too. Floods resulting from a tropical storm in 2008 killed 180 and displaced 20,000 people, causing losses and damages amounting to US\$1.6 billion. In 2015, the unusually strong Cyclone Chapala, resulting in part from high, record-breaking sea surface temperatures, made landfall in Yemen, causing widespread flooding. Increased temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise are likely to worsen food insecurity and water scarcity and adversely affect coastal zones.

## Background:

Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY) are events by YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC). Through an application process led by the LCOY Working Group, selected LCOY organisers bring the annual climate negotiations, generally through the Conferences of Parties (COP), to their home or residence countries and advocate for more concrete climate action.

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Yemen is the first ever initiative aimed at empowering and engaging young people in climate action and sustainability efforts. The conference will provide a platform for youth from across Yemen to come together, exchange ideas, and develop strategies to address the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

## Objectives:

The main objectives of the LCOY Yemen are as follows:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Increase awareness among young people in Yemen about climate change, its impacts, and the importance of sustainable development.

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2. Capacity Building: Enhance the capacity of youth in Yemen to actively participate in climate action by providing them with knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for effective engagement.
3. Youth Empowerment: Empower young people to become leaders and agents of change in their communities, promoting sustainable practices and advocating for climate-friendly policies.
4. Networking and Collaboration: Foster networking and collaboration among youth organizations and movements in Yemen, creating a unified and cohesive voice for climate action.
5. Policy Advocacy: Advocate for stronger climate action commitments from governments and international bodies, amplifying the voices of Yemeni youth at national and international platforms.

### Organizing Partners/Team:

The LCOY Yemen organizing team comprises the following organizations and youth-led initiatives:

1. International Youth Council - Yemen (IYCY).
2. Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN).
3. Earth Resilience Voice Initiative (ERV).
4. Arkan Foundation for Relief and Sustainable Development.
5. Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF)
6. Food4Humantiy.
7. Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF).
8. National Foundation Developments and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR).
9. Recovery Platform.
10. Solutions for Sustainable Societies (SSS).
11. Shabab House

### Target Participants:

The LCOY Yemen aims to engage 300 of diverse group of young men and women participants, including representatives from vulnerable and non-vulnerable communities, different genders, various educational backgrounds, and different regions of Yemen. Efforts will be made to ensure inclusivity and representation from marginalized communities, internally displaced persons, refugees, and those facing socio-economic challenges.

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### Activities:

The LCOY Yemen will include a range of activities, including:

1. Plenary Sessions: Keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations by experts and practitioners in the field of climate change and sustainability.
2. Workshops and Training: Capacity-building workshops on climate action, sustainable development, advocacy, and leadership skills development.
3. Interactive Sessions: Group discussions, brainstorming sessions, and networking opportunities to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among participants.
4. Youth-led Initiatives: Showcasing youth-led projects and initiatives addressing climate change and sustainable development in Yemen.
5. Policy Dialogue: Engaging policymakers, government representatives, and relevant stakeholders in discussions on climate policy and youth participation.

### Themes that will be discussed during the event:

The participating youths will focus on climate-related topics that have high national importance, discuss, and develop respective outputs, which will be then fed into the Global Youth Climate Conference 2023 (COY18) and, consequently, into the climate negotiations at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28):

1. SDGs and Yemen case.
2. Climate Justice.
3. Climate change agreements and negotiation themes such as loss and damage.
4. Waste management and circular economy.
5. Sustainable agriculture, food systems, and food security.
6. Entrepreneurship and Green Jobs.
7. Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
8. Renewable energy and energy efficiency.
9. Water management and conservation.
10. Biodiversity conservation.
11. Action Climate Empowerment (ACE).
12. Advocacy on Environment and climate change

### Expected Outcomes:

The LCOY Yemen aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Increased awareness and knowledge among 500 youths about climate change and sustainable development.

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2. Strengthened capacity of more than 300 young people to actively contribute to climate action.
3. Enhanced collaboration and networking among youth organizations and other NGOs in Yemen.
4. Policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives for stronger climate action at the national and international levels.
5. A platform for young people to share their ideas and experiences on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
6. Developed youth-led initiatives that aim at addressing climate change in Yemen; including but not limited to projects focused on renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture, food systems.
7. A well-encompassing and specific output document to be included in the GYS during COY18 and COP28 and be shared with policymakers and stakeholders at the national and international levels.
8. Shared best practices and knowledge from Local NOGs, International NGOs , UN agencies on their role on climate adaptation and mitigations and highlighting the best practice on engaging young people on their efforts .

### Budget and Resources:

A detailed budget and resource plan was developed to ensure the successful implementation of the LCOY Yemen. Funding will be sought from various sources, including government grants, sponsorships, and partnerships with relevant organizations.

### Timeline and Location:

The LCOY Yemen is planned to be held over a span of two days in Sanaa, Aden and Hadhramaut, tentatively scheduled between the period of 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. Moreover, the LCOY will be held virtually as well to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. A detailed timeline was developed in the planning phase, outlining specific activities and milestones.

### Conclusion:

The LCOY Yemen represents a crucial opportunity for Yemeni youth to actively engage in climate action and contribute to sustainable development. By providing a platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and policy advocacy, the conference aims to empower young people to become effective agents of change in addressing the challenges of climate change in Yemen.