Climate Reality – UNFCCC ACE Submission

Progress in ACE implementation and views for the 2026 midterm review of the Glasgow work programme and a new ACE Action Plan

Mandate: This submission provides information on progress, challenges, and opportunities to improve Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) implementation, including access to financial and technical support. It responds to the invitation in FCCC/SBI/2024/25, paragraph 123 [2 FCCC/SBI/2024/25, para. 123], to contribute information for the annual summary reports under the Glasgow work programme and its action plan, pursuant to decisions 18/CP.26 and 22/CMA.3, annex, paragraph 15(b) [2 Decisions 18/CP.26 and 22/CMA.3, annex, para. 15(b)]. Drawing on implementation experience, it also offers recommendations to inform the ongoing 2026 midterm review and the development of a new ACE action plan, in response to the invitation to submit views on the co-facilitators' informal note by 1 October 2026.

Submitting organization: The Climate Reality Project

Stakeholder type: Non-governmental organization / civil society network

Geographic scope: Branches from Asia, Africa, Brazil, Canada, and Latin America.

Executive Summary

This submission presents a joint contribution to the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) from five branches of The Climate Reality Project, spanning Africa, Asia, Brazil, Canada, and Latin America. The thirteen activities reported here illustrate work across all six ACE elements, from curriculum-based school programs and leadership training to youth climate diplomacy, community-authored climate rights charters, and data-driven emissions advocacy. Beyond reporting progress, this submission puts forward five concrete recommendations for the new ACE Action Plan, on funding structure, formal recognition of civil society-led models, participation mechanisms, coordination with national focal points, and data and monitoring, informed by the contributing branches' experiences and anchored in activities already committed to under the current Action Plan [1 Decision 23/CP.27]. Taken together, the submission argues that civil society organizations like The Climate Reality Project are important contributors to ACE implementation, and that the new Action Plan should treat them accordingly.

Why Climate Reality Contributes to ACE

Action for Climate Empowerment, under Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, supports education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation on climate change. The Climate Reality Project contributes through leadership training, public engagement and locally adapted initiatives delivered by its branches and partners.

The five branches contributing to this submission operate in diverse regional and national contexts and, taken together, address all six ACE elements. Education and training include curriculum-aligned school programs, leadership trainings with former U.S. Vice President and founder of The Climate Reality Project Al Gore and regional experts, and train-the-trainer models. Public awareness and access to information are supported through community dialogues, negotiation monitoring, and training on emissions and climate finance data. Public participation includes youth engagement at COPs and community-authored climate rights charters presented to institutional audiences. International cooperation includes regional training, cross-border exchanges, and coordinated initiatives with universities, government bodies, and civil society partners. These activities illustrate how civil society networks can contribute to ACE implementation across different contexts.

Climate Reality Branches Contributions

Africa

Activity 1 — Fair Finance School

Main activity: The Fair Finance School is a 2-day train-the-trainer workshop that introduces the public to climate finance concepts, engagement tactics, and campaigning tools. The school is conducted through the lens of human rights and justice.

Timeframe: 4 schools in 2024, and once a year thereafter.

ACE element(s) addressed: Training; Access to information

Concrete numbers: Across the 6 schools to date, approximately 300 participants completed the training, as per internal physical attendance registers.

Partners involved: Fair Finance Coalition of Southern Africa

Source or link: https://www.fairfinancesouthernafrica.org/bank-guide/fair-finance-school/

Result or lesson learned: The importance of capacity building is illustrated through the Fair Finance School. By capacitating those who work in climate action with the language and tools to engage with climate finance, they are able to advocate for more justice-focused and fair outcomes. This advocacy goes beyond calling for better financing, but also allows people to understand how to shape new systems and policies for sustainable climate action.

Activity 2 — Local Conference of the Youth (South Africa)

Main activity: The Local Conference of the Youth is a 2-day conference bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds to shape and influence national policy ahead of COP. Recommendations developed at LCOYs are then submitted to COP through official YOUNGO channels.

Timeframe: Annually in 2024 and 2025.

ACE element(s) addressed: Public participation

Concrete numbers: Approximately 600 delegates across 2024 and 2025.

Partners involved: YOUNGO, Global Shapers, Global Africa MUN Agency, Africa Climate Alliance

Source or link: Video of the 2024 LCOY in South Africa: https://youtu.be/zkY3q46BhdM?si=Vuu1EFOW4BduqhBR

Result or lesson learned: When young people are meaningfully engaged, they are able to develop innovative solutions that not only work for them but for future generations. These solutions can be translated into actionable policy demands.

Activity 3 — Gauteng Climate Change Curriculum Workshops

Main activity: A series of in-person workshops in high schools in Gauteng Province, South Africa. These workshops covered the basics of climate change, actions to take to build local resilience, and practical exercises to test knowledge learnt. The educational material is developed to align with the South African national curriculum and is recognised by the South African Council for Educators.

Timeframe: Approximately 30 schools per year, 2024 and 2025.

ACE element(s) addressed: Education; Training

Concrete numbers: Around 90 educators and 2,000 learners over 2024 and 2025.

Partners involved: Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Gauteng Department of Environment; Food and Trees for Africa EduPlant Programme

Source or link: https://trees.africa/impact?filter=food

Result or lesson learned: By providing curriculum-aligned educational material for climate action, educators are better positioned to teach climate literacy and raise awareness in schools, and students are more equipped to take climate action that serves their communities.

Asia

Activity 1 — Singapore Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training

Main activity: Conducted the Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training in Singapore with Founder Al Gore and regional experts and advocates across Southeast Asia. This two-day immersive program was designed not simply to teach about the climate crisis, but to translate the lived experiences of Southeast Asia's most affected communities into a collective force geared toward justice-driven action, demanding energy pathways and climate financing that put people and their rights at the center.

Timeframe: Held 8-9 September 2026, 10 years after the last training in Southeast Asia (2016, Manila, Philippines). The Climate Reality Leadership Corps Training happens annually in varied countries.

ACE element(s) addressed: Training; International cooperation

Concrete numbers: Over 500 participants across Asia, with 10 training ambassadors and over 30 experts and advocates as resource speakers.

Partners involved: Organized in partnership with a wide array of partners and speakers from international institutions, academe and the scientific community, energy and finance groups, and regional environmental and advocacy groups across Southeast Asia.

Source or link: https://www.climaterealityproject.org/training/singapore

Result or lesson learned: The culmination of the training is the formal induction of over 500 participants into the Climate Reality Project network as Climate Reality Leaders, building toward an expanded, connected Leader network contributing to concrete regional wins in energy transition and climate finance rooted in justice. As Southeast Asia stands at the crossroads of a defining energy transition, the Singapore training offered more than knowledge; it was an invitation to join a movement where the people most affected by the climate crisis shape its solutions, across borders, with the tools, networks, and collective power to demand a just, livable future for all.

Activity 2 — Klima Eskwela (Climate Schools) in the Philippines

Main activity: Conducted Klima Eskwela (Climate School), an educational and knowledge-exchange program designed to equip students and youth leaders with the tools, science, and strategies needed to address the interconnected climate and plastic crises in the Philippines.

Timeframe: Annually from 2022 until 2025, with 3 target schools and universities across the Philippines per year.

ACE element(s) addressed: Education; Training; Public awareness; Access to information

Concrete numbers: A multi-day workshop featuring lectures on policy, community organizing, arts-based advocacy, and local campaign planning, with over 500 attendees from 11 schools and universities across the Philippines since 2022.

Partners involved: Co-organized with local governments, academic institutions, and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) of the Philippines.

Source or link: https://climatereality.ph/tag/klima-eskwela/

Result or lesson learned: The program highlighted how localized climate and environmental education can transform climate anxiety into real-world action, especially for youth. A recurring lesson is that youth possess unprecedented access to information and are taught to use this knowledge to lobby, challenge businesses, and demand strict environmental governance from local leaders. This power of knowledge and community, harnessed in schools and universities, equips them to demand accountability and move toward climate action.

Activity 3 — NDC Consultations in the Philippines

Main activity: Conducted a series of regional consultations on multi-stakeholder engagement in achieving the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), fostering meaningful contributions to national emissions reduction and mitigation targets.

Timeframe: Held in 2025 across 3 main regions in the Philippines.

ACE element(s) addressed: Public participation

Concrete numbers: Held consecutively in Quezon City, Bacolod City, and Davao City, gathering over 120 representatives from local government, the private sector, and civil society to understand their roles in advancing the nation's climate commitments.

Partners involved: Co-organized by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines.

Source or link: https://climatereality.ph/2025/08/21/reimagine-ndc-pr/

Result or lesson learned: The branch was instrumental in bridging communication and capacity gaps between national and local governments through the NDC consultations, opening climate action conversations to a wider range of previously unengaged stakeholders. Local governments, the private sector, and civil society showed clear willingness to take part in achieving the country's climate commitments, but local climate actions already being implemented remain unaccounted for in the NDC. Overcoming this disconnect demands a whole-of-society effort; the consultations highlighted the urgent need for stronger support to ensure that the cumulative impact of subnational governments and the private sector is measured, tracked, and reported.

Brazil

Activity 1 — Climate Reality Training in Rio de Janeiro and Belém

Main activity: Climate Reality Training in Rio de Janeiro and Belém, two in-person leadership trainings delivered as part of the global REALITY Tour, Climate Reality's worldwide training campaign ahead of COP 30. Sessions included an exclusive presentation by Climate Reality founder Al Gore and content focused on local climate challenges and opportunities, preparing participants to join the Climate Leadership Corps.

Timeframe: Belém training, March 2025. Rio training, August 2025.

ACE element(s) addressed: Training

Concrete numbers: 143 people were trained in Belém and 647 in Rio de Janeiro.

Source or link: https://www.climaterealityproject.org.br/cópia-treinamento

Result or lesson learned: The trainings prepared participants with climate science knowledge, storytelling and advocacy skills, and connections to the Climate Reality network. Holding sessions in Belém and Rio de Janeiro in 2025 expanded the Brazilian base of trained Climate Leaders ahead of COP 30. Participants are equipped to share climate knowledge and support action in their communities; the longer-term reach of this multiplier role remains to be assessed.

Activity 2 — Jovens Embaixadores pelo Clima (Youth Climate Ambassadors)

Main activity: Jovens Embaixadores pelo Clima (Youth Climate Ambassadors), a youth climate diplomacy program that trains Brazilian university students and

recent graduates in climate change and international climate negotiations, preparing them to follow COP negotiations. The strongest candidates advance to a second phase with specialized mentorship on a specific COP negotiation track, following that track directly from the Blue Zone negotiating rooms.

Timeframe: Running since 2021, with editions tied to COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30.

ACE element(s) addressed: Education; Training; Public participation; Access to information; International cooperation

Concrete numbers: More than 300 young people trained and 20 young people directly participating in COPs 28, 29, and 30, according to internal records.

Partners involved: LACLIMA (Latin American Climate Lawyers Initiative for Mobilizing Action)

Result or lesson learned: The program helps broaden participation in climate diplomacy by equipping young people with the knowledge and practical experience needed to engage in international climate governance. Through training and opportunities to follow COP negotiations, participants learn to navigate complex discussions on finance, climate justice, and adaptation and communicate their implications to civil society. Activities such as producing and publishing negotiation summaries connect youth learning with wider public access to climate information. According to program follow-up, 100% of participants who attended COPs in person subsequently secured employment or began graduate studies in the climate change field. These outcomes highlight the value of combining training, direct engagement, and public communication to support young people's continued involvement in climate action.

Activity 3 — Cartas de Direitos Climáticos (Climate Rights Charters)

Main activity: Cartas de Direitos Climáticos (Climate Rights Charters), a participatory methodology developed by Climate Reality Brazil to help communities identify and document local environmental, social, and political demands related to the climate crisis. Each charter is co-created with local leaders and partner organizations, with the explicit goal of producing one charter representing each of Brazil's biomes. The methodology was first developed in Complexo da Maré, Rio de Janeiro (Mata Atlântica biome), and has since expanded nationally; a free course, "Building Climate Rights Charters," was launched in 2023 to make the methodology freely accessible to any organization.

Timeframe: Ongoing since the first charter (Maré) in 2023, through 2025, including a National Meeting of Territories in Tamandaré (PE) in May 2025.

ACE element(s) addressed: Education; Public participation; Access to information

Concrete numbers: 12 charters launched across Brazil, covering multiple biomes, with new charters continuing to emerge from the methodology. Examples include Complexo da Maré (Mata Atlântica), Aldeia Mãe Terra (Pantanal), Terra Ronca (Cerrado), Distrito de Palmas (Pampa), and the Climate Rights Charter for Workers in Pará.

Partners involved: Varies by charter; documented partners include the Associação para a Grandeza e União de Palmas (AGrUPa), Rolé Rio, Providência Agroecológica, and, for the Trabalhadores Paraenses charter, the Tribunal Regional do Trabalho da 8ª Região (TRT-8, via Desembargador Paulo Isan), and Paraense labor unions. The Canada Fund supported the national convening in Tamandaré.

Source or link: https://cartasdedireitosclimaticos.com.br

Result or lesson learned: The methodology helps communities recognize local climate impacts as rights issues around which they can organize, demand, and negotiate. It was selected through public vote as a winning solution in Brazil's official COP 30 climate solutions process. A manifesto built collectively from 12 territories was presented at COP 30 under the theme "Conhecer para Defender" (know it to defend it), alongside a dedicated session in the Children and Youth Pavilion. Charters also reached institutional audiences, including judges addressed by the Trabalhadores Paraenses charter.

Activity 4 — Vozes da Resistência Fóssil (Voices of Fossil Resistance)

Main activity: Vozes da Resistência Fóssil (Voices of Fossil Resistance), an Applied Research Laboratory combining training, investigation, and political advocacy focused on climate justice. Participants, primarily Climate Reality Leaders, community leaders, and collective members, investigate Brazil's main emissions sources and their impacts on vulnerable territories, organized into regional Working Groups across a one-year cycle with three phases: training and investigation, territorial listening, and political advocacy.

Timeframe: The program officially began activities in May 2026, starting with four formative sessions covering climate justice, Brazilian emissions data, climate monitoring, and the strategic use of data for advocacy.

ACE element(s) addressed: Training; Public awareness; Access to information

Concrete numbers: 5 regional Working Groups, one per Brazilian geopolitical region, with more than 70 members.

Partners involved: Climate TRACE, MapBiomas, AdaptaBrasil, SEEG (Sistema de Estimativas de Emissões de Gases de Efeito Estufa), and Centro Brasil no Clima.

Source or link:
https://www.climaterealityproject.org.br/_files/ugd/fbec55_42ed108b618b4e598dadafdc7584f3c2.pdf

Result or lesson learned: At the time of the branch report, the program was in its early formative phase. Four initial sessions covered climate justice, Brazilian emissions patterns, climate monitoring, and the strategic use of data for advocacy. Participants receive training on tools such as Climate TRACE and MapBiomas. The subsequent territorial-listening phase is intended to bring emissions and vulnerability data to affected communities and help them use it. Regional Working Groups are expected to engage identified territories and develop recommendations through later advocacy work, with the aim of informing public policy. These community-facing and policy-engagement steps are planned phases, not reported completed results.

Canada

Activity 1 — Dialogues pour le climat (Climate Dialogues)

Main activity: The Dialogues pour le climat (DPC), a mainly French-speaking, civil society-led initiative coordinated by Réalité Climatique Canada (CRPC) with a coalition of partner organizations, follows the UNFCCC negotiations through free public panels, debriefing sessions, and monitoring bulletins, and each year also organizes a dedicated pre-COP training that brings together Quebec civil society delegates heading to the upcoming COP, equipping them with logistical tools and strategic guidance. The DPC makes the negotiations accessible to Quebec and Canadian civil society and the broader public.

Timeframe: Ongoing annually since 2021 (5 editions to date, 2021-2025), timed mainly around each COP cycle.

ACE element(s) addressed: Training; Public awareness; Access to information; International cooperation

Concrete numbers: Across five editions (2021–2025), DPC held 148 events (panels and debriefing sessions combined) and recorded 4,617 total participations, per internal event records. Roughly 20% of 2025 registrants were located outside Canada, mostly in francophone Africa, per Zoom registration data.

Partners involved: Organizing committee (as of winter 2026): Réalité Climatique Canada (CRPC), Fondation David Suzuki, Oxfam Québec, Fédération

des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ), Copticom, Université de Sherbrooke/Climatoscope360, Université de Montréal, CAN-Rac (Climate Action Network Canada), SUCO, and Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI). Many other partners have also been involved in past and current years for event collaboration.

Source or link: https://www.lesdialogues.ca/climat

Result or lesson learned: Post-event surveys (2022-2025) show high overall satisfaction, and participants consistently value the diversity of programming and the relevance of panelists; the pre-COP training, in particular, has become a key coordination point, helping new and returning delegates arrive with a shared strategic and logistical foundation. That said, participation numbers declined steadily across editions (from 1,152 in 2021 to 609 in 2025), survey response rates stayed low (3-10.6%), and recurring feedback pointed to limited interactivity, a rigid format, and the online-only format limiting network-building. In response, following the 2025 edition, the coalition undertook a theory of change exercise to clarify the initiative's objectives and mechanisms of change. This was also the first year the coordinator position was hired year-round rather than only in the fall; previously, the short fall-only timeline constrained planning, and the initiative is now placing greater emphasis on communications.

Latin America

Activity 1 — Town Hall COPs

Main activity: A coordinated regional series of 12 Town Hall COPs across Latin America during the 2026 Zero Emissions Day mobilization, creating direct dialogue between communities and government authorities to advance clean energy, just energy transition, and climate action. These events included petition delivery, multi-stakeholder panels, youth advocacy, territorial dialogues, and commitments from public institutions.

Timeframe: September 12-26, 2026 (multiple events across the region).

ACE element(s) addressed: Public participation; International cooperation

Concrete numbers: 12 Town Hall COPs confirmed and implemented across Latin America. 80 participants joined the virtual preparatory session for Lima. 30-40 participants expected in Heredia. Multiple government authorities engaged, including mayors, ministries, congress members, municipal councils, and national agencies. 5 territorial dialogues under REACCIONA culminating in youth declarations delivered to decision-makers.

Partners involved: Government bodies and academic institutions across the region, including the Ministry of Culture of Peru; Ministries of Environment of Peru, Panama, and Costa Rica; Metropolitan Municipalities of Lima, Santiago, Mérida, and Ciudad del Plata; the Panama Canal Authority; Peru's National Commission on Climate Change; SEMARNAT, INECC, SEDEMA, and CFE (Mexico); Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica; and Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur. International and national civil society partners: Oxfam México, Iniciativa Climática de México, GIZ Costa Rica, Youth4Energy, ANCON, FEMIMET, and REACCIONA Red de Acción Climática A.C.

Source or link: https://www.instagram.com/p/DdVAcStpbKR/

Result or lesson learned: The branch reports that the Town Hall COP model provided opportunities to connect community voices with decision-makers, present youth declarations and territorial priorities, and build local networks for clean energy and climate resilience. These experiences suggest that inclusive local dialogues can support engagement on a just energy transition; they do not establish an attributable change in policy responsiveness or the pace of transition.

Activity 2 — Climate Cafés on NDCs

Main activity: A regional campaign of Climate Cafés on NDCs, creating community-led spaces for dialogue, awareness, and mobilization toward more ambitious, just, and locally grounded Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP30. These cafés explained NDCs, connected local realities to national goals, and mobilized communities toward concrete climate actions.

Timeframe: January-December 2025 (campaign period leading up to COP30).

ACE element(s) addressed: Education; Public awareness; Public participation; Access to information

Concrete numbers: 34 Climate Cafés conducted. 11 countries reached. 23 cafés organized with allied organizations. 11 community conversations led directly by Climate Reality Leaders.

Partners involved: Local community organizations, universities, youth groups, municipal actors, and allied civil society organizations across 11 countries. The campaign was part of Nuestro Desafío Común, coordinated by The Climate Reality Project América Latina.

Source or link: Climate Cafés Toolkit: https://bit.ly/ClimateCafesNDC

Result or lesson learned: The branch reports that Climate Cafés helped participants discuss NDCs in accessible language, connect climate impacts to

daily life, and identify collective actions and demands. The flexible, community-led format offers a practical approach to public engagement. Longer-term effects on trust, leadership, and national climate commitments would require further assessment.

What the Climate Reality Branches Experience Shows

Connect learning to participation. Across the branches, the ACE elements reinforce one another: education and training build understanding; accessible information and public dialogue help people apply it; participation brings community priorities to institutions; and cooperation helps partners adapt approaches across places. The profiles above identify the elements addressed by each initiative.

Make the method reusable. Several initiatives provide resources or formats that others can adapt, including curriculum materials, training models, negotiation briefings, community charters, and dialogue formats. Their shared value lies in making technical climate issues useful in local contexts and creating opportunities for people to act.

Challenges and Gaps

Across the branch contributions, four recurring challenges emerge.

Disconnection from national ACE focal points

Several branches report no established relationship with their country's national ACE focal point; where a relationship is absent, the responsibility to initiate it currently falls entirely on civil society, and many organizations may not even know a focal point exists or how to reach one.

Funding built for single events, not sustained infrastructure

Branches report that available funding tends to support individual editions or events rather than the continuity that training programs, coalitions and territorial methodologies require. In Canada, declining participation in Dialogues pour le climat coincided with seasonal coordination arrangements that constrained planning, as well as feedback about limited interactivity and the online-only format. Following the 2025 edition, the coalition undertook a theory of change exercise; the branch also reported a move to year-round coordination and greater emphasis on communications. The available information does not establish that funding arrangements caused the decline or that these changes have reversed it.

Participation formats that limit real engagement

Bureaucratic barriers, short notice, and rigid or passive formats, particularly virtual-only formats, reduce civil society participation to observation rather than genuine two-way engagement. Accreditation costs and travel expenses further limit which organizations can participate in international negotiations directly, rather than only following them remotely.

Data and monitoring gaps

The network lacks standardized ways to track and report civil society ACE activities and outcomes. This extends to a deeper structural gap: climate action already being implemented at the subnational level is often not captured in national NDCs, meaning the cumulative contribution of local governments, civil society, and the private sector goes unmeasured and unreported.

Recommendations for the New ACE Action Plan

Funding

The existing *Action Plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment*, adopted through [1 Decision 23/CP.27], provides a basis for strengthening financial support in the new action plan. Paragraph 4(b) recalls that multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism, were invited to provide financial support for ACE activities [1 Decision 23/CP.27, para. 4(b)]. Building on this provision, we recommend that Parties and funding institutions establish dedicated, recurring, multi-year and flexible support for civil society-led ACE implementation. Support should cover training programs, territorial methodologies, applied research laboratories and climate diplomacy capacity-building, as well as the coalition infrastructure, coordination and staffing needed to sustain them between editions. This would help address the continuity and turnover challenges highlighted by Canada and support nationally scalable methodologies identified by Brazil.

Parties should explicitly integrate ACE-related civil society work into climate finance programming, including through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF), and in efforts to deliver the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) [3 Decision 1/CMA.6]. National governments should also resource civil society and community-based organizations that deliver education and training and contribute to national climate processes, as recommended by Africa Branch. Financial support should be accompanied by clear operational guidance, sustained capacity-building and

institutional systems for public and private stakeholders, reflecting Asia's recommendation.

Governments and the UNFCCC, working with funding partners, should support dedicated, flexible micro-grant mechanisms and a regional ACE fund accessible to youth groups, Indigenous organizations, local NGOs and municipal partners. Small grants should be available through timely, accessible processes and cover venues, facilitation, materials, transportation and documentation for community-led initiatives such as Town Hall COPs, Climate Cafés, youth declarations and territorial dialogues.

Recognition

Building on Activity A.2 [1 Decision 23/CP.27], we recommend that the new Action Plan explicitly identify and recognize civil society-led methodologies as good practices and support their adoption and adaptation by governments when implementing their own activities under ACE. These should include elements of the Latin America branch's Town Hall COPs and Climate Cafés, which translate technical climate policy into community dialogue and connect local priorities with decision-makers; Brazil branch's Climate Rights Charters, recognized through public vote in Brazil's COP 30 climate solutions process; and Youth Climate Ambassadors, whose participants produced public-facing COP 30 negotiation summaries.

The plan should also recognize recurring, delegation-wide pre-COP training, exemplified by Canada branch's Dialogues pour le climat, as a practical complement to individual capacity-building. Its combination of logistical orientation and strategic preparation offers a repeatable model for subnational civil society delegations. Recognition should extend to established educational materials and training models such as the Africa branch's South African Climate Change Curriculum and the Asia branch's Klima Eskwela, which combines climate science, policy, and practical organizing skills, with national governments engaging civil society organizations to adapt and use these resources.

National governments should integrate climate action plans and up-to-date climate science into national curricula, supported by educator training and civil society expertise. They should also include training and capacity-building on complex systems within national climate action plans, enabling citizens to understand, critically engage with, and contribute to implementing national climate goals. These proposals retain Africa branch's specific recommendations on education and citizen capacity.

Participation mechanisms

Building on Activities A.2, C.2 and C.3 [1 Decision 23/CP.27], we recommend that Parties institutionalize permanent, meaningful roles for civil society and marginalized communities in NDC development and implementation, moving from consultation toward shared leadership. Governments should establish predictable, well-resourced mechanisms, including annual national ACE dialogues, municipal and subnational climate participation platforms, youth and community advisory councils linked to NDC processes, and guaranteed civil society speaking slots in national climate consultations. The Asia branch's NDC consultations in the Philippines illustrate the value of bringing government, private-sector, and civil society representatives together to clarify their roles in national climate action.

The UNFCCC Secretariat, COP Presidencies and Parties should create more inclusive spaces for young people from diverse backgrounds and grassroots communities to contribute local solutions and lived experiences, alongside technical expertise. Civil society and grassroots organizations should be recognized and supported as drivers of implementation. A standing channel should enable community-authored climate rights claims, letters, manifestos and territorial testimonies to inform national negotiating positions, rather than being recorded only as participation statistics.

The new plan should encourage and resource interactive, hybrid public engagement formats, preserving the reach of virtual participation while enabling two-way exchange and sustained network-building. It should urge Parties and meeting organizers to use negotiations under Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings to advance measures that support ACE implementation. For example: provide adequate notice, simplify administrative and accreditation procedures, improve access to information, and address travel costs, financial and logistical barriers associated with accreditation and attendance, and the capacity needed for in-person participation. These measures should help organizations with limited institutional funding engage directly in international climate processes.

Coordination

Building on Activities B.2, C.1 and C.3 [1 Decision 23/CP.27], we recommend that Parties make proactive outreach to existing civil society ACE initiatives an explicit responsibility of national ACE focal points. Brazil and Canada Branches report no established connection with their national focal points; Latin America Branch highlights insufficient resources and structured collaboration channels. Parties, supported by the Secretariat, should resource focal points, strengthen

their capacity, and establish clear coordination protocols and accessible contact channels so that organizations do not have to initiate these relationships without guidance.

Parties and relevant organizations should operationalize the local ACE hubs envisaged under Activity B.1 [1 Decision 23/CP.27], and establish regional coordination hubs that connect local organizations and civil society networks with national ministries. Joint planning spaces should link ACE activities to NDC updates, just transition strategies and climate education reforms, enabling youth declarations, territorial priorities and other community-generated insights to inform national policy.

Data and monitoring

Building on Activity D.1 [1 Decision 23/CP.27], we recommend that Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat support shared reporting guidance, standardized tools and open data platforms through which civil society organizations can document ACE activities and outcomes. Tools should be usable by smaller organizations, make their contributions visible, and help identify gaps in geographic and demographic coverage. Reporting should include participation numbers, international reach, numbers of dialogues, demographic diversity, commitments generated, climate education outcomes and local climate literacy indicators, alongside community-led innovations such as territorial dialogues and youth declarations.

Drawing on the monitoring gaps identified through the Asia branch's NDC consultations in the Philippines, national governments should strengthen systems to measure, track and report the cumulative contribution of subnational governments, civil society and the private sector to NDC implementation. Civil society reporting platforms should enable results from initiatives such as Town Hall COPs and Climate Cafés to inform national monitoring, support accountability and help identify approaches suitable for wider use.

The new plan should also track whether climate data are accessible and usable at community level, beyond their availability nationally. Brazil Branch's Voices of Fossil Resistance Program illustrates the intended link between initial training on emissions data and later engagement with affected communities. Monitoring should distinguish completed training and documented outputs from planned territorial work and longer-term outcomes.

References

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