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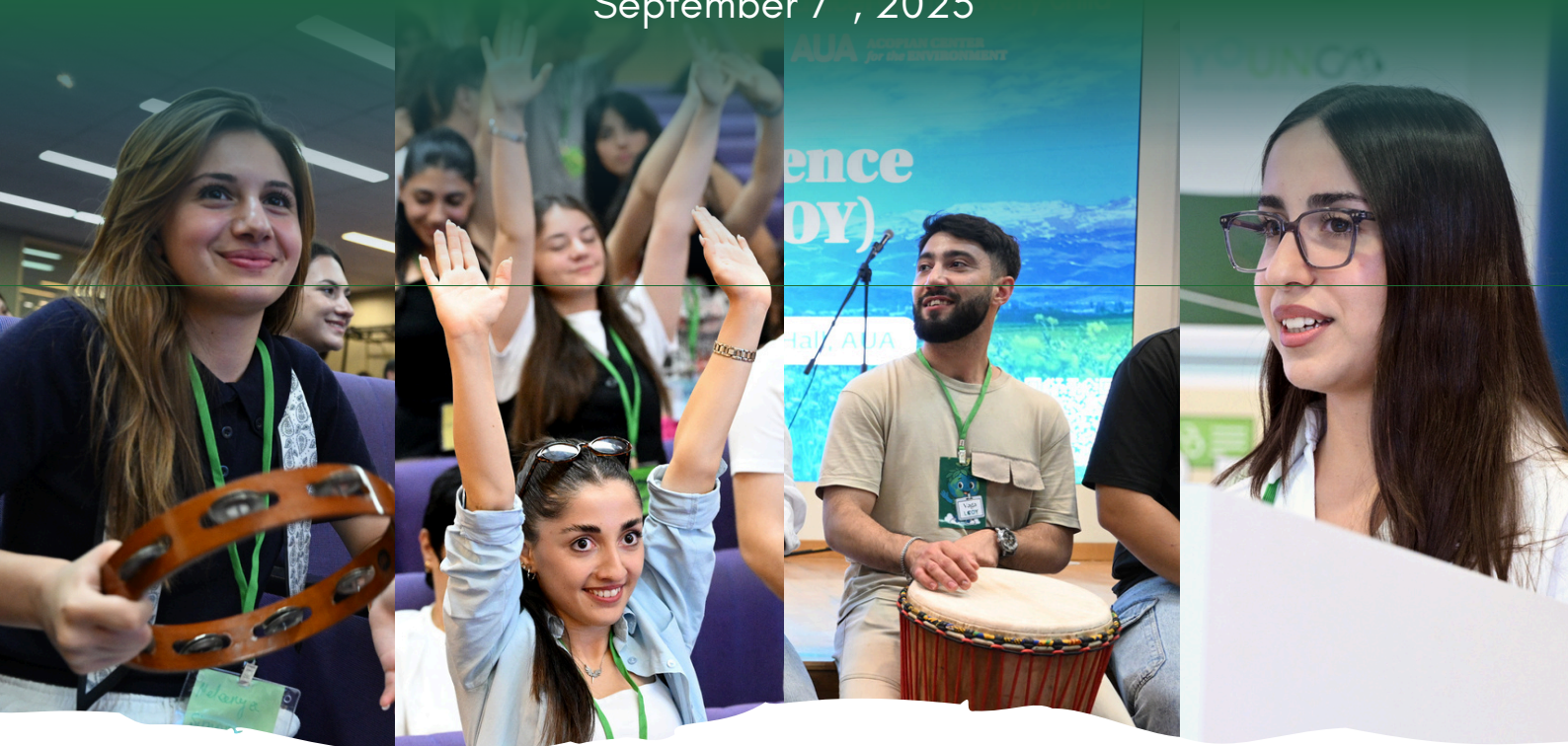
LCOY ARMENIA 2025

NATIONAL YOUTH

STATEMENT

American University of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia

September 7th, 2025



In partnership with:



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We, the youth of Armenia,

gathered at the Local Conference of Youth 2025, stand united in the face of an escalating climate crisis that threatens our lands, livelihoods, and rights. Our vision is rooted in climate justice, inclusion, and decisive action. From the forests of Tavush to the waters of Lake Sevan, from the fertile fields of Ararat to the highlands of Syunik, our ecosystems and communities are sounding an urgent call for transformation. We recognize that climate change is not a distant threat — **it is here, it is now, and it is already reshaping our daily lives.**

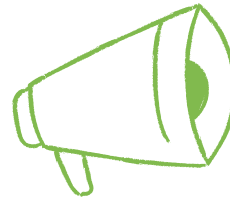
As young Armenians, we carry both the burden and the power of this moment. We are the generation that will live with the consequences of today's decisions, and therefore, we refuse to be passive bystanders. Through this declaration, we raise our voices not only as future leaders, but as current agents of change — innovators, educators, farmers, scientists, activists, and citizens — determined to **secure a livable and equitable future for all.**

Mitigation

Armenia's greenhouse gas emissions are small in global terms, yet the country is already experiencing severe climate impacts. Rising temperatures, declining precipitation, and unsustainable energy use contribute to local air pollution, energy insecurity, and ecosystem degradation. Globally, the urgent need to reduce emissions is clear – every fraction of a degree matters in protecting communities, biodiversity, and future generations. Armenia, while not a major emitter, shares the responsibility to act and can lead regionally by transitioning to renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, modernizing transport, and reducing waste.



Youth Demands



National Level

- Adopt and implement a comprehensive low-carbon strategy that accelerates Armenia's transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and small-scale hydro.
- Phase out subsidies for fossil fuels and redirect investment toward green jobs and sustainable infrastructure.
- Expand public transport networks, incentivize electric vehicles, and improve cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to reduce reliance on private, fossil-fuel-based transport.
- Enforce stricter air quality and industrial emissions standards to protect public health and the environment.
- Integrate circular economy principles into national policy, prioritizing waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable production.

International Level

- Hold high-emitting countries accountable for their historical and ongoing contributions to the climate crisis.
- Increase global funding and technology transfer to support Armenia's green transition, particularly in renewable energy and sustainable mobility.
- Ensure that international climate agreements recognize the role of small emitters like Armenia in achieving net-zero goals and provide equitable support for implementation.

Youth Commitments



We, the youth of Armenia, **commit to:**

- Leading and participating in community-level renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
- Promoting sustainable transport in our daily lives by walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport whenever possible.
- Organizing awareness campaigns on waste reduction, recycling, and the benefits of a low-carbon lifestyle.
- Engaging in policy dialogue and decision-making to ensure youth perspectives shape Armenia's decarbonization pathway.

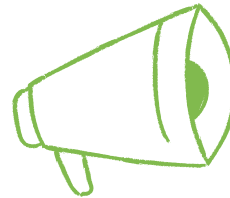


Adaptation

Armenia's geography and climate make it highly vulnerable to droughts, floods, landslides, and temperature extremes. Agriculture, water supply, and public health are already under stress, with rural communities facing the greatest challenges. Lake Sevan's declining water quality, eutrophication, shrinking glaciers, and erratic rainfall patterns threaten both livelihoods and biodiversity. Globally, adaptation is a moral and practical imperative — preparing communities to withstand climate impacts is as critical as reducing emissions. Armenia must strengthen its adaptive capacity through sustainable agriculture, resilient infrastructure, water management, and health systems.



Youth Demands



National Level

- Restore and protect watersheds, wetlands, and forest cover to reduce erosion, floods, and water scarcity.
- Modernize irrigation systems and promote water-saving agricultural techniques.
- Improve healthcare system readiness for climate-related health risks such as heatwaves, air pollution, and vector-borne diseases.
- Invest in resilient infrastructure, especially in rural and mountainous areas.

International Level

- Secure international financing for adaptation projects, particularly those benefiting vulnerable communities.
- Share best practices and technologies between countries facing similar mountainous and semi-arid climate conditions.
- Ensure global adaptation funds prioritize children, youth, and marginalized groups in climate-vulnerable regions.



Youth Commitments



We, the youth of Armenia, **commit to:**

- Promoting water conservation in households, schools, and communities.
- Supporting reforestation, afforestation, and watershed protection initiatives.
- Raising awareness among peers and local communities about adaptation measures and climate resilience.
- Partnering with farmers, educators, and local authorities to implement small-scale, community-led adaptation projects.

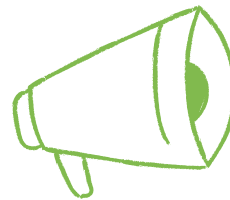


Loss & Damage

Climate change is already causing irreversible losses in Armenia – from degraded farmlands in Ararat Valley to the loss of biodiversity in highland ecosystems and the cultural heritage at risk from extreme weather events. Communities in border regions and rural areas face compounded vulnerabilities due to economic hardship and environmental degradation. Globally, Loss & Damage represents the reality that adaptation has limits – some harms cannot be prevented, only addressed through solidarity, justice, and reparations. Armenia’s case reflects the urgent need for both domestic action and international support to recover from and minimize these impacts.



Youth Demands



National Level

- Establish a national **Loss & Damage Framework** to assess climate-related harm, compensate affected communities, and restore damaged ecosystems.
- Integrate climate risk assessments into all development and infrastructure projects to prevent future losses.
- Prioritize support for vulnerable groups – including children, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities – in post-disaster recovery plans.
- Preserve cultural heritage sites and traditional livelihoods threatened by climate impacts.

International Level

- Advocate for robust global financing mechanisms under the Loss & Damage Fund to support countries like Armenia.
- Ensure international climate negotiations recognize the unique vulnerabilities of small, mountainous nations.
- Promote technology transfer and knowledge-sharing to improve post-disaster recovery and resilience.

Youth Commitments



We, the youth of Armenia, **commit to:**

- Documenting and sharing stories of communities experiencing climate-related loss to inform policy and public awareness.
- Volunteering in disaster relief, recovery, and community rebuilding efforts.
- Supporting local initiatives to preserve cultural heritage and ecosystems under threat.
- Engaging in global youth advocacy to push for fair and accessible Loss & Damage financing.

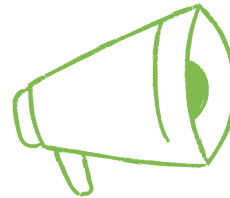


Climate Justice

Climate change is not only an environmental crisis – it is also a justice crisis. In Armenia, those least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, such as rural communities, low-income families, and children, are among the most affected. Women, children, young people, and marginalized groups often bear disproportionate burdens while having the least access to decision-making spaces. Globally, climate justice calls for addressing these inequities, ensuring that climate solutions protect human rights, and empowering all people – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or income – to participate meaningfully in shaping their future.



Youth Demands



National Level

- Embed climate justice principles into Armenia's laws, policies, and national climate strategies.
- Ensure meaningful youth participation in all climate-related decision-making bodies, beyond symbolic roles.
- Integrate gender equality, inclusion, and protection of vulnerable groups into climate adaptation and mitigation plans.
- Strengthen social protection systems to shield the most affected communities from climate-related shocks.
- Ensure the use of awareness vibration systems for disaster management.

International Level

- Advocate for climate policies and financing mechanisms that prioritize human rights and the needs of the most vulnerable populations.
- Ensure global climate agreements include commitments to gender equality, intergenerational equity, and youth participation.
- Support cross-border youth networks to amplify marginalized voices in international climate advocacy.

Youth Commitments



We, the youth of Armenia, **commit to:**

- Standing in solidarity with vulnerable communities, both locally and globally.
- Challenging discrimination, exclusion, and inequality in all climate-related spaces.
- Building alliances with youth groups, women's organizations, and marginalized communities to co-create solutions.
- Using our platforms to elevate underrepresented voices in the climate movement.

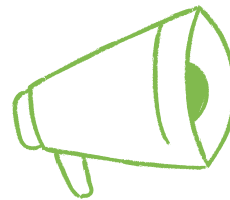


Education & Empowerment

In Armenia, climate change education is still emerging in schools, often limited to basic environmental topics without the depth or skills needed for action. Many young people learn about climate change through NGOs, informal education, and peer-led initiatives. Globally, empowering youth with climate knowledge and skills is a cornerstone of building a resilient and sustainable future. Education – both formal and informal – equips the next generation to innovate, adapt, and lead, while empowerment ensures they have the resources, opportunities, and confidence to act.



Youth Demands



National Level

- Integrate comprehensive climate change and sustainability education into the national school curriculum at all levels, combining science, civic engagement, and action-oriented skills.
- Support extracurricular eco-clubs, youth-led projects, and hands-on learning in environmental monitoring, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy.
- Provide training for teachers on climate literacy and participatory learning methods.
- Expand youth access to green entrepreneurship programs, mentorships, and funding for community projects.

International Level

- Ensure global education policies and funding prioritize climate literacy as a universal right.
- Facilitate cross-country youth exchanges to share climate solutions, knowledge, and leadership skills.
- Increase investment in capacity-building for young leaders from vulnerable and underrepresented communities.

Youth Commitments



We, the youth of Armenia, **commit to:**

- Actively participating in climate education initiatives in schools, universities, and communities.
- Sharing knowledge with peers, families, and local communities to inspire collective action.
- Leading by example in our daily choices and community involvement.
- Mentoring and supporting younger generations to become climate-conscious leaders.



Collective Youth Demands



Accelerate Armenia's Transition to Renewable Energy and Green Jobs

Shift rapidly from fossil fuels to solar, wind, and other renewables, creating sustainable livelihoods for young people and securing Armenia's energy future.



Invest in Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Water Systems, and Health Protection

Safeguard food security, ensure sustainable water use, and prepare health systems for climate-related risks such as heatwaves and pollution.



Establish a National Loss & Damage Framework

Create mechanisms to assess climate-related harm, compensate affected communities, and restore damaged ecosystems and cultural heritage.



Embed Climate Justice and Human Rights in All National Policies

Guarantee that climate action is inclusive, equitable, and protects the rights of all — especially vulnerable and marginalized groups.



Guarantee Meaningful Youth Participation in Climate Decision-Making

Include young people at every stage of policy design, implementation, and evaluation — moving beyond token representation.



Integrate Comprehensive Climate Education into All School Curricula

Equip students with science-based knowledge, civic skills, and action-oriented tools to address the climate crisis.



Fund and Scale Youth-Led Climate Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Provide resources, mentorship, and platforms for young innovators to create impactful solutions for a sustainable future.



Strengthen Disaster Preparedness and Recovery for Vulnerable Groups

Build robust early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and community support networks to protect those most at risk.



Protect and Restore Armenia's Forests, Biodiversity, and Natural Ecosystems

Implement large-scale reforestation, protect endangered species, and restore degraded lands to secure ecosystem services for future generations.



Hold Major Polluters Accountable at National and International Levels

Adopt strong environmental regulations, enforce penalties for violations, and advocate globally for climate justice and accountability.

Closing



The climate clock is ticking. But Armenian youth are not waiting. We are thinking, acting, and demanding. From classrooms to forests, from Sevan to Yerevan, we rise for a fairer, greener Armenia — and we call upon the world to rise with us.