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OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

LCOY ARMENIA 2026

NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT

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Our partners:

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We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia,

gathering at the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY 2026), stand united in the face of the accelerating global climate crisis, which threatens our ecosystems, our economy, and our fundamental right to a safe future. Whether it is the drying basin of Lake Sevan, the desertifying Ararat plain, or the climate-stressed forests of Tavush, the impacts of human-induced climate change are no longer future predictions; they are our daily reality.

As young Armenians and global citizens, we inherit a destabilized climate system. However, we refuse to accept the status of a passive victim. We are the climate generation: scientists, activists, innovators, and community leaders. Through this declaration, we demand radical and science-based climate actions. We raise our voices demanding policies that will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, create resilient adaptation strategies, and ensure a future where our nation and the world can thrive within planetary stability boundaries.

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY



Armenia is located in the biodiversity hotspots of the Caucasus and Irano-Anatolian regions: an ecosystem that is currently under severe pressure from the climate crisis. The rise in global temperature, changes in precipitation regimes, and climate-induced extreme weather events accelerate habitat degradation and push endemic species towards extinction. The loss of biodiversity significantly weakens our natural carbon sinks, creating a dangerous feedback loop that further exacerbates global warming. Overcoming the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis cannot be done in isolation; the conservation and restoration of our natural ecosystems is one of our most powerful climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Our Demands

National Level

- Expand and strictly monitor specially protected natural areas so they serve as climate-resilient refuges and natural carbon sinks, halting any land-use change that exacerbates climate vulnerability.
- Implement strict regulations in the mining sector, requiring mandatory climate impact assessments that account for the loss of carbon storage in ecosystems, and ban deforestation in critical habitats.
- Implement state-funded, smart reforestation programs using at least 10 different drought-resistant native tree species to absorb carbon and prevent climate-induced soil erosion.
- Integrate the conservation of climate-vulnerable endemic species into all National Adaptation Plans (NAP).
- Accelerate efforts to achieve the national target of 15% forest cover by 2035, while reducing rural communities' demand for fuelwood by at least 30%.
- Expand the protection of freshwater ecosystems, paying special attention to the Lake Sevan basin.

International Level

- Ensure that global climate finance mechanisms allocate specific funds for transboundary biodiversity conservation, recognizing that ecosystems do not recognize political boundaries in a changing climate.
- Legally bind the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, holding high-emitting countries accountable for the destruction of global habitats.
- Ensure that global climate finance mechanisms allocate targeted, transparent funds for transboundary biodiversity conservation in mountainous regions by 2028.
- Provide technological and financial support to developing countries to monitor climate-induced biodiversity shifts and habitat loss.

Our Commitments



We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia, commit to:

- Actively participate in community-led climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration projects.
- Implement citizen science initiatives to observe and report local biodiversity changes caused by climate change.
- Campaign against local industries and practices that destroy natural carbon sinks.
- Educate our peers about the vital connection between ecosystem health and climate change mitigation.

JUST TRANSITION AND GREEN ECONOMY



To keep global temperature rise below 2°C, societies must urgently transition away from fossil fuels and resource-intensive industries towards a decarbonized green economy. In Armenia, this transition must be implemented with considerations for social justice. As we transition towards renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure, we must ensure that workers in traditional sectors are not left behind, and that adolescents are equipped with the skills necessary for the climate economy. A just transition means creating sustainable, green jobs that actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously eradicating poverty and economic inequality.

Our Demands

National Level

- Develop a national "Green Jobs for Youth" strategy that will provide state-subsidized vocational training to at least 5,000 young people by 2030 in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient engineering.
- Gradually eliminate all direct and indirect state subsidies for fossil fuels and high-emitting industries, redirecting those funds towards green innovations and youth-led climate technology startups.
- Mandate carbon-neutral pathways for all new urban development and public infrastructure projects to minimize the carbon footprint of our growing cities.
- Ensure protective occupational networks and retraining programs for workers transitioning away from environmentally degrading industries.
- Guarantee the implementation of the national target to double the share of renewable energy sources in total energy production by 2035 by heavily subsidizing decentralized solar and wind grids.

International Level

- Facilitate technology transfer from developed countries to Armenia to accelerate the deployment of clean, zero-emission energy grids.
- Reform international trade policies to strictly penalize producers of goods with a high carbon footprint while encouraging the export of low-carbon, sustainably produced goods from developing countries.
- Provide sustainable international financing specifically earmarked for Just Transition initiatives in developing economies transitioning from legacy energy systems.

Our Commitments



We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia, commit to:

- Actively engage in climate education processes, master knowledge of renewable energy, sustainable development, and energy efficiency, becoming qualified and in-demand professionals in the future green economy.
- Act as a driving force for change by founding and developing environmentally friendly technological startups and initiatives aimed at solving local and global environmental challenges.
- Consistently monitor the implementation of climate commitments and green policies by the Government, local self-government bodies, and the private sector, preventing the practice of "greenwashing."
- Share our knowledge, lead public campaigns, and educate both our peers and the older generation, building nationwide resilience and awareness regarding the climate crisis.

CLIMATE FINANCE AND POLICY



Ambitious climate targets are meaningless without the mandatory policies and financial capital required to achieve them. Armenia needs significant climate financing to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions and adapt to severe climate risks. Globally, the failure of historically high-emitting countries to fulfill their climate finance commitments is a betrayal to vulnerable nations. We demand transparent, accessible, and grant-based climate financing paired with robust domestic climate legislation that institutionalizes carbon reduction across all sectors.

Our Demands

National Level

- Allocate a mandatory, fixed percentage of at least 10% of the national budget exclusively for climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.
- Apply a national carbon pricing mechanism or carbon tax for high-emitting corporations to internalize the costs of greenhouse gas pollution.
- Establish an independent, youth-inclusive "Climate Monitoring Committee" to ensure absolute transparency and anti-corruption oversight in the use of domestic and international climate funds.
- Update and legally enforce strict greenhouse gas emission limits for the transportation, agriculture, and industrial sectors.

International Level

- Demand that historically high-emitting countries fulfill and drastically increase their global climate finance pledges, exceeding the $100 billion annual target, with a focus on grants rather than debt-creating loans.
- Optimize and simplify the bureaucratic processes required for small and developing countries to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund.

Our Commitments



We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia, commit to:

- Thoroughly examine community and national budgets to track and report climate-related expenditures.
- Directly engage in the workshops of policymakers, parliamentarians, and local councils to lobby for climate legislation.
- Raise public awareness about the economic costs of the climate crisis and the economic benefits of climate resilience.
- Participate in global youth networks to exert pressure on international financial institutions to make climate finance a priority.

FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Climate change is severely disrupting global and local food systems. In Armenia, rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and erratic precipitation are leading to soil degradation and a decline in agricultural yields, directly threatening our national food security. The agricultural sector is simultaneously both a victim of climate change and a significant source of greenhouse gases (especially methane and nitrous oxide). We must urgently decarbonize our agricultural practices while applying climate adaptation methods so that we can feed our population in a warming world.

Our Demands

National Level

- Strictly subsidize and mandate the transition to climate-smart agriculture, including the large-scale application of drip irrigation to combat climate-induced water scarcity.
- Promote and finance agricultural methods that increase carbon sequestration in soil, turning our arable lands into carbon sinks rather than a source of emissions.
- Develop state-funded insurance mechanisms for smallholder farmers, protecting them from climate-induced crop loss and extreme weather events.
- Invest in the research and dissemination of drought-resistant and heat-tolerant native crop varieties adapted to Armenia's changing climate zones.

International Level

- Increase global financing for the research of low-emission, climate-resilient agricultural technologies and ensure open access to these innovations for developing countries.
- Establish equitable, climate-resilient global food supply chains that prioritize the food security of vulnerable countries during global climate shocks.
- Regulate and reduce the massive greenhouse gas emissions produced by global industrial meat and dairy supply chains.

Our Commitments



We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia, commit to:

- Promote and adopt low-carbon, plant-based diets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with our food choices.
- Combat food waste in our homes and communities to prevent methane emissions from decaying organic matter in landfills.
- Collaborate with rural youth and local farmers for knowledge exchange on climate-resilient agricultural methods.
- Support local, seasonal food systems to reduce the carbon footprint of food transportation and logistics.

INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE AND YOUTH & CHILDREN INCLUSION



The climate crisis is the ultimate manifestation of intergenerational injustice. The greenhouse gases currently destabilizing our atmosphere were emitted largely before we were born, yet youth, children, and future generations will bear its catastrophic consequences. Genuine climate justice demands that those who will inherit this warming planet have a decisive, institutionalized role in shaping today's climate policies. Tokenism is no longer acceptable; our survival is at stake, and our inclusion in the climate governance process must be legally guaranteed.

Our Demands

National Level

- Institutionalize a permanent, well-funded youth climate council within the Ministry of Environment, with the right to veto or mandatorily review long-term climate strategies.
- Recognize and legally enshrine the right of children and youth to a clean, healthy, and sustainable climate in the national constitution or core environmental frameworks.
- Ensure that all national climate vulnerability assessments specifically analyze and respond to the unique physical and psychological impacts of climate change on children, adolescents, and youth.
- Establish a domestic climate-youth fund generated from environmental taxes, which will be provided for climate education and overcoming the damages of climate change that affect children, adolescents, and youth.

International Level

- Establish minimum quotas for young negotiators in all national delegations participating in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and other major global climate summits.
- Create international legal mechanisms to prosecute "ecocide" and climate change denial as crimes against future generations.
- Ensure that the global Loss and Damage Fund allocates specific resources for the rehabilitation of youth and children displaced or traumatized by climate disasters.

Our Commitments



We, the adolescents and youth of Armenia, commit to:

- Lead ongoing campaigns and advocacy to hold older generations and current leaders accountable for their climate inaction.
- Educate and empower younger children, providing them with the climate science and activism skills necessary to protect their future.
- Refuse to be marginalized in climate discussions, decisively demanding our place in political decision-making platforms, from the community to the global levels.
- Work in solidarity with indigenous and marginalized youth globally to amplify the voices of those most affected by the climate emergency.

COLLECTIVE DEMANDS OF YOUTH



Universal "Future Generations" Climate Testing for All Legislation

We demand that climate actions no longer be confined solely to environment ministries. We demand the application of a mandatory "Future Generations Climate Test" for new national legislation, foreign trade agreements, and major infrastructure projects. No policy should become law without legally binding proof that it complies with the 1.5°C warming limit and does not compromise the ecological security of children, adolescents, and youth.

Radical Transformation of the Educational Ecosystem

We demand a comprehensive, state-funded reform of national educational programs from early childhood to higher education. We demand the integration of mandatory climate literacy, ecological crisis management, and practical green transition skills across all fields of study, ensuring that every child and adolescent is intellectually, academically, and professionally prepared for the reality of the climate era.

Total Divestment and Elimination of Greenwashing

We demand strict national legislation that legally defines and imposes severe penalties for corporate greenwashing (creating a false ecological image). Furthermore, we demand a mandatory, accelerated timeline for all state financial institutions and national banks to fully divest their investments from biodiversity-depleting or fossil fuel-based industries, completely redirecting that capital towards community-level climate resilience and green innovations.

Finance and Expand Youth-Led Climate Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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

Enhance Disaster Response Preparedness and Recovery for Vulnerable Groups

Build robust early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and community support networks to protect those in the highest risk zones.

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

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

Hold Major Polluters Accountable at National and International Levels

Adopt strict environmental regulations, enforce fines for violations, and fight globally for climate justice and accountability.

Provide Scholarships to Youth for Studying Climate Science, Environment, and Sustainability Sciences

Fund the education of Armenian youth in the world's best universities to provide them with the opportunity to study climate change, environment, and sustainability sciences.

CLOSING



The climate clock has not stopped, and neither will we. The adolescents and youth of Armenia are no longer asking for permission to shape our future; we are stepping forward to claim it. The decisions made today regarding emissions, adaptation, and finance will determine the viability of our nation and planet for centuries to come. From classrooms to the highest-level global climate negotiations, we demand transformative, science-based climate action. We are ready to lead the transition towards a sustainable, decarbonized world, and we demand that our leaders listen to us at the highest level.

The content of this document reflects the perspectives of adolescents and young people and should not be interpreted as representing the views of UNICEF, ATP, or ADA.