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OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

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LEBANESE YOUTH CLIMATE MANIFESTO 2024

Inspiring Climate action through collaboration

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Lebanese Youth Climate Manifesto set out to foster collaboration and climate action among youth initiatives to achieve the calls to action and demands set out in the 2023 Lebanese Youth Climate Manifesto. Building on 2023's consolidated calls to action, the 2024 manifesto gathered youth-led initiatives in Lebanon to

prioritize two calls to action from each thematic topic of the 2023 Youth Climate Manifesto and develop short-term objectives to achieve them. Among 8 priority calls to action, 31 short-term objectives were developed by the youth initiatives. The manifesto is divided into 4 thematic areas:



**YOUTH,
CHILDREN,
EDUCATION,
& SKILLS**



**WATER &
WASTEWATER**



**WASTE
MANAGEMENT**



**FOOD &
AGRICULTURE**

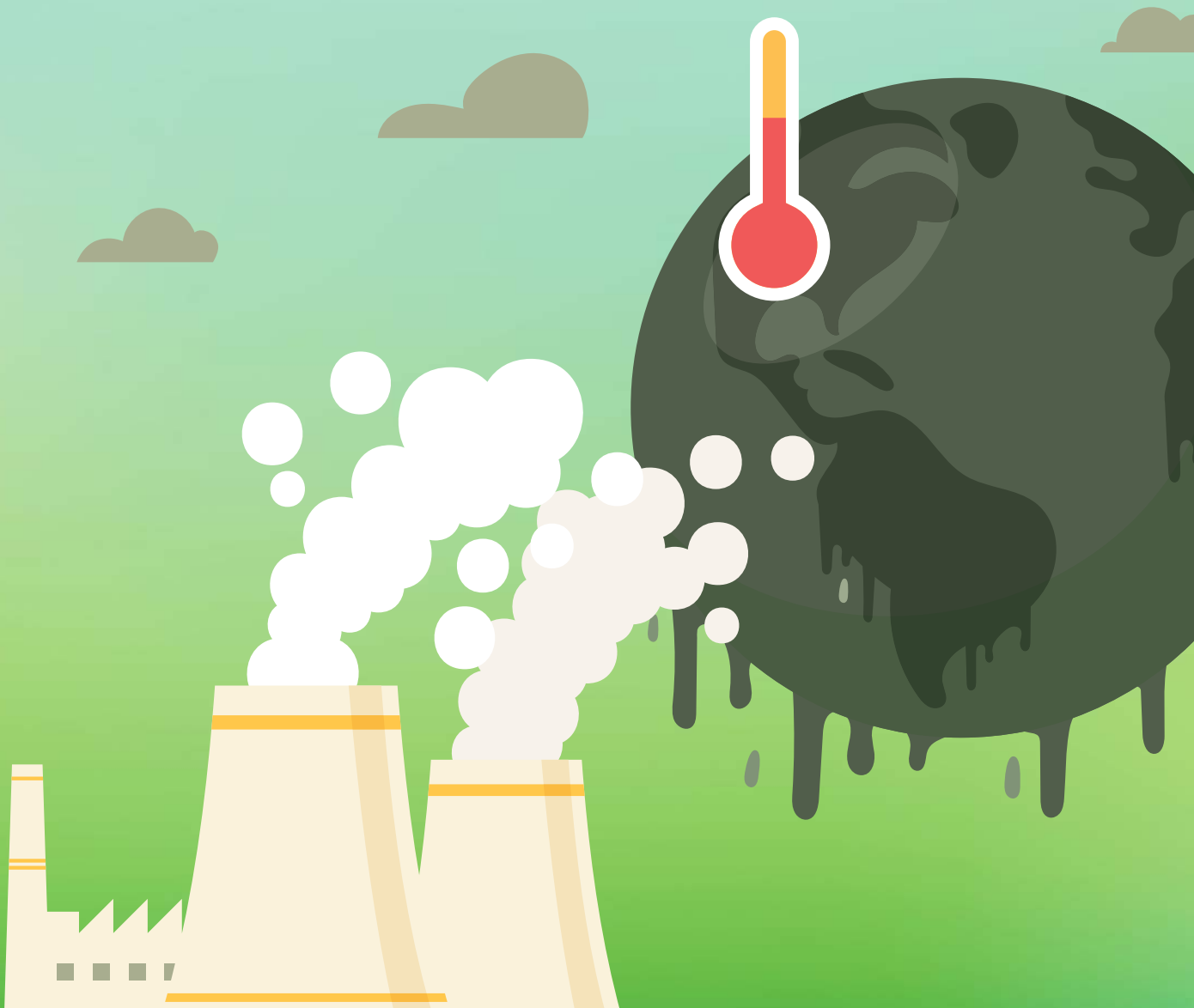
The 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto was written by UNICEF's Youth Climate Advocates in consultation with 26 youth from 12 organizations. Consultations were done via an online workshop and during the 2024 LCOY event.

The Youth Climate Manifesto is a compilation of potential collaborative ideas that youth can take forward and implement. Youth initiatives, with the support of UNICEF's Youth Climate Advocates will pledge to work on the youth commitments set out in the manifesto and demonstrate youth-led action. The Youth Climate Advocates will work to socialize the commitments among youth-led organizations to gather interest and buy-in to translate these commitments into actionable climate action.

The 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto will be shared with YOUNGO to be included in the Global Youth Statement at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The manifesto will be presented during the RCOY MENA in Amman, Jordan. The manifesto will also be shared with the Lebanese youth delegates to COP29. The manifesto will be officially presented to the Ministry of Environment under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Nasser Yassine, Minister of Environment as a consolidation of youth commitments to climate action by civil society on behalf of youth-led organizations and initiatives.

Despite the current circumstances Lebanon has been passing through, two Youth Climate Manifestos have been produced so far. Youth in Lebanon have demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and will to tackle the climate crisis and create a safer, cleaner, and healthier environment for all. It is this display of stewardship that has mobilized over

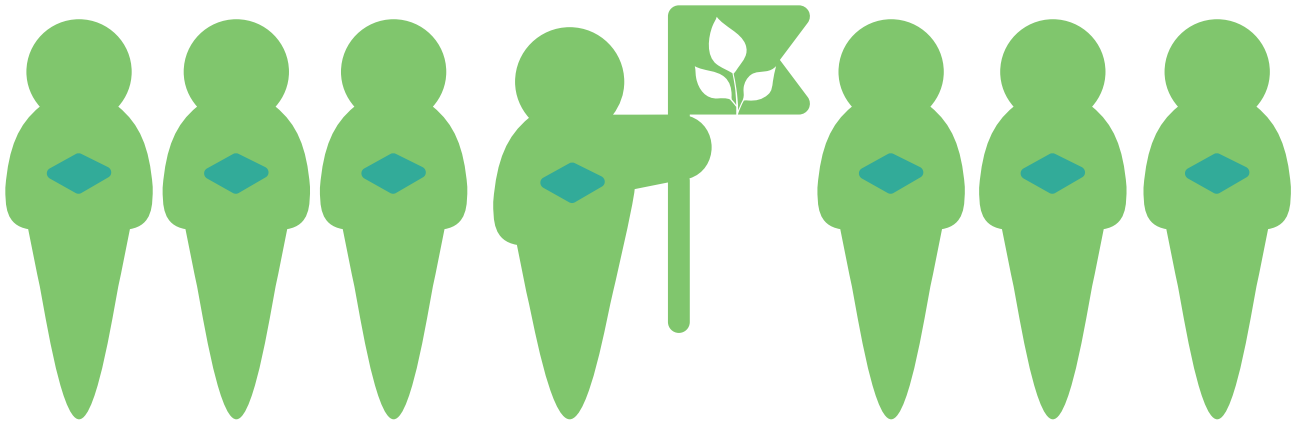
100 youth to gather at the 2024 LCOY and discuss different ideas they can collaborate on. The sessions during the 2024 LCOY also gathered the inputs and intentions of youth to collaborate on youth-led initiatives that will further support the commitments set out in this manifesto.



INTRODUCTION

The 2024 UNICEF LCOY organizing team consists of the UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates (YCA) group led by 30 youth advocates and youth-led climate organizations. The agenda and framing of the LCOY have been developed and organized by the YCA group with the support of UNICEF. A total of 26 youths from 12 organizations participated in drafting the 2024 LCOY Youth Climate Manifesto. The 2024 LCOY was attended by around 100 youths from 28 organizations with the presence and support of H.E. Minister of Environment, Dr. Nasser Yassine.

YOUNGO is The Official Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a network of children and youth organisations, groups, and individuals under the age of 35 who work to ensure that the perspectives of young and future generations are taken into account in the international decision-making processes, especially the Conference of Parties (COP) on climate change.



The Conference of Youth (COY) is the biggest and most substantial youth conference related to the multilateral UN climate processes. To strive for universal accessibility, true inclusion, and diversity, YOUNGO organises local and regional COYs throughout the world every year. These conferences build on each other to ultimately host the Global COY, which takes place once a year in the same country as COP, a couple of days before the annual event.

In 2023, UNICEF in collaboration with Recycler Donation and Thought for Food, organised the first LCOY in Lebanon. A policy statement was produced as a Youth Climate Manifesto with 37 youth

representatives from 31 organisations. The manifesto was divided into 4 thematic areas:

- 1. YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION, & SKILLS**
- 2. WATER & WASTEWATER**
- 3. WASTE MANAGEMENT**
- 4. FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

The manifesto was produced through consensus among the different groups present. It highlights calls to action that the youth demand of policy-makers in the four thematic topics.

Lebanon's 2023 Youth Climate Manifesto focused largely on national climate and environmental issues. The manifesto proposed policy reforms and solutions at the national level mainly targeting Lebanese decision-makers and bringing it to the attention of COP representatives.

The 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto focuses on how the calls to action can be achieved through the collaboration of youth initiatives. The youth organizations set out commitments towards 2-1 priority calls to action within each of the 4 thematic topics. Each of the thematic sections in the 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto includes short-term objectives that the youth organizations aim to take forward to achieve the priority calls to action selected from the 2023 Youth Climate Manifesto.





YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION, & SKILLS



PRIORITY CALLS TO ACTION



**PROVIDE ACCESS TO
FINANCE & RESOURCES**



**INCORPORATE CLIMATE &
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
IN EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUMS**

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

PROVIDE ACCESS TO FINANCE & RESOURCES



IMPOSE TAXES ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS & POLLUTERS TO FUND CLIMATE EDUCATION

Impose taxes on single-use plastics and polluters to invest in climate awareness initiatives and education programs.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will advocate for these tax measures and ensure the funds are allocated to climate education. They will also work with policymakers and communities to raise awareness about the importance of this funding mechanism.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Mobilize youth to advocate for policy change to support legislation that imposes taxes on single-use plastics and polluters.
- ◆ Partner with environmental NGOs to empower youth leaders and activists in strengthening advocacy efforts, utilizing their platforms to amplify the message and raise public awareness about the positive impact of these taxes on sustainability.

- ◆ Encourage youth to take an active role in educating their peers and communities on the benefits of these taxes, fostering a deeper understanding of their contribution to climate education and encouraging broader public support.



INCLUDE FINES FOR VIOLATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Proposing to amend Article 15 relating to violations and financial fines and Article 16 relating to the cost of environmental impact review and initial environmental examination, as there are no fines commensurate with the value of the actual violations, and enhance fine collection procedures to better address environmental issues.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will propose and participate in the amendment process of EIA laws, providing detailed input on the proposed changes. They will advocate for increased fines and improved collection procedures to ensure they are commensurate with the severity of violations. They will also collaborate with legal experts to ensure effective implementation.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Engage legal and environmental experts to identify weaknesses in current EIA laws and propose effective revisions especially for the articles related to finance.
- ◆ Advocate for Stronger enforcement with policymakers to enhance fine collection procedures and ensure that EIA regulations are effectively enforced.
- ◆ Promote public awareness campaigns to inform the public and stakeholders

about the importance of updated EIA laws for environmental protection.

- ◆ Secure Funding to support the implementation and monitoring of revised EIA laws.



WORK IN TRANSPARENCY REGARDING ACCESSING FINANCE & RESOURCES

Establish transparent mechanisms for accessing financial resources dedicated to environmental education.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Advocacy for and monitoring of transparent processes for accessing climate-related funds will be conducted. Collaboration with financial institutions and government agencies will aim to ensure that resources are allocated effectively and transparently.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Request support for transparency initiatives: Seek global community support for developing platforms that promote financial transparency.
- ◆ Regularly report on financial transparency to ensure that resources are used effectively and that any discrepancies are addressed.





INCREASE FUNDING FOR STUDENT-LED CLIMATE RESEARCH PROJECTS AT UNIVERSITIES & SCHOLARSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Enhance financial support for student-led climate research projects and establish substantial scholarships to support students pursuing higher education in environmental sciences and climate studies. Address the challenges of insufficient and fragmented funding.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will support student-led research projects and assist in the scholarship application process. Additionally, they will work to secure funding through grants, sponsorships, and donations, while also raising awareness about these opportunities among students and potential donors.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Develop partnerships with research institutions to provide additional resources, mentorship, and support for student-led research projects.
- ◆ Launch a targeted campaign to attract sponsorships and donations from international donors, organizations, and businesses. Focus on securing large-scale funding commitments to support both research projects and scholarships.
- ◆ Engage educational finance and management experts to design and implement a robust system for administering and distributing scholarships and research funds. Ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation process.

- ◆ Advocate for easier visa access and support exchange programs that allow scholarship recipients to study abroad or attend international climate-related events, helping them gain valuable global perspectives and experiences.



ENHANCE ACCESS TO DATA ON MINISTRY WEBSITES

Improve the accessibility and organization of data related to ministries by gathering and presenting this information in a way that is easily understandable and useful for youth and the general public.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will focus on gathering and interpreting data from ministry websites, presenting it in a user-friendly format. They will create and share informative resources that make this data more accessible and actionable for students, researchers, and the public.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Create and distribute guides, infographics, and summaries that make complex data from ministry websites more accessible and understandable for youth and the general public.
- ◆ Collaborate with educational institutions and tech organizations to support data interpretation and presentation.



INCORPORATE CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUMS



ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO IMPROVE DATA SHARING & ACCESS, ENSURING THE PROVISION OF RELIABLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON CLIMATE ISSUES

Strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education to facilitate effective data sharing, leading to the development of comprehensive and reliable educational materials on climate change.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will advocate for improved collaboration between the ministries, actively participate in the development of educational materials, and ensure that these materials are accessible and reliable. They will work to transform shared data into actionable and educational resources.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Organize regular workshops and meetings with representatives from both ministries to identify specific data needs and develop strategies for effective information exchange.
- ◆ Develop and distribute informational materials on the importance of this collaboration. Ensure that these resources are integrated into school programs and are accessible to both educators and students.



PROMOTE STUDENT-LED PROJECTS ADDRESSING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Encourage students to undertake projects that focus on local environmental issues, such as community clean-up initiatives or sustainability practices.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth groups will support and organize student projects aimed at local environmental issues. They will provide resources and guidance for these initiatives.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Seek international funding to support student-led environmental projects.
- ◆ Request mentorship and guidance from environmental experts to mentor students on project implementation.
- ◆ Advocacy for policy and institutional support with policymakers to establish frameworks that support and institutionalize data-sharing agreements between the ministries.

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IMPLEMENT ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS, INCLUDING BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

All schools and academic institutions must focus on promoting eco-friendly behaviors among students, such as banning single-use plastic water bottles and encouraging the use of reusable water bottles.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will advocate for these practices in schools and provide resources for their implementation. They will also support schools in transitioning to eco-friendly alternatives.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Request support for eco-friendly products by providing reusable water bottles and other eco-friendly alternatives.
- ◆ Organize training on sustainable practices for schools to implement and promote eco-friendly behaviors.



INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION & ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL CURRICULA

Embed climate change education, eco-friendly practices, and interactive workshops into existing school programs. This comprehensive approach will enhance students' understanding

of climate issues and foster practical skills in sustainability and environmental stewardship.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will partner with educational institutions to develop and implement a robust climate change curriculum. They will organize workshops, advocate for curriculum integration, and facilitate practical activities to ensure active student engagement in sustainability efforts.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Request collaboration with climate and activists environmental experts to lead and enhance workshops and create detailed implementation plans.
- ◆ Design detailed plans for schools to adopt sustainable practices. Collaborate with environmental experts for plan development and seek funding to support effective implementation.
- ◆ Research local communities need to tailor the climate change curriculum, ensuring its relevance and impact. Integrate climate education with other key areas such as governmental, social, political, and economic contexts to provide a well-rounded educational experience.
- ◆ Facilitate active youth involvement in the development and execution of climate workshops, eco-friendly practices, and curriculum integration, ensuring that students are directly engaged in these initiatives.



EMPOWER YOUTH TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Equip youth with the skills and resources needed to promote and facilitate climate change education effectively within their communities and schools.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will develop and deliver training programs for young people, enabling them to become climate change ambassadors. These trained youth will create and distribute educational materials, organize events, and engage their peers in climate action initiatives.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Partner with experts to ensure training programs incorporate best practices in climate education and effectively prepare youth for their roles as ambassadors.
- ◆ Obtain financial and assistance to support in developing and distributing educational resources and materials for the climate change curriculum.
- ◆ Create comprehensive training programs to equip youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively promote climate change education.



CONDUCT A LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS & PARENTS

Develop and implement a comprehensive campaign across Lebanon to educate students and their parents about climate change, its impacts, and the importance of sustainable practices.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will lead the development and execution of the awareness campaign. They will collaborate with schools, community groups, and media outlets to reach a broad audience, ensuring that students and parents are informed and engaged in climate action.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Collaboration with schools, NGOs, and media organizations to disseminate information and promote the campaign through various channels.
- ◆ Create educational materials, workshops, and activities tailored for students and parents to increase awareness and encourage sustainable practices.
- ◆ Leverage Social Media and digital platforms to amplify the campaign's message and reach a wider audience.





WATER & WASTEWATER



PRIORITY CALLS TO ACTION



ADOPT INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT



ENCOURAGE COLLECTIVE ACTIONS IN RURAL AREAS

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

ADOPT INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT



ENSURE COASTS ARE WASTE FREE

In order to control pollution in surface water and seashore in Lebanon, urgent actions in the form of coastal management must be integrated to protect the water sector.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will lead education campaigns that focus on raising awareness regarding the dangers of the uncontrolled solid wastes in our waters.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Taking support from municipalities officials to further emphasize on the importance of a clean and unpolluted sea shore and waters. If municipalities show commitment towards better coastal laws, citizens will abide by them.
- ◆ Sharing knowledge between municipalities to unify their objectives regarding the coastal zone.
- ◆ Encouraging schools and universities to adopt coastal campaigns to clean the sea shore along with educational sessions on the solid wastes and their harms.



COLLABORATE BETWEEN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Youth organizations should unify their powers to have a bigger and better impact on the sea shore to protect marine life and treat wastewater before it discharges into the sea.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will collaborate with fellow environmental organizations with similar goals or purposes to come up with integrated coastal protection management initiatives.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Organize meetings between organizations to allow discussion to unfold regarding the creation of successful collaborative work on the protection of the coastal zones.
- ◆ Encourage universities to make collaborations between different clubs to raise awareness on the importance of collaborative work between youth organizations.



ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE FISHING

To protect the integrity of marine life and the biodiversity of our waters, we must encourage youth fishers to practice or adopt sustainable fishing habits.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations will lead education campaigns that focus on raising awareness regarding sustainable fishing and provide easy access to information and resources about sustainable fishing.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ This might include guides, apps, or online platforms that offer tips, best practices, and updates on sustainable fishing techniques.
- ◆ Create programs that reward and encourage sustainable fishing behaviors. This could include recognition awards, certifications, or competitions that celebrate and incentivize best practices in fishing.
- ◆ Involve fishers in marine programs or organizations and even research. Participation in data collection and research can increase their understanding and commitment to sustainability.



ENCOURAGE COLLECTIVE ACTION IN RURAL AREAS



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rural areas in Lebanon are suffering from water shortage with the ongoing exploitation of the groundwater resources and severe drought periods that have forced citizens of rural areas to buy water from expensive and unsafe water sources making it vital to enrich our groundwater resources by harvesting rainwater.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth will organize projects and educational sessions on safe water harvesting methods. Including visiting rural areas to advocate for this cause. And strive to have successful collaborative work with municipalities.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Support youth-led initiatives and community projects focused on rainwater harvesting. This could include setting up systems in community gardens, parks, or school grounds, and involving young people in the planning and execution.
- ◆ Talk with municipalities to adopt rainwater harvesting projects in rural areas.
- ◆ Invite local environmental experts or professionals in water management to speak to youth about the importance of water conservation and the role of rainwater harvesting.
- ◆ Talk to municipalities to hire experts to monitor the quality of rainwater harvested before use.





WASTE MANAGEMENT



PRIORITY CALLS TO ACTION



**GENERATE CLEAN
ENERGY FROM
ORGANIC WASTE**



**BAN SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC**

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

GENERATE CLEAN ENERGY FROM ORGANIC WASTE



ENGAGE STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES

Initiate programs in schools and universities where students can take up projects related to organic waste management as part of their extracurricular activities. This will foster a culture of sustainability and innovation among youth.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will collaborate with schools and universities to design and implement projects on organic waste management, ensuring active participation from students.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Raise awareness in Lebanon about the benefits of generating clean energy from organic waste through media campaigns and community events.



- ◆ Encourage educational institutions to include organic waste management in their extracurricular activities.
- ◆ Promote student-led initiatives and competitions on organic waste solutions.



DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY INITIATIVES

Facilitate collaboration between restaurants, farms, and startup companies working on waste-to-energy themes. This will enhance practical applications and provide sustainable energy solutions.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth groups will facilitate and promote partnerships between local restaurants, farms, and startups to work on waste-to-energy projects.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Advocate for government incentives and support for farms and communities in Lebanon adopting biogas systems.
- ◆ Organize workshops and networking events to connect potential partners.
- ◆ Create a platform to share success stories and best practices in waste-to-energy projects.



SUPPORT SMALL FARMS WITH BIOGAS SYSTEMS

Promote the installation of basic biogas systems on small farms to manage animal manure and produce clean energy, providing sustainable energy solutions and improving waste management.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will run campaigns and provide resources to encourage small farms to adopt biogas systems.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Provide training and technical support for small farms on biogas systems.
- ◆ Secure funding and grants to help small farms install biogas systems.
- ◆ Create awareness campaigns highlighting the benefits of biogas systems for small farms.



SET UP SMALL-SCALE ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS

Establish small-scale anaerobic digesters to process organic waste in local communities and farms. This will enable local waste management and energy production.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth groups in Lebanon will collaborate with communities to set up small-scale anaerobic digesters, providing technical support and resources. Youth groups will collaborate with local universities, technical institutes, and NGOs to set up small-scale anaerobic digesters. These collaborations will allow youth to gain the necessary technical expertise through hands-on training and mentorship programs. Additionally, youth groups will work with community leaders and local businesses to secure affordable materials, space, and basic resources needed for the project.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Partner with NGOs and international organizations to provide expertise and funding.
- ◆ Conduct pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of anaerobic digesters.



PROMOTE HOME COMPOSTING KITS

Promote simple home composting kits that allow households to manage organic waste sustainably, producing compost and biogas for household use.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will conduct workshops and distribute home composting kits, educating households on sustainable waste management.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Develop and distribute easy-to-use home composting kits.
- ◆ Organize community workshops to teach residents how to use composting kits.
- ◆ Launch campaigns to promote the environmental and economic benefits of home composting.



BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC



HOST PLASTIC-FREE MARKET DAYS

Coordinate plastic-free market days to promote sustainable alternatives and reduce plastic waste. Vendors will commit to not using single-use plastics, encouraging the adoption of eco-friendly practices.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will coordinate with local vendors to host plastic-free market days, ensuring adherence to sustainable practices.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Advocate for stronger policies and regulations in Lebanon to ban single-use plastics at local and national levels.
- ◆ Partner with local businesses to promote and participate in plastic-free market days.
- ◆ Raise public awareness about the impact of plastic waste through media and community events.



SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES IN TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM PLASTIC

Develop and distribute comprehensive toolkits to assist small businesses in transitioning to eco-friendly alternatives. Consultations will promote biodegradable packaging and reusable bags.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth groups in Lebanon will create and distribute toolkits to small businesses, offering consultations on transitioning away from single-use plastics.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Encourage businesses in Lebanon to adopt sustainable packaging and reduce plastic use through incentives and recognition programs.
- ◆ Provide financial assistance or subsidies to small businesses transitioning to sustainable practices.
- ◆ Organize training sessions and workshops for small businesses on eco-friendly alternatives.



ESTABLISH COMMUNITY HUBS FOR PLASTIC REDUCTION

Set up community hubs that offer resources, information, and support for individuals and businesses looking to reduce their plastic use. These hubs will serve as centers for community engagement and education.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will establish and manage community hubs that provide resources and support for reducing plastic use.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Support the development and commercialization of innovative alternatives to single-use plastics in Lebanon.
- ◆ Create a network of community hubs to share resources and best practices.
- ◆ Conduct outreach programs to educate the community on the importance of reducing plastic use.



IMPLEMENT MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS

Establish mechanisms for monitoring single-use plastic use and enforcing the ban. This will ensure compliance and effectiveness in reducing plastic waste.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth groups in Lebanon will advocate for and assist in developing systems for monitoring and enforcing the ban on single-use plastics.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Foster international collaborations to share best practices and technologies for plastic reduction.
- ◆ Work with local authorities to develop effective monitoring and enforcement strategies.
- ◆ Create public reporting systems for violations of plastic use bans.



PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Implement public education programs that focus on the environmental impact of single-use plastics and promote proper disposal and recycling practices. This will raise awareness and improve waste management behaviours.

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth organizations in Lebanon will run educational campaigns, including workshops, social media outreach, and community events, to promote proper disposal and recycling practices.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Raise awareness in Lebanon about the environmental impact of single-use plastics through media campaigns and community events.
- ◆ Partner with educational institutions to integrate plastic reduction education into their curriculum.
- ◆ Develop and distribute educational materials on the importance of reducing plastic waste.

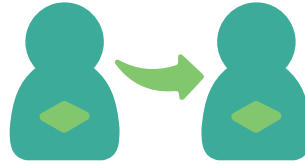


GLOBAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT



OFFER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Recognize innovative and impactful youth-led projects in Lebanon.



CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENTORSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Connect youth-led groups in Lebanon with international organizations, experts, and businesses for mentorship, collaboration, and resources.



PROVIDE GRANTS FOR YOUTH-LED PROJECTS

Focus on sustainability, education, and community development in Lebanon.



PARTNER WITH EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS

Partner with Coursera, LinkedIn, and INCO Academy to provide access to online tools and platforms for project management, collaboration, and learning.



ADVOCATE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICIES

Support Lebanon's waste management initiatives and raise awareness about the environmental impact of single-use plastics.







FOOD & AGRICULTURE



PRIORITY CALLS TO ACTION



**STRENGTHEN
INTERGENERATIONAL
COLLABORATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**



**INCORPORATE YOUTH
COALITIONS FOR
CLIMATE ACTION IN
FOOD SYSTEMS**

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

STRENGTHEN INTERGENERATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



**YOUTH TO PROVIDE
CONSULTATION SERVICES IN
THE FOOD & AGRICULTURE
SECTOR**

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth will offer discounted services and consultations through NGOs and grant-funded projects to address challenges in the food and agriculture sector. For example, youth can provide branding and digital marketing support

to farmers, helping them market their products more effectively making them more appealing to consumers.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Promote youth-led consultation services to farmers and agribusinesses.
- ◆ Encourage collaboration and partnerships between youth organizations, UN Agencies, and NGOs to create opportunities for young people to offer their expertise in the food and agriculture sector and get compensated for their services.

- ◆ Youth to work with farmers and small agribusinesses to improve the branding and marketing of their products, making them more competitive in the marketplace.



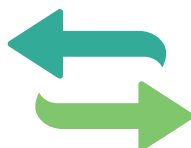
INTEGRATE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES INTO SCHOOL CURRICULUMS

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

School students will actively volunteer and participate in agricultural activities. Through this engagement, they will gain exposure to the agriculture field and integrate sustainable agricultural practices and food consumption into their everyday lives.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Encourage schools to partner with local farms to create volunteer programs where students can assist farmers and learn about sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ Advocate for the inclusion of agricultural education in school curriculums, allowing students to explore agriculture as a field of study and career path.
- ◆ Encourage students to apply the knowledge gained from their agricultural experiences in their daily lives, promoting sustainable practices such as growing their own food or supporting local farmers' markets.



YOUTH TO BRIDGE THE GENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE GAPS THROUGH LEADING INFORMATIVE SESSIONS

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth commitment: Youth will take the lead in creating and delivering informative sessions aimed at both older generations and their peers. These sessions will cover the latest agricultural trends and technologies being applied in Lebanon, while also highlighting innovative practices that have the potential to improve the sector. Additionally, youth will use these sessions to learn from the traditional knowledge and experience of the older generation.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Organize educational workshops and seminars where youth can share knowledge on innovative agricultural practices, emerging technologies, and sustainable farming techniques with community members.
- ◆ Facilitate intergenerational learning sessions where youth educate older generations about new trends in agriculture while also learning from their traditional knowledge and experience.
- ◆ Partner with food and agricultural experts to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the information being shared in these sessions.



EXPERTS PROVIDING TRAINING PROGRAMS AND PLATFORMS FOR YOUTH

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth will actively participate in training programs offered by industry experts, ensuring they take full advantage of opportunities to gain hands-on experience and practical skills that are directly applicable in the field. These training programs will immerse youth in real-world projects, where they will work on solving actual challenges and contribute meaningfully to the host entities. By engaging in these experiences, youth will enhance their employability and encourage their professional growth, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to succeed in the food and agriculture sector. Youth will also advocate for the creation of such programs and participate in their design by partnering with different organizations.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Develop specialized training programs by partnering with research institutes, the private sector, and NGOs that focus on critical areas such as sustainable farming techniques, agrotechnologies, permaculture and other relevant topics. These programs should include both theoretical knowledge and practical, on-the-ground applications.
- ◆ Facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and project-based assignments within host entities such as farms, food industries, agri-businesses, and research centers. These opportunities will allow youth to apply their skills in real-world settings.

- ◆ Ensure mutual benefit so that both youth and host entities benefit. Youth should gain valuable experience and skills, while host entities receive fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and support in addressing their challenges.
- ◆ Establish clear pathways for youth to transition from training to full-time employment.
- ◆ Encourage experts to mentor youth throughout the training process.



INCORPORATE YOUTH COALITIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN FOOD SYSTEMS



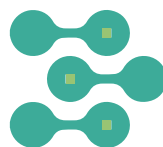
YOUTH CREATING A YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PLATFORM FOR THE FOOD & AGRICULTURE SECTOR

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth will commit to developing a comprehensive platform designed to share and promote opportunities related to food and agriculture at local, regional, and international levels. This platform will also feature a detailed mapping of existing projects and initiatives, providing a centralized resource for collaboration and engagement in this sector.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Develop a user-friendly and accessible platform that aggregates opportunities in the food and agriculture sectors, ensuring it covers various levels from local to international.
- ◆ Integrate a detailed directory of projects, initiatives, and organizations working in the food and agriculture fields, facilitating connections and partnerships among stakeholders.
- ◆ Actively promote the platform within communities, educational institutions, and professional networks to maximize its reach and impact.
- ◆ Ensure the platform is regularly updated with the latest opportunities and information, maintaining its relevance and usefulness for users seeking to engage with the food and agriculture sectors.



YOUTH TO INNOVATE IN AGRI-FOOD TECHNOLOGIES

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

Youth will actively engage in and contribute to the field of agri-food technology by participating in specialized workshops, seminars, and field visits to gain exposure to cutting-edge advancements. They will be encouraged to develop and implement innovative projects and solutions, with access to resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities. Additionally, youth will utilize dedicated innovation hubs and Research & Development (R&D) labs to prototype their ideas, while collaborating with industry professionals, research institutions, and startups to advance their innovations and address challenges in the agri-food sector.

CALLS TO ACTION:

- ◆ Organize workshops, seminars, and field visits with industry experts and tech innovators to introduce youth to the latest developments and emerging technologies in agri-food tech in Lebanon and outside of the country.
- ◆ Support and promote youth-led projects and initiatives that focus on developing new technologies, applications, or processes in the agri-food sector. Provide resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities to help turn their innovative ideas into reality.
- ◆ Establish dedicated innovation hubs or labs where youth can collaborate, experiment, and prototype their

ideas related to agri-food technology. These spaces should be equipped with the necessary tools and resources for research and development.



YOUTH RAISING AWARENESS ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND SECURITY

YOUTH COMMITMENT:

In the face of increasing challenges to food and nutrition security, particularly in conflict-affected agricultural land in South Lebanon, youth will take proactive steps to educate and raise awareness about these critical issues. They will emphasize the importance of ensuring stable and secure access to nutritious food for all, while also highlighting how conflicts and wars exacerbate food insecurity by disrupting agricultural lands, supply chains, and access to vital resources. Youth will organize and participate in campaigns, educational events, and discussions aimed at improving a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between food security, nutrition, and conflict. Through these efforts, they seek to promote actionable solutions that address the needs of affected communities.

CALLS TO ACTION:

Lead and engage in campaigns that educate the public on the importance of food and nutrition security, particularly in conflict zones, using diverse media platforms, community events, and public speaking engagements. Collaborate with experts, NGOs, and humanitarian organizations to ensure accurate, impactful messaging and to gain support for awareness-raising activities that spotlight the critical links between food systems, and nutrition.



2024 BACKGROUND UPDATE

IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON LAND & FOOD SECURITY

The ongoing conflict has severely impacted agricultural lands in the South, necessitating comprehensive monitoring to understand its full extent. The degradation of land and soil due to white phosphorus use poses a significant threat to food security, as polluted soil can compromise crop yields and agricultural productivity.

Moreover, the burning of agricultural fields not only destroys crops but also poses a grave threat to livestock, disrupting both food supply and local economies. Vulnerable communities, particularly those engaged in specialized agricultural practices like beekeeping,

have been forced to sell their assets due to the conflict. This displacement and loss have a profound negative impact on their livelihoods and economic stability.

The consequences of conflict extend beyond immediate food security issues, leading to long-term environmental damage. The destruction of habitats and agricultural lands contributes to significant biodiversity loss, undermining ecosystem health and resilience. Addressing these issues requires targeted financial support for affected communities and a thorough analysis of environmental damage to develop effective mitigation strategies.



CONCLUSION

A total of 31 youth commitments were produced in this manifesto across all thematic areas. All commitments require the support of third-party stakeholders in the implementation. The majority of commitments fall under the themes of advocacy, education, and peer-to-peer learning. Most of them aim to break siloes by sharing information and coordinating efforts across multiple disciplines. Some commitments focus on the need for access to spaces, knowledge, and platforms to exchange expertise and learnings to address the climate crisis. The calls to action are intended to ask for support and facilitation to youth-led initiatives. The majority of the calls to action are about providing adequate resources and the buy-in of relevant stakeholders to enable cooperation. These commitments cannot be achieved with limited youth capacity and without the endorsement and support of the relevant stakeholders.

The first step for these commitments to become actionable is to gather pledges by youth to collaborate to implement them. The Youth Climate Advocates will work to socialize the commitments among youth-led organizations to gather interest and buy-in to translate these commitments into actionable climate action.

The 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto will be shared with YOUNGO to be included in the Global Youth Statement at COP29 in Baku, Azarbaijan. The manifesto will be presented during the RCOY MENA in Amman, Jordan happening in September 2024. The manifesto will also be shared with the Lebanese youth delegates to COP29 for direct engagement. Further dissemination will extend to the Ministry of Environment under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Nasser Yassine, Minister of Environment as a consolidation of youth commitments to climate action by civil-society on behalf of youth-led organizations and initiatives.

The process leading up to the creation of the 2024 Youth Climate Manifesto demonstrated

the motivation and capabilities of the youth movement in Lebanon. Despite the current political and economic circumstances Lebanon is passing through, youth across the country are still displaying acts of environmental and climate stewardship. For them to be able to achieve their commitments, they will need support and access to resources. With the support of the Ministry of Environment and UNICEF, we hope to achieve many of these calls to action.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Honorable Minister of Environment, Dr. Nasser Yassine, for his unwavering support and endorsement of the 2024 LCOY. His steadfast commitment to climate action and youth empowerment has been instrumental in shaping the vision and outcomes of this event. The Minister's leadership in climate action has inspired

young leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue and take decisive steps towards a more sustainable and resilient future. We are sincerely thankful for his invaluable contributions and continued support in empowering the next generation to champion climate action.

**The manifesto reflects the perspectives and contributions of the youth participants. UNICEF supported the planning and organization of the LCOY event. The ideas, proposals, actions, and initiatives resulting from this conference are the efforts of the participants and their organizations.*



APPENDIX A

LIST OF AFFILIATED YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING THE 2024 YOUTH CLIMATE MANIFESTO

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

- ◆ Adnan Smeismeh
- ◆ Ahmad Dandash
- ◆ Anna Maria Hadid
- ◆ Batoul Hamzy
- ◆ Carole Nassreddine
- ◆ Chafik Al Ajami
- ◆ Daniel Alhaff
- ◆ Ghenwa Kataya
- ◆ Jana Al Hassanieh
- ◆ Jana Rammal
- ◆ Jana Rashed
- ◆ Lamis Dawi
- ◆ Lara Bou Jaber
- ◆ Lara Dergham
- ◆ Maria Abdel Karim
- ◆ Mirna Jaafar
- ◆ Mostapha Al-Masry
- ◆ Roba Hamzy
- ◆ Roy Abi Raad

ORGANIZATION(S)

- ◆ UNICEF Youth Advisory Group
- ◆ Arab Youth Green Voices Network
- ◆ Intersos
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Advisory Group
- ◆ Youth Leadership Programme - UNDP
- ◆ Arab Youth Green Voices Network
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ فرص خضراء
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Advisory Group
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ Green seeds association
- ◆ Arab Youth Green Voices Network
- ◆ ActionAid Arab Region
- ◆ Horra

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

- ◆ Samia Mazloun
- ◆ Selvana Arab
- ◆ Sara Badran
- ◆ Wissam Ahmadiéh
- ◆ Yara Itani
- ◆ Zahraa Salah Najjar
- ◆ Zeinab Al-Ashkar

ORGANIZATION(S)

- ◆ RDFL/ActionAid Arab Region
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ DOT Lebanon
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates
- ◆ UNICEF Youth Climate Advocates

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