

Youth4Climate

In 2021, in the framework of the partnership agreement between Italy and the United Kingdom for the Presidency of the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC- COP26), Italy hosted, in Milan, a global event entirely dedicated to young people, entitled "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition", on the margins of PreCOP26.

The event offered 400 young people from all over the world an unprecedented opportunity to propose ideas, participate in debates and take action on some of the most urgent issues related to the climate crisis. The result was the sharing by all young participants of a powerful and ambitious document: the Youth4Climate Manifesto, a bold plan for climate action.

Youth4Climate has now evolved into a **global initiative**, co-led by Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and co-shaped with youth, with a long-term strategic vision oriented to:

- Build on the successes, lessons learned, and recommendations from the 2021 Youth4Climate Manifesto and enable the convening of an annual flagship global event.
- Boost youth-led and youth-inclusive climate action on the ground by strengthening the identification and support of concrete and innovative youth-led solutions and nurturing a vibrant ecosystem for youth at all levels.
- Sustain meaningful and long-term engagement with and for youth by making possible the generation and exchange of knowledge, opportunities, experiences, and resources in a new global virtual space.

The Youth4Climate Initiative is articulated around three inter-related components:

- **FLAGSHIP EVENT/GLOBAL POSITIONING OF YOUTH4CLIMATE:** to enhance the comprehensive strategic positioning of the Youth4Climate agenda.

It will provide an enabling, safe, and inclusive space for young climate leaders worldwide and nurture youth and climate platforms, networks, and partnerships for accelerated impact.

For the current year, the "Youth4Climate: Powering Action" will be a hybrid event on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, tentative date of 19 September, to be co-convened by Italy and UNDP.

It will spotlight youth-led actions under the four core themes of the Youth4Climate Manifesto, namely: Youth Driving Ambition; Sustainable Recovery; Non-State Actors' Engagement; a Climate-Conscious Society; and formally kick off the Youth4Climate Initiative in all its components.

An agile and youth-inclusive governance body (Advisory Committee) has been established for this event, ensuring that meaningful youth engagement is modeled.

Features of the global Youth4Climate event (2022, New York):

- Venue: United Nations building (Large conference room)
- Proposed date: 20 September 2022
- Format: hybrid
- In-person participation: Participation (by invitation) of 150 young people based on geographical and gender balance and diversity of stakeholders. Most young participants will be identified from previous Y4C 2021 participants through a call for applications focused on implementation and solutions in line with the core themes of the Y4C 2021 Manifesto. The selection committee will include the Government of Italy, UNDP, and advisory committee members.
- Duration: one day, plus a half-day of informal meetings – peer-to-peer networking learning
- Purpose: Enable the presentation of concrete initiatives led and implemented by young people in the areas of the Manifesto; discuss promising practices, gaps, challenges, and opportunities, and; launch all the remaining components of the Youth4Climate initiative, including the fully developed Youth4Climate platform, the Solutions challenge.

- **SOLUTIONS**: to boost the direct support to young people and youth organizations, movements, and networks that implement innovative solutions in line with the Youth4Climate Manifesto and address the climate emergency. The call for solutions will be launched at the September event.

Examples of solutions:

- proposal for the inclusion of young people in the political dialogue at the local level (Youth Municipal Councils), national level (Youth Advisory Councils) for the participation of young people in the decision-making processes for the revision of the NDCs;
- contribution to the development of national climate education legislation;
- youth-led social entrepreneurship initiative to support green jobs for young people.

- **PLATFORM**: a global knowledge virtual hub (online platform) dedicated to youth and climate. It will offer opportunities, cutting-edge and co-shaped capacity building/training programs, webinars, and networking activities, and make visible existing local, national, regional, and global platforms

Governance of Youth4climate

- **Secretariat**: The Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and UNDP will jointly coordinate activities.
- **Advisory Committee** to shape relevant activities, co-chaired by the Secretariat, will include the UNFCCC Secretariat, Connect4Climate, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the Children and Youth constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (YOUNGO), the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and four young representatives from previous Youth4Climate event.

- **Champions' Network** (to be developed at a later stage) will be composed of high-level partners to elevate the interest and potential support for youth and climate issues, notably to support youth-led initiatives for climate action.

Communications:

- Website: <https://www.youth4climate.info/>
- Trello: <https://trello.com/b/R2u6e6yX/youth4climate-powering-action>
- Brochure: <https://www.mite.gov.it/comunicati/youth4climate-powering-action-0>
- E-mail: youth4climate_poweringaction@mite.gov.it
- Twitter @Y4Cofficial; hashtag #Youth4Climate #PoweringAction