

Our NGO is going to the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) to ensure the negotiations are as **transparent** as possible, and **limit an exclusive top-down approach** for decisions that will have an impact on the future, **our future**.

As we are part of **YOUNGO**, the Youth constituency of the UNFCCC, it is our fully legitimate role to attend those negotiations and to confront negotiators to the civil society, and especially the youth. As a Young Organization, we do consider that climate issues discussed should integrate the voices and positions of Young People to recognise their particular realities. By attending the SBs, we remind political leaders that **youth's ideas and solutions to mitigate and adapt are everything but illegitimate**. On the contrary, youth can make them **more innovative and accurate**.

After COP27 in Egypt, the global ecological transition, despite being increasingly recognised, is marked by **two contrary paths**: first, by an accumulation of new and green technologies added to a business-as-usual scenario which is fuelled by carbon-intense energies, and second, by a movement of looking beyond growth, circular economic models and new approaches to how we consume the world and its limited resources.

We thus stress how important it is to **favour a real ecological transition rather than an ineffective transition that would rest on an infinite accumulation of new ways to create energy**, working in parallel with the increase of fossil fuels. This path does not address the problem at its roots and therefore **does not ensure a future for the youth and the most vulnerable**.

Yet, it is the new COP28 president's. His vocabulary and many others' is "**carbon neutral**" **obsessed**. If reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 is a first step in addressing climate warming, it does not face biodiversity loss or any of the other planetary boundaries, nor our ways to consume and to live. **Carbon-neutral solutions are mostly not thought through the prism of their impact on these other boundaries**. Just as an example, 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress are caused by resource extraction and processing. If climate warming stabilizes but the extraction of raw materials continues to destroy - key - biodiversity areas which help to maintain the equilibrium of the planet's life cycle, it will alter the future, OUR future.

They just ensure some more years of benefits and prosperity for big companies. And **we are here to defend an ecological transition based on living fairly with what the planet can sustain**. Youth has not a future with solely carbon-neutral goals and with the ongoing increase of fossil fuels.

Our 4 highlights

For SBs58, we would like to focus on four issues that we believe of critical need for **OUR** future:

- First and foremost, as the world is facing increasing climate changes, we call for important and fast solutions to **empower all actors to adapt**, especially for the most vulnerable populations. Mitigation is not sufficient to limit the (fatal) consequences of climate change and **both, adaptation and mitigation, are needed**.
- To complement mitigation and adaptation strategies, we strongly defend **the reinforcement and the effective and efficient implementation of the loss and damage fund**. A proper global future can not be designed without necessary funds to enable populations from developing countries to thrive sustainably.
- Third, CliMates staunchly advocates that all these decisions be taken **recognising women, letting them express themselves**. Women are one of the first victims of pollution and impacts of climate change and hold half of the solutions.
- As an overarching statement, we want to highlight **the need to recognise biodiversity impacts in every climate-related solution**. Solutions that take into account climate and biodiversity are long-term and efficient investments. Such holistic solutions better address climate change and can help local groups to protect their direct environment.

As finally recognized by the Paris Agreement, our Youth Organization strongly highlights **synergies between mitigation and adaptation**, that should be **equally** supported. In fact, we do know that:

- As each of them has limits, the respect of one's objectives cannot be achieved without the proper implementation of the other's.
- There are very strong synergies between mitigation and adaptation, whether positive (**doubly effective action**) or negative (**bad adaptation, bad mitigation**).

Methodological approach of adaptation must integrate it to ensure transformative and relevant adaptation's strategies.

Climate change impacts have cascading socio-economic, environmental and societal consequences on human quality of life, access to food and water, household incomes, work capacity. **Important sectors such as agriculture are negatively affected by extreme and graduate climate and weather changes. This will have detrimental economic and well-being impacts on every country, though not equally.** Missed adaptation or maladaptation influence OUR future living conditions. We demand that **no delays or adjournments** be accepted for the effective implementation and operationalization of the Glass work Program.

Vulnerability affects the adaptive capacity of countries and communities. As vulnerability is more than exposure to physical hazards from a climate justice perspective, the following should be incorporated when referring to it: the impact of national and international political economic systems (e.g. trade, public services), as well as social structures and systems (e.g. gender relations, equality and diversity), and their effects on livelihoods, resilience, health/wellbeing, social protection/security, and governance.

However, the need for funding remains the main obstacle for the effective implementation of adaptation actions, in both developed and developing countries. As Young, we insist on how necessary it is to make a **relevant use of these funds**, including:

- **A systemic approach:** adaptation funding should not only focus on infrastructure's investments, physical risks or climate changes' issues. Good adaptation patterns take into account **socio-economic impacts and ensure healthy ecosystems**. To be truly transformative, adaptation strategies must also involve minorities, indigenous people and be gender-sensitive.
- **A long-term vision:** Adaptation measures should ensure that living conditions are sustainable in the time and for future generations.

We ask Parties to develop adaptation's objectives and targets **that highlights those synergies** and necessary coordination between mitigation and adaptation strategies. **Only holistic and systemic pathways can guarantee us a future.** The GGA can just be achieved if all those conditions are formulated correctly and integrated in Globalstocktake Report.

We claim for holistic and integrated approaches at the **technical level as well as policy level.**

As reported in the Executive Summary of the 2022 Adaptation Gap Report; “accounting for inflation, estimated annual adaptation costs/needs are in the range of US\$160–340 billion by 2030 and US\$315–565 billion by 2050. This range is in line with new findings estimating **finance needs of US\$71 billion per year between now and 2030** based on 76 developing countries’ nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs)”. Yet impacts from climate change are soaring in these countries as the last IPCC report highlights, and so are these figures.

In this context, we ask parties to discuss and effectively decide on an operational financial vehicle, first at the SB58 and finalized at the end of COP28.

Despite the creation of this fund at COP27, the operational framework and arrangements have not been developed yet. Civil society must be involved in the definition but also in the operationalisation of the L&D Fund. The fund should be locally driven to be more efficient and inclusive. **We ask that discussions regarding L&D structuration include co-construction with civil society, especially from South Countries, indigenous people, women and minorities.**

In addition, the 2022 Adaptation Gap Report indicates that international adaptation finance flows to developing countries are five to ten times below estimated needs. L&D finance shall thus be constituted of additional funds, not replacing existing ones (Green Fund or Fund for Adaptation). **Financial vehicles must be independent, accessible, immediate, additional and self-supporting.**

The principle of “polluter-pays” should be applied: financial flows from private companies present in the region and involved in the impacts observed there (ng, for example) must be partially used in the constitution of these funds. It could take the form of taxes: on the extraction of fossil fuels, or on international maritime emissions. **We ask for the constitution of a just fund, based on responsibilities of developed countries and for a financial vehicle based on debt reduction or subventions.**

Scope of supported countries and impacts (L&D) still have to be defined, and SB 58 and COP28 must be the place to go forward regarding the scope’s definition. Existing funds focus on how to minimize impacts of climate change but they should not forget to support people who already suffer from the impacts. **Therefore, we ask the new fund not only to focus on early-warning systems (anticipating impacts) or disaster risks financing, but based on effective needs, identified at local level.** L&D funds must include slow-onset processes (raise temperature’s impacts) and produce fast-onset events (disaster). Economic (physical assets) as well as non-economic impacts must be taken into consideration. **Metrics and methodological approaches** that aim at financially evaluating non-economic impacts and those induced by slow-onset processes must be defined in SB 58 and COP28 at least.

Climate change is not gender neutral. Women and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, but also by climate policies. Understanding the system of overlapping dominations as the root of the climate crisis, we defend an intersectional approach to climate action in order to build transformative responses.

Intersectional and transformative adaptation approaches need four main pillars:

Active participation of women and gender minorities in negotiation and delegations. **Women are key actors in building climate-resilient communities.** The perspectives, voices and specific knowledge of women and gender minorities are often missing or disregarded in climate discussions, especially within marginalized communities despite being at the frontline of the climate crisis and thus carrying precious experience and wisdom. **Women are still too under-represented in climate delegations.** In 2020, women's representation ranges from 10% to 56%. Their meaningful involvement has to be strengthened from consultation to implementation. **The UNFCCC must, among other things, draw up an annual report following each COP specifying the status of gender equality in the delegations.**

Climate decisions and policies must be sensitive to gender norms and roles, and carry an intersectional approach to meet the specific needs of disadvantaged groups and overlapping identities. **governments shall commit to participatory, inclusive and gender-transformative climate action plans,** in coherence with global commitments such as the Gender Action Plan. A first step is the creation and processing of **disaggregated data and the use of intersectionality as an analytical grid** for building future policies at all levels and in all sectors. Countries can learn from Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Panama, and Papua New Guinea, considered role models in integrating gender in their NDCs. **The 7th IPCC report** that synthesizes existing research on the differential impacts of climate change on women and men, based on gender-specific data could also be a basis.

Climate financing must be used to advance gender equality through a just transition. A focus should be put on supporting practices that favour women's economic, social and political empowerment. For the moment, **there are no certitudes regarding financial and legal arrangements of L&D funds that ensure that funds will be locally and effectively allocated to disadvantaged people.** New adaptation funds to be developed should take into account the increased vulnerability of women and underprivileged groups, and support solutions based on their experiences, needs and visions. Current financial vehicles, as the Green Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund should encompass this.

All countries must implement sensibilization, training and capacity building of populations. To foster transformative responses, funds must support the population's economic, social, and political empowerment to drive climate resilience and adaptation, especially for women. Financial support must enhance knowledge and skills acquisition and sharing. **In southern as in northern countries,** projects and institutional policies should be developed to engage more men for gender equality and climate justice, especially by challenging patriarchal norms.

Last but not least, it seems essential to stress that **biodiversity can not be forgotten anymore when talking about climate action**. The last **IPCC** report is stressing like no other the mutual dependence between the two crises, so does the Target 8 of the GBF. The **Global Risks Report** of the 2020 World Economic Forum ranked biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as one of the top five threats faced by humanity in the coming decade, **half of the world's GDP depending on nature**. Nature is **OUR** future.

As the first year of the Global Stocktake, the SBs58 and the COP28 must be moments to encourage governments to show that 2023 was not a blank year for global biodiversity action within climate actions, nor should be the years to come. **We think that the negotiations should ensure this.**

Biodiversity targets alone would be inefficient if not encompassed in climate targets. Conversely, climate targets cannot be achieved in the long-term if they lead to biodiversity destruction, as **biodiversity loss worsens climate change**. The last IPCC report shows the huge impacts on the rise of global temperatures on species losses (3.a) and reminds that **every hundredth of degree saved has an impact**.

A lot of carbon-neutral-friendly solutions are inadequate with the health of ecosystem, and can even harm them irreversibly. Long-term solutions are actions that respect the interconnectedness of climate and biodiversity. Especially, there is the need to:

- **Ensure that new renewable energy systems have a minimum impact on the ecosystems they are built on.** The designation of renewables go-to areas has to take into account their biodiversity.
- **Improve ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation.** Offsetting must be a last resort solution and lead to proper, well-designed and well-reported activities.
- **Shift our agricultural systems.** Not only does sustainable agriculture have high mitigation and adaptation potentials but working with nature is an imperative to feed the world population.

The problem of the climate crisis is not just about the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere but in **our obsession to overlook nature. Forget this and you will vote on short-term solutions.**

We thus strongly advocate for a systematic inclusion of biodiversity targets or sub-targets in climate negotiations and projects. Encouraging the integration of biodiversity goals within **national climate action plans, NDCs and NAPs** has a great potential. Some international and well-designed tools which tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss already exist, such as **the Nature-based-Solutions (NbS), when genuinely implemented**. They should be encouraged.

The Covid-crisis raised more than ever the need of **One Health** approaches which we should not forget. It would be shooting ourselves in the foot not to comprehend these issues together, **regarding the danger that represents biodiversity loss to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2050**, that is to say the ultimate goal stressed by the President of the COP28.

**As the last IPCC report has highlighted:
we have the solutions, it is now time to action.**

We need bold, ambitious and long-term ones.

**In order to reach mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity
goals together, strong financial support and comprehensive
designs are needed.**



CliMates is an international NGO created in 2011. It is a lab of ideas and actions about climate change that gathers volunteers, students and young professionals.

We aim at overcoming the challenges of climate change by:

- Developing and promoting innovative actions tools and actions
- Training young people to become actors of change
- Influencing the decision makers