

**YOUTH4
CLIMATE**

Powering Action



In recent years, young people have been the driving force behind a new awareness of environmental issues that has spread all over the world. In particular, thanks to their global action, climate change discourse has expanded exponentially. Their demands are simple: that action be taken urgently and that the political agendas of countries be centered on the climate crisis, which concerns not only our current generation but especially those yet to come.

Today, the voice of youth calls on us to participate and to be present—and it is no longer just a voice of protest, but a demand backed by unwavering commitment.

In answer to this demand from global young people, Italy, in collaboration with the office of the Youth Envoy to the United Nations, Connect4Climate and the United Nations secretariat for climate change, hosted in 2021 the first edition of Youth4Climate, an unprecedented initiative, as part of its COP26 co-presidency of the UNFCCC.

The Youth4Climate event was held in Milan, Italy for the occasion of Pre-COP26, which ran from 28 to 30 September 2021, and represented an opportunity for young people from all over the world to pool their ideas, participate in debates, and map out action on urgent issues. The resulting Youth4Climate Manifesto, drawn up by the young delegates themselves after two days of in-person

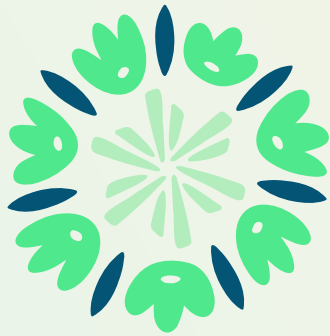
work and months prior of remote collaboration, underscores the pressing need for the significant and lasting involvement of young people in decision-making processes, especially young people from more marginalized and vulnerable communities. It demands that the necessary support be provided to achieve this, including novel capacity-building mechanisms.

Before returning to their home countries, the approximately 400 young people who gathered in Italy from all over the world were able to present their proposals to the environmental ministers of more than 40 countries representing the international community. The Manifesto was later officially presented at COP26.

Thanks to the intuition and impulse of Minister Cingolani, the Youth4Climate initiative has been renewed indefinitely, such that that intergenerational dialogue can proceed uninterrupted. Reducing inequalities, involving young people in decision-making processes, and promoting a public-private aid program are among the proposals that have already emerged, to be implemented as soon as possible.

Global youth face the direct consequences of our inaction and will judge us severely if we don't do something now. We need to be able to look our young people in the eyes and tell them that we have done whatever it takes to protect their future.





YOUTH4 CLIMATE

Today, Youth4Climate is accredited as a global initiative, led by the Italy-UNDP partnership, with a long-term strategic vision aimed at:

- ☀️ promoting climate action and sustainable development through the identification and support of concrete, innovative, youth-led solutions, starting with those contained in the Manifesto;
- ☀️ allowing the sharing of knowledge, opportunities, training, experiences, and resources (dedicated spaces, funding, showcases) through a custom-made virtual space where young people can cultivate a rich community and a multi-stakeholder perspective of the climate crisis;
- ☀️ fostering the development of inclusive, sustainable climate solutions by drawing fully on the plurality of skills and experiences of the world's most vulnerable and indigenous communities at the national, regional, and multilateral levels.

Taking as its starting framework the four macro-themes discussed at the Milan event—Youth Driving Ambition, Sustainable Recovery, Non-State Actors' Engagement and Climate-Conscious Society—as well as their respective sub-themes, Youth4Climate is setting out to involve more and more young people in the field, offer them high-impact opportunities, and implement solutions and projects to actualize the proposals contained in the Manifesto and beyond, all in a continuous process of mutual learning.

The annual Youth4Climate event will be dedicated to enhancing the results achieved by the Initiative from year to year, facilitating and legitimizing the work of young people.

For the current year (2022), our ambition is to bring Youth4Climate to New York for the occasion of the high-level segment of the 77th United Nations General Assembly, to definitively establish our alliance with the United Nations and consolidate this new global platform. On this occasion, under the leadership of Italy, young people will have the opportunity to present and discuss solutions on the four central themes of the Manifesto, exchanging ideas with high-level ambassadors in the most prestigious international forum in existence.

The definition and organization of the event are entrusted to a dedicated committee, mainly composed of young people, which will meet on a monthly basis until the day of the event to decide on the solutions to be presented.



SOLUTIONS

The solutions will be characterized by clear, quantifiable and monitorable objectives and a commitment to combining different disciplines in an innovative way or finding synergies between existing programs and funds. These solutions may in turn galvanize additional projects at the regional, national and local scales.

The event in New York is just the beginning of the support the Youth4Climate Initiative will offer. Indeed, we have planned a full program of opportunities to help young people identify innovative solutions, implement the key proposals contained in the Manifesto, and, more generally, tackle the climate crisis.

More specifically, this component of the initiative will encompass:

- 🌱 **Activities:** mentoring, advocacy support, peer-to-peer learning, networking and partnership development with other UN programs or agencies, as well as with the private sector.
- 🌱 **Grants:** small calls for project funding through mechanisms already in place at UNDP, geared to support the work of youth organizations.
- 🌱 **Coordination:** up to five Youth4Climate Focal Points (UN Volunteers) will be selected and salaried, one for each regional group, to ensure greater coordination and coherence of activities. They will operate in the regional centers of the UNDP but will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Initiative.

PLATFORM

We are creating a stable virtual space, to be launched officially in New York, aimed at promoting networking and training, which will host consultations, events, webinars, and any information relevant to the initiative.

A Champions' Network made up of high-level representatives from international organizations, the scientific community, and the private sector will be tasked with fostering interactions between young people, organizations, and institutions as well as providing knowledge and sharing insightful experiences.





PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



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