



ONE



WORLD

NATIONAL YOUTH CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT 2023



YOUTH4CAN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to all Namibian youth and regional professionals from all the 14 regions, who participated in the inaugural National Youth Climate Change Summit and Namibia LCOY 2023 proceedings and have contributed to the development of the National Youth Climate Change Statement. This demand statement belongs to all of us and we encourage you to support its Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting processes, going forward.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and institutions for their support in shaping and facilitating the development of the statement: Shepherd Nyambe, Diana Andimba (Miss Earth 2022), Aspiring Farmers Association of Namibia, Wakapinya Environmental Education Trust, Women in Agriculture Namibia, City of Windhoek, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, Namibia Nature Foundation, University of Namibia, Climate Development and Knowledge Network, Eduventures, Mdogo Green Solutions, Development Workshop, Bank Windhoek, Namibia Environment and Wildlife Society and, officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's Climate Change Unit for their unwavering support and coordination.

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We, the youth of Namibia, continue to experience the worst effects of climate change, yet, we are not sufficiently engaged in national climate action.

On the 11th to 13th July 2023, Namibian youth from across 14 regions convened the inaugural National Youth Climate Change Summit and Namibia's 2023 Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), in Windhoek to deliberate on pressing challenges impacting the youth, and factors limiting their engagement in climate action in the country. The proceedings were held under the theme 'Empowering Youth for Climate Action', and explored the roles that young people can play as key stakeholders in the implementation and realisation of Namibia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and the National Policy on Climate change.

We, the youth of Namibia, continue to experience the worst effects of climate change, yet, we are not sufficiently engaged in national climate action. In view of this, we hereby take a firm stand to become more involved and drive the climate action agenda, with the purview of supporting the implementation of Namibia's ambitious NDC to ensure a sustainable and green future.

We have considered the seven national priority areas in respect of climate change in Namibia, through a consultative process that involved 28 youth representatives, 14 regional young professionals and 10 youth-led organisations that work in the environmental and sustainability sectors, and, hereby, **declare** the following:

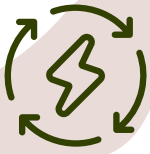
Agriculture and Food Security



With more than half of Namibia's population experiencing food insecurity, we call for the **Government, developmental partners** and the **private sector** to double efforts towards enhancing food security, while ensuring sustainable natural resource management. To this end, **we commit ourselves** to increase our participation in educational programs, workshops and online courses, that will empower us to implement projects and practices that address climate change, while enhancing food security.

However, this alone will not solve it. As such, we further call on the **Government of the Republic of Namibia** to accelerate the implementation of adaptive measures such as capacity building on food storage, sustainable farming practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, organic farming, engagement in community gardens, and urban farming initiatives to enhance local food production. This, we believe, must include the incorporation of agriculture as a compulsory subject in basic education.

Without funding, we understand that this is not possible, we plead with the **Government of the Republic of Namibia, civil society organisations (CSOs)** and the **private sector** to continue mobilizing finance to support the NDC's reach its first quarter targets.



Energy Access and Generation

We have identified funding and skills as critical challenges within Energy Access and Generation, and believe that increased funding, skills transfer and comprehensive training opportunities will enable us to contribute meaningfully to the country's climate development agenda.

We further **recognize** the importance of financial support and skills development in unlocking our potential and fostering our personal and professional growth, particularly in the energy generation sector.



Water Security

We commit to create and participate in platforms that provide national awareness and national community sensitization, with the purview of accelerating greater community participation in enhanced water access efforts.

We further call for accelerated (a) Water and Sanitation bulk infrastructure financing, (b) social investment in community-based waste management and the circular economy, (c) Social Entrepreneurship, (d) investment in renewable energy powered boreholes and (e) increased water harvesting to increase access to clean water.

Lastly, **we call** on increased collaboration with local NGOs, to increase access to WASH through Financing, technical expertise to develop inclusive solutions. Data collection and monitoring systems. Promote international cooperation on transboundary water resources.



Sustainable Land Management and Livelihoods

By 2030, **we demand** that the Namibian government and **private sector** prioritise immediate actions to address the critical challenges of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), by incentivizing environmental protection, restoration and rehabilitation initiatives. **We call** for increased investments in research, innovation, and capacity building to ensure the adoption of resilient land management techniques that safeguard our ecosystems, support rural livelihoods, and mitigate climate change.

Let us unite in forging a sustainable future for Namibia, where our land flourishes, and our communities thrive.



Sustainable Industries and Development

We have found that in order for the NDC policy objectives to be achieved, we must take advantage of available resources and opportunities to be active and productive towards climate action and sustainable development.

In the same vein, **the government** is urged to come up with mechanisms of identifying and supporting innovative project from early stages instead of waiting for positive results from pilot projects, develop digitalised capacity building initiatives sustainable industries on emerging and to establish sustainable industrial driven development projects which are youth inclusive.

We the Namibian **youth**, **demand development partners** to ensure that all grants provided are accompanied with skills development, mentorship programmes, and invest in technology transfer through collaborative initiatives.



Resilient Infrastructure

We the **youth** of Namibia **commit** to be pro-active, equipped and to create task-force platforms. **We** also **request** Investments in Sustainable eco-friendly smart technology and materials, prioritizing social development for vulnerable communities.

We commit to ensure rural development programs are climate resilient (Climate resilient development). This includes regular maintenance of road infrastructures and investment in agricultural infrastructure and extension services. We look forward to the support from **Development Partners** to offer development grants and scholarships to train youth in climate resilience and adaptation. **Invest** in vocational training centers for technical capacity.



Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning System

We urge our fellow Namibian **youth** to identify the gaps in disaster risk management and Disaster Risk Reduction to be able to take up space and develop outreach programmes which entails information dissemination, capacity building and research and eventually constitute functional DRM Committees at the grassroots level. **We** further would like to **request** the **government** to establish accessible mobile outreach facilities in all 14 regions by 2030.

We also would like to **request development partners** and the **government** to avail funding and invest in rehabilitating the established health facilities in the communities and support youth-led initiatives within this priority area.



OVERALL STATEMENT

From this Summit, **we** got to understand that the NDC will not become a reality without meaningful shifts towards the green economy, and these shifts won't be achieved if there not enough technical capacities and financial resources. **We**, therefore, have identified capacity building as a cross cutting issue. We need to be equipped with necessary skills, knowledge and technologies to be able to drive a low carbon and climate resilient development of the Land of the Brave, Mother | Nature | Africa and of the Planet in general.

So, we submit!





National Youth Climate Change Statement
2023