

Youth Statement

We agree upon the following paragraph to feed into the Outcome Statement of the CCDA X Conference held in Windhoek, in October 2022. The youth moving forward to the next CCDA demand visibility in climate actions from our governments and an AU focused on young people. They need more space to showcase their actions. The youth and women must be represented in the opening ceremony and included more in various panels.

“Intergenerational Equity and Mainstreaming Youth Participation towards meaningful, effective and transformative engagement:

Acknowledging the African Youth Charter Article 19 on Sustainable Development and Protection of the Environment and the Preamble Paragraph on the Principle of Inter-generational Equity in the Paris Agreement.

Noting that Africa has the youngest population disproportionately impacted by climate change and harnessing its demographic dividend can lead to empowered climate-resilient generations and proactive citizens in national response measures. Public education, public awareness and access to information and disaster-risk reduction capacity-building are key.

Concerned with the rising youth unemployment considering around 11 million Africans enter the job market but only up to 3 million jobs are created, there is a need for interventions to create green and decent employment for Africa’s youth.

Climate Finance: African governments and development partners should enhance access to climate finance for young people by de-risking them and establishing systems, processes, and institutions to enable means of implementation.

Participation: African Youth voices matter in the global environmental discourse and policies and investment opportunities should be relevant and youth inclusive. Facilitate the participation of African Youth in global climate change and intergovernmental and decision-making processes.

Green Jobs and Energy: African governments must create enabling environments and enforce policies supporting green jobs to embrace circular economies and the restoration of lost ecosystems. Young people should be mainstreamed in the renewable energy sector such as green hydrogen and solar independent power production.

Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer:

Promote intergenerational transfer of knowledge and groom youth to be skilled professionals, leaders, and effective climate negotiators through intergenerational dialogues and partnerships.

References:

Africa employment statistics: <https://1millionby2021.au.int/employment>

African Youth Charter: <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-youth-charter>