



Toolkit for Young Climate Activists
in the Middle East and North Africa Region/Arab States Region

**VOLUME II : TOOLS FOR
CLIMATE ACTION**

PREFACE

We, as young people, are agents of change in different sections of society. We are not being left behind in climate action: our voices are being increasingly heard and we are demanding the right to participate fully. In fact, our participation is a right that should be central to the formulation of public policy.



The Toolkit for Young Climate Activists in the Middle East and North Africa was created by young people who, like you, are concerned about our planet's situation and who, as activists, have faced many challenges when advocating and taking action.

Our goal is to share clear, concise, easily understandable information that describes the course that global, regional, and national climate action is taking, to prepare you for meaningful and informed participation.

The booklets are designed so you can read them and deepen your knowledge on each of the topics. You can use them to build and consult them independently according to your needs.

THIS BOOKLET USES THE TERMS YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO REFER TO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 10 AND 24 YEARS OLD

0 TO 17

10 TO 18

10 TO 24

15 TO 24



Volume I

Climate glossary for young people:

Important concepts and definitions that every climate activist needs to know.

Volume II

Tools for climate action:

Key tools for making progress towards the global climate action goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other tools.

Volume III

What is climate governance?

Information about climate governance and the decision-making process at the national and international levels, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, how it works and the mechanisms for participation.

Volume IV

The Paris Agreement for young people:

Details of the Agreement, its importance, and all its articles in simple language.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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This toolkit has been updated and revised for the MENA region based on feedback from young people in this region.



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YOUNGO	Constituency of Youth NGOs





INTRODUCTION

Tools for climate action are fundamental as they allow progress to be made towards achieving the objectives for global climate action established in the Paris Agreement. These objectives are based on the following main themes: **mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.**



We begin by introducing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.



Here, we are going to learn about RICCAR, a regional initiative to provide a common platform for assessing, addressing and identifying regional climate change challenges.



We then look in detail at other tools that are linked to the Paris Agreement and that frame the actions and plans of countries as they strive to meet the targets of the global climate agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Finally, we propose concrete actions to promote the use of the tools in your country.

The SDGs are the global framework for sustainable development which set targets that can guide countries in the formulation and implementation of national development plans.

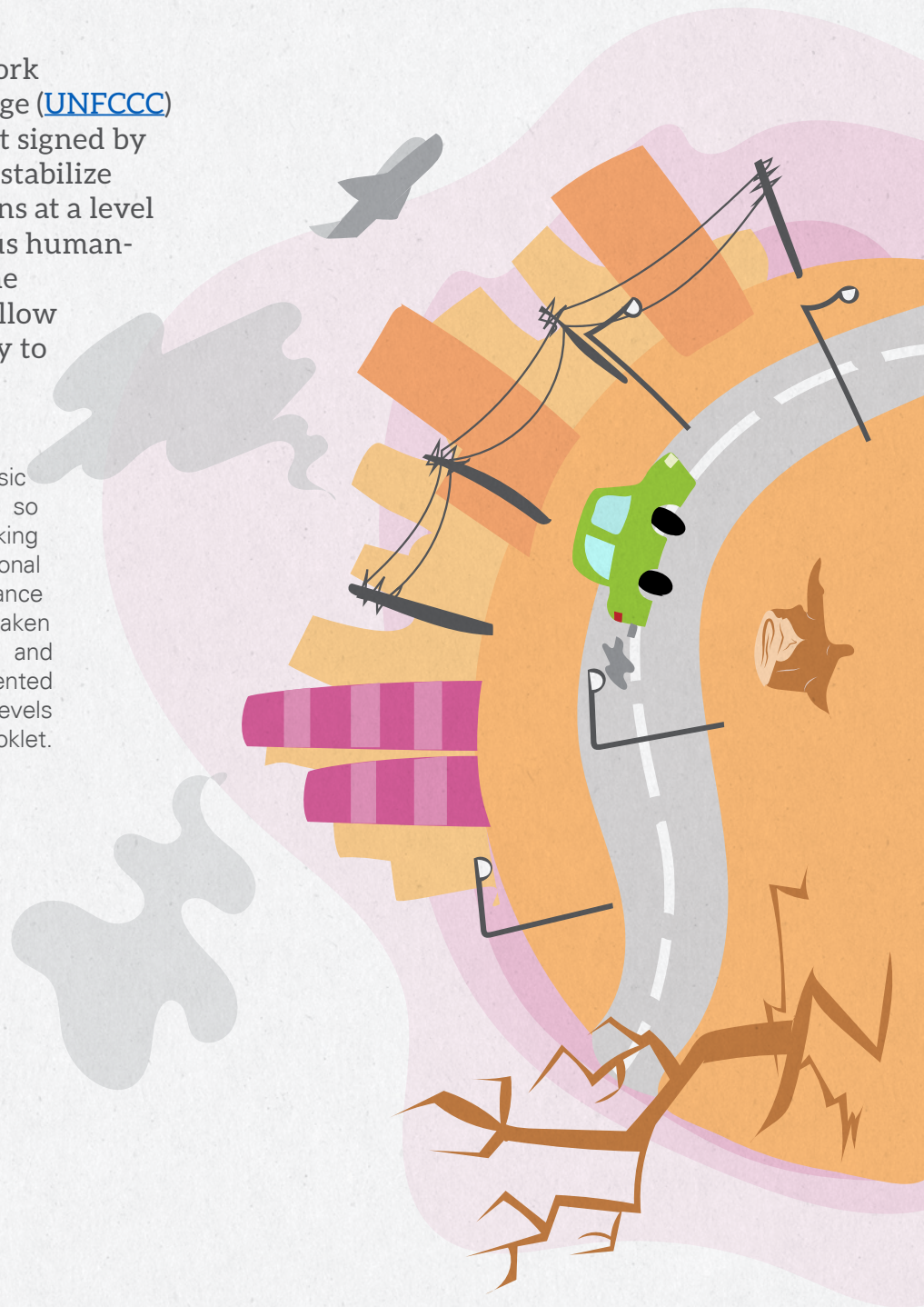


UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



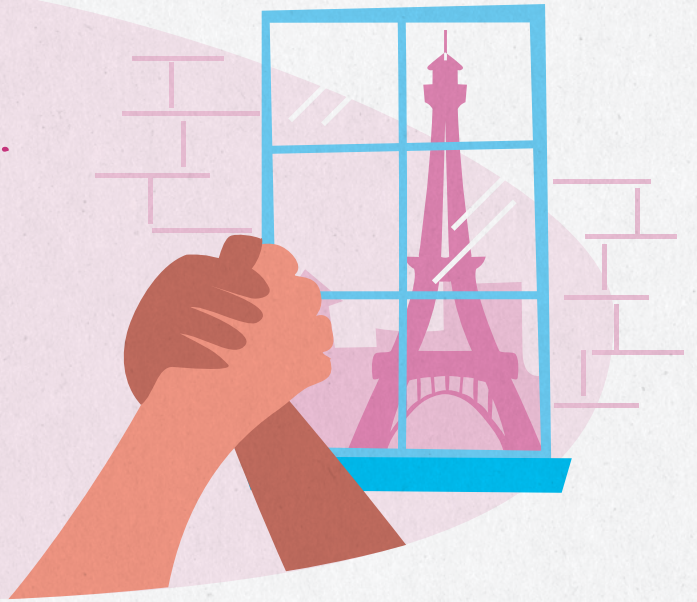
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) is an international agreement signed by 197 Parties. Its objective is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system. This would allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.

This Agreement establishes the basic mechanisms and entities needed so that climate-related decision making processes can function at the international level. It is the basic tool for the governance of climate action. The decisions taken as a result of the UNFCCC direct and define climate actions implemented at the global, national and local levels using the tools presented in this booklet.



THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement was created by the UNFCCC with the aim of redirecting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit the planet's average temperature increase. It is an international agreement that commits countries to ambitious climate actions with respect to **mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage**.



The Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015 in Paris, France) changed the course of global climate action. It united nations behind the common cause of undertaking ambitious actions to tackle climate change, adapt to its various effects and ensure adequate support for developing countries.


The Agreement was developed during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and has been signed by 195 Parties. The COP is part of the UNFCCC.


The Agreement calls for countries to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help societies and ecosystems adapt better to climate change. Participation is voluntary and countries are not penalized if they do not meet their commitments. Civil society therefore plays a critical role in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement at the national and local levels.

There are two main bodies that ensure that the Agreement is applied, and its terms are met:

The Paris agreement:

- * The Agreement is a key instrument for complying with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.
- * It prioritizes safeguarding food security and ending hunger.
- * It also notes the importance of protecting all ecosystems (including oceans) and biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as 'Mother Earth'.

 **The Conference of the Parties:** serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), which represents the countries that signed the Agreement, acts as the supreme body overseeing the Agreement's implementation and takes the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation.¹

 **The Secretariat of the UNFCCC,** which organizes the sessions of the annual conferences, receives reports from the countries and provides them with assistance.²



Why is the Paris Agreement important?

→ Because of its ambition and goals

- › It sets ambitious targets for climate action in countries.
- › It promotes commitments to limit this century's average global temperature increase to no more than 2°C, and pursues additional efforts to limit the increase to only 1.5°C.
- › It seeks to increase country level capacity for adaptation to climate change.
- › It lays the foundation for a shift to low-emission, climate-resilient development models.
- › It aims to achieve a balance between greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

→ Because of its content:

- › It promotes climate change **mitigation and adaptation** measures, which include strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability, and increasing and conserving natural areas that have the capacity to absorb greenhouse gases.
- › It promotes **innovation and technology transfer** to improve resilience and provide an effective response to the impacts of climate change in the medium and long term.
- › It addresses the **damages and losses** associated with the adverse effects of climate change, which occur when adaptation is no longer possible, and it recognizes the importance of supporting countries suffering from such effects.
- › It establishes mechanisms for **voluntary cooperation among countries** by facilitating the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Attention!

A 'balance' between emissions and removals is not enough; we need to absorb much more than we emit to compensate for all the years that we have been emitting rather than absorbing.

Mitigation: The reduction of sources of greenhouse gas emissions or the increase in sinks (natural areas that absorb greenhouse gas emissions).

Adaptation: The process of adjusting natural or human systems to the actual or expected climate or its effects in order to moderate adverse effects or benefit from opportunities.

NDCs: Each country's commitments to address climate change at the national level, taking into account its priorities and capacities.

→ Because it calls for action, collaboration and accountability:

- › **Action:** All measures adopted should be reflected in **NDCs**, which are the actions that each country decides to take to address climate change. The contributions should be highly ambitious, so that the objectives of the Agreement are met, and adapted to the reality of each country, taking into account its priorities and capacities.
- › **Collaboration:** The Agreement proposes that developed countries support developing countries with its implementation through measures such as capacity-building and funding for implementing actions.
- › **Accountability:** It establishes a **transparency framework** that offers a clear vision of climate action in each country, the progress made and the support given or received by the different countries. This transparency framework has flexibility to take into account the capacities of developing nations.

➔ **Because of its relationship to human rights:**

- › The Agreement recognizes the importance of protecting and respecting human rights in all climate actions. Those rights are, principally: the right to health, development, gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, people with disabilities, people in vulnerable situations and children.

➔ **Because of the importance of citizen participation**

- › The Agreement sets ambitious goals, but actions by countries are voluntary. **It is extremely important that civil society, including young people and adolescents, exercises its right to participate and be involved in defining national plans and climate targets, and demands that those targets be met.**
- › It is important to create different mechanisms to integrate social actors. Among the most important are YOUNGO (Youth+NGO), which officially represents children and young people in the UNFCCC, and the United Nations Major Group on Children and Youth (MGCY). There are also many other organizations and networks that were founded by and for young people so that they can participate and be involved in climate decisions³. We advise you to find out what organizations and networks exist in your country.



TOOLS FOR COMPLYING WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT

In order to meet global climate action goals, it is imperative that they be integrated into each country level national action plans. One way to do this is through the formulation of guidelines and policies.

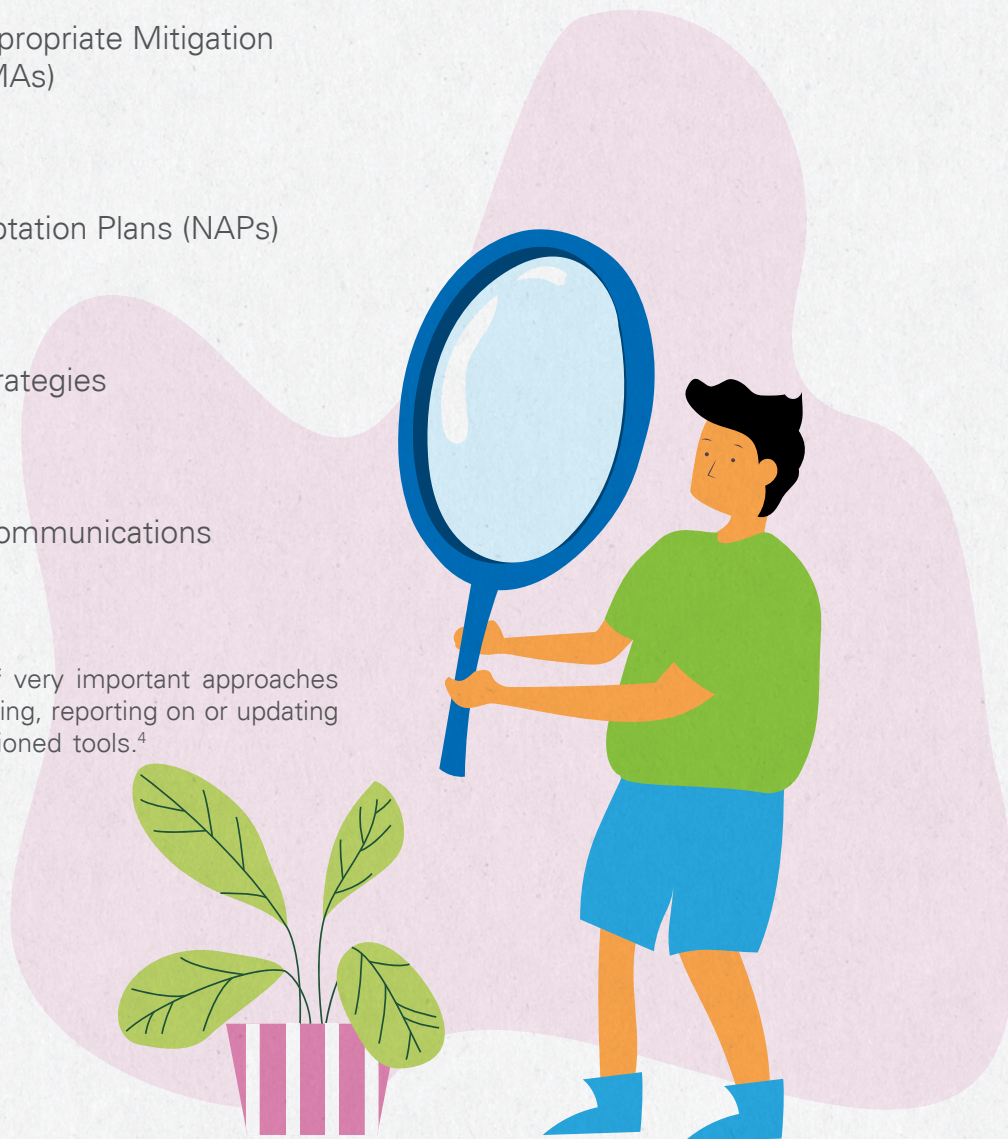
There are tools that countries use to align themselves with global goals.

These tools are:

- NDCs
- Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- Long-term strategies
- Adaptation Communications

There are a number of very important approaches to consider when planning, reporting on or updating any of the above-mentioned tools.⁴

For you, as a young activist, these approaches can serve as a guide for participating in the development of national plans or strategies; they can help you ensure that your proposals are taken into consideration during development or review processes, so you can secure the highest possible level of ambition.



EIGHT APPROACHES TO RAISE AMBITION

1

Human rights and children's rights approach:

The actions proposed should be in line with the protection of human rights and especially the rights of children and adolescents, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This unique stage of physiological and emotional development exposes them to greater risks with potentially lifelong consequences. The most vulnerable children face the greatest risks of climate-related impacts as they threaten their limited capacity to cope with adversity.

2

Intergenerational approach:

Children have high vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Children and adolescents will live longer and bear the brunt of the damage, impacts and instability caused by climate change. The consultation processes at the various stages of developing and implementing the tools for climate action should take into account the different perspectives of present and future generations. It is therefore necessary that children and adolescents are included and participate in these processes.

3

Climate justice approach:

Actions should promote equity, reduce social inequalities and prevent vulnerabilities to climate change from increasing. It is essential to recognize the differentiated impacts of climate change, as well as the differentiated responsibilities and capacities of individuals or countries. This is based on the principle that not all people have contributed equally to the generation of greenhouse gas emissions and that climate actions should not result in any form of discrimination or negative impact.

4

Gender approach:

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change; due to the socioeconomic inequality they typically experience. Actions should promote equal and effective participation that enables women to contribute fully to the planning, formulation and implementation of policies and strategies. Their experiences and views are critical for effective climate action.

5

Holistic and multisectoral approach:

To achieve low-carbon climate resilience, climate change should be addressed as a cross-cutting issue, linking to other issues such as education, health, food security, water and sanitation, housing and social protection.

6

Transparency and access to public information approach:

The tools for climate action should have mechanisms that allow for the monitoring and evaluation of actions, guarantee the exchange of information, and provide for and implement access to public information.

7

Empowerment of children, adolescents and young people approach:

It is important to generate and implement guidelines that seek to integrate children, adolescents and young people into decision-making processes and that promote their empowerment. This allows them to increase their response capacity and collaborate in reducing their vulnerability. In addition, children and adolescents can take an active role in local and global climate action, with school climate demonstrations an example of this. It is important to ensure access to information and to build capacity and knowledge so that children and adolescents can participate at the different levels of climate governance.

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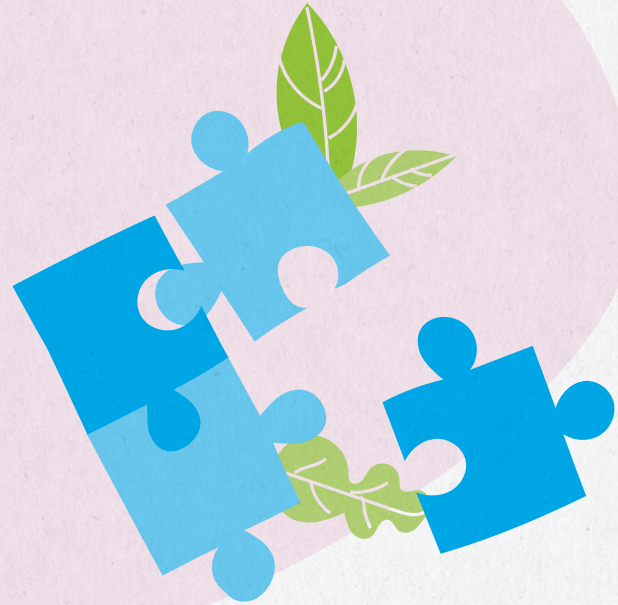
Citizen participation approach:

The process of formulating, implementing and monitoring these tools should involve the participation of citizens, including children and adolescents, so that the diverse perspectives that exist in relation to climate action are integrated into the tools. Necessary mechanisms should be developed to make this possible.⁵

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

NDCs were created in 2013 during the Lima Call for Climate Action, with the objective that countries would independently determine the contributions they would make to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. These served as the basis for the creation of the Paris Agreement, which includes the contributions as tools for achieving the objectives at the national level.

The call was successful: almost all the countries submitted contributions. However, the proposals and ambition of each country's contributions were insufficient in relation to the global **climate goals**.



➔ What are NDCs?

NDCs are the commitments made by the countries that ratified the Paris Agreement to achieve global climate goals.

Each country sets the level of ambition of its contribution, meaning the country decides the climate mitigation actions that it will implement in order to:

- › Limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C.
- › Achieve a balance of zero emissions through carbon reduction and sequestration by 2050.

Some important points:



Each country determines its own contributions. The Paris Agreement calls for contributions to be ambitious and progressive (countries should submit new contributions every five years).



From 2023, a global stocktake will be conducted every five years to review progress and generate recommendations.



→ NDCs include:

- › The actions that countries are committed to take to address climate change.
- › Mitigation objectives, i.e. actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to increase sinks (natural areas that capture greenhouse gases).
- › Strengthening measures for the implementation of the contributions.
- › Actions for transparency, such as measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of actions.

Optionally, countries can integrate objectives for adaptation and for addressing loss and damage caused by the adverse effects of climate change.

→ Conditional and Unconditional NDCs

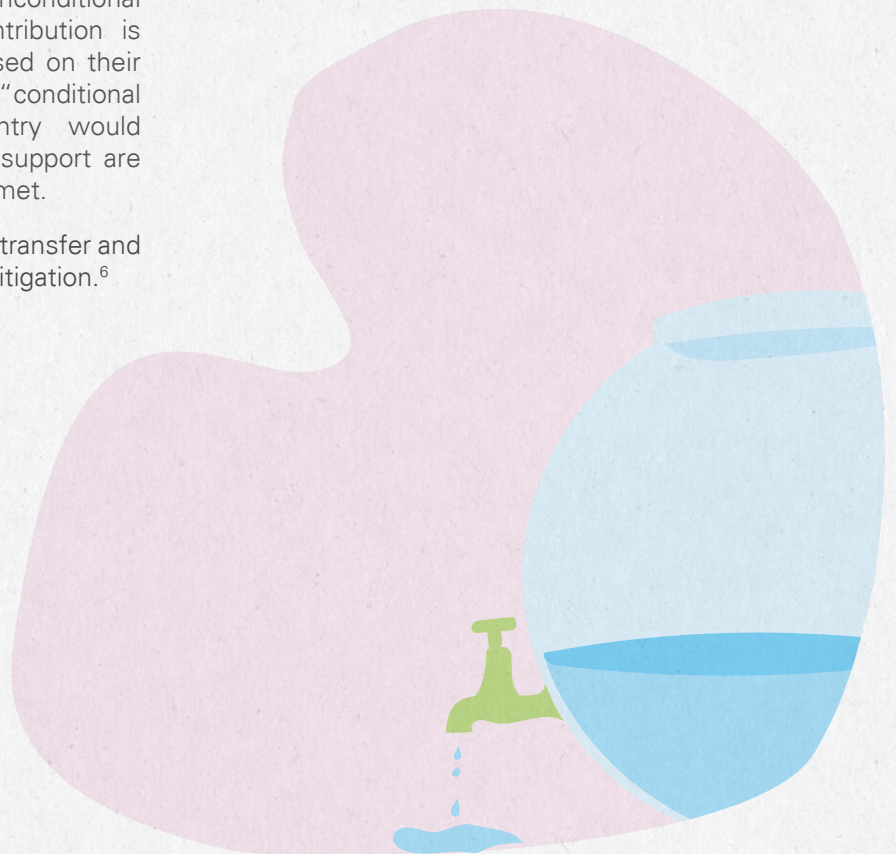
When preparing NDCs, some countries attached conditions to the implementation of some measures. These are referred to as conditional contributions, in contrast to unconditional contributions. An unconditional contribution is what countries could implement based on their own resources and capabilities, a “conditional contribution” is one which country would undertake if international means of support are provided, or other conditions are met.

Objectives can also cover technology transfer and capacity-building for adaptation and mitigation.⁶

→ Development and updating of NDCs

Most of the countries of the Convention (194 countries) submitted their first contributions, but the formulation processes took place without much participation from civil society. In 2020, the first stage of updating and delivering the second contributions began, coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, various countries have chosen to participate virtually in the consultation processes aimed at updating the new contributions.⁷

The updating process is carried out every five years. It is important to know when the next contributions update will take place in your country, as it is a great opportunity to influence and participate in the formulation of national actions.



NDC CONTRIBUTION'S TIMELINE



The process for updating contributions depends on each country. Some general steps that countries can take include the following:

- › Analyse the progress made with the previous contribution.
- › Set a new goal with greater ambition and a longer time frame than the current one or enhance the current goal.
- › Conduct a new analysis on mitigation action options, their potential impacts and the cost benefit of each option.
- › Formulate new actions or strengthen the actions of the previous contribution through working teams that involve their country's different sectors (at this point it is important to consider sectors that were not previously taken into account).
- › Outline key adaptation priorities for the country.
- › Develop more robust transparency systems.

Once the contributions are prepared, each country is required to submit them to the UNFCCC Secretariat and register them in a public contribution registry. Contributions should be successive, cover a five-year period and show progressively greater ambition.

For a contribution to be implemented, it is necessary to establish the appropriate processes and institutional structures to drive and coordinate climate action. In addition, it is important to monitor implementation to understand which measures work best and why. It is also necessary to apply the lessons learned.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY

Long-term strategies provide confidence in terms of a country's planning for implementing the Paris Agreement. They serve as a road map for future NDCs, which should be increasingly ambitious. They also improve conditions for implementing NAMAs.



→ What are they?

They are national strategies that countries develop to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the long term. These strategies look forward to the middle of the century, establish guidelines for the development of possible future investments and provide favourable public policy frameworks. Long-term strategies also help countries align their national development objectives with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which is a global long-term strategy.

→ Why are long-term strategies important?

They are important because they can support the implementation of long-term policies related to development pathways and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, charting a path towards sustainable development and increased climate resilience. Such strategies should cover all economic sectors and include clear time frames for phasing out fossil fuels. They also provide a solid basis for demanding that the proper authorities take appropriate action.

Generally, long-term strategies include:



Long-term transformation measures focused on investment processes and the design, planning and development of public policies.



The level of ambition needed for the country to make progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



NATIONALLY APPROPRIATE MITIGATION ACTIONS



NAMAs are not explicitly mentioned in the Paris Agreement. However, they are seen as voluntary planning tools that contribute to achieving the Paris Agreement's objectives aimed at limiting the increase in average global temperature. They can be understood as locally developed actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which generate possible targets to be incorporated into the contributions.



➔ What are they?

NAMAs are the actions that reduce countries' greenhouse gas emissions. They function as an umbrella tool for locally developed mitigation initiatives, aiming to bring about transformational change within the economy of a country or sector (e.g. the agricultural sector). Countries are supported by technology, international financing and capacity-building to carry out these actions.

NAMAs are composed of two main elements:

-  General activities: a series of specific actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which also include key requirements such as funding, technology transfer and capacity-building.
-  The MRV framework: this consists of a series of activities aimed at measuring, reporting and verifying the effectiveness of proposed actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁸

Implementation may vary depending on the type of funding. There are two types of NAMA: the supported NAMA, which receives support from international cooperation, multilateral and bilateral banks and the private sector; and the unilateral NAMA, which receives only domestic financing.⁹



NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN


NAPs were instrumental in the debate on the inclusion of the concept of adaptation in the Paris Agreement.


The Paris Agreement specifies targets and the obligations of countries with respect to adaptation and states that countries should adopt, formulate and implement NAPs.



→ What are they?

NAPs are a planning tool with the following objectives:

 Reduce vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change by enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience.

 Facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant policies, programmes and activities.

A NAP should be transparent, gender-sensitive and participatory, and based on a human rights approach, scientific and local knowledge and ecosystems. It should give special consideration to the groups and individuals most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Usually, A NAP includes:

- › Guidelines needed to develop the knowledge that will inform decision-making on adaptation at the national level.
- › Capacity-building that facilitates the development of the necessary actions for adaptation in the country.

The structure and form of these plans vary from country to country, and may include sectoral plans, for example in the biodiversity or fisheries sectors. As with any planning process, the NAP design process will have variable results, including national adaptation plans, programmes and policies.

Throughout the process of formulating and implementing NAPs, the most vulnerable groups or individuals should be directly and indirectly involved to ensure the inclusion of special measures to promote the resilience of these individuals or groups.

→ What is the relationship between the NAP and loss and damage?

Even if the NAP adaptation measures are implemented correctly, there is always a residual risk. In other words, complete adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change cannot always be achieved. The adverse effects of climate change have resulted in impacts that people have not been able to cope with or adapt to, and that can lead to loss or damage, such as loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, loss of income and damage to infrastructure.¹⁰



ADAPTATION COMMUNICATIONS

It is important to monitor the various areas that the Paris Agreement covers in order to achieve successful implementation. To achieve the global goal of adaptation, each country should establish adaptation communications and register these with the Convention Secretariat.

Such communications also serve to encourage good practices in national adaptation and planning.



➔ What should they include?

The Paris Agreement is not specific about the content of adaptation communications or the form they should take. However, there are different views on what they should include, for example:

- › How adaptation actions will strengthen the resilience of local communities and ecosystems.
- › Information on the involvement of different stakeholders in the planning and implementation of adaptation actions.
- › Transparent information on the availability of resources for adaptation actions, the allocation of funds and the need for adaptation activities at national and local levels.
- › Information on relevant national and local policies that promote adaptation and resilience to climate change.¹¹
- › The country's climate action review cycle and new or revised proposals and contributions, i.e. to function as though they were part of the NDC cycle.¹²
- › Information that allows the progress of the global inventories to be evaluated.¹³



ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is a tool that works as a cross-cutting approach for the other tools described in this booklet. ACE emerged from efforts to comply with article 6 of the UNFCCC and now also relates to compliance with article 12 of the Paris Agreement. It forms part of the international agreements that the Paris Agreement countries are expected to promote. See details in Volume 4: Paris Agreement for Young People



Each country has a National Focal Point tasked with monitoring the Agreement and providing communication reports on progress.

→ What are the components of ACE?

Education: through education an understanding can be gained on the causes of and possible approaches to addressing climate change. In addition, children and adolescents develop capacities that allow them to respond and make decisions when faced with the negative impacts of climate change.

Training: it is necessary to build capacity to mobilize actions that support the transformation towards new economic models and towards societies that are sustainable and resilient in the face of the adverse effects of climate change.

Public awareness: the climate struggle should be common to all individuals and groups. Public awareness can lead to the social transformations that support climate action.

Public participation: the right to public

participation should be guaranteed so that people, including children and adolescents, can have a voice in the decisions that affect them. In addition, the right to participation allows young people, adolescents and children to demand action in response to the negative impacts of climate change.

Public access to information: the right to access information should also be guaranteed so that people, including children and adolescents, can be aware of the impacts they may experience and the possible effects that some climate change actions may have.

International cooperation: all countries can benefit from the exchange of experiences, knowledge and successful actions, as well as from the strengthening of institutional capacities and access to financing, which make climate action more powerful.



OTHER UNFCCC TOOLS

There are other UNFCCC tools that can be used to support the implementation and fulfilment of the Paris Agreement. One of these tools is the national communication, through which countries report periodically on greenhouse gas inventories and other details of the implementation of climate actions. Countries are required to submit their national communication to the UNFCCC every four years.



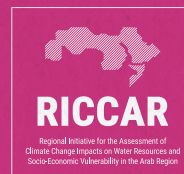
Countries should also send an update of their national communication, known as a Biennial Update Report (BUR), every two years.

Countries report updates of their national circumstances and national greenhouse gas inventories, as well as progress made with respect to mitigation measures, existing financing needs, access to technology and capacity-building.

Other tools include the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is the leading international scientific body working on climate change assessment. The IPCC produces three reports containing scientific information and analysis from experts around the world. The reports are the products of the following three working groups:¹⁴

- › Physical science basis of climate change.
- › Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability.
- › Mitigation of climate change.





→ Introduction

The Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) is the outcome of the first Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change (2007), which recognized the potential impacts that climate change may have on development in the Arab region. The Declaration called for a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable developing countries, including Arab States, as well as the need to identify priorities and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation programs at the national and regional levels.

→ Partnerships

RICCAR is implemented through an inter-agency collaborative partnership involving 11 partner organizations, namely ESCWA, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the League of Arab States Secretariat, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Cairo Office, UN Environment, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Funding is provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which financially support RICCAR through the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region (ACCWaM) project.

→ Objectives

The regional initiative aims to assess the impacts of climate change on freshwater resources in the Arab region and to examine the implications of these impacts for socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability based on regional specificities. It does so through the application of scientific methods and consultative processes that are firmly grounded in enhancing access to knowledge, building capacity, and strengthening institutions for climate change assessment in the Arab region. In doing so, RICCAR provides a common platform for assessing, addressing, and identifying regional climate change challenges, which, in turn, inform dialogue, priority setting, policy formulation and responses to climate change at the Arab regional level.

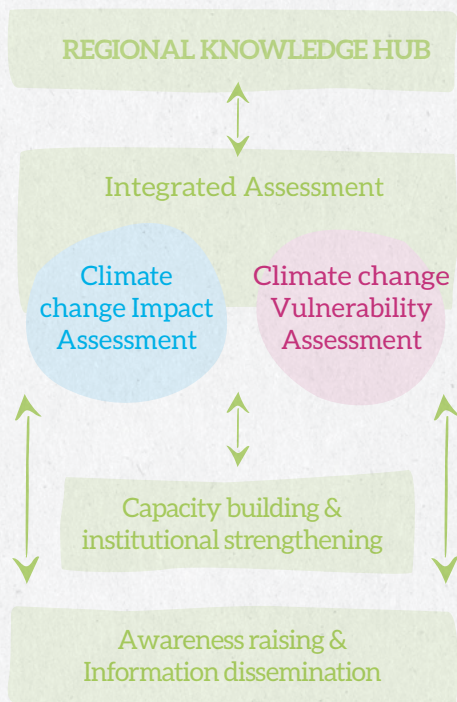
→ The implementation framework of RICCAR

ESCWA serves as coordinator of the regional initiative and provides regular reporting to AMWC and APCM on RICCAR-related activities.

It is structured around four pillars of work consisting of:

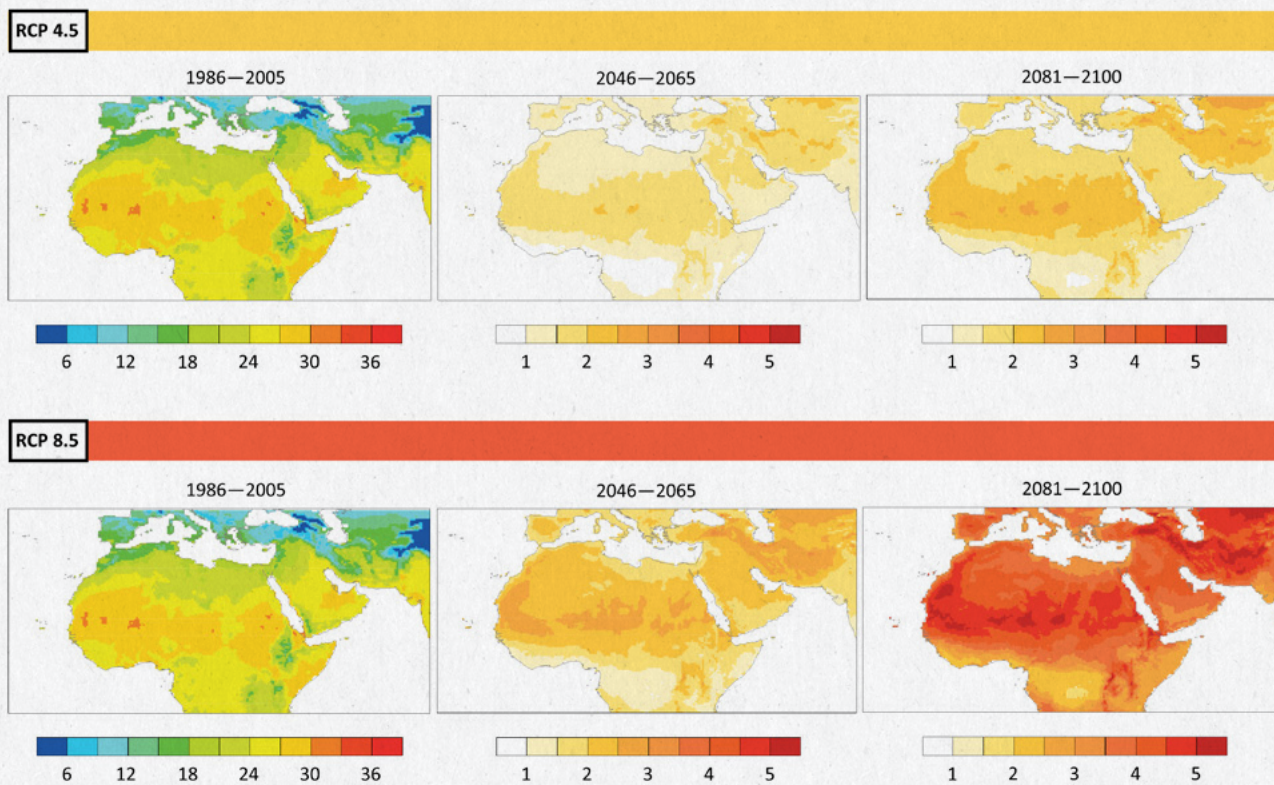
- 1 a baseline review and set-up of a regional knowledge hub;
- 2 an integrated assessment consisting of impact assessment and vulnerability assessment components;
- 3 awareness-raising and information dissemination;
- 4 and capacity-building and institutional strengthening.





➔ Expected outputs of the initiative

It is expected that results and findings from the initiative will provide a regional, science-based assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability based on uniform and harmonized datasets and assumptions, which can inform further climate change research and foster dialogue among Arab States about priority issues, challenges and opportunities for collective action. Ultimately, it also provides a regional baseline, regional datasets and assessment outputs that can, in turn, be used to inform and prepare smaller-scale assessments at the sub-regional, national, and local levels.



Mean change in temperature for mid- and end-century for ensemble of three RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 projections compared to the reference period



ACT! CONCRETE ACTIONS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF THE TOOLS IN YOUR COUNTRY

It is important to know that you can influence the processes used to formulate and implement the tools. You can use existing consultation and participation mechanisms to achieve this. If these processes do not exist in your country, it is a good time to create them or to advocate the adoption of inclusive consultation processes.

The following are a series of concrete actions you can take according to the tool used.

1 UNFCCC

- Join other youth organizations that participate in the UNFCCC in order to work together in this space and that represent different groups, including young people (YOUNGO), environmental organizations, indigenous people or women and gender.

2 PARIS AGREEMENT

- Learn more about this Agreement in the 'Volume 4: Paris Agreement for Young People' booklet. It is important to be familiar with the Agreement in order to work on its objectives and commitments.

3 NDCs

- Advocate the creation of mechanisms to involve adolescents and youth in the processes of formulating, implementing and updating NDCs. Participate in NDC processes to contribute your perspective, knowledge and experience of climate change issues.

- Conduct youth consultations on NDCs to bring suggestions, opinions and ideas for improvement to decision makers and thereby increase ambition.

- Monitor the results of the different parts of the NDC process so that areas for improvement, where you can help, may be identified

4 LONG TERM AGREEMENTS

- Advocate the integration of youth as an element of the long-term strategy.

- Participate in the process of building, implementing and monitoring the long-term strategy, with the aim of making it truly ambitious.

- Train future generations (adolescents and children) on climate advocacy issues for youth so that lessons learned are passed on from generation to generation and so the movement is continually improving.



5 NAMAS

- Advocate the creation of mechanisms to involve adolescents and youth in the processes of formulating, implementing and monitoring NAMAs.
- Participate in the development of the NAMA for your sector.
- Disseminate and communicate simplified information about NAMAs to draw the attention of more young people and increase monitoring of the actions' implementation.
- Raise awareness of the importance of NAMAs.

6 NAP

- Young people are one of the groups vulnerable to climate change, making it necessary to work on their adaptation and resilience. One way to do this is by integrating youth as an element of the NAP.
- Disseminate and communicate simplified information on NAPs to draw the attention of more young people and increase monitoring of the plans' implementation.
- Raise awareness of the importance of NAPs.

7 ADAPTATION COMMUNICATIONS

- Monitor adaptation communications to find out where the country needs to improve.
- Involve more young people and share what you have learned. The communications will provide you with data on which to base your advocacy for improved adaptation measures.

8 ACE

- Urge your country to adopt an ACE strategy. If it already exists, find out how it is being implemented in your country.
- Mobilize partners to support adolescent and youth movements, as a mean of tackling climate change.
- Organize or join an awareness-raising campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of climate change, its effects and the action that young people can take to mitigate its potential impacts.
- Generate spaces for training and education on issues related to climate change so that adolescents and young people can make decisions and take action in an informed manner.
- Guarantee the right of access to information through databases that are accessible to young people and information campaigns.
- Contact the ACE Focal Point in your country to organize meetings, talks or events to inform more young people.
- Insist that the ACE contact be updated on the official platforms.
- During the COPs, participate in the ACE Dialogues and share your feedback and perspective.

9 OTHER UNFCCC TOOLS

- Monitor your country's climate reports.
- By reading these reports we obtain information that we can use to develop climate action in our community and country.
- Share information on your social networks.

Remember that young people are agents of change and that we can help to build a new type of development.

BE INSPIRED!

Youth participation experiences

Here are some national experiences of youth participation in climate action processes which may inspire and encourage you to take similar actions.

Energy in Jordan - A Youth Perspective Position Paper

Youth members of the Green Generation Foundation make their voices and demands heard so that they are reflected in national and subnational energy and climate policies and ensure effective participation in various fora.

Actions taken:

- Learned about energy and climate issues in Jordan through several training sessions.
- Worked closely with energy and climate experts and representatives from the Ministry of Environment.
- Conducted extensive research to write the first position paper for the energy and climate sectors from a youth perspective in Jordan.

Challenges:

- Lack of information and evidence for young people to develop the position paper.
- Building trust and showing their capabilities to decision-makers.
- Lack of participation in previous processes could have prevented us from participating in the projects.

Outcomes:

- Wrote the first position paper for the energy and climate sectors from a youth perspective in Jordan. It was presented at a special ceremony in the presence of the Executive Director of Jordan Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Fund (JREEEF) and recommendations were included in the country's energy and climate plans.
- Two young people had the chance to attend COP24 as part of the official negotiation mission of the Ministry of Environment.
- Raised awareness among young people on climate change and the importance of youth participation in climate policy.



We want climate education in Tunisia

Since the establishment of Alshabiba Movement for Climate in Tunisia in 2019, their core demand has been to include climate education in Tunisian curriculum. The reason is the lack of knowledge among young people about climate change issues. Climate change is presented by some of the subjects taught in schools but without going in depth or addressing it in a way that allows them to understand the challenges and build awareness of the seriousness of climate changes.

Actions taken:

- Wrote posts on social media platforms, which was met with positive interaction and support by young people, professors and even parents.
- Took to the street to demonstrate in front of the municipal theater in the capital, Tunis, where slogans were raised calling for the inclusion of climate education in the education curricula.
- The “Greenpeace Middle East and North Africa” was contacted to help achieve the goal, and joint working sessions and meetings were held.
- Production of a video in cooperation with Tunisian actress Henda Sabry, which deals with the effects of climate change in the short, medium and long term, emphasizing the need to include climate education.
- Organized seminars with environmental experts and activists.

Challenges:

- The lack of funding to formulate a comprehensive environmental educational program with qualified environmental and educational experts.
- The lack of interest and interaction of local authorities and the media at the beginning of the initiative.
- Lack of scientific knowledge among some young people about climate change issues.

Outcomes:

- Signed a partnership and cooperation agreement with the Tunisian Ministry of Education to include the subject of environmental education in the educational curricula in Tunisia.
- A meeting was held with “Greenpeace” and the Tunisian Association for Environmental Law to discuss ways of cooperation to formulate an integrated program suitable for all levels.
- Raised awareness and improved young people’s knowledge about climate change issues and how it affects their life and future.





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