
THE FIRST ANNUAL KENYA NATIONAL YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT REPORT

Theme: Youth in Climate Action and Green Economy



Funded by
the European Union



August, 2025

Executive Summary

The First Youth Climate Action Summit highlighted future opportunities on youth leadership in Climate Action, their strategic perspective to climate response and the overall importance of embedding Climate Action agenda into public policy, public investment and community awareness. It showcased the strategic opportunities for youth that remain largely untapped as knowledge holders, knowledge sharers, cross-generational educators and overall, actors. The summit provided a fundamental platform for the discussion to occur amongst the larger youth population in their diversity about climate action and change. A panel of speakers embraced a traditional message stick identifying pathways and capturing various perspectives from lost opportunities of the past and the current to future opportunity costs.

Day I of the summit discussions delved majorly on the aspect of mobilization of youth voices for climate action focusing on strategies, opportunities and spaces/platforms for uptake and practice while day 2 agenda was premised mainly on opportunity costs for Kenyan youth – in their broad diversity, to influence multi-stakeholder action and priorities to deepening accountability and realization of climate action commitments. During the summit, it was reiterated that youth are ready to create an enabling environment, meaningfully participate in enacting policies and investment allocations, and ring-fencing to meet climate action commitments, and over time contribute successfully to sustainable development, including waste management in its entirety. The summit recognized the youth's significant demographic capital wealth, which contributes to and informs the trajectory of Kenya's policies relevant to climate and environment, as well as global commitments on climate action to the overall country, regional, and global reduction of carbon emissions, and the youth demographic to be translated into waged and entrepreneurial opportunities. Further, the summit noted that Kenya's commitment to empowering the Kenyan youth in their broad diversity will be critical in Kenya's overall climate action agenda.

The panel narratives provided valuable insights for multi-stakeholder collaborations [Government, corporate agencies, donor agencies, youth and the boarder social communities] in meaningful policy discourse and key recommendations for implementation of strategies. A shared position developed by the participants in the part of “The Youth Declaration on Climate Action” was developed and shared with representatives to the Permanent Secretary [PS] in the Government of Kenya at the Ministry of Labour. The statement was the culmination of the 2-day intricate social, economic, cultural and development knowledge, awareness and practice for uptake by youth and other core-stakeholders. Central to these discussions was the collective support for the inclusion of youth voices and establishment of vibrant youth agency.

Introduction

The Kenya National Youth Climate Compact, which was organized by The Organization of African Youth [OAY], in strategic collaboration with **WeWorld, Bernfonden, and CRAWN Trust**, and funded by **The European Union [EU]**, and under the Sikiliza Sauti Yetu [SSY] Banner, convened youth to a two-day “Youth and Climate Action Summit” at the Kenya Institute of Special Education [KISE] from 7th to 8th August, 2025. Alongside the youth, the Summit was attended by high-level government leaders, in the part of Permanent Secretaries under Ministries of Trade and Labour, Climate Change Action Practitioners, Climate Change Centered Community-Based Organizations [CBO]; Council of Governors [CoG], children, youth, women, and academia.

The Summit kick-off with keynote addresses intended to set pace the for discussions on the climate change agenda by youth of Kenya in relation to existing local, national, regional and global realities. Passive action on matters climate and environment were highlighted as the greatest duo-challenges occasioning the current multifaceted and dynamic challenges facing humanity and the biggest existential threat to all life on Earth. Contextually, it was noted that Africa bears the brunt of poor climate change practices and is as such registering negative social, economic, development and environment impacts much faster than the rest of the world, despite not being historically responsible for documented poor waste management policies and practices.

The Summit underscored the need for Government to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC]¹ and those of the Paris Agreement², which include equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities. Alongside the Government, other stakeholders such as youth, corporate bodies, donor organizations should be at the forefront of ensuring that Kenya's action on the realization of Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs]³ with particular focus to goal 13⁴ becomes an achievable reality. It also reiterated the concern that different demographics – men, women, youth, children and the elderly face disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related weather events and patterns, which result in severe cases facilitate humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on Kenya's economy, population health, education, existing peace, and security, among others.

In light of the above, it was reiterated that the Kenyan youth are in a strategic position to engage and influence multi-stakeholder action on the climate action agenda and as such, should be ready to apply their skills and knowledge towards achieving an enabling environment by meaningfully participating in the implementation of relevant policies, lobbying for sustained investments necessary to unlock resources to meet national climate priorities as well as consistently advocating for government of Kenya action to achieve all its global commitments on Climate Action agenda – all of which will overtime contribute to habitable environment leading to sustainable development and therein unlocking the overabundance of opportunities for youth across the country.

Key Opening Remarks



In her opening remarks of the Summit, the Permanent Secretary [PS] for Trade noted that, Climate change is an overlooked concept, however climate change is a core imperative in the Kenyan society whereby environmental protection is equal to social protection. She noted that, the environmental challenges that Kenya and the world at large face at this point is as a result of direct inaction by stakeholders and where communities have stopped catering to their immediate environment. Further aggravating the situation is the aspect of greed which has affected societies and as such, negatively impacted health, economic opportunities as well as peace security affected livelihood whereby people have stopped catering to the environment. The

¹ [conveng.pdf](#)

² [The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

³ [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)

⁴ [Goal 13 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

state department acknowledges youth unemployment as a core challenges that has overtime negatively impacted on youth engagement in social issues including environmental matters and action.

“.... by convening this summit, the government recognizes and appreciates that by engaging the largest population composition in Kenya, the youth will positively influence collective actions by stakeholders aimed at establishing a greener and much more equitable resilient future”

Miss Wema on the other noted that, Youth voice in policy and climate change action needs to be enhanced so as to influence decision making and achieve youth-responsive results.

“... Youth being the largest demography in Kenya, Climate resilience discourse should have youth at the core. As such, advocacy for climate resilience should reflect on advocacy that is by youth, for youth and with youth.

Miss Wema on the other hand asserted that, the summit is not simply about generating or sharing ideas and contextualizing experiences, but also about meaningful action that is geared at inspiring youth commitment, accountability and action for climate action.

The National Youth Council [NYC] on its part noted that, in contributing to climate action, its “KIJANI” program supported government’s target of growing 15billion trees by 2032 - but beyond the program being environmentally oriented intervention, it also structurally supports youth to earn through the green economy, particularly by engaging in seeding entrepreneurship.

“.... Being a youth focused government entity, NYC in partnership with AGRA [Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa] and the Council of Governors [CoGs] will host a youth side event during the devolution conference to discuss innovative models for youth to contribute to food security as well as the challenges and opportunities therein”.



In closure, NYC noted that as the summit will lead to the Youth Declaration on Climate Action, there is need to approach the process as a strategic instrument that captures the clarity of youth priorities and can be used to guide decisions at the county, national, regional and global levels.



In officially closing the Summit, the Permanent Secretary [PS] for Labor representative started by congratulating the consortium members [WeWorld, Bernfonden, OAY and CRAWN Trust] for convening youth for such an important and priority issue not only for the society, but also for the Government of Kenya.

Over the past two day, this space has been alive with energy, ideas and powerful sense of urgency occasioned by the realization that climate crisis is no longer a distance threat but a current reality affecting livelihoods and ecosystems.

This summit has shown how powerful that potential is when properly nurtured and supported. As a state department for labor and skills development, we have particular interest on what this summit means for the future of work and future of our economy. The green transition is not simply about phasing out fossil fuels but also establishing job opportunities for our youth and ensuring no one is left behind as the country moves towards a low-carbon resilient future. Through a consultative process with young people, developed a blueprint on blue skills and jobs in Kenya. The National Strategy on Green Skills and Jobs in Kenya [2025-2030], provides a comprehensive framework to guide Kenya's transition to green economy.

“... The strategy is driven by the need to respond to climate change, youth unemployment and the mismatch between skills supply and labor market demand. This transition to green economy is envisioned as a path way to enhance human wellbeing, promote social equity and significantly reduce environmental risks...”

The Ministry intends to achieve three major outcomes through the strategy: [a] integrate climate change and environmental sustainability into curriculum development across all levels of education and training, particularly in areas of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, water conservation, eco-tourism and green construction; [b] Implementation and monitoring of the climate implementation strategies; and [c] Address climate injustice noting that young women and PWDs particularly face barriers to participation and opportunities.

As we close this summit, I urge you not to lose the moment and mark the success of this summit as the beginning of a stronger and more coordinated national movement.

“... Let us turn these commitments into action, these networks into partnerships and these ideas into impact. To our partners, let this summit be a call to deepen our investment in youth-led climate action through resources, platforms and policy reforms that reflect the urgency of this moment”

Highlights of the Summit

a) Panel Discussions Take-Aways



- Kenya's Climate Action agenda is anchored on the Climate Change ACT of 2024⁵. However, there are no allocation made to the climate change unit to facilitate meaningful programs, interventions and engagements with different stakeholders including youth.
- Youth can influence allocation and ring-fencing of Climate Change Resources, through collaborations with CSOs for targeted advocacy.
- Youth can work closely with the government to know of and access available opportunities, follow up with MCAs structured engagement at ward level.
- Climate Change Act 2024 has registered progress through the 9-member committee. However, there is need for strategic lobbying for youth representation in the committee.
- Youth led-advocacy can pick lessons from Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise and Nyota to inform and influence allocation youth on climate action interventions.
- National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement [NYOTA] is an upgrade project from KEYOP and is structured through 4 components. These are; Component 1 - Youth access to funds, Component 2 - On the job experience by Youth Affairs department, Component 3 - Savings and Component 4 - recognition of prior learning by National Institute of Technology Agartala [NITA].
- Out of 47 Counties, only 17 have climate action plans. This means that, youth influence of Financing Locally-Led Climate Action [FLLoCA] funds is quite limited.
- Youth need to meaningfully engage with climate action policies, programs, commitments and processes to be empowered for greater inclusion at all levels to address the issue of government actualization of FLLoCA and allocated resources.
- Youth have an opportunity to adopt the following models; Turn waste into materials, upscale waste into fashion, digital element involving apps or ICT platforms, effective waste disposal and turning waste into Agri-Inputs [fertilizer]

⁵ [The Climate Change \(Carbon Markets\) Regulations, 2024 - Kenya Law](#)

b) Case Studies

Case Study	The Discussions
Youth, Land, and Urban Waste Management	<p>Land Governance entails a broad spectrum of issues that situationally and contextually highlight issues related to policies on land, best practices in land management, power and power-relations & dynamics that define how effective land governance is. Further, land governance discusses how land is cited as an agenda as relates to who occupies, who develops and who has rights over such lands.</p> <p>In context to the summit, youth voice and agency are fundamentals to the land agenda in Kenya and globally - this is on the basis of their population. Overall, land governance shapes and informs where one hails from and the functions on the land - such as; schools, homes and hospitals</p> <p>Question: Who benefits from proper or improper land governance? In that case, why should the largest populace care?</p> <p>Many young people live in informal settlements and in those settlements, they do not have the space or knowledge to ask climate change questions;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Low Risks</u>: non-hazardous, and manageable - youth collect, sort out, compost and garden: No need for training 2) <u>Medium Risks</u>: construction and industrial waste. Needs training 3) <u>High Risk Waste</u>: hazardous & calls for safety and policy regulation. Needs policy training and engagement <p>Most youth are in level one risk where limited training is required;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informal settlements are deemed as dumpsites leading to environmental injustice. ▪ Informal land occupation and waste - high immigration into Nairobi, despite devolution. This leads to unregulated housing and strain on public social services. ▪ Tension between public and private - this affects the future of the youth <p>Most youth action focuses on plastic and organic waste, it is key for them to broaden their view because there are areas of partnership between youth and county governments which can in response address the issues of; lack of financing, stigma, limited inclusion in urban policy decisions, interest by youth at the level of policy noting that land sector has gate-keepers,</p>
Innovation on Reducing Carbon Emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Countering smoke absorption at school level ▪ Trapping all harmful substances present in smoke before they are exposed to the atmosphere ▪ Contributing to SDG 3 through reduction of waste, SDG 7 & 13 therein countering global warming
Turning Organic Waste into Value through Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Farming	<p>Ubuntu Community-Based Organization [CBO] has pioneered a waste-to-value model centered on Black Soldier Fly [BSF] farming. The initiative addresses two pressing urban challenges: organic waste management and affordable animal feed production.</p> <p>The Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Collection</u>: Organic waste is collected from households, markets, and small businesses. This includes fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and food leftovers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sorting & Grinding</u>: The waste is sorted to remove contaminants (plastics, metals, etc.) before being ground into a fine substrate. • <u>Odor Control</u>: Molasses is added to the substrate to neutralize odors, making the process acceptable in residential areas. Water is added to maintain the right moisture levels for larvae growth. • Larvae Introduction: Approximately 150g of BSF larvae are introduced to 10kg of prepared substrate. • Growth & Harvesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In their early brown stage, larvae are harvested for sale. This larvae biomass contains up to 47% protein, making it an ideal ingredient for livestock and aquaculture feed. ○ Some larvae are dried for longer storage and feed formulation. • Byproducts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Frass [manure]</u>: The residue left after larvae feeding is nutrient-rich and serves as a powerful organic fertilizer, improving soil health and crop yields. ○ <u>Pupa Stage</u>: Remaining larvae are allowed to pupate and are placed in a “love cage” where they emerge as adult flies, mate, and produce more eggs, continuing the production cycle. <p>Integration with Other Livelihood Activities</p> <p>Ubuntu CBO complements BSF farming with chicken farming, using the protein-rich larvae as feed, thereby reducing feed costs and improving poultry productivity.</p> <p>Impact and Key Takeaway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Environmental Impact</u>: Diverts significant amounts of organic waste from landfills, reducing methane emissions. • <u>Economic Impact</u>: Generates income through larvae sales, organic fertilizer, and poultry products. • <u>Social Message</u>: “<i>Taka ni Doh!</i>” [Waste is only waste if you waste it] - a philosophy that reframes waste as a resource. • <u>Scalability</u>: This model can be replicated in both urban and rural settings, making it a practical green economy opportunity for youth.
Climate Advocacy and Communication	<p>MuemAction focuses on equipping youth with skills to identify misinformation, tell authentic climate stories, and promote sustainable practices. The organization’s work combines digital literacy, storytelling, and agricultural innovation.</p> <p>Key Programs and Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Combating Climate Misinformation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Definitions Clarified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disinformation - False information spread intentionally to mislead. ▪ Misinformation - False or inaccurate information spread unintentionally. ○ Training Impact: In partnership with UNESCO and other stakeholders, MuemAction trained 40 youth leaders directly, who then cascaded this knowledge to over 500 young people, mostly from universities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus: Tracking, fact-checking, and countering climate misinformation online - critical in an era where false narratives can undermine policy progress and public trust. • <u>LIVErary - Climate Storytelling Sessions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concept: Safe spaces where survivors of climate-related catastrophes share personal stories. ○ Purpose: Humanize climate data, mobilize empathy, and inspire action by grounding abstract climate concepts in lived experiences. ○ Venues & Reach: Conducted in Tanzania, the Nairobi Arboretum, Alliance Française, and most recently, 3Zero House. These sessions brought together community members, artists, journalists, and policymakers to document the stories of survival of people who experienced catastrophic events. ○ Outcome: Strengthened public engagement and showcased the resilience and adaptive strategies of affected communities. • <u>Climate-Smart Agripreneurs Workshops</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery: Held virtually to maximize reach across regions. ○ Topics Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban farming techniques. ▪ Accessing agricultural financing opportunities. ▪ Integrating climate resilience into agribusiness planning. ○ Partnerships: Collaborated with the Agricultural Finance Corporation and other agribusiness support institutions. ○ Impact: Empowered youth to start or scale agribusinesses that are climate-resilient, profitable, and resource-efficient.
--	--

c) The 9-Point Summit Consensus Items

Following the 2-day deliberations, the delegates engaged in a consensus building session to identify key issues to inform and guide the focus and spirit of the Summit Youth Climate Change Declaration.



1) Consensus I: Urgent Need for Youth Unity and Involvement in Decision-Making!

The summit underscored the critical need for youth to come together and collaborate as a united front to actively participate and engage in climate discourse and decision-making processes at local, national, regional and global levels. Through the delegates, the summit emphasized that policies and strategies designed to address climate change must include the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of youth - not merely as beneficiaries but as co-creators and equal partners in governance. Strengthening youth platforms, councils, and climate networks was seen as core to ensuring sustained representation.

2) Consensus II: Financial Resources Must Be Directed to Young People!

A recurring theme was the lack of accessible funding for youth-led climate initiatives. The delegates called for dedicated climate finance channels targeted at young innovators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. These include; grants, concessional loans, seed funding, and access to climate-related investment opportunities noting that without financial empowerment, many youth climate solutions have and will continue to remain ideas on paper rather than implemented actions with tangible and impactful results.

3) Consensus III: Youth's Role in the Green Economy - Example of Ubuntu and Organic Waste Utilization!

Success stories, such as the *Ubuntu* model, demonstrated how youth are already playing a transformative role in Kenya's green economy. Opportunities exist across the country - for example, in Mombasa - to convert organic waste into valuable products which will strengthen circular economy systems.

4) Consensus IV: Inclusion of Children in Climate Action!

Delegates highlighted that climate action must begin early. Involving children through age-appropriate education will create supportive spaces for children to learn and practice environmental stewardship.

5) Consensus V: From Declarations to Action!

There was a strong acknowledgment that climate conferences and summits often produce promising declarations that are never fully realized. Participants resolved that this summit's declarations must translate into concrete, time-bound, and measurable actions, with follow-up mechanisms to track progress.

6) Consensus VI: The Need for Climate Education!

Across the discussions, climate literacy was identified as a critical enabler of meaningful participation. Delegates called for integration of climate change education into school curricula, vocational training, and public awareness campaigns. Equipping citizens - especially youth - with the knowledge to understand climate science, policy frameworks, and sustainable practices is key to driving informed action.

7) Consensus VII: Youth Accountability in Climate Action!

While the declaration outlines what government, development partners, and stakeholders can do for and with the youth, it also should also emphasize the need for youth to take full ownership of the commitments in terms of monitoring and documenting progress as relates to outputs, outcomes and impacts.

8) Consensus VIII: Partnerships and Collaboration for Effective Initiatives!

The summit recognized and appreciated that no single actor can address climate change in isolation. Strategic partnerships and meaningful collaborations between youth through their groupings, government through their Ministries, Departments and Agencies [MDAs], private sector players through their Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR] policies, civil society organizations [CSOs] through programs, projects, campaigns and advocacy interventions, and international organizations through their funding models and focus – are all

collectively vital to pooling resources, sharing expertise and experience, and scaling up innovations for meaningful and greater reach. Further, collaboration ensure that initiatives are not fragmented but rather part of a larger, coordinated climate agenda.

9) Consensus IX: Clear Roadmap for Advocacy!

A Delegate stressed the need for a structured and intentional advocacy strategy that answers the following key questions:

- 1) **The What:** What do we want to achieve?
- 2) **The Who:** Who are the decision-makers to approach?
- 3) **Document** the short, medium, and long-term advocacy targets that will guide in identifying allies, mapping influencers, and leveraging grassroots mobilization and high-level engagement.

Multi-Stakeholder Recommendations

A. To the National Government of Kenya

- 1) Institutionalize youth representation in all climate governance structures.
- 2) Allocate public funds to youth-led climate solutions through inclusive budget processes.
- 3) Enforce national and county policies and laws that mandate waste segregation and recycling partnerships.
- 4) Mandate National Land Commission and relevant agencies to implement 2022 Commitment in Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda [BETA] to provide circular economy waste separation and recycling sites/infrastructure

B. To County Governments

- 1) Implement mainstreamed youth priorities into County Integrated Development Plans [CIDPs].
- 2) Build the technical capacities of youth and enable them to access the FLLoCA and County Climate Change Funds
- 3) Establish functional Climate Change Committees across at County, Sub-County and Ward levels
- 4) Subsidize garbage collection costs for youth and young women microenterprises in waste management

C. To the National Youth Council

- 1) To revamp National Youth Council's Climate Action Sector Working Group to provide a robust platform for youth participation
- 2) To advocate for sustainable, legal and sufficient land access to support youth engagement in circular economy

D. To Development Partners and Donors

- 1) Align climate funding with the principle of Nothing for Youth Without Youth.
- 2) Support long-term, core funding for youth-led CSOs and innovation initiatives
- 3) Support and partner with Kenya Youth Climate Advisory Council [KYCAC] to achieve its mandate

E. To the Private Sector

- 1) Lobby corporates to establish Climate Action components in their CSR policies
- 2) Invest in climate-tech incubators targeting youth-led startups.
- 3) Support green job pathways through mentorships, apprenticeships, and procurement programs.
- 4) Fully implement Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR] mandates in partnership with youth-led groups

Key Action Points

1. The Permanent Secretary [PS] Trade, affirmed that the Ministry will convene a strategic meeting within the last week of August 2025 at the Ministry with WeWorld, Bernfonden, OAY and CRAWN Trust as well as The European Union [EU] to discuss the way forward as regards the Declaration;
2. The consortium to discuss innovations that will be discussed at the Devolution Conference as opportunities for fast-tracking the key-asks of the Declaration; and,
3. The youth Delegates to engage strategically on the basis of the key-asks of the Declaration at their different levels of engagement.

Summary of the Youth Declaration 2025



We, the youth of Kenya, issue this Declaration as a direct call to action to the National and County Governments, development partners, and the private sector calling for structured, meaningful, and accountable engagement.

WE CALL FOR Youth Leadership, Climate Governance and Representation in national and county Climate Action structures, to **INFORM** and **INFLUENCE** key policies and **DELIBERATE** resource allocation.

Strategic Climate Financing and Technical Support **MUST BE YOUTH-CENTRIC TO** enhance youth **VOICE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND AGENCY** in policy spaces and climate financing.

WE NOTE THAT, there exist **UNTAPPED OPPORTUNITIES FOR** investment in green skills and jobs in circular economy, climate smart solutions and trade.

AS YOUTH, we call for **TIMELY ACTION** by stakeholders to facilitate Digital Innovations for Climate Action to **ENHANCE ACCESS** to innovative digital solutions for **EFFICIENT RESOURCE** use and proper waste management practices.

IN OUR DIVERSITY, we will continually **BUILD EVIDENCE** to guide **OUR** Activism and Advocacy to enhance **OUR VOICE** and **AGENCY** in Climate Action

WE FIRMLY RECOGNISE Climate-Resilient Youth Livelihoods as **PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MODELS** in sectors such as circularity, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

AS YOUTH WE COMMIT TO; Mobilize our communities, hold stakeholders accountable, conceptualize innovative and inclusive solutions and, collaborate with other stakeholders to **AMPLIFY OUR VOICES** and establish **OUR AGENCY**; The National Climate Action Youth Innovation Summit.