



LEARNING MODULES

Structure of the COP process, National delegations and Participation in the negotiations.

Foreword

It is now scientifically factual that climate change is one of the most critical global environmental challenges of our time, and the main cause of climate change is equivocally human activities (IPCC, 2018). Recent extreme weather events and fires all over the globe have demonstrated our growing vulnerability to climate change. As of now climate change impacts continue to affect various sectors, including the agricultural sector, food security, ecosystems, sea level to rise, energy sector, water resources, health sector and sustainable economic developments.

There is no doubt that climate change has created elevated levels of uncertainty about our future and amid this uncertainty, one thing is certain and that is we will leave the Earth to our children, young people and future generations. The young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and opportunities that the necessary transition to low carbon growth entails, and many are joining the global dialogue on solutions, getting involved and taking action. As young people work across the globe to determine their future by acting on climate change, their actions inspire us all (United Nations, 2013).

In accordance with the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), “youth” is defined to include people between the ages of 15 and 24 years (YOUNGO, 2020). However, in everyday life there are differing views on what constitutes youth, with attitudes varying within communities, across cultures and nations about who is considered young and what roles different age groups are expected to perform. In this training, the definition of “youth” will be left open to nations to decide as to who qualifies to be labelled a youth person.

With the window of opportunity to address climate change rapidly closing, the need for solutions, at the global and regional level has never been more urgent. The urgency is clearly demonstrated by the active engagement of youth in the effort to address climate change, leading and participating in a multitude of initiatives at the local, sub-national, national, regional and international levels. Their strong commitment to working on this issue has also motivated them to participate in international climate negotiations under the UNFCCC.

Participation in the UNFCCC process gives the youth a chance to raise their concerns on the climate crisis, including both the current impacts of climate change affecting front-line communities and the expected impacts it will have on young and future generations (YOUNGO, 2020). It also serves as an opportunity to provide their input and perspectives into the process. Furthermore, they can hold their governments accountable for their commitments to climate action (or lack thereof) by observing the international climate negotiations (United Nations, 2013). It is therefore expected that this training will empower the African youth with the insight of the UNFCCC COP processes, understanding the thinking behind composition of national delegations and what they need to know to effectively and meaningfully participate in the negotiations.

Participants

These modules are developed for the African Youth Negotiators to provide them with some insight to the negotiation process, structures of the Climate Change Convention, Kyoto protocol and the Paris Agreement, the key elements of UNFCCC COP 26 and visualization of participation to the negotiations. They should be able to provide clear, concise, easy to be understood and up to date information for anybody in any profession interested to follow the intergovernmental processes of climate change. It should also be able to serve as an introduction to other interested government officials, practitioners and academics to the multilateral processes of climate change agreements. This implies that grassroots, as well as technical and professional cadres may be able to use this training modules

Learning Objectives

The ultimate objective of this work is to develop and serve as a tutor to the online training on “Climate Change Negotiations for young African negotiators, focusing on the following themes: 1) Structures of the Conference of the Parties (COP/CMP/CMA) process, and 2) National delegation and participation in the negotiations.

At the end of the course participants should be able to:

- Define the climate system (climate, greenhouse gas effect, global warming and effects of climate change),
- Explain the Intergovernmental climate change processes (history of climate change, governance system, articles of the climate change convention and its treaties, institutional arrangements, work of established bodies, gender, engagement of other intergovernmental organization and the private sector in the intergovernmental process of climate change),
- State the advancement in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its treaties ((mitigation/NDC, adaptation, loss and damages, periodic review and stocktake), means of implementation (Finance, development of technology and transfer, and capacity building), communication, Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE),

research and systematic observations, cooperative approaches, transparency frameworks and compliance systems in the UN convention on climate change and its treaties),

- Explain briefly the outcomes of the annual UNFCCC conferences (COP/CMP/CMA),
- Identify key elements of UNFCCC COP 26 to be achieved in the UK, outstanding negotiated elements of the Paris Agreement's rulebook and activities on the road to COP 26,
- Explain the importance of the National delegation and participation in the negotiations.

Course structure

This course features an array of key information that will promote the understanding of climate, greenhouse gas effect, global warming and its effects, the evolution of climate change and the global communities' efforts to tackle the problem of climate change through the intergovernmental processes of climate change. Provide briefs on the outcomes of the annual UNFCCC and its treaties conferences as well as the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 26). It will also be designed to create a user friendly online training program tailored for Young African climate change negotiators.

The course is divided into six self-standing interactive lessons per module, which is user friendly and includes full reading lists, power point presentation slides, lecture notes, guidelines for discussion sessions and course assignments.

Learning Modules

1. Climate System
 - a. Climate System,
 - The Greenhouse Gas effect,
 - Global Warming,
 - Climate Change and its Effects.
2. Overview of the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement Intergovernmental Climate change policies.
 - Brief history of climate change processes leading to the adoption of the UNFCCC,
 - How is the [UNFCCC](#), [Kyoto protocol](#) and [Paris Agreement](#) framed to tackle climate change,
 - Institutional arrangements and established bodies of the COP/CMP/CMA,,
 - Other intergovernmental organization advancing the implementation climate change regime,

3. Advancing the implementation of the [UNFCCC and its treaties](#).
 - Mitigation/NDC, adaptation, loss and damage, Periodic review and stock-take,
 - Tracking progress under the climate change treaties (Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) , [communication](#) and [Transparency framework and reporting](#)) (UNFCCC, 2014a),
 - Means of implementation (Finance, [Development of technology](#) and capacity building),
 - Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE),
 - Research and systematic observation,
 - Voluntary Cooperative ([Markets and Non Markets mechanisms](#)),
 - Mechanism ([UNFCCC/KP](#)) Compliance systems ([UNFCCC/KP](#)) ([PA](#)),
 - The role of [Sub-state and Non-state](#) in international climate change Processes (Hale, 2018).
4. Progressive evolution of the [UNFCCC and its treaties conferences](#), COP/CMP/CMA
 - UNFCCC and road to the Kyoto Protocol,
 - Road to Copenhagen and intermediate COP/CMP,,
 - Road to the Paris agreement and COP/CMP along the route,
 - Operationalization of the Paris agreement (Rulebook) COP/CMP/CMA.
5. National delegation and participation in the negotiations.
 - National delegation in the climate change process and groups of Parties or and coalition,
 - [Participation](#) in the COP/CMP/CMA negotiation processes and meeting: plenary process, pre COP, contract groups, formal, informal, bilateral, coordination, and friends of the chair and Presidency ,
 - Workshops and mandated events,
 - Participation of observer, NGOs, civil society, Academia, business communities and the media,
 - Meaning and identification of different documents produced by the COP/CMP/CMA,
 - Briefs oversight on the process leading to drafting of COP/CMP/CMA decisions and procedural conclusions.
6. UNFCCC COP 26
 - The [overview of UNFCCC COP 26](#),
 - [UNFCCC COP 26](#), raising ambitions consistently with limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degree and build resilient nations for sustainable economic development,
 - Advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement ([Understanding needs of Article 6 of PA](#))
 - Road to UNFCCC COP 26, ([UNFCCC/IPCC AR6](#))
 - African Group of Negotiators' (AGN) key position for UNFCCC COP 26.

Helpful Resources

The course will contain links to other resources on the climate system, journals, UN handbooks and studies articles, web based information on climate change multilateral negotiation processes. References and a reading list will be available at the end of each lesson. A compendium of acronyms frequently used in the intergovernmental climate change negotiations will be compiled into a separate document for easy of reference.

Methodology, Evaluation and Certification

The course will be self-paced and not moderated. The Tutor will be available for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. The exact time for the two hours in the morning and in the afternoon will be communicated in due course. Otherwise, the Tutor will be available on the E-mail and WhatsApp for any further iteration. The lessons will be downloaded in a PDF format for online learning.

It is expected that participants can complete the course in 10 working days, but the Tutor will be available for 12 days to accommodate others with challenges. In each module, there will be a set of questions at the end of each lesson to allow participants to assess the achievement of the learning goals. There will be no passing or failing marks, but participants should attempt to answer all questions in each lesson in order to get a certificate of completion. Further guidance will be given in due course on how to download the certificate of completion.

Participants will be invited to complete a pre training survey or registration with questions basically developed to assess participants age, gender, field of education, level of academic training, work status, marital status and so on to enable the Tutor to make an informed decision on the range of social, cultural and education background so that efforts will be made to accommodate everyone in conducting the training. At the end of the course participants will be invited to a post course survey on how they assess the course contents, adequacy of the duration, usefulness of the course and how they intend to put into use the knowledge gained to help the Tutor in evaluating the course.

Technical requirements

The technical requirements will be communicated in due course once the training material have been successfully loaded on the E-learning online platform.

Learning Modules, targets, learning goals and Methods

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 1: Climate Change	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the Climate System • Define the Greenhouse Gas effect. • Explain Global Warming • Explain Climate Change and list its effects
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises • Questions and answers

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 2: Brief overview of the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Intergovernmental Climate Change Policies.	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain briefly the history of climate change processes that led to the UNFCCC, • Explain how the Climate Change Convention, Kyoto protocol and the Paris Agreement are framed to tackle climate change, • State the institutional arrangements and procedure of the COP/CMP/CMA • Understand the functions of established bodies • Explain the role of other intergovernmental Organization include gender in advancing implementation
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises • Questions and answers

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 3: Advancing the implementation climate change convention and its treaties.	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the implementation commitments of the convention, Kyoto protocol and Paris Agreement, • Explain the tracking systems for implementation, • Explain the role of the means of implementation in the UNFCCC process, • State what is Action for climate empowerment (ACE) and its function, • Understand the important role of research and systematic observations • Explain what is framework of various approaches (compliance, environmental integrity, international transaction log, regulatory and compliance boards and registry) • Understand the role of mechanism and compliance in the UNFCCC • Understand the role and implication of Non state and Sub-national climate actions in UNFCCC process
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises, guidelines for comparing and contrasting of the transparency framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement • Questions and answers

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 4: Progressive evolution of the UN climate change conferences COP/CMP/CMA	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain briefly the various UNFCCC conferences building up to the Kyoto Protocol, • State briefly the outcome of the intergovernmental process leading to the Copenhagen and Cancun climate change conferences, • Explain briefly the outcome of the UNFCCC conferences that led to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, • State briefly the outcome of the UNFCCC conferences that operationalize the Paris Agreement.
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises, • Questions and answers

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 5: National delegation and participation in the negotiations.	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State the importance of national delegation in the climate change process and groups of Parties or and coalition • Explain the importance of participation in the COP negotiation processes and meeting: plenary process, pre COP, contract groups, formal, informal, bilateral, coordination, and friends of the chair and Presidency • Explain the importance of workshops and mandated events • State importance incorporating national delegation to observer, NGOs, civil society, Academia, business communities the media • Explain the importance of briefings and media conferences • Explain how to navigate the conference area and pavilions • Explain the meaning of different documents produced by the COP/CMP/CMA • Explain briefly the processes of drafting decisions and procedural conclusions
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises • Questions and answers

Training Module	Learning goals
Module 6: UNFCCC COP 26	
Target Group	Young African, climate change negotiators
Learning goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key elements of COP 26 to be achieved • State how the Paris Agreement aims at tackling the global climate change problem • State the enabling factors inline with the reduction of emissions that are in consistent with the 1.5 degrees and building resilient nations for sustainable development. • State what can advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement • Explain how to complete the Paris Agreement rulebook • Identify the various activities on the road to COP 26
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning online • Interactive exercises, • Questions and answers

(UN, no date)(UNFCCC, 2014b)(Icmeli and Division, no date)(Abeyasinghe, no date)(Moosmann *et al.*, 2019)(Hub, no date)(Wytze and Alessi, 2015)(Roy and Gupta, 2020)(UN, 2021)(UN, 2020)(Skovgaard and Gallant, 2015)(COP26, 2021)(YOUNGO, 2020)(UNFCCC, 2021)(IPCC, 2018)(United Nations, 2013)(Tenzing, 2016)(Group, 2021)(UNFCCC, no date)(Ecbi, 2020)(Achala Abeyasinghe, Subhi Barakat, Yamide Dagnet, Gebru Jember Endalew, Bubu Pateh Jallow, Camilla H More, Tshewang Dorji, 2012)

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