

Summary Report

Informal Virtual Youth Consultations

Designing the annual youth round table at COP 29 for Indigenous youth and youth from local communities

Session 1: 3rd September 2024; 16:00-17:00 PM (CEST)

Session 2: 5th September 2024; 09:00-10:00 AM (CEST)

I. Background

The activity 8 of the 2nd three-year workplan¹ of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)² focuses on the role of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities, and concrete ways to advance the engagement of youth in designing and implementing climate policies and actions at all levels, including the UNFCCC process.

The deliverables under the Activity 8 of the LCIPP workplan include:

1. Knowledge-gathering devoted to intergenerational knowledge-sharing, intergenerational equity, strengthening relevant practices on the ground, and enhancing youth engagement in climate policy development and implementation at all levels with a view to developing recommendations on how to enhance the leadership of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities
2. Recommendations from Indigenous youth participants and youth participants from local communities, ensuring gender and sociocultural balance, on the promotion of their participation in the activities of the FWG, as well as opportunities to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and policy for integration under the UNFCCC process

In preparation for COP 29, FWG members serving as co-leads for Activity 8 conducted informal consultations with Indigenous youth and youth from local communities.

The informal consultations gathered inputs on effective ways of designing the annual youth round table at COP 29.

II. Overview of the consultations

FWG members serving as co-leads for Activity 8 conducted two informal consultations with Indigenous youth and youth from local communities.

- The first session was conducted in English and Spanish, and the second session was conducted in English, French and Russian.

¹ <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/about-lcipp/workplan-activities>

² <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/>

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- The sessions were well attended by 41 participants in total representing all the socio-cultural regions.
- The moderators provided an overview of LCIPP, and a brief about Activity 8 of the second three-year workplan.
- This was followed by an open discussion with the participants where participants provided inputs based on the objectives of the session. Engaging virtual tools such as Microsoft form³ and Zoom chat functionality were utilized by participants to further network and provide their inputs.

Further details on the agenda of the event are included in Annex I.

III. Key takeaways from open discussion

The participants responded to three questions as outlined below:

a. Out of the specific topics/themes presented, which themes would you prefer to be discussed at the annual youth round table at COP 29?

Building largely upon the discussions from the past events, including last year's informal virtual youth consultations and the small group discussions during the 11th meeting of the FWG (FWG 11), different topics/themes were presented to the participants. The youth participants ranked the topics as follows:

1. Youth-led climate initiatives and solutions
2. Role of spiritual knowledge and practices
3. Capacity building for communities and Indigenous youth
4. Well-being of children and the generations to come
5. Climate change impacts including health impacts (focusing on mental health)
6. Climate finance
7. Technology transfer

The participants emphasized that 'mental health' is of significant importance for Indigenous youth, and it is important to include it as one of the discussion topics for the round table.

In addition to the above-mentioned topics, the participants recommended to consider the following topics in the discussions:

- Agriculture, food security, and food sovereignty
- Co-operation for sustainable development
- Climate change and conflicts

b. Which of the formats would you like for the annual youth round table at COP 29 to incorporate?

During the informal virtual youth consultations, the participants were presented with three formats, and they ranked them using Microsoft forms as follows:

³ <https://forms.office.com/>

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1. Small group discussions
2. Briefing on ways to engage during COP 29
3. Panel presentations in plenary

The participants emphasized that small group discussions were very effective in the previous year's round table because they facilitated inter-regional exchange, allowing youth from diverse environments to share experiences and deepen their understanding of common climate change challenges, with an opportunity to share the insights later with the larger groups. Hence, they recommended that the design of the annual round table in terms of this format should remain the same.

Overall, they suggested that the design of the round table should be such that it enables sharing insights into how youth are addressing climate change issues in different regions, while also exploring ways in which they can present the results of such discussions to Party representatives and other stakeholders.

Additionally, following recommendations were made to provide a space for meaningful discussions and engagement:

- Create a space whereby youth can present recommendations and proposals from the small group discussions to Party representatives to present their thoughts, results and proposals on specific issues related to youth and climate change.
- Enhance dialogue with Party representatives to assist in exchange of knowledge, experience, and develop new technologies, and solutions for nature-based climate projects as well as for implementation of important mechanisms, including financial mechanisms, and clean development mechanisms, etc.
- Provide capacity building opportunities and accessibility to the platform (including publication of information in different languages). The participants stressed that it is crucial for them to first understand the mechanisms of the UNFCCC processes, the acronyms, and the dynamics of the negotiations for meaningful and active participation. Limited exposure to these processes was identified as a significant barrier for effective youth engagement and hence they suggested developing capacity-building courses, manuals or tools to encourage active participation and representation within the FWG. They also added that if youth do not understand how this level of negotiation functions, then they will be unable to make significant contributions in bigger negotiations and statements.
- They also emphasized that the discussions during the annual youth round table at COP 29 should also focus on explaining the activities within the new workplan of the LCIPP, focusing on the methodologies and strategies for the next year. Highlighting that such in-person discussions are more productive, the participants suggested creating a set of approaches outlining how youth can support the new workplan activities.

c. What ways would you recommend FWG disseminate recommendations and key messages from the annual youth roundtable at COP 29?

During the informal virtual youth consultations, the participants recommended different methods for disseminating recommendations and key messages from the annual youth roundtable at COP 29. The recommendations ranged from utilizing digital and social media campaigns, partnerships with youth

organizations, document-based dissemination and knowledge sharing, and strategic engagement and participation in events.

1. Digital and Social Media Campaigns

- Use of e-Meet platform such that youth from diverse regions can participate in gaining information about the recommendations and key messages from the annual youth roundtable
- Development of communication materials for sharing across social media platforms, including TikTok, zoom sessions etc.
- Use of digital platforms and social networks, including audiovisual media forms like short videos, storytelling, visual elements, short videos, infographics and podcasts
- Through e-mail outreach
- Creation of safe space for continuous discussion and collaboration like LinkedIn groups

2. Partnerships with Youth Organizations

- Dissemination of key messages through collaborating with youth groups across the UN Indigenous sociocultural regions
- Collaboration with youth organizations to facilitate the exchange of key messages from the annual youth round table

3. Document-based Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing

- Use of formal reports, highlighting the key messages and lessons from the round table, that can feed into the next workplan
- Preparation of a policy paper by compiling the key messages and recommendations and sharing it with decision-makers, COP participants, and relevant bodies within UNFCCC
- Through LCIPP reports and publications to circulate the information within the secretariat and most importantly to highlight the findings internally in the FWG meetings

4. Strategic Engagement and Participation in Events

- Through relevant fora across the UNFCCC process
- Organization of regional consultations
- Organization of youth-led side events at COP 29 where youth speakers can share their perspectives and recommendations with a wider range of audiences, including governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Partnering with climate-focused NGOs and international organizations (e.g., UNEP, UNICEF, WWF) to help spread the message. These organizations can utilize their platforms, newsletters, and events to give more visibility to youth voices
- Wide dissemination through youth participation in plenary sessions and other in-person and virtual events
- Through relevant discussions across the UNFCCC processes by the FWG members, as well as through the implementation of the 2025-2027 LCIPP workplan
- Through monthly consolidations and pre-COP meetings, engagement with policymakers and government representatives during COP, Indigenous youth representatives / speakers
- Through working seminars with experts and interested stakeholders

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Additionally, the participants expressed the need to improve engagement modalities to reach more youth from all UN Indigenous sociocultural regions, and to provide translation services to bridge the language barriers, ensuring that youth can understand and contribute to the discussions.

IV. Next Steps

Building upon the rich input and interactive discussions from the informal virtual consultations, a well-informed agenda taking key topics and suggested formats into account will be designed for the upcoming annual youth round table at COP 29. Furthermore, the FWG members will explore opportunities to disseminate key messages from youth representatives such as through interventions in other planned events, including youth-led climate forum hosted by the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) and through collaboration with other youth organizations.

Annex I

The agenda of the consultations was as following:

Moderator:

Session 1: Mr. Graeme Reed

Session 2: Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter

| Time | Agenda |
|--|--|
| 5 minutes – Opening by moderator | Overview of LCIPP, Activity 8 of second three-year workplan of the LCIPP |
| 50 minutes – Open Discussion with participants | <p>The activity co-leads will present recommendations, topics/themes and feedback to the structure of the roundtable, received based on the past annual youth roundtables and inputs gathered from the youth participants at other meetings and events organized by the FWG.</p> <p>Participants will be invited to reflect on the following guiding questions:</p> <p>Framing questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Out of the specific topics/themes presented, which themes would you prefer to be discussed at the annual youth round table at COP 29? <i>Participants are invited to share additional topics/themes</i>2. Which of the formats presented on the screen would you like for the annual youth round table at COP 29 to incorporate? <i>Participants are encouraged to share additional innovative formats</i>3. What ways would you recommend FWG disseminate recommendations and key messages from the annual youth roundtable at COP 29? |
| 5 minutes Closing by moderator | Next steps, additional ways to engage and closing |