

Localizing Climate Justice Conference Series (LCJC): *Concept Note*



I. BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Localizing Climate Justice Conference Series (LCJC) is being co-organized by the Core Team of youth climate activists behind the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration (GYCAD) movement and a myriad of co-sponsoring organizations.

The event's co-sponsors include: YOUNGO, Citizens' Climate Lobby, the Global NGO Executive Committee, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), CEWAS Middle East, Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN), Lehigh University's United Nations Partnership & Environmental Initiative, CEVKO and more (full list can be found at gycad.org/lcjc).

This virtual conference series will commence with a launch event on Friday, September 25th taking place from 10 am to noon Eastern Standard Time in order to accommodate a wide range of global time zones and to ensure maximum participation from the Global South. The launch event and all subsequent conference events will be *free of cost* to all wishing to participate.

The emphasis on climate *justice* was intentional: we can not expect to make the immediate and long-term changes necessary if the actions we choose to take do not include and address the challenges and wellbeing of all. Our movement forward into a sustainable and environmentally healthy future must be urgent and community-led, with the well-being of our local communities and our most underrepresented or vulnerable populations at the center of any discourse and decision-making processes.

The LCJC Series Launch event will convene mayors, other policymakers, youth climate activists, and major stakeholders from around the world in the movement for climate justice in order to spotlight local approaches to climate reform & create space for an ongoing dialogue between policymakers and their constituents on the subject of climate change. Originally planned as a two day event, the organizers and co-sponsors decided to spread out the conference material over a longer timespan in order to maximize meaningful participation and engagement with the content.

The conference series will span many months, with each monthly event focused on a key thematic policy impact area from the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration and convening a dialogue on that topic. The panel themes include the following:

- Youth and Public Mobilization
- Infrastructure, Cities, & Local Action
- Industry Transition & Accountability
- Energy Transition
- Resilience and Adaptation
- Nature-based Solutions
- Mitigation
- Climate Finance & Carbon Pricing
- Capacity-Building, Education, & Awareness

II. CONFERENCE LAUNCH EVENT STRUCTURE

SEPTEMBER 25th, 2020: LCJC Series Launch

The conference will commence at **10 am EST** with opening remarks by a Lead Organizer of the LCJC and will be immediately followed by an **hour-long panel featuring 5-6 speakers**.

Following the conclusion of the panel, at around **11:15 am EST**, the conference will open for a Question & Answer session facilitated via Sli.do, an online tool for crowdsourcing the most popular audience-generated questions.

Following the Q&A, breakout rooms will open for participants to network and engage with one another and have the opportunity to further discuss conference content and topics.

III. PARTICIPATION

Participation from a wide range of sustainability experts, youth climate activists, and policymakers is anticipated. Participants are encouraged to ask dynamic, engaging questions of the panelists and to share their perspectives in the breakout sessions following the formal event programming.

Breakout sessions, held via digital platform, will be an opportunity to dive deeper into the content discussed in thematic panels from throughout the day and to discuss questions prompted by moderators.

IV. BACKGROUND ON THE GYCAD

The Global Youth Climate Action Declaration, **GYCAD**, contains a set of 77 key climate policy demands which have been co-created, defined, and refined by young climate activists from around the globe. The intention of the GYCAD is to both serve as a knowledge platform and as a climate policy toolkit which empowers people to make climate action a tangible reality in their home communities. It can be signed and read at gycad.org.

The mantra of the Core Team of organizers behind the GYCAD's ongoing advocacy efforts is: *knowledge is power*

Through utilization of this platform, anyone can be equipped with the knowledge to approach their legislators with specific climate policy demands.

The GYCAD was first drafted during the 2019 UN Climate Summit by a group of global youth united in their call for meaningful and specific policy action to address climate change. It was initially created by climate activist who attended the summit to serve as an independently crafted outcome document in the absence of a formal outcome document which would subsequently spread like wildfire throughout global youth climate advocacy channels for further input. In a rapid 48 hours, hundreds of young people had provided their input, an editorial team had been established, and a first draft approval process was well underway.

Following the initial version of the GYCAD, the newly established Core Team embarked on a three-month global consultation and revision process where in-person dialogues and online events held space for further

input from climate experts and youth activists across multiple continents with regards to the document. The goal now of the Core Team is to continue this revision process on an annual basis in order to permanently establish the platform's relevance and utility to those looking to be part of the climate policy discourse.

Global collective action rooted in local impact.

Since its genesis, the GYCAD has been shared at the UN General Assembly, and the Core Team has hosted multiple side events at COP 25 in Portugal, co-organized and co-hosted the UN 75 dialogue on Climate Change & Resilient Communities, and continues to advise GYCAD strategic local implementation meetings on the ground around the globe.

The Core Team is composed of deeply passionate young people ranging from high school to PhD students and young professionals. Independently, the members are affiliated with a myriad of NGOs, UN subsidiary bodies, and institutions. They seek to uphold the GYCAD's intended purpose as a living, intersectional policy toolkit that is not owned by any single one of us but instead belongs to everyone as the collective youth voice on climate policy reform.

V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES & DOCUMENTATION

The conference will be recorded via an online meeting platform. Documentation will include tangible recommendations for expanding upon the GYCAD in its upcoming revision cycle, as well as a post-event survey asking participants to share more in-depth about their localized visions for climate justice. Conference recordings will serve as digital outcome statements and will be promoted via social media. Post-conference videos will be created to further the message of the conference discussions and enable a larger audience to interact with the conference material following its conclusion.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please direct all further questions and inquiries to the LCJC Series Lead Organizers:

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