



National Youth and Children Statement (NYCS)

7th September 2026

NATIONAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN STATEMENT

Local Conference of Youth and Children on Climate Change Uganda (LCOY) 2026

Youth Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change & U-Report

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Executive Summary

Uganda's children and young people are already on the frontline of climate change, yet they are also among the country's strongest assets for resilience, innovation and long-term transformation. The National Youth and Children Statement, developed through LCOY Uganda 2026 under the YOUNGO framework, captures this urgency and potential. It draws on consultations with about **3,199** children and youth across **10 schools and learning institutions** in Moroto, Arua, Isingiro/Nakivale, Soroti/Teso and Jinja/Busoga, including at least **938 girls and 2,261 boys** where sex-disaggregated data was available and the LCOY conference itself gathering **284** female participants (54.6%) and **236** male participants to add to these consultations and a team to validate the document making our total reach **3,719 participants**.

The message from children and young people is clear: they want climate action that protects their lives, strengthens their opportunities and gives them a real voice in decisions. UNICEF's U-Report Consultation data reinforces this demand. Among **3,187** young Ugandans under 35, **98 per cent** wanted youth voices reflected in COP31 negotiations, while **59 per cent** identified climate education as the most important support needed. Young people also called for protection of schools and homes, stronger early warning systems, better laws, rapid post-disaster support, financial assistance, safe housing and access to basic needs after climate shocks.

Across the consultations and the conference, climate change emerged not only as an environmental issue, but as a direct threat to children's rights, human capital and local economic development. Children and youth reported impacts on learning, water access, food production, health, nutrition, livelihoods, ecosystems, safety and participation. Five national risk pathways stand out: disrupted education and livelihoods; water insecurity and poor sanitation; food insecurity and malnutrition; ecosystem degradation; and pollution from waste, smoke, dust, mining, open defecation and unsafe practices.

This statement connects children's lived realities to national programming, planning and investment. It supports priorities under the 2026–2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Uganda (UNSDCF), including climate-resilient WASH, health, nutrition, education, child protection, social protection, adolescent participation and systems strengthening. It also reinforces child- and youth-responsive NDC implementation by calling for approaches that protect children and young people, including them meaningfully in decision-making and investing in climate finance, nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction, green jobs, local governance and inclusive resilience. With strategic support from Ministry of Water and Environment, Climate Change and Carbon Trade Department, UNDP, UNICEF, GIZ, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, ENABEL, Joining Forces for all Children, Green Africa Youth Organisation, The Youth Tax Justice Network, The Uganda Girls Guide Association, the British High Commission, Hummingbird Foundation, Hondari Foundation and other development partners, these priorities can be translated into scalable programmes that strengthen climate-resilient services, green livelihoods, innovation, sustainable natural resource management and local systems as drivers of Uganda's economic transformation.

The statement is therefore a call to move from consultation to implementation. It supports Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan, emerging NDC 3.0 priorities and 2030 climate and biodiversity commitments by advancing human capital, sustainable natural resource management, inclusive green growth, disaster preparedness, youth employment, environmental governance and local planning. If acted upon, it can accelerate climate action, protect biodiversity and strengthen resilient service delivery by positioning children and youth not only as beneficiaries, but also as financed, represented and accountable implementers of Uganda's 2030 agenda.

Methodology

The Local Conference of Youth and Children (LCOY) Uganda 2026 is a nationally organized, youth-led climate process convened under YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Local Conferences for Youth and Children provided structured space for children and young people to be supported, connected and meaningfully included in climate policy, practice and global negotiations.

The Youth Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (*Y4BioClimate*), established in 2022 following Uganda's Youth Climate Dialogue, has built a strong platform for youth-led climate advocacy across the country. Through regional consultations, capacity-building workshops, community advocacy and engagement with national institutions such as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Y4BioClimate has helped strengthen meaningful youth participation in climate policy and action.

Building on this foundation, and on national momentum around the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), Uganda's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) development process, the WASH National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2026 and COP31 preparation, LCOY Uganda 2026 convened a nationally significant children's and youth climate process that bridges local realities with national policy priorities and global climate engagement. This statement translates that evidence into recommendations for government, Parliament, partners and Uganda's climate diplomacy.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

LCOY Uganda 2026 brought together children, students, youth leaders, policymakers, innovators, scientists, community leaders, frontline advocates, government institutions and development partners to advance Uganda's children's and youth climate agenda. The conference was structured as a multi-stakeholder process modelled on the architecture of the Conference of the Parties, with plenary sessions, thematic pavilions, negotiation simulations, a Solutions Lab and marketplace, a high-level segment, side events and a formal declaration process.

Through collaboration with key national and local partners, LCOY Uganda 2026 fostered inclusive dialogue, amplified marginalized voices and translated youth ambition into tangible, trackable climate action. The process brought together the Government of Uganda, including the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES); district local governments in Moroto, Arua, Isingiro, Soroti and Jinja; UN agencies including UNDP and UNICEF; the regional UNFCCC resident focal point; civil society and NGO partners such as GIZ and Joining Forces for Children; academia, including Makerere University; private sector actors such as Edward's Hamlet Regeneration Centre and Buganda Kingdom, Busoga Kingdom.

The evidence base for this statement was built through seven linked stages:

- i. **Preparatory planning and stakeholder mobilization** establishing the coordination structure, thematic priorities, data-collection tools, stakeholder mapping and inclusive participant identification.
- ii. **Nationwide children and youth climate consultations, regional** dialogues, school and community engagements, youth platforms, online surveys, U-Report polls and focus group discussions in Moroto, Arua, Isingiro/Nakivale, Soroti and Jinja.

- iii. **Evidence generation and thematic analysis** synthesis of children’s and youth priorities across climate, biodiversity, WASH, health, nutrition, livelihoods, education, innovation and governance.
- iv. **Capacity building and thematic learning** interactive training on Uganda’s climate policy architecture, UNFCCC processes, NDCs and NAPs, adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, and child- and youth-responsive governance.
- v. **Main LCOY conference delivery** thematic tracks, child-friendly sessions, youth-led dialogues, policy panels, an innovation marketplace, a Solutions Lab and a COP simulation.
- vi. **Validation and policy output development** review and validation of findings, and development of this National Youth and Children’s Climate Statement, thematic action plans and innovation documentation.
- vii. **Dissemination, advocacy and post-conference follow-up** submission to government, Parliament, Uganda’s COP31 delegation and national climate platforms, with tracking of recommendations, mentorship and financing linkages, and continued community-of-practice support.

Regional consultations were delivered through structured breakout sessions, drafting circles and, in schools, a COP simulation, using a standardized rapporteur template so that evidence could be captured consistently, disaggregated by sex, age and, where possible, disability and displacement status. Consultation evidence was triangulated with UNICEF’s national U-Report poll of young Ugandans, so that findings from in-person consultations and the wider online youth population could be read together.

CHAPTER TWO: NATIONAL CONTEXT

Uganda’s population reached 45.9 million at the 2024 National Population and Housing Census and is projected to approach 100 million by 2050¹, with 25.6 million children under 18. Uganda ranks 13th among countries with the highest child climate risk globally². Mean temperatures have already risen by approximately 1.3°C since 1960, with projections of a further 3–5°C increase by 2100³. Uganda’s children and young people are already experiencing climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution as lived realities rather than distant future risks. According to UNICEF’s child climate risk analysis, 13 per cent of Ugandan children are highly exposed to drought, heatwaves and unhealthy levels of air pollution. More than two-thirds of Ugandan households depend on subsistence agriculture, a livelihood highly disrupted by erratic rainfall, floods and drought⁵. Forest cover has declined sharply since 1990, intensifying floods that destroy schools, contaminate water sources and displace families⁶. With 75 per cent of Uganda’s population under the age of 30, today’s children and youth will inherit the full cost of inaction and therefore hold the greatest stake in a transformative climate response⁷.

Evidence from the LCOY Uganda 2026 regional consultations in Karamoja, West Nile, Southwestern Uganda/Nakivale, Teso and Busoga and the 3 days conference points to a consistent national pattern: climate shocks are disrupting water access, food security, health, education, livelihoods, mobility, infrastructure, ecosystems, safety and participation in decision-making. These impacts are most severe for rural communities, refugee and host communities, pastoralist and farming households, flood- and drought-

¹ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), National Population and Housing Census 2024, and Population Projections 2025–2050.

² United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI), Children’s Climate Risk Report 2026, Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 IGO.

³ United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI), Children’s Climate Risk Report 2026, Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 IGO.

⁴ United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI), Children’s Climate Risk Report 2026, Florence: UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 IGO.

⁵ National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National State of Environment Report (NSOER) 2024, Kampala.

⁶ National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National State of Environment Report (NSOER) 2024, Kampala.

⁷ Republic of Uganda, Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) 2026–2030.

prone areas, girls and young women, persons with disabilities, and communities that depend directly on forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes and fragile dryland ecosystems.

Regional Consultation Reach

The consultations as shown in Table 1 reached approximately **3,199** children and youth across 10 schools and learning institutions in Moroto, Arua, Isingiro/Nakivale, Soroti/Teso and Jinja/Busoga. Available school-level sex-disaggregated data shows participation of at least **938 girls and 2,261 boys**. The process also included children and young people from refugee-hosting settings, particularly Nakivale in Isingiro District, where 21 learners from Nakivale Senior Secondary School participated, representing about 1 per cent of total consultation participants. While this confirms participation from a refugee-hosting community, the available data does not provide full refugee-status disaggregation across all sites. Future consultations should strengthen outreach and data capture by refugee and host community status, disability, sex, age and location.

Table 1: Number of children, adolescents and youth reached across Uganda

Region	Institution	Girls	Boys	Total
Karamoja/Moroto	Moroto High School	286	287	573
Karamoja/Moroto	Moroto Demonstration School	200	148	348
Karamoja/Moroto	Moroto PTC	12	8	20
West Nile/Arua	Ariovu Primary School	14	12	26
West Nile/Arua	Arivu Secondary School	60	50	110
Southwestern Uganda/Isingiro–Nakivale	Nakivale Senior Secondary School	9	12	21
Teso/Soroti	Little Apostles Nursery and Primary School	37	30	67
Teso/Soroti	Olilah High School	60	114	174
Busoga/Jinja	Kivubuka Primary School	260	300	560
Busoga/Jinja	Kira College Butiki (Boys School)	—	1,300	1300
Total		938	2,261	3,199

Note: As shown in Table 1, the number of male students significantly exceeds that of female students. This is because Kira College Butiki is a single-sex school that admits only male students.

Overall, the consultations demonstrate broad geographic reach across climate-vulnerable regions while also revealing evidence gaps that must be addressed in future processes. More intentional outreach, stronger data quality assurance and consistent disaggregated data capture are needed to ensure that underrepresented groups, including children and youth in refugee and host communities, are fully visible in national climate evidence and planning.

Conference Reach

LCOY Uganda 2026 reflected an inclusive and multi-stakeholder participant profile, bringing 520 together children, young people, adults, persons with disabilities, youth climate leaders, innovators, students, civil society actors, government institutions, United Nations agencies, diplomatic missions, development partners, financial institutions, private sector actors, media practitioners and community-based organisations.

Gender-disaggregated attendance recorded 284 female participants (54.6%) and 236 male participants (45.4%), indicating stronger female participation by 48 attendances, or a 9.2 percentage-point margin. Age records were concentrated among young adults aged 18–30, who accounted for 375 entries (73.7% of age-classified records), followed by adults above 30 at 119 entries (23.4%) and children below 18 at 15 entries (2.9%).

Participation also reflected important inclusion dimensions. Women and girls were represented across leadership, advocacy, innovation, agriculture, communications, disability inclusion, entrepreneurship, arts, media and youth-climate networks. People with disabilities participated as delegates, speakers, innovators and advocates, including through disability inclusion organisations and sign-language and hard-of-hearing representation.

National Risk Pathways

Through consultations, five interconnected pathways emerged as the main ways climate and environmental risks affect children and youth:

- i. Disrupted learning, income and food production caused by erratic rainfall, drought, heat, strong winds and flooding.
- ii. Water insecurity is linked to drying or contaminated sources, long walking distances and poor sanitation.
- iii. Worsening food insecurity and malnutrition.
- iv. Ecosystem degradation affecting forests, wetlands, rangelands, rivers, lakes and catchments.
- v. Pollution from waste, smoke, dust, mining, open defecation and unsafe environmental practices.

Together, these risks are intensifying disease, reducing household resilience, undermining livelihoods and limiting children's and youth participation in safe, healthy and productive community life. These risks are compounded by structural development pressures, including dependence on rain-fed agriculture, degradation of forests and wetlands, weak waste management systems, limited access to climate-resilient WASH services, inadequate early warning systems, poverty, displacement, low access to finance and limited participation of children and youth in planning and budgeting. Climate change must therefore be understood as a child's rights, health, nutrition, education, protection, gender equality, livelihood and governance challenge.

During LCOY Uganda 2026, approximately **230** registration responses reflected strong national interest in child- and youth-centered climate action, drawn from youth leaders, practitioners, students, civil society organizations, government institutions, academia, media, UN agencies, international partners and the private sector. Most registrants were aged 19–35 years, with near gender balance and representation from Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja, Gulu, Arua, Mbale, Bududa, Karamoja, Kisoro and other locations, indicating expanding geographic reach beyond the capital. The relatively low participation of children and adolescents in the registration process was partly linked to government restrictions on children's movement during the school term, highlighting the need for more deliberate outreach through schools, child-led structures and learner platforms.

Youth Perspectives from U-Report

Ahead of COP31, UNICEF's U-Report surveyed 3,187 young Ugandans under 35 on the climate crisis⁸. Findings align closely with the regional consultations:

Indicator	Finding
Youth voices in COP31 negotiations	98% wanted youth voices reflected in COP31 climate negotiations
Government support for climate education/participation	37–39% felt current support was adequate; most considered it insufficient, unavailable or only somewhat sufficient
Top youth priority	Climate education — 59% , ranking ahead of funding and policy training
Key message	Young people are calling for stronger support, better access to climate education, and direct inclusion in national and global climate decision-making ahead of COP31 and LCOY Uganda 2026

Young people also emphasized the need to protect schools and homes from climate impacts, strengthen early warning systems, improve laws and deliver rapid post-disaster support, especially financial assistance, safe housing and basic needs. These findings show that Uganda's children and youth are informed, willing to act, and calling for accessible climate education, direct protection measures and consistent pathways to influence climate decision-making.

Energy and the Low-Carbon Transition

Uganda's continued reliance on biomass and charcoal for household energy around 75 per cent of household energy use places a disproportionate health, time and safety burden on women and children, even as national electricity access (about 45 per cent) has expanded faster than clean cooking access (about 15 per cent)⁹. LCOY Uganda 2026's clean cooking and energy transition dialogue identified improved cookstoves, LPG, bioethanol, electric pressure cookers, solar solutions, biogas and briquettes as scalable, youth-led enterprise opportunities, and pointed to a shift toward more measurable, risk informed mitigation and adaptation outcomes.

Uganda's transition to a low carbon economy must also address the rapidly growing emissions associated with transport, industrialization and fossil-fuel use alongside household energy. Uganda is developing its oil and gas resources, including the Tilenga and Kingfisher projects, alongside plans for a refinery, while seeking to use oil revenues to support renewable energy and other clean-energy investments. Transport is another major driver of energy demand: about 90 per cent of the transport sector relies on the road network¹⁰. Uganda's Energy Transition Plan envisions increasing public transport, railway transport, biofuels and electric mobility, with electric vehicles becoming increasingly important. Transport is an increasingly important source of emissions: Uganda's NDC process projects transport-sector emissions rising from approximately 4.2 MtCO₂e in 2015 to about 9.6 MtCO₂e by 2030 under a business-as-usual pathway, driven largely by the dominance of road transport and continued reliance on petrol and diesel,

⁸ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), U-Report Uganda: Youth Perspectives on Climate Change ahead of COP31, 2026 (3,187 respondents).

⁹ International Energy Agency (IEA), Uganda Energy Transition Plan, and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development reporting on the National Integrated Clean Cooking Strategy, 2026.

¹⁰ Republic of Uganda, Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC, and Uganda's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2022.

with implementation of mitigation strategies expected to hold this closer to 6.8 MtCO_{2e} by 2030 under NDC 3.0.

This transition presents both opportunities and challenges for youth and children: expanded access to modern energy, clean transport and emerging green industries can improve education, health, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, while creating demand for new technical and digital skills. The transition must therefore be just and inclusive, ensuring that young people acquire the skills and opportunities needed for emerging green jobs and benefit from cleaner environments, improved energy access and climate-resilient development. Uganda's commitment to net-zero energy-sector emissions by 2065 provides an important long-term framework for safeguarding the interests of present and future generations. As Uganda develops NDC 3.0, mitigation must extend beyond household energy to address the full energy and production system, ensuring that transport, industrial growth and fuel use become pathways for cleaner development, innovation and decent green employment for young people, rather than locking Uganda into high-carbon infrastructure and technologies.

Gender, Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

LCOY Uganda 2026 consultations documented gender-differentiated climate impacts, including the disproportionate burden placed on women and girls by water and fuel collection, and heightened protection risks including early marriage and gender-based violence faced by girls during climate-related displacement and economic stress, recalling the protections set out in the Domestic Violence Act, 2010 (Cap. 123). Persons with disabilities participated actively as delegates, speakers and innovators at LCOY Uganda 2026, while refugee and host communities, pastoralists and rural youth remain among the least represented in formal national decision-making. In refugee-hosting settings such as Nakivale, dependence on firewood and charcoal is especially acute, with assessments finding around 95 per cent of refugee and host community households reliant on these fuels¹¹.

Climate Education and Knowledge

Climate education was the highest priority among the 3,187 young Ugandans surveyed through U-Report, cited by 59 per cent of respondents ahead of funding and policy training, while 98 per cent wanted youth voices reflected in COP31 negotiations¹². LCOY Uganda 2026 confirmed strong demand for climate change education, access to credible information and platforms to counter climate misinformation, while indigenous ecological knowledge held by pastoralist communities in Karamoja and cultural institutions such as Busoga Kingdom remain under-recognized in formal climate planning.

Climate Finance

LCOY Uganda 2026's Carbon Markets Masterclass and diplomatic round table with partners including Finding XY, Bank of Africa, GIZ and several embassies underscored that youth-led climate solutions in Uganda remain difficult to finance due to limited collateral, feasibility documentation and investment-readiness support. Uganda's draft NDC 3.0 signals a shift toward more costly, risk-informed and bankable priorities, but its success depends on translating these commitments into financed, accessible implementation for young people and communities.

Agriculture, Water and Food Security

More than two-thirds of Ugandan households depend on subsistence agriculture, a livelihood acutely disrupted by erratic rainfall, floods and drought, particularly in Karamoja and Teso¹³. LCOY Uganda 2026's

¹¹ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), NDC Action Project country profile: Uganda.

¹² United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), U-Report Uganda: Youth Perspectives on Climate Change ahead of COP31, 2026 (3,187 respondents).

¹³ National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National State of Environment Report (NSOER) 2024, Kampala.

regenerative agriculture session and the regional consultations linked climate shocks directly to malnutrition and school disruption in rural and refugee-hosting communities. Water scarcity compounds the crisis: nearly 38% of Ugandans still lack access to safe water, rural households mainly children and women walk an average of three kilometres daily to fetch it, and in Karamoja alone over 122,000 children are projected to face acute malnutrition between 2026 and 2027, a cycle of hunger and thirst that climate change is deepening for the nation's youth and children

Legal and Institutional Framework

Article 39 of the Constitution of Uganda guarantees every Ugandan the right to a clean and healthy environment. Uganda's Climate Change Act, 2021 (Cap. 182), and the mandate of the Department of Climate Change and Carbon Trade provide the country's legislative architecture for climate governance. LCOY Uganda 2026 consultations found that enforcement of wetland, forest and rangeland protections remains inconsistent at district level, and that mechanisms for tracking how youth and children's recommendations translate into binding policy and budget commitments are weak. The conference's outcome document and post-LCOY Community of Practice were established specifically to strengthen this accountability gap ahead of NDC 3.0 finalization and COP31 negotiations.

Rapid, unplanned urban growth in Kampala, Jinja and Mbale has intensified flood risk in informal settlements, while displacement and cross-border mobility particularly around Karamoja and West Nile and the hosting of refugee communities in Nakivale underscore the urgency of embedding climate mobility and climate security within Uganda's adaptation architecture, the WASH NAP 2026, NDC 3.0 and NDP IV.

CHAPTER 3: KEY THEMES

Building on the national context, this chapter summarizes four connected sub-themes that show how climate change affects Uganda's ecosystems, children's wellbeing, youth livelihoods and climate governance. Together, these themes translate consultation findings into priority areas for policy action, investment and youth-led solutions.

The four sub-themes are: environment, climate and biodiversity; children, health and nutrition; livelihoods, technology and innovation; and youth and participatory governance. They provide a practical framework for positioning children and youth as central actors in Uganda's climate resilience, NDC implementation, adaptation planning and COP31 engagement.

Sub-theme A: Environment, Climate and Biodiversity

This sub-theme highlights the link between ecosystem health and children's climate resilience. Participants connected deforestation, wetland degradation, pollution, rangeland pressure and biodiversity loss to water insecurity, flooding, food insecurity, heat stress, livelihood losses and disease risks. The priority is to restore and protect forests, wetlands, riverbanks, rangelands, catchments and biodiversity-rich landscapes while promoting clean energy, resilient water systems and pollution control as core elements of child-sensitive climate adaptation. Youth action should focus on ecosystem stewardship, wetland and riverbank restoration, tree growing, waste management, clean cooking, renewable energy, biodiversity monitoring and community environmental accountability.

Sub-theme B: Children, Health and Nutrition

This sub-theme frames climate change as a children's rights issue. Children are disproportionately affected by climate change, while access to essential social services including health, nutrition, WASH, education and protection can strengthen their resilience and that of their communities. Rising temperatures, floods, droughts, water contamination, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and displacement are affecting children's survival, learning, safety and wellbeing. Consultation findings linked climate shocks to malnutrition,

diarrhoeal diseases, malaria risks, respiratory illness, school disruption, child labour, early pregnancy, early marriage, violence and exploitation, especially in vulnerable rural, refugee-hosting, flood- and drought-prone communities. Priority actions include climate-resilient school WASH services, safe drinking water, inclusive sanitation, nutrition support, school gardens, heat-safe learning spaces, health surveillance, child-friendly disaster preparedness and psychosocial support.

Sub-theme C: Livelihoods, Technology and Innovation

This sub-theme positions green livelihoods and youth innovation as pathways for climate resilience, job creation and economic transformation. Climate shocks are already affecting farming, fishing, livestock, small businesses, household income and school-related costs. Young people proposed practical solutions such as climate-smart agriculture, drought-resistant crops, agroforestry, beekeeping, composting, briquette production, renewable energy, solar irrigation, waste recycling, digital advisory tools and water conservation. The priority is to connect youth-led solutions to finance, tools, training, mentorship, markets, innovation hubs, shared equipment centers and green enterprise support.

Sub-theme D: Youth and Participatory Governance

This sub-theme emphasizes that child and youth participation must move beyond consultation to formal influence in climate planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and accountability. Children and young people are already contributing to solutions but remain underrepresented in decision-making spaces. Participants called for representation in district planning, environmental committees, water user committees, disaster risk structures, NDC implementation, adaptation planning, COP31 preparation and national climate policy processes. The theme advances climate justice and inclusion for refugee and host communities, pastoralists, rural youth, persons with disabilities, girls and young women, and children in fragile or hazard-prone areas.

CHAPTER 4: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on the national findings, thematic analysis and U-Report feedback, these policy recommendations call for a shift from viewing children and young people mainly as vulnerable groups to resourcing them as partners, innovators and implementers of climate resilience. The recommendations respond directly to young people's priorities: meaningful representation in COP31 and national climate processes; stronger climate education and policy literacy; protection of schools, homes and essential services from climate impacts; accessible and accountable financing for youth-led action; improved early warning systems; rapid post-disaster support; and stronger feedback loops showing how youth voices influence decisions.

The recommendations align with Uganda's climate policy processes, including NDC 3.0 development, adaptation planning, biodiversity protection, climate finance, disaster preparedness and COP31 engagement. They are organized around ten comprehensive priorities, each grounded in the corresponding thematic demands raised by the eight thematic groups at LCOY Uganda 2026: institutionalizing participation, financing youth-led climate action, scaling climate education and green skills, investing in climate-resilient services, strengthening early warning systems, restoring ecosystems, scaling green livelihoods and innovation, making climate finance accountable, strengthening loss and damage responses, and improving evidence and accountability.

4.1 Institutionalize Meaningful Child and Youth Participation in Climate Governance

This recommendation is grounded in the Capacity Building thematic group's call **to recognize and resource children's parliaments and school climate clubs, institutionalize youth participation in climate finance and governance structures, and establish a safeguarded pathway for children and youth delegates to Uganda's COP delegation.** Children and youth should be formally represented in

national and sub-national climate policy and action, including NDC implementation platforms, adaptation planning processes, district environment committees, water user committees, disaster risk management structures, natural resources committees, district planning and budgeting platforms and local climate action initiatives. Engagement should move beyond one-off consultation to structured influence through child and youth advisory groups, regular consultations, youth focal points, participatory planning and budgeting spaces, and mechanisms that enable children and young people to shape priorities, budgets, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

For COP31-related engagement, governments and partners should establish **a dedicated pathway for selecting, preparing and supporting youth delegates**, including children and adolescents, refugee youth, youth with disabilities, rural youth and young women. In line with U-Report findings showing overwhelming demand for youth voices to be reflected in COP31 climate negotiations, this pathway should include climate education, climate policy literacy, safeguarding, mentorship, negotiation training, simplified climate information, pre-COP consultations, post-COP feedback sessions and resources that enable participation before, during and after policy processes. Uganda's COP31 delegation should include prepared youth representatives who can carry evidence from LCOY Uganda 2026 and U-Report into national and global climate negotiations.

4.2 Establish a Dedicated Financing Window for Child- and Youth-Led Climate Action

This recommendation is grounded in the Finance thematic group's call for Parties to operationalize the New Collective Quantified Goal and the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, and in U-Report findings that young people want stronger support to move from awareness to action.

Government, development partners and climate finance institutions should **establish a dedicated financing mechanism to support child- and youth-led climate action**. The fund should provide small grants, start-up capital, low-interest loans, mentorship, tools and technical support for community-level climate solutions, with priority given to highly vulnerable regions and groups, including refugee and host communities, pastoralist areas, flood- and drought-prone districts, girls and young women, persons with disabilities, rural youth and children in fragile settings.

The fund should be anchored within Uganda's wider climate finance architecture and linked to NDC implementation, adaptation planning, loss and damage, carbon market opportunities and green investment pipelines. Priority investments should include renewable energy, clean cooking, climate-smart agriculture, water harvesting, ecosystem restoration, waste recycling, green skills, youth innovation hubs and disaster preparedness.

4.3 Scale Up Climate Education and Green Skills Development

This recommendation is grounded in the Capacity Building thematic group's call to **integrate climate education into the national curriculum from lower to higher levels of learning**, and in U-Report findings that 59 per cent of 3,187 young Ugandans surveyed identified climate education as their top priority, ahead of funding and policy training.

The government, with support from development partners and academic institutions, should scale the integration of climate change, water, m biodiversity and environmental education into national curricula from primary through tertiary level, teacher training programmes and TVET institutions. This should be complemented by accessible, non-formal climate education delivered through school climate clubs, U-Report, radio, community platforms and local languages, so that climate literacy reaches children and youth outside the formal school system, including out-of-school youth, refugee learners and children in pastoralist and remote communities.

Green skills training should be positioned as both a climate education priority and an economic strategy, equipping young people with practical, market-relevant skills in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, waste management, water conservation, clean cooking and green construction. Government, private sector actors and training institutions should expand TVET and apprenticeship pathways into green jobs, ensuring that Uganda's youth are prepared to compete for opportunities created by the global transition to a low-carbon economy, in line with Uganda's net-zero energy-sector commitment by 2065.

4.4 Invest in Climate-Resilient Services for Children and Communities

This recommendation is grounded in the Adaptation thematic group's call to **operationalize the WASH NAP 2026 and Health NAP 2025–2030** with indicators disaggregated by age, sex, disability and location. **Uganda should scale investment in climate-resilient social services and their continuity (WASH, health, nutrition, education, social protection and child protection), especially in schools, health facilities, homes, refugee settlements, drought-prone areas, flood-prone communities and underserved rural districts.** This responds to U-Report findings that young people want practical protection of schools and homes from climate impacts. Priority actions should include ensuring access to safe and reliable water supply, rainwater harvesting, water treatment, inclusive sanitation facilities, handwashing facilities, school WASH systems, climate-resilient health services, nutrition-sensitive adaptation, climate-smart school gardens, heat-safe learning environments, safe routes to school, resilient housing measures, and child-friendly disaster preparedness plans.

While climate policies and plans must address child-critical social sectors, climate risks should also be integrated into sector plans, local government development plans, school improvement plans, health emergency preparedness systems and WASH investment plans. This should include stronger climate and health surveillance, emergency response readiness, psychosocial support and continuity plans for essential services during floods, droughts, disease outbreaks and other climate-related shocks. These investments should be treated as human capital and child rights priorities, not only as environmental interventions.

4.5 Strengthen Localized Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action

This recommendation is grounded in the Adaptation thematic group's call to strengthen localized, multi-hazard early warning systems that reach communities in accessible, youth-friendly and disability-inclusive formats, linked to anticipatory action and rapid health response. Climate-related disasters are disrupting schooling, health access, water systems, roads, markets, livelihoods, homes and household safety. In line with U-Report priorities, Uganda **should strengthen localized early warning systems, anticipatory action, community disaster preparedness, youth-led response teams and rapid post-disaster recovery mechanisms in highly exposed districts.** Schools, health facilities, refugee settlements and community institutions should have child-friendly and disability-inclusive preparedness plans that address floods, droughts, storms, disease outbreaks, heat stress and displacement, while ensuring young people receive timely information in accessible and youth-friendly formats.

4.6 Restore and Protect Ecosystems that Children and Youth Depend On

This recommendation is grounded in the Adaptation thematic group's call for climate-resilient urban planning standards, including drainage upgrades and wetland buffer protection, and in the Legal thematic group's finding that enforcement of environmental protections remains inconsistent at district level. Government, local authorities, communities and partners should strengthen protection and restoration of forests, wetlands, riverbanks, rangelands, catchments, lakes, fisheries and degraded landscapes as a core strategy for child-sensitive climate adaptation. Restoration efforts should prioritize areas where ecosystem degradation is directly linked to water insecurity, flooding, heat stress, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, disease risk and livelihood decline.

Policy and programme action should combine enforcement with community stewardship and alternative livelihoods. Recommended actions include wetland and riverbank restoration, tree growing and tree care, rangeland rehabilitation, protection of degraded mining areas, clean cooking alternatives, renewable energy access, community biodiversity monitoring, school and community environmental clubs, waste sorting at source, circular economy enterprises and strengthened accountability for environmental degradation. Youth and children should be supported as ecosystem stewards through local action plans, school climate clubs, community restoration groups and innovation grants.

4.7 Scale Green Livelihoods, Technology and Youth Innovation

This recommendation is grounded in the Technology thematic group's call to **decentralize innovation hubs** such as Mak UNIPOD, the Kabale Incubation Centre, the National ICT Hub and UIRI, and in the agriculture thematic group's call to resource youth agripreneurship market-linkage programmes.

Uganda should invest in green skills, climate-smart livelihoods and youth-led innovation as part of its climate resilience and economic transformation agenda. Young people should be supported to develop and scale practical solutions in climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, drought-resistant crops, kitchen gardens, beekeeping, mushroom farming, composting, briquette production, waste recycling, renewable energy, solar irrigation, greenhouse farming, fruit value addition, clean cooking, water conservation, digital climate advisory tools and community disaster preparedness.

Development partners, private sector actors, academia and government should establish regional youth innovation hubs and shared equipment centers that provide training, incubation, market linkages, digital tools, business mentorship and access to productive assets. These hubs should prioritize rural youth, refugee youth, young women, teenage mothers, school dropouts and youth with disabilities, while connecting viable youth-led initiatives to carbon finance, climate finance, green enterprise programmes, public procurement opportunities and private sector value chains. Green skills should be positioned not only as a pathway to immediate livelihoods, but also as a strategic investment in Uganda's future workforce.

4.8 Make Climate Finance More Accessible and Accountable to Young People

This recommendation is grounded in the Finance thematic group's call to **develop a youth and children climate finance marker** through the Climate Finance Unit, encourage Parties to budget-tag youth and children, and establish a national climate finance directory connecting youth-led innovations to available funding.

Government and development partners should introduce a dedicated youth and children climate finance marker within Uganda's Climate Finance Unit and national budget-tagging systems, so that climate finance flows benefiting children and youth can be tracked, reported and scaled. A national climate finance directory should be established to connect youth-led innovations to available grants, loans, carbon finance and investment opportunities, alongside transparent selection criteria, simplified application processes and youth-led accountability mechanisms so that young people without institutional backing can access finance on equal terms.

Financing decisions and disbursements should be made public in accessible formats, with regular reporting on how much climate finance reaches child- and youth-led initiatives, which regions and groups benefit, and what results are achieved. This transparency should extend to Uganda's NDC 3.0 implementation financing and COP31-related finance commitments, ensuring young people can hold both government and development partners accountable for delivery.

4.9 Strengthen Loss and Damage Responses for Children and Youth

This recommendation is grounded in the Adaptation thematic group's call to develop a national Loss and Damage action plan, informed by youth and children's evidence, with a dedicated pathway to access the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

Loss and damage responses should recognize the non-economic impacts of climate change on children and youth, including school disruption, psychosocial distress, child protection risks, nutrition setbacks, loss of cultural and community assets, damage to homes and long-term impacts on wellbeing and opportunity. In response to U-Report feedback, post-disaster support should prioritize timely financial assistance, safe temporary shelter, basic needs, continuity of essential services and psychosocial support. Youth and children should contribute to defining these losses and to shaping recovery priorities, especially in communities that repeatedly face floods, droughts and displacement.

4.10 Improve Evidence, Accountability and Feedback Loops

This recommendation is grounded in the Legal thematic group's finding that mechanisms for tracking how youth and children's recommendations translate into binding policy and budget commitments remain weak.

Climate policy and programming should be informed by stronger disaggregated data on children and youth, including age, sex, disability, location, refugee or displacement status and livelihood context. Governments and partners should strengthen evidence systems that capture the effects of climate change on water access, school attendance, health, nutrition, child protection, livelihoods, mobility and participation. U-Report, school-based consultations, youth climate platforms and community feedback systems should be institutionalized as regular evidence and accountability channels, not one-off consultation tools, so children and youth can continuously inform policy, programming and COP31 follow-up.

LCOY Uganda 2026 should establish a clear post-conference accountability mechanism to track how youth and children's recommendations are reflected in national climate policy, district planning, partner programming, climate finance decisions and Uganda's COP31 positioning. This should include a public follow-up matrix, periodic youth-led review sessions, feedback to consultation sites, regular U-Report pulse checks on implementation progress and continued communities of practice under each thematic area. Findings from these feedback loops should be shared back with children and youth in accessible formats to build trust, sustain engagement and demonstrate that their voices are shaping decisions.

THEMATIC DEMANDS

The following demands were developed by eight thematic groups at LCOY Uganda 2026 and provide the detailed evidentiary and legal basis for the ten policy recommendations above.

Group 1: Adaptation - Adaptation, Resilience, Cities, Water, Health, Loss and Damage, Migration and Climate Security

Global context. Parties entered the implementation phase of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) under Decision 1/CMA.5¹⁴, guided by the Belém Adaptation Indicators (Decision 12/CMA.7¹⁵), the Belém–Addis Vision technical taskforce, and the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (paragraph 28 of Decision 12/CMA.7 and paragraph 29 of Decision 3/CMA.6¹⁶). Decision 1/CMA.3¹⁷ and paragraph 161 of Decision 1/CMA.5¹⁸ recognize the role of subnational and local actors, including through the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), in advancing urban climate resilience. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage¹⁹ and Warsaw International Mechanism’s Task Force on Displacement²⁰ remain the principal global instruments for addressing climate-related loss, damage and human mobility, while the World Health Organization recognizes climate change as a direct threat to global health systems²¹.

Recalling Decision 1/CMA.5 on the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Belém Adaptation Indicators adopted under Decision 12/CMA.7, and noting that LCOY Uganda 2026 regional consultations recorded water insecurity, flooding and drought among the five most severe risk pathways affecting Uganda’s children and youth,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Conduct a risk and vulnerability assessment to establish the vulnerable sectors and communities adversely affected by climate change.
- Operationalize the implementation of adaptation plans such as the Uganda WASH NAP 2026 and the Health NAP 2025–2030, and other sectoral adaptation plans without delay, with indicators aligned to the Belém Adaptation Indicators and disaggregated by age, sex, disability and location.
- Triple adaptation finance by 2035 at the national level, through domestic budget allocation and accessible, direct-access adaptation financing windows for local governments and children- and youth-led adaptation initiatives.

Recalling Decision 1/CMA.3 and paragraph 161 of Decision 1/CMA.5 on the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), and noting that unplanned urban growth is intensifying flood risk for communities and informal settlements and disrupting education, we call on national and local government to:

¹⁴ Decision 1/CMA.5, Outcome of the first global stocktake, CMA5, Dubai, 2023 (Global Goal on Adaptation framework, established under Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement).

¹⁵ Decision 12/CMA.7, Belém Adaptation Indicators and the Belém–Addis Vision under the Global Goal on Adaptation, CMA7, Belém, 2025 (projected).

¹⁶ Decision 3/CMA.6, Baku Adaptation Roadmap, CMA6, Baku, 2024, para. 29.

¹⁷ Decision 1/CMA.3, Glasgow Climate Pact, CMA3, Glasgow, 2021, para. 20, recognizing the role of non-Party stakeholders including subnational and local actors.

¹⁸ Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 161, CMA5, Dubai, 2023, recognizing the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP).

¹⁹ Decision 1/CP.27 and Decision 2/CMA.4, Fund for responding to loss and damage (FRLD), COP27/CMA4, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022; operationalized under Decision 1/CMA.5, CMA5, Dubai, 2023.

²⁰ Decision 1/CP.19, Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, COP19, Warsaw, 2013; Task Force on Displacement established under Decision 1/CP.21, para. 49, Paris, 2015.

²¹ World Health Organization, Climate Change and Health, Fact Sheet.

- Integrate climate-resilient urban planning standards into municipal ordinances and physical development plans, including drainage upgrades, wetland buffer protection and resilient housing for informal settlements.
- Institutionalize youth and child representation in district disaster risk management committees, water user committees and municipal planning structures.

Recalling the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and the mandate of the Warsaw International Mechanism's Task Force on Displacement, and noting testimony from LCOY Uganda 2026 regional consultations in Karamoja, West Nile and Nakivale²² on displacement, cross-border climate mobility and resource-related insecurity, and the need to fast-track evidence on climate-related losses and damages to inform government budgets and policy reforms inclusively of youth and children,

We call on Parties and Uganda's COP31 delegation to:

- Develop a national Loss and Damage action plan, informed by youth and children's evidence from LCOY Uganda 2026, with a dedicated pathway to access the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and other international loss and damage financing.
- Integrate climate-induced migrants as refugees, recalling the Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC).
- Support conflict-sensitive, context-specific climate programming in Karamoja and other fragile or resource-stressed regions, recognizing young people as agents of peacebuilding and resilience, not only as vulnerable populations.

Recalling the World Health Organization's recognition of climate change as a direct threat to global health systems²³, and noting that LCOY Uganda 2026 consultations linked climate shocks to malnutrition, diarrhoeal disease, malaria and respiratory illness among children,

We call upon on the Government of Uganda to:

- Operationalize and implement adaptation measures in the Health NAP to address climate-sensitive vector-borne and airborne disease, integrated WASH-health action, climate-proof health facilities and a climate-resilient health workforce.
- Strengthen localized, multi-hazard early warning systems that reach communities in accessible, youth-friendly and disability-inclusive formats, linked to anticipatory action and rapid health response.

Group 2: Mitigation - Energy, Emissions Reduction, NDC Mitigation Commitments, Just Transition and Low-Carbon Development

Global context. Under Decision 4/CMA.4²⁴ and Decision 4/CMA.5²⁵ on the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme, Parties are urged to close the gap between current NDCs and the 1.5°C pathway confirmed by the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, including through deep reductions of non-CO₂ gases. The UAE Just Transition Work Programme, under Decision -/CMA.7²⁶, calls for sector-specific just transition plans embedded in 2035 NDCs, dedicated funding windows for children and youth-led mitigation and clean energy projects, and enforceable decommissioning and reskilling obligations.

²² LCOY Uganda 2026 regional consultation records, Karamoja, West Nile and Isingiro/Nakivale, 2026.

²³ World Health Organization, Climate Change and Health, Fact Sheet.

²⁴ Decision 4/CMA.4, Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme, CMA4, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022.

²⁵ Decision 4/CMA.5, Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme, CMA5, Dubai, 2023.

²⁶ Decision -/CMA.7, United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Programme, CMA7, Belém, 2025 (projected), para. 26 (governance modalities).

Article 4 of the Paris Agreement and Decision 1/CMA.5 on the need for successive NDCs²⁷ call for successive NDCs to reflect the highest possible mitigation ambition.

Recalling Decision 4/CMA.4 and Decision 4/CMA.5 on the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme, and noting Uganda's continued dependence on biomass and charcoal for household energy,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Acknowledge and emphasize the need for inclusive awareness, skilling and investment in energy solutions to support the transition.
- Expand consumer financing, subsidies and tax exemptions for youth-led enterprises in clean cooking technologies and sustainable briquette production, prioritizing rural, refugee-hosting and low-income urban communities.
- Consider reforms that support start-up investments promoting the longevity and scalability of youth-led enterprises.

Recalling the UAE Just Transition Work Programme, established under Decision -/CMA.7, and the call for Parties to embed sector-specific just transition plans in their 2035 NDCs,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Increase financing for ongoing transition and circular economy initiatives that transform livelihood alternatives for children and youth.

Group 3: Capacity Building - Climate Education, Awareness, Action for Climate Empowerment, Youth and Children Participation, Skills Development, Institutional Capacity and Knowledge

Global context. Decision 23/CP.27²⁸ and Decision 22/CMA.4²⁹ adopted the Glasgow Work Programme and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Action Plan, comprising six elements: education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation. Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraphs 9, 158 and 161³⁰, call for the integration of children and youth into national climate policy design, implementation and monitoring, while UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 26 (2023)³¹ affirms children's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and to be heard in environmental decision-making. The Paris Committee on Capacity Building³² addresses current and emerging capacity gaps in developing countries.

Recalling Decision 23/CP.27 and Decision 22/CMA.4 adopting the Glasgow Work Programme and ACE Action Plan, and noting that 59 per cent of 3,187 young Ugandans surveyed through U-Report identified climate education as their highest priority,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Acknowledge existing education reforms and promote the inclusion of climate education in the curriculum from lower to higher levels of learning.

²⁷ Decision 1/CMA.5, Outcome of the first global stocktake, CMA5, Dubai, 2023.

²⁸ Decision 23/CP.27, Action for Climate Empowerment: Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022.

²⁹ Decision 22/CMA.4, Action for Climate Empowerment: Glasgow work programme, CMA4, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022.

³⁰ Decision 1/CMA.5, Outcome of the first global stocktake, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, fifth session, Dubai, 2023, paras. 9, 158 and 161.

³¹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change, CRC/C/GC/26, 22 August 2023.

³² Decision 2/CP.21, Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), COP21, Paris, 2015.

Recalling Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraphs 9, 158 and 161, on the integration of children and youth into national climate policy design, implementation and monitoring, we call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Recognize and resource children's parliaments and school climate clubs and create advisory structures as legitimate contributors to district and national climate planning and budgeting.
- Institutionalize platforms for the meaningful participation of young people in all climate finance and governance structures, including the Climate Finance Unit's decision-making processes, the NDC 3.0 implementation framework, and national climate finance tracking and reporting mechanisms. Participation must move beyond tokenism to genuine co-decision-making power.
- Establish a dedicated, inclusive, structured and safeguarded pathway for selecting training and funding children and youth delegates to Uganda's delegation to COP and its intersessional meetings.
- Recognize the LCOY Uganda 2026 Community of Practice as an accountability mechanism.

Recalling sections 18, 19 and 20 of the National Climate Change Act, 2021,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Operationalize local government climate committees within existing local government structures such as the Parish Development Model (PDM).

Group 4: Gender - Gender-Responsive Climate Action, Climate Justice, Human Rights and Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

Global context. The UNFCCC Gender Action Plan³³ and Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement³⁴ require Parties to pursue gender-responsive adaptation action, in accordance with the needs and leadership of women and girls and other marginalized groups. The July 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change reinforced intergenerational equity and the human rights obligations of States toward children and future generations, while UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 26 (2023)³⁵ affirms the rights of children in environmental decision-making and protection from environmental harm.

Recalling the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement on gender-responsive adaptation, and noting the disproportionate burden placed on women and girls by water and fuel collection documented at LCOY Uganda 2026,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Ensure that climate finance instruments are gender-responsive and inclusive of youth, persons with disabilities and refugees, recognizing the need for women and girls in climate planning, budgeting and implementation.
- Maintain and expand existing protection systems, including continued sensitization on gender-based violence, child marriage and exploitation for girls and young women affected by climate-related displacement and economic stress.

Recalling UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

³³ Decision 3/CP.25, Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, COP25, Madrid, 2019.

³⁴ Paris Agreement, Article 7, paragraph 5, on country-driven, gender-responsive adaptation action.

³⁵ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change, CRC/C/GC/26, 22 August 2023.

- Embed child-rights safeguards, including protection from environmental harm, in national and district-level climate decision-making processes.

Group 5: Technology - Access to Climate Technology, Innovation, Capacity for Implementation and Digital Inclusion

Global context. Article 11 of the Paris Agreement and related decisions including Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 71–75, establishing the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB), and Decisions 16/CP.22, 22/CP.24, 3/CP.25 and 14/CMA.3 on PCCB mandates call for capacity building that includes technical and vocational education and training (TVET), skills development and youth capacity for technology implementation.

Recalling these capacity-building mandates and noting the demand voiced at LCOY Uganda 2026 for accessible, locally appropriate technology and reliable channels for climate information,

We urge the Government of Uganda to:

- Decentralize technology innovation hubs such as Mak UNIPOD, the Kabale Incubation Centre, the National ICT Hub and the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) to provide young tech innovators with financing, incubation, mentorship, feasibility-study support, market linkages and investment-readiness support, with priority for underserved groups and regions.
- Create linkages between existing research bodies and youth-led research entities to facilitate technology transfer by negotiating affordable, accessible and locally appropriate access to climate technologies.
- Protect young innovators' intellectual property and promote low-cost licensing both locally and internationally.
- Strengthen existing communication approaches including mobile platforms, U-Report, radio and other accessible channels to ensure reliable and equitable access to climate information for people likely to be left behind, using disability-inclusive formats, local language, sign language and Braille, among others.

Group 6: Legal - Climate Governance, Legislation, Policies, Institutional Frameworks, Rights, Accountability and Enforcement

Global context. The July 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change affirms that States carry binding legal obligations to effectively implement the climate change treaty framework and the rights of women, children and indigenous peoples. Paragraph 26 of Decision -/CMA.7, adopted at COP30 in Belém, on the UAE Just Transition mechanism, calls for inclusive, rights-based institutional governance design, while UNFCCC arrangements for intergovernmental meetings call for robust accountability frameworks addressing conflicts of interest and safeguarding the integrity of climate negotiations.

Recalling the July 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion, which affirms the binding legal obligation of States to act in line with the 1.5°C goal and to protect the rights of children and future generations; recalling the accountability and conflict-of-interest provisions called for under UNFCCC arrangements for intergovernmental meetings and the need for a transparent, credible process for constituting Uganda's COP31 delegation; and recalling paragraph 26 of Decision -/CMA.7 on inclusive, rights-based governance design under the UAE Just Transition mechanism,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Acknowledge existing grievance and redress mechanisms and implement decentralized and equitable access to these mechanisms for communities and young people affected by climate-related decisions, enforcement actions or environmental harm.

Group 7: Agriculture - Climate-Smart Agriculture, Food Systems, Food Security, Nutrition, Livelihoods and Resilience of Agricultural Communities

Global context. The Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security³⁶ calls for the meaningful inclusion of children and youth in climate action on food systems, recognition of agroecology as a pathway to resilience and emissions reduction, and stronger, accessible climate finance for smallholders, youth and women. Decision 1/CMA.5 (the first Global Stocktake)³⁷ calls for food systems transformation, while Target 9(b) of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience³⁸ anchors global adaptation targets for agriculture and food security.

Recalling the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security and the call for food systems transformation under Decision 1/CMA.5, and noting that more than two-thirds of Ugandan households depend on subsistence agriculture,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Acknowledge and expand existing investment in climate-smart and regenerative agriculture and agroecology training for education institutions, young farmers and women in Uganda, incorporating climate-smart agricultural and resilient food systems training into the national curriculum and teacher-training programmes.
- Recognize and resource children- and youth-led research and innovation on climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems.

Recalling Target 9(b) of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience on the transformation of agriculture and food systems,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Expand climate-resilient feeding and nutrition-sensitive adaptation programmes as core components of NDP IV social sector planning.

Recalling the recognition, within the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security, of the vulnerabilities, lived experiences and leadership of children and youth in advancing equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems, and recalling the UNCCD COP17 resolution,

We call on the Government of Uganda and development partners to:

- Recognize and resource youth agripreneurship market-linkage programmes connecting climate-smart farming and value addition to viable, scalable enterprises and markets.
- Double climate finance access for smallholders and youth-led agricultural enterprises.
- Identify and uptake traditional and indigenous knowledge systems that are sustainable and promote food security.

³⁶ Decision 3/CP.27, Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (SJWA), COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh, 2022.

³⁷ Decision 1/CMA.5, Outcome of the first global stocktake, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, fifth session, Dubai, 2023, paras. 9, 158 and 161.

³⁸ Decision 2/CMA.5, UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, CMA5, Dubai, 2023 (Target 9(b) on food and agricultural production).

- Acknowledge existing food storage systems and increase investment in modern, affordable storage to reduce post-harvest losses, especially for smallholder farmers at community level, and protect communities from related food shortages.
- Promote agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and soil and water conservation technologies that support farmers to restore degraded land across Uganda.
- Disseminate standardization knowledge, including certification procedures and processes, to community and young farmers ahead of project establishment.

Group 8: Finance - Climate Finance, Access to Finance, Youth-Led Climate Financing, Carbon Markets, Investment and Financing of NDC Implementation

Global context. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) and the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap³⁹ call for the operationalization of USD 1.3 trillion in annual climate finance from developed countries by 2035, alongside binding obligations under Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement⁴⁰. The Climate Finance Work Programme's thematic pillars include operationalizing intergenerational equity through meaningful youth participation in finance governance and the establishment of dedicated funding windows for youth-led initiatives. Article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, of the Paris Agreement⁴¹ govern cooperative approaches, including market and non-market mechanisms, which youth constituencies have called on Parties to prioritize rights-based, community-led and youth-led mitigation initiatives.

Recalling the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap toward USD 1.3 trillion annually, and Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement,

we call on Parties and the Government of Uganda to:

- Develop a youth and children climate finance marker through the Climate Finance Unit and encourage Parties to budget-tag youth and children.

Recalling the thematic pillars of the Climate Finance Work Programme, including operationalizing intergenerational equity through meaningful youth participation in finance governance, we call on the Government of Uganda and development partners to:

- Support investment-readiness for youth-led climate enterprises, including awareness of available funds and funding mechanisms, capacity building, feasibility study support, business formalization and a national climate finance directory connecting youth-led innovations to available funding.
- Utilize the opportunities available under the NDC Partnership to support implementation of NDC 3.0.

Recalling Article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, of the Paris Agreement on cooperative approaches, market mechanisms and non-market approaches, and noting the discussions held at LCOY Uganda 2026's Carbon Markets Masterclass,

We call on the Government of Uganda to:

- Strengthen youth capacity on Article 6 and carbon finance while prioritizing non-market community-led mitigation approaches that deliver substantive local mitigation and adaptation benefits.

³⁹ Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T, UNFCCC Presidencies of COP29 and COP30, 2024–2025.

⁴⁰ Paris Agreement, Article 9, paragraph 1, on the obligation of developed country Parties to provide financial resources to developing country Parties.

⁴¹ Paris Agreement, Article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, on cooperative approaches, the Article 6.4 mechanism and non-market approaches.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

LCOY Uganda 2026 demonstrates that children and young people are not only witnesses to Uganda's climate crisis; they are essential partners in shaping the country's resilience, development and climate leadership. Across the regional consultations, their experiences revealed a clear national reality: climate change is already disrupting water access, food systems, health, education, livelihoods, ecosystems, safety and participation in decision-making. These impacts are deepest in communities facing poverty, displacement, ecosystem degradation, drought, floods and limited access to climate-resilient services. The message from children and youth is urgent and consistent: climate action must become more inclusive, better financed, locally grounded and accountable to those who will live longest with its consequences.

The National Youth and Children Statement provides a practical basis for this shift. It connects the lived realities of children and youth to national policy priorities, including NDC implementation, adaptation planning, biodiversity protection, climate finance, disaster preparedness, loss and damage, WASH resilience, green livelihoods and participatory governance. The recommendations call for dedicated financing for youth- and child-led climate action, institutionalized participation in climate governance, stronger climate-resilient services, restoration of the ecosystems that sustain communities, expanded green skills and innovation, improved early warning systems, and stronger evidence and accountability mechanisms.

As Uganda prepares for COP31, the priorities of children and youth must move from consultation spaces into formal decision-making, budgets, implementation plans and negotiating positions. This requires government institutions, Parliament, local governments, development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector and youth-led organizations to work together around a shared accountability agenda. Children and young people should be supported to participate meaningfully before, during and after COP31, with the skills, information, safeguards, resources and platforms needed to influence outcomes and track implementation.

The call to action is clear: **Uganda must invest in its youngest generation as climate leaders, innovators, advocates and stewards of the country's future.** COP31 should not only be a diplomatic milestone; it should be a turning point for child-sensitive and youth-responsive climate action. By acting on the priorities set out in this statement, Uganda can strengthen resilience, protect children's rights, restore ecosystems, expand green opportunities and demonstrate national leadership rooted in justice, inclusion and intergenerational responsibility.

Ahead of COP31, the voices of children and youth must be heard, financed, represented and acted upon. Their future is not a side event in the climate agenda; it is the measure of whether climate action is truly just, inclusive and transformative.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of LCOY Uganda 2026 Organizing Team

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