

ENHANCING YOUTH COMMUNICATION AND NEGOTIATION ABILITIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

LEARNINGS FROM THE IULM UNIVERSITY
AND IULM CIMASC WHITE PAPER

April 2023



Enhancing Youth Communication and Negotiation Abilities on Climate Change:

Learnings from the IULM University and IULM CIMASC White Paper

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This policy insight is derived from the findings presented in the white paper that has been prepared by IULM University and IULM CIMASC Communication and Negotiation Abilities of Youth on Climate

About Earthna

Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future (Earthna) is a non-profit policy, research, and advocacy organization, established by Qatar Foundation to promote and enable a coordinated approach to environmental, social, and economic sustainability and prosperity.

Earthna is a facilitator of sustainability efforts and action in Qatar and other hot and arid countries, focusing on sustainability frameworks, circular economies, energy transition, climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, cities and the built environment, and education, ethics, and faith. By bringing together technical experts, academia, government and non-government organizations, businesses and civil society, Earthna fosters collaboration, innovation, and positive change.

Using their home - Education City - as a testbed, Earthna develops and trials sustainable solutions and evidence-based policies for Qatar and hot and arid regions. The organization is committed to combining modern thinking with traditional knowledge, contributing to the well-being of society by creating a legacy of sustainability within a thriving natural environment.

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The role of young climate activists is indispensable to fighting climate change, notably since they have emerged as a powerful force driving change and demanding accountability. It becomes clear that empowering young activists is imperative. However, they need resources, training, mentorship, and access to funding opportunities to not only enhance their engagement in climate action, but also to meaningfully participate in shaping policies and decisions.

To effectively address climate change, it is crucial to ensure that everyone, especially youth, are actively involved in high level discussions and solutions led by decision-makers at the global level. In collaboration with IULM, Earthna supported the research and subsequent Report entitled "Communication and Negotiation Abilities of Youth on Climate" (2022). The Report sheds light on several important themes including: i) attitudes of youth regarding climate change, ii) young activists and their interaction with policy makers, iii) young activists and their interaction with their peers, iv) technology and social media to support young activists' interactions and v) education and training for young activists.

The Report's analysis depended on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies (including in-depth interviews, ethnographic observation of working groups where youth were active, in addition to interviews and web listening activity)

The research aimed to identify the mechanisms used by youth to negotiate with policymakers and communicate with each other while observing the dynamics of multicultural and cross-generational interactions. It also sought to highlight strengths and key areas for improvement in young people's communication skills, empowering them to take decision-making and leadership positions. Additionally, the study explored ways to support young activists in generating a stronger impact on global change in the area of climate.

Approaches To Negotiations With Policymakers

There is an increasing desire for youth participation in climate change discussions, however, there are barriers to youth inclusion in climate change debates with adults.

Findings also point out to where youth negotiation skills can be improved, these include English proficiency, the use of technical jargon etc.

Approaches To Peer Communication

It was found that the prevalent method adopted by 73% of young activists, relies on preciseness when crafting messages. While this approach does empower youth it is not the most effective, rather expressiveness and informal attitudes were more effective.

Interaction Quality

Young activists are driving a cultural shift advocating for a more receptive and respectful atmosphere. However, the research uncovered a concerning trend whereby online interactions were manifesting higher levels of aggression, emphasizing the need for effective conflict management strategies in the digital sphere.

Two enablers were found to amplify the drivers of youth empowerment in climate change interactions, and should therefore be leveraged.

Technology Enablers

Enhancing technology and social media platforms plays an extremely important role in facilitating effective interactions among young activists. By leveragingthese technological advancements young climate activists can foster widespread engagement collaboration and information dissemination amplifying their collective impact.

Context Enablers

The context plays a pivotal role in enabling the effectiveness of youth in climate change interactions both when engaging with policymakers and during peer discussions. Creating spaces without barriers is crucial for fostering relational proximity across generations.

The study proposes recommendations, grouped under the different themes of the study namely: approaches to negotiations with policy makers, approaches to peer communication, interaction quality, technology enablers and context enablers. These recommendations aim to address emerging issues, difficulties and areas of proposed improvement to empower and support young climate activists.

Recognizing the pivotal role young climate advocates play, Earthna aims to encourage the development of climate change negotiation-specific training. Empowering these advocates becomes imperative for meaningful contributions to policy decisions, notably taking into account that 80% of young activists have not to date participated in any training programme related to communication and/or negotiation skills. The IULM research explores various dimensions, advocating for a comprehensive approach to refine the capacities of young activists in negotiations.

As events like QNDCC, and COP approach, Earthna urges policymakers, delegations, and conference organizers to consider and actively support the readiness of youth to engage in discussions and proposes both short-term goals for youth involvement and scaling efforts globally.

Earthna recognises the critical role of education in bridging information gaps and promoting widespread pro-climate behaviors, particularly through school programs. Educational institutions are encouraged to incorporate communication training, empowering youth to contribute substantively and effectively communicate their insights

on the global stage. To amplify the influence of youth in the climate discourse, strategic measures are recommended, including leveraging media platforms, interviews, podcasts, and social media campaigns.

In response to the escalating global challenge of climate change, Earthna's collaborative research with IULM University reveals a critical gap in the preparedness of young advocates. Despite their influence, these advocates express frustration with their communication skills, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive support system, including support to educational institutions, other resources, training, mentorship, and funding opportunities.

In addition, Earthna remains interested in the relationship between climate change and education at large. Earthna will work on both fronts of supporting youth activists, and also in supporting the education system at large to take climate change issues into account. Such a focus is very much in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a call to action addressed to different stakeholders who can each according to their capacity and focus partner with Earthna in implementing some of the above recommendations. Such partnerships should include Governments, NGOs and Educational institutions.

The urgency of climate action necessitates collaborative efforts, and the recommendations provide a policy-oriented roadmap for policymakers, institutions, and advocates alike to actively contribute to global change.

Introduction

Climate change is an urgent global challenge which can only be handled through collective efforts and immediate and accelerated action. The role of young climate activists is indispensable, notably since they have emerged as a powerful force driving change and demanding accountability. It becomes clear that empowering young activists is imperative. However, they need resources, training, mentorship, and access to funding opportunities to not only enhance their engagement in climate action, but also to meaningfully participate in shaping related policies and decisions.

Recent reports have made a clear connection between education and climate change efforts. Education is a powerful but under-used instrument for climate action. Channelling more climate funding to education could significantly boost climate mitigation and adaptation, notably for youth. Education is one of the strongest predictors of climate change awareness. It can play a catalytic role in climate change mitigation and adaptation by reshaping mindsets, behaviors, skills, and enhancing innovation. Thus, education promotes innovation and the adoption of new technologies, factors that are crucial for climate change adaptation. In Ethiopia, completing six years of education increases the likelihood of farmers to adapt to climate change by 20 percent. For farmers across ten African countries, one year of education led to a 1.6 percent reduction in the probability of no climate change adaptability measures being taken. Similarly, the likelihood that a family in Uganda will adopt drought-resistant crop varieties increases significantly when the father has basic education. In Pakistan, farmers with at least a lower secondary education were more inclined to diversify their crops, adjust their planting schedules, and utilize farm insurance to manage the adverse impacts of climate change¹.

Considering the benefits of climate-specific education, it remains an underfunded area of climate finance – a mere 1.5 percent of climate finance went to the education sector in 2021. However, it has gained more traction over recent years as policymakers and organizations recognize the critical role education plays in achieving climate resilience and sustainability. In 2023, the Greening Education Partnership, a global alliance comprising over 1000 member organizations and 80 countries, convened a meeting of key stakeholders and partners to consider the establishment of a UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (UN-MPTF) for Greening Education; the first UN-wide climate education financing fund. The MPTF plans to raise \$50 million in its first year, with a goal of doubling that amount within three years².

It has become increasingly evident that addressing the needs of young climate activists therefore also means addressing their educational needs³. To effectively address climate change, it is crucial to ensure that everyone, especially youth, are actively involved in high level discussions and solutions led by decision-makers at the global level. In collaboration with IULM, Earthna supported the research and subsequent Report entitled “Communication and Negotiation Abilities of Youth on Climate”(published in 2022). The Report sheds light on several important themes including: i) attitudes of youth regarding climate change, ii) young activists and their interaction with policy makers, iii) young activists and their interaction with their peers, iv) technology and social media to support young activists’ interactions and v) education and training for young activists.

¹ World Bank, “Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action”, August 2024

² <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/stepping-finance-get-every-learner-climate-ready>

³ World Bank, “Choosing Our Future: Education for Climate Action”, August 2024



Approach and Methodology

The Report's analysis depended on a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. In-depth interviews were conducted with 243 participating delegates from all countries at Y4C in Milan (2021) and New York City (2022). The interviewee cohort was diverse, with two from each signatory country of the Paris agreement attending COP 26 and COP 27. This was supplemented by a six-day ethnographic observation of the eight working groups into which youth were divided during the Y4C events. In addition, interviews were carried out with 17 bridge builders, co-facilitators, Y4C advisers and coordination team members. Quantitative methods included an online

survey administered to 535 young activists under 30, and 40 persons over 30. The methodology also included Web listening conducted across online conversations on different channels, including social media, news channels, blogs, and specific online forums on climate change. The web listening activity took place over a period of 17 months, was delivered in all languages, and resulted in the collection of 40 million data points, it provided unique insights into climate advocacy, such as mapping of the different approaches employed by young activists in the context of climate change negotiations with policymakers.



The research had the following main objectives:

- Identify mechanisms used by youth to negotiate with policymakers and communicate with each other.
- Observe the dynamics of multicultural and cross-generational interactions.
- Identify strengths and key areas for improvement in young people's communication skills and empower them to take decision-making and leadership positions.

- Understand how to support young activists in generating a stronger impact on global change, moving from strong ambition to effective action.

While all the above objectives are important, clearly understanding how to support young activists is key for an institution like Earthna since it will help future actions in supporting youth.

“Young people are the future of this world; it is essential that their voices be heard in the fight for that future,”

H.E. Shamma Al Mazrui, the COP28 Youth Climate Champion.

“The youth is our future! You will be at the table to decide how your future will be.”

Adnan Z. Amin, Director of the United Nations System Chief, Executives Board for Coordination at COP 15/CMP 5



This section presents the main findings from the IULM white paper and the approaches that have been identified to enhance youth engagement in climate change negotiations. Based on these findings, the following section of the Report proposes recommendations for consideration by various stakeholders including for Earthna.

1. Approaches To Negotiations With Policymakers

- There is an increasing desire for youth participation in climate change discussions (79% of youth identify as environmental activists, however only 39% of youth believe that their contribution can have an influence);
- There are barriers to youth inclusion in climate change debates with adults. The main barriers are as follows: 70% intergenerational ideological distance, 60% lack of platforms for mutual exchange, 57% difficulties in communication among the two generations and 57% absence of a clear strategy;
- An approach based on facts and rationality was employed by 78 % of youth to communicate their message to policy makers. While valuable the research results suggest the approach that seems most empowering, one that paves the way for more constructive negotiations is one that focuses on acknowledging policymakers' ideas and feelings showing a willingness to collaborate and recognizing their contribution to climate change discussions;
- Language plays a significant role in climate change negotiations with noticeable inter-generational distance in the use of language. While young activists convey a sense of urgency and negativity, employing terms such as "greenwashing" and "death", institutional voices

focus on goals, use neutral language featuring terms such as "global" etc.;

- Emotional dynamics between young activists and policy makers indicate that young activists feel in awe when interacting with policy makers resulting in an emotional distance;
- Findings also point out to where youth negotiation skills can be improved, these include English proficiency, the use of technical jargon etc. Young activists struggle in conveying clear messages, prioritization of their thoughts and effective use of visual aids including presentations.

2. Approaches To Peer Communication

- Regarding the approaches to peer communication, it was found that the prevalent method adopted by 73% of young activists, relies on preciseness when crafting messages. It was found that while this approach does empower youth it is not the most effective, rather expressiveness and informal attitudes empowers youth the most;
- The findings also highlight the importance of understanding the role of cultural intelligence, the challenges that arise in cross-cultural exchanges and group dynamics. Understanding these dynamics is essential for enhancing the effectiveness of young activists' participation in addressing climate change positively;
- The research highlights a prevalent hesitancy among the youth when it comes to assuming leadership roles and embracing a more assertive communication style.

This reluctance is a significant concern given that self-confidence and leadership abilities are the second highest priority for young activists.

3. Interaction Quality

- Young activists are driving a cultural shift advocating for a more receptive and respectful atmosphere that prioritizes positive collaboration while discouraging aggression and opposition;
- However, the research uncovered a concerning trend in that online interactions tended to manifest higher levels of aggression emphasizing the need for effective conflict management strategies in the digital sphere;
- Prior knowledge is a highly powerful asset that influences the dynamics of young activists' engagement. However, it is essential to recognize that this advantage can inadvertently create disparities within the activist community. In the delicate ecosystem of youth climate activism negotiations, understanding and addressing these nuances is essential to fostering a more inclusive and effective discourse;
- Research shows that expert mediators are considered indispensable resources by 72% of young activists who firmly believe that their involvement could elevate the quality and effectiveness of the interactions of young activists with policy makers on climate change matters;
- Two enablers can amplify the drivers of youth empowerment in climate change interactions. These are the technology that could support young activists and the context in which they interact. Both are discussed below.

4. Technology Enablers

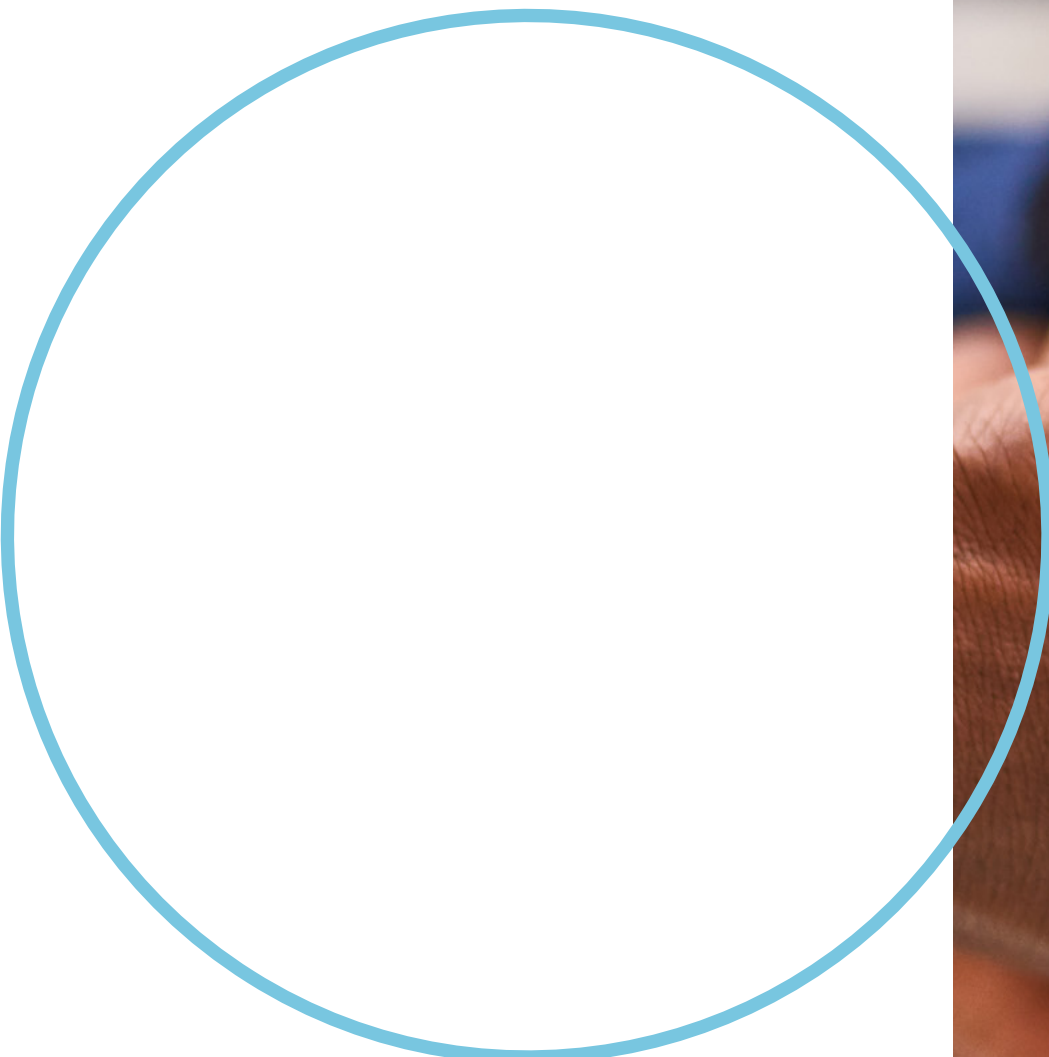
- Enhancing technology and social media platforms plays an extremely important role in facilitating effective interactions among young activists. Social Media is a catalyst for discussing and creating engagement around climate change. By leveraging these advancements young climate activists can foster widespread engagement collaboration and information dissemination amplifying their collective impact;
- Among all the social media, the one with the highest level of engagement and interactions in climate change is Instagram. Actions enhancing technology use could include fostering partnerships among influencers, experts and youth to spread awareness of climate change. This is in addition to increasing influencer presence on various media including TikTok to engage younger users on climate change and encouraging a supportive online environment;

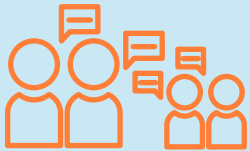
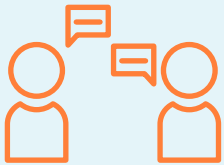

5. Context Enablers


- The context plays a pivotal role in enabling the effectiveness of youth in climate change interactions both when engaging with policymakers and during peer discussions. When addressing policymakers, the context has been perceived as a significant influencer of the dynamics. Meanwhile creating spaces without barriers is crucial for fostering relational proximity across generations.

Recommendations of the Research

The study proposes the following recommendations, grouped under the different themes of the study namely: approaches to negotiations with policy makers, approaches to peer communication, interaction quality, technology enablers and context enablers. These recommendations aim to address emerging issues, difficulties and areas of proposed improvement to empower and support young climate activists.



<div>APPROACHES TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLICYMAKERS</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the improvement of the youth’s ability to switch and adapt approaches to negotiation according to situational cues by implementing negotiation workshops and simulations with experts to train in negotiation skills in life-like settings.• Encourage open and constructive dialogue between young people and older generations using social media and promote collaborative actions, such as joint projects to tackle climate change inside schools and universities including through the establishment of mentorship programmes.• Promote leadership training matched with the presence of expert mediators at all negotiation tables.• Develop structured training to cover the main communication challenges: English courses tailored to climate change topics offered online and via apps, technical jargon, storytelling, use of body language (performative arts workshops and seminars), public speaking, and visual and digital tools.
<div>APPROACHES TO PEER COMMUNICATION</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the ability of the youth to switch and adapt approaches to communication with their peers according to situational cues.• Implement team bonding and role-playing exercises to improve mutual understanding, favour cultural heterogeneity, and practice informal and spontaneous communication.• Encourage regular peer feedback to foster an environment of constructive criticism, allowing young activists to learn from each other’s communication experiences and develop their skills.• Promote workshops to improve technical knowledge about specific climate change-related issues (they can be delivered at universities, local activism organisations, or online).
<div>INTERACTION QUALITY</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage the continuous exposure of young activists to culturally heterogeneous exchanges both online and offline while exercising performance capabilities by sharing stories about local issues focusing on those affecting under-represented communities and minorities.• Involve expert mediators at all negotiation tables in addition to training for young group leaders to take the role of mediators in the interactions with policymakers and improve their leadership and conflict management skills.• Organise mentorship and internship programmes for young activists in order to let them have access to more opportunities and to receive structured training and to improve skills and knowledge regarding technical topics.

<div>TECHNOLOGY ENABLERS</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop apps and platforms for sharing documents and materials, organising group activities, enhance collaboration among participants, as well as utilising live streaming tools to broadcast parts of gatherings with the aim of increasing engagement and outreach.• Incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) to design images, facilitate storytelling, create documents and presentations, make real-time updates and sharing of information, and provide translations in multiple languages.• Leverage Augmented Reality (AR) to create immersive experiences that help participants grasp local climate change issues and employing interactive tools, such as polls, real-time surveys, and games, to engage the audience effectively.• Provide social media training (metrics monitoring, Search Engine Optimization, content and sentiment analysis) to youth to maximise their online presence, develop digital marketing and social media strategies, employ omnichannel communication, and create meaningful content using urgent language and effective hashtags.• Foster partnerships on social media among influencers, experts, and youth to spread awareness of climate change, develop educational campaigns, support diverse perspectives, and promote critical thinking while countering misinformation.
<div>CONTEXT ENABLERS</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimise location and space management by favouring venues with adequate room sizes and comfortable seating that foster intimacy and allow for meaningful relationships to be established.• Foster new peer connections and networking by offering spaces where young activists can interact in an informal environment, such as small, themed art/ photo galleries, cafés, bookshops, and co-working areas, as well as improving the efficiency of discussion schedules.• Limit the size of discussion groups to increase opportunities for active participation and ensuring the alignment of interests of group members by providing clear and detailed• Develop Programmes and adopt technologies that allow young activists to sign up for the activities they are interested in.

While all the proposed Recommendations are important, it is essential to remain realistic in identifying the challenges that could be faced in their implementation. These challenges include competing priorities seeking funding, political barriers, cultural specificities of each

group of youth to be supported, non- adaptability of some technology solutions due to wider problems such as lack of appropriate infrastructure (especially internet connectivity), language barriers etc etc.

Role of Earthna

Recognizing the pivotal role young climate advocates play, Earthna aims to encourage the development of climate change negotiation-specific training. Empowering these advocates becomes imperative for meaningful contributions to policy decisions, notably taking into account that 80% of young activists have not to date participated in any training programme related to communication and/or negotiation skills. The IULM research explores various dimensions, advocating for a comprehensive approach to refine the capacities of young advocates in negotiations.

As events like QNDCC, and COP approach, Earthna urges policymakers, delegations, and conference organizers to consider and actively support the readiness of youth to engage in discussions. Short-term goals for youth involvement:

- Youth Participation at QNDCC and COP: Ensure a minimum and diverse representation of youth delegates in these events, actively participating in policy discussions and side events.
- Workshops and Training: Conduct pre-event workshops or webinars to train young advocates on effective communication, negotiation skills, and policy advocacy before QNDCC and COP.
- Specific Policy Engagement: Encourage youth to develop concrete proposals or policy asks for key areas like renewable energy or climate finance, to present at QNDCC or COP.

Scaling Efforts Globally:

- Expanding Global Networks: Collaborate with international organizations to broaden Earthna's reach and connect with young advocates from underrepresented regions.
- Online Platforms: Develop online platforms and resources to train and mobilize young climate activists globally, offering accessible educational tools and communication platforms.
- Partnerships with Educational Institutions: Form partnerships with universities worldwide to promote climate-related curricula and opportunities for youth to participate in global climate events.

Earthna recognises the critical role of education in bridging information gaps and promoting widespread pro-climate behaviors, particularly through school programs. Educational institutions are encouraged to incorporate communication training, empowering youth to contribute substantively and effectively communicate their insights on the global stage. To amplify the influence of youth in the climate discourse, strategic measures are recommended, including leveraging media platforms, interviews, podcasts, and social media campaigns. This approach aims to enhance public awareness, garner broader support for climate initiatives, and nurture a sense of efficacy among young advocates. More specific recommendations are included below.



Implications for youth cimate engagement in Qatar:

1. Communication:

- To narrow the awareness gap among policymakers regarding youth participation in climate change negotiations, it is crucial to actively highlight success stories and potentially impactful initiatives led by youth during climate change discussions. Emphasizing the significance of their contributions will enhance understanding of the potential and pivotal role youth play in the climate movement, thus bridging the awareness gap among policy makers.
- Efforts need to be made to involve policymakers more directly in youth training and education efforts to bridge the intergenerational gap.
- Establishing effective communication and intergenerational dialogue requires facilitating collaboration between adults and youth. This involves simplifying the language used by policymakers and providing opportunities for youth inclusion in institutions working on climate change issues through mechanisms such as internships, mentorships, visits, etc.
- Implementing team bonding and role-playing exercises during scheduled workshops or events for youth advocates, such as university camps, secondary schools, or summer camps. These activities aim to enhance mutual understanding of cultural heterogeneity, and informal communication within

the advocacy community. Additionally, encourage regular peer feedback sessions within the designated workshop or event framework to foster an environment accepting of constructive criticism.

- Facilitating continuous exposure of young advocates to culturally heterogeneous exchanges through targeted programs, events, and online platforms. This exposure will contribute to enhancing their cultural intelligence and improving their adaptability in diverse settings.

2. Skills Building:

- To enhance the adaptive negotiation skills of youth advocates, we recommend organizing workshops and simulation exercises on negotiations with experts. Such initiatives will equip young advocates with the ability to adapt various negotiation styles in response to situational cues, thereby enhancing their effectiveness in real-world scenarios.
- Encourage policymakers to collaborate with educational institutions in initiating joint projects with youth advocates, such as conferences, hackathons, and bootcamps.
- Implement structured peer-to-peer education and mentorship programs for new advocates, fostering knowledge transfer and support within the climate change space.
- Collaborate with universities and formal institutions for pre-conference training programs and develop online learning platforms offering free courses on diverse topics related to climate change.

- Fostering partnerships with various development institutions working in the area of skills building with the aim of co-financing and identifying new sources of funding, especially in the private sector, will be important in order to ensure the implementation of such skills building initiatives.

3. Collaborate with experts in various fields to establish comprehensive education programs:

- Harness tertiary education for green skilling and innovation by fostering student adaptability through strong foundations, flexible pathways, and information flows.
- School curricula must increasingly be developed with climate change in mind thus encouraging climate friendly behaviours among students.
- At the national level, we encourage policymakers, including ministries and other national entities responsible for climate change negotiations, to establish national training programs and mechanisms for the youth who will participate in COP. This can be facilitated through universities, camps, training centers, and other relevant platforms. On a global scale, many policymakers are already engaged in global youth networks focused on climate change. To those who support such youth networks, we strongly encourage the integration of effective communication streams into their programs to enhance their impact and reach.
- Organize events, short courses, Model UN/Model Climate conferences, and outreach campaigns targeting high school students to enhance climate

change awareness. Create internship positions at international organizations, coupled with formal mentorship programs involving policymakers, promoting intergenerational communication.

4. Adapting Technology to Needs of Climate Advocates:

- Establish dedicated online platforms to meet the strong demand (67% of youth) for material sharing, and relationship-building, addressing existing difficulties in presentation and visualization skills, idea sharing, and real-time interaction.
- Integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) for multilingual translations to overcome language barriers.
- Promote technology solutions to overcome financial and language barriers, including English courses, in-app learning, translation tools, and financial aid programs for advocates without access to formal education paths.
- Fostering new connections and networking opportunities is essential. Providing spaces for young advocates to interact in informal settings, such as small, themed art/photo galleries, cafés, bookshops, and co-working areas, can facilitate meaningful exchanges. Additionally, improving the efficiency of discussion schedules by limiting the size of discussion groups and ensuring alignment of interests among group members through clear and detailed programs is recommended. The adoption of technologies allowing advocates to sign up for activities based on their interests will further enhance engagement.

Conclusion

In response to the escalating global challenge of climate change, our collaborative research with IULM University reveals a critical gap in the preparedness of young advocates. Despite their influence, these advocates express frustration with their communication skills, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive support system, including support to educational institutions, other resources, training, mentorship, and funding opportunities.

As we advocate for a resilient framework, our research delves into the intricate mechanisms of youth negotiations, revealing a paradoxical trend of heightened desire for participation contrasted with a perceived sense of exclusion. Our policy-oriented recommendations span Technology and Education, proposing online platforms, AI integration, social media training, and university collaboration to bridge gaps and enhance communication. This multifaceted strategy includes creating immersive experiences, facilitating knowledge transfer, and offering scholarships to ensure a comprehensive approach to youth engagement in climate discussions.

In the interaction between young climate advocates, our research highlights deficiencies in clear communication and cultural intelligence. The intergenerational language gap and emotional distance identified in the climate change debate point to the need for nuanced strategies, such as expert mediation. Recommendations include enhancing English proficiency, refining technical language, and promoting team bonding. The urgency of climate action necessitates collaborative efforts, and our recommendations provide a policy-oriented roadmap for policymakers, institutions, and advocates alike to actively contribute to global change.

In addition, Earthna remains interested in the relationship between climate change and education at large. Earthna will work on both fronts of supporting youth activists, and also in supporting the education system at large to

take climate change issues into account. Such a focus is very much in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a call to action addressed to different stakeholders who can each according to their capacity and focus partner with Earthna in implementing some of the above recommendations. Such partnerships should include Governments, NGOs and Educational institutions.

Part of the broader efforts of the Qatar National Dialogue on Climate Change (QNDCC) organizing team, the Earthna Young Climate Leaders Program (EYCLs) was developed to complement and enhance youth engagement in climate discussions. This initiative was designed to equip young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to contribute meaningfully to climate action both locally and globally. By focusing on communication, negotiation, and strategic thinking, the program provided participants with a platform to engage with experts, policymakers, and peers while fostering a deeper understanding of Qatar's climate goals and international climate diplomacy.

As a follow-up to this research, Earthna is actively exploring opportunities to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders in developing a localized education program for the youth advocates on climate change. This initiative aims to empower and equip advocates for impactful climate advocacy by addressing identified gaps and fostering a more resilient and inclusive dialogue on the global stage. Earthna is also interested in education more broadly since it holds the key to faster and better climate action. This is, at least in part, due to the fact that people most affected by climate change possess insufficient knowledge and skills to address it. Education can help alleviate these constraints in two crucial ways. First, education can galvanize behavior change at scale - not just for tomorrow, but also for today. Second, education can unlock skills and innovation to shift economies onto greener trajectories for growth.



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