



African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC) 2016

Theme: “Making Climate Finance Work for African Youth.”

Project Title	AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AfriYOCC)	
Duration	4 days	
Period	October 10th – 13th, 2016	
Location	Nairobi - Kenya	
Contact Person	Continental Convener	Country Convener
	Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay Chairperson, Board of Directors African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)	Mr. Fredrick Ouma National Coordinator, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)- Kenya
Mobile Contacts	+220 9932685/+220 3722211	+254 716247140
Email	ceesay@ayicc.net ceesaydigital@gmail.com afriyocc@gmail.com	fredrickmbima@gmail.com fredrickmbima@yahoo.com
Website	www.ayicc.net	
Conference Budget	USD \$242,700.00	

1.0 AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AFriYOCC), 2015

The 1st African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC) convened from 26th - 27th October, 2015 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on the theme “African Youth Responses to Climate Change and Food Security, Action from the Frontline.” The conference was organized by Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) in partnership with Africa Climate Policy Center (ACPC), New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA).

100 youths selected across Africa in the conference addressing the thematic strands of Youth in Agribusiness; Climate Change and Development in Africa; Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security; Green Economy and Technology Transfer; Climate Justice and Human Rights; and Climate Change and Disaster risk reduction participated in this first edition of the African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC). This came at a time when Africa as a continent continues to bear the biggest brunt of climate change due to low resilience and weak capacities, with the youth despite their huge numbers and innovativeness among the vulnerable alongside women. Despite the odds, they have been actively engaged in adaptation and mitigation initiatives that improve their communities’ resilience to climate change.

The conference therefore provided a platform for the African youths to interact and share best practices. Five flagship projects were selected to be used as case studies by African Youths in starting their own projects depending on transferability. The conference also saw the drafting of African youth position for COP 21 which was handed over to African Group of Negotiators at the fifth Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA V).

2.0 RATIONALE FOR THE 2nd AFRICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AfriYOCC-2016)

Globally, Africa is seen as a continent particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The anticipated detrimental impacts associated with the environmental challenge of climate change is already modifying Africa's economies and livelihoods, health, social structure, infrastructure and natural systems. Over the years, African youth have proved their potential in both promoting and implementing climate change adaptation projects in their communities. Their innovations have continually been adopted in responding to climate change impacts. This is despite various challenges that include low capacity and education, high rates of poverty and lack of financial resources. At the same time, African youth have been minimally represented in the respective country policy processes as well as during the UNFCCC climate change negotiations. Above 50% of the African population are the youth. This justifies the urgent need for youth capacity development to respond to climate change and inclusion as key stakeholders in policy process and negotiations. AYICC aims to spearhead new innovations, look into new systems of success to share with policy and decision-makers, and generally aim to improve on the current system which is causing long-term and irreversible degradation to our livelihoods – as the leading youth organization on climate change in Africa.

In cognizance of the role and potential of the African youth in climate change mitigation and adaptation and overall sustainable development trajectory, the second **African Youth Conference on Climate Change (AfriYOCC)**, shall be held in Nairobi, Kenya on **10th to 13th October, 2016** as AYICC marks its **10th Anniversary since its formation in 2006 during the second Conference of Youth (COY 2) preceding COP 12**. Building on the success of the first edition of conference, AfriYOCC shall provide an avenue for African youths to showcase their climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, projects and initiatives. Best practices arising from the various AYICC country chapters shall be developed to an **African youth climate change adaptation and mitigation best practices database and handbook**. **The meeting will dilate on the current post 2015 development agenda and the role of young people in championing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.**

The delegates shall have an opportunity to visit ongoing Climate Change adaptation and agribusiness projects in Kenya for hands-on skills and knowledge replicable in their countries. Consequently, it shall boost the skills and capacities of African youths to substantially contribute to the process leading towards and during COP 22. Through partnership with both Governmental and Non-governmental agencies, the conference shall not only negotiate for more youth representation in the respective country policy processes towards the forthcoming CoPs and country specific policies, but also provide learning and engagement opportunities for African youths. This will greatly enhance their current capacity and potential to actively participate in both national and international platforms for policy formulation and implementation. The conference will also provide a platform to re-assess the current position of our negotiators and create awareness about the critical role young people should play in shifting agendas in the forthcoming Conference of Parties in Marrakech come November 2016. While a 4 day gathering

seem insufficient, the conference will pave the way for active engagement of African youth into issues affecting their livelihoods.

African youth have for long been side-lined to the periphery of the substantive civic and policy issues facing the continent. However, the worst affected are the rural based youths and those residing in farming communities, peri-urban areas and those from conflict and post conflict countries. This has resulted in youths from these marginalized communities having no knowledge and information on the basic climate change science and adaptation and mitigation mechanisms. The good news though is that there is capacity amongst many young people who are already in the circles of upcoming academia, policy specialists, lawyers, journalists and scientists' alike. These capacities need to be strengthened and skills shared amongst the wider group of young people on the continent so that best practices are disseminated and resources are expanded.

While it is an undeniable fact that climate change is affecting all regions globally, especially in developing countries, the adverse effects in the future is likely to increase if the Paris agreement is not ratified and effectuated by all parties. And even though a deal was achieved during COP21 in Paris, the impacts of climate change will definitely continue into the future. This suggests that young people will have to not just understand what climate change is and how it is affecting our world, opportunities that exists within, but most importantly, participate actively into finding amicable solutions. Young people of Africa have therefore considered it an inherent imperative to contribute to their future by organizing the **2nd African Youth Conference on Climate Change in October 2016** under the theme, **'Making Climate Finance work for African Youth.'**

2.1 CONFERENCE STRATEGY

The conference program shall be based on exploring mechanisms to finance climate adaptation and mitigation through Innovations in **agriculture, technology** and **other sectors**. It shall be highly interactive with unique workshop-style design that enables participants to develop their potential through practical experience. Participants will divide to participate in thematic workshops and come up with an African Youth position paper and concrete activities to be included in the **African Youth Strategy on Climate Change**.

The delegates shall be engaged in pre-conference activities that shall include and not limited to, mapping of youth climate change and/or mitigation projects within the conference key focus areas for selection as best practice and include in the African youth climate change adaptation and mitigation best practices database and handbook and aggressively fundraise towards their participation and a successful workshop. The conference shall critically examine the various country positions and the overall continents positions of the African Group of Negotiators, their achievements and potentials towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It shall examine the youth voices in these positions and further develop **African youth position for COP22**.

We expect 200 youth leaders to participate in this conference. The conference is convened by the AYICC continental secretariat in collaboration with AYICC Kenya chapter and the member

country chapters. AYICC leadership will work closely during and after the conference with the participants and partners to develop follow up mechanisms and activities.

2.2 CONFERENCE THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

- a. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- b. Climate Change and Development in Africa
- c. Food Security and Sustainable Consumption
- d. Youth and Disaster Risk Reduction
- e. Innovative ways of financing youth-led climate change initiatives
- f. Sustainable Innovations on Climate Change

2.3 OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The overarching aims of the AfriYOCC 2016, is to create a platform for African youths and AYICC membership to come together to discuss current and emerging issues on climate change in Africa, to network amongst the membership through sharing experiences, knowledge and actions, to hold face-to-face strategic meetings on country and local level activities on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2.3.1 CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To showcase various youth-run agribusiness initiatives in combating climate change.
- To impart knowledge on existing green economy technologies that can be replicated across the continent
- To brainstorm on available resources (climate finance, technology, etc) towards mitigation and adaptation.
- To brainstorm on AYICC engagement strategies with potential partners
- To develop a position paper on COP 22
- Commemorate the tenth year anniversary of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)

2.3.2 CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

At the end of the conference, youth participants and AYICC members will leave with;

- (a) An African youth position paper for CoP22, an engagement strategy in involving African youths in climate change policy and negotiations
- (b) A clear understanding of the AYICC strategy and operations and renewed zeal for its vision.
- (c) Knowledge, new ideas and practices for potential replication in their countries
- (d) New partners to liaise with on climate change issues across the continent
- (e) A final Best Practices Database of AYICC and Youth actions on climate change for dissemination through online or other channels
- (f) An African youth strategy (2016-2020) on climate change and development in Africa

2.3.3 CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

These will include but are not limited to;

- Exhibition of projects by participants and partner organizations (Green Space),
- Side events,
- Field trip to an agribusiness sites,
- Caucus meetings to develop the various outcome documents,
- Youth project presentations,
- Speaker presentations on thematic areas,
- Plenary session,
- Excursion

These will be spread across the four days

2.7 TARGET GROUP AND PARTICIPATION

1. The African youth and AYICC members
2. Youth led climate and environmental organizations
3. Youth climate activist
4. Government and Non-governmental Organizations in Africa. Especially those with an interests in climate finance, climate change, food security and sustainable agriculture
5. Grassroots youths and farmers
6. Youths from indigenous communities
7. Media and Artists

2.8 DATES AND VENUE

The summit will commence on 10th October 2016, and conclude on the 13th October 2016. Official sessions start in the morning at 08:30hrs and end 18:00hrs in the evening.

2.9 POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- 1) African Union Commission
- 2) African Climate Policy Centre
- 3) NEPAD
- 4) UNFCCC Secretariat
- 5) Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- 6) 350.Org
- 7) Netfund
- 8) Standard Group - Kenya
- 9) UN Habitat

- 10) UNDP GEF-SGP
- 11) Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities-Kenya
- 12) Ministry of Youth-Kenya
- 13) Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- 14) Norwegian NGO Forum for Development and Environment
- 15) SAFARICOM
- 16) OXFAM
- 17) African Alliance of YMCA
- 18) WWF
- 19) GCCA
- 20) CAN International
- 21) Action/2015.org
- 22) CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition
- 23) African Artists Peace Initiative
- 24) African Youth Panel (AYP)
- 25) African Youth Alliance on Post2015 (AYAP)
- 26) Pan-African Youth Union
- 27) East African Community Secretariat

2.10 WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU AS A PARTNER/SPONSOR

The conference theme is deliberate, as we believe that African youth have a key role to play in reversing the threats of climate change and related issues.

The benefits are enumerated below:

- AYICC and the conference make you a partner not only for the congress but for long term engagements which we will both agree on. Opportunities include contributing to the lobby positions and handbook on best practices, AYICC website, Facebook page, newsletters and campaigns.
- You will be given an opportunity to set the conference agenda and a speaking slot and take part in post conference strategy.
- AYICC can provide and make available a platform of 45 national chapters with over 20,000 members that could serve as a focal point and partners in implementing country specific projects and research activities.
- Extra Large Size Logo of organization in conference banner backdrop
- Name and Logo of your organization in all promotional materials (banners, flyers, Facebook page and posters)
- Company's name and logo included in the final conference report

2.11 OVERVIEW OF AFRIYOCC PROGRAM 2016

	Day 1 10 th October, 2016	Day 2 11 th October, 2016	Day 3 12 th October, 2016	Day 4 13 th October
Morning	Opening Plenary (Plenary Session) Youth speakers and partner organizations will deliver remarks, expectations and commitments on conference theme	Exhibition of projects by participants and partner organizations (Green Space),	Developing the African Youth Position on CoP22 and youth engagement strategy for CoP22 and beyond.	Field trip to an agribusiness sites/ Excursion and Mountain Climbing
Mid-Morning	Speaker presentations on thematic areas,	Youth project presentations	Caucus meetings to develop the various outcome documents	
Afternoon	Tenth Year Anniversary Session of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (Success Stories, Challenges and Prospects)	Thematic Workshops(Breakout Sessions) Training sessions run parallel based on all 5 thematic focus areas of the conference/ Plenary Session	Congress of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change Closing of the 2nd AfriYOCC and announcement of 3rd AfriYOCC 2017 and host country	
Evening	Welcome Dinner/ Introductions	Award Ceremony of the African Climate Champions Awards	Camping	

3.0 BACKGROUND TO AFRICAN YOUTH INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AYICC)

The African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is an umbrella youth network of African based youth organizations, university groups, rural youth groups, schools, and individuals working on climate change and sustainable development issues. It aims at developing capacity and strong partnerships among African youth to understand the urgent need to take action against the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.

The initiative (always referred to as the movement) was conceived in Nairobi Kenya 10 years ago, during the second Conference of Youth (COY2) preceding the 12th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP12). The main reason for its founding was to ensure the inclusion, and active participation of youths from the south, and specifically Africa, in the international climate change negotiations. This was needed as the youth are more than half the African population and are most affected by climate change impacts. They also got massive potential to support the continent to take action on global warming.

During its formation, it comprised of 8 country chapters and current has grown to 45 country chapters with over 20,000 members across Africa and the Diaspora. This initiative has provided a platform for knowledge, ideas and experiences sharing. It is also an avenue for development of skills and strategies on youth action on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the African continent. AYICC has been identified by most youth to have the potential to provide a platform for them to address their regional challenges at such international gatherings as the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCSD, among others.

Since its inception, we have worked in partnership with international youth movements and have played a great role in the establishment of the International Youth Climate Movement whose youth member organizations are now officially acknowledged by the UNFCCC as the YOUNGO (Youth NGOs involved in the climate change negotiations process). Since COY2 in Nairobi, it has had youth delegates' representation in all COP meetings.

In addition to the above, we have had landmark successes that include:

- A reach out programme for a children's home (Watoto Wema in Ruai) and School climate change education program run in selected schools in Kenya.
- Leadership and mentorship programmes especially on volunteerism.
- Community development projects particularly on clean energy (energy saving stoves for rural folks)
- Capacity development of youth on agribusiness
- Advocacy campaigns e.g. lobbied for lanes to be set aside along the major highways for non-motorised transport especially for cyclists.
- Policy engagements i.e. contributing to the climate change bill 2012, as stakeholders
- Youth Caravan from Kenya to Durban during COP 17

3.1 Our Goal

To develop capacity and strong partnerships among African youth to understand the urgent need to take action against the impacts of climate change for both present and future generations.

3.2 Our Vision

An African continent with an empowered and united youth, who are proactively involved in the decision-making processes and in the adoption of sustainable options towards a better climate and social equity.

3.3 Our Core Objectives

- a) To provide a platform for young people in the African Countries to engage in dialogue and share experiences with regard to youth participation in climate change and sustainable development.
- b) To advocate and lobby for pro-active representation and participation of youth in climate change and sustainable development activities at a local, national and international level.
- c) To build partnerships and mobilize resources for youth and youth organizations to actively participate in the implementation of climate change response strategies and projects in their member countries.
- d) Play a leading role in promoting and implementing climate change education and research, adaptation and mitigation in Africa.
- e) Initiate and support youth leadership processes by creating a platform for transfer of leadership skills and principles of transparent governance.

3.4 Our strategic priorities in achieving these objectives:

- Policy dialogues
- Networking and partnerships, including South/South and South/North
- Communication and Education
- Precaution strategies
- Research, Advocacy and Action Learning

Our charter (Charter of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change) can be found on www.ayicc.net.

Presently the concept of AYICC has been taken forward by African youth in the absence of any financial assistance, the greatest resource being the time and skills that the leadership committee and members contribute. However, in order to scale up our actions and make AYICC vision a reality, there is need for more human and financial resources.