



Congresso Mundial ICLEI
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**CIDADE DE
SÃO PAULO**

YOUTH MANIFESTO ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS 2024

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Supporters: A Vida no Cerrado, Clima de Mudança, Confluência Ará, Engajamundo, Instituto Perifa Sustentável e Plant-for-the-planet.

Local and regional governments must fulfill their responsibilities and cooperate to achieve sustainable, low emissions, and climate resilient development in their territories and globally, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. To promote a just transition that prioritizes safeguarding human rights and enhancing the political autonomy of youth, these entities should take the following measures, organized by theme:

Data availability to improve climate action

In line with the Escazú Agreement and the Sendai Framework, facilitating access to and improving the quality of climate information and data is essential to prevent and limit potential damage related to climate disasters. Our proposals are:

- Develop digital platforms for the rapid dissemination of climate information, and disaster risk, without restrictions on reproduction or use.
- Strengthen early warning and monitoring systems.
- Improve the collection and analysis of climate data through partnerships with educational and research institutions.
- Foster the development of young climate researchers through scholarship policies and research programs.
- Promote training programs for young community members for data collection in Sustainable Development Reserves.



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Climate Justice, Human Rights and Gender and Race perspectives

Climate Justice and Environmental racism

Both internationally and domestically, the people who emit proportionally fewer greenhouse gasses tend to be the most affected by climate change, which also has a racial aspect. In Brazil, for example, Black and Indigenous populations contribute little to total emissions but suffer the most in their territories, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Internationally, communities that depend on natural cycles for subsistence or who live in areas prone to submersion are the most vulnerable. Generationally, Global South racialized youth will suffer the most from climate change, making it urgent for us to be included in decision-making processes. We propose:

- The creation and enhancement of loss and damage programs.
- Facilitate and encourage the active participation of young Indigenous, Black, and peripheral leaders in global climate forums as legitimate representatives of their territories and communities.
- Advocate for professional training programs aimed at providing peripheral youth access to green jobs and the Economy of the Future.

Gender perspective

Women and girls should be included in discussion and solution-creation spaces, in accordance with the Cancun Agreements, for the development of climate policies that consider the gender dimension. Our proposals are:

- Reward women who play prominent roles in building sustainable communities, enabling the maintenance and expansion of their activities. Thereby, recognizing and encouraging female leadership.
- Establish programs to protect environmental disasters victims from harassment and sexual violence.
- Give priority to women in the selection of beneficiaries for loss and damage programs.
- Prioritize women in professional training programs and in climate leadership programs.

Traditional knowledge

It is crucial to recognize the importance of traditional communities as protectors of ecosystems and the great value of traditional knowledge for the development of



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sustainable practices. Equally important is promoting the preservation of this knowledge by transmitting it to younger generations and encouraging the participation of traditional communities in shaping climate policies. Therefore, we recommend:

- Implementing programs to enhance the quality of life and access to healthcare for traditional communities.
- Establishing programs to valorize products derived from the bioeconomy.
- Promoting economic activities rooted in traditional knowledge with the prior and free consent of the communities, ensuring equitable benefit-sharing in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ILO Convention No. 169.
- Fostering the development of the bioeconomy among young indigenous people.
- Establishing inter-municipal programs for exchanging traditional knowledge among youth from different communities, fostering collaborative solutions to common problems.

Territoriality and Youth

Local governments must intensify efforts to prevent, halt, and reverse ecosystem degradation globally by 2030, in alignment with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, with special attention to globally neglected biomes such as the Brazilian Cerrado.

Considering the diverse impacts of climate change in each region, it is crucial that local youth actively contribute to shaping political agendas that address local needs. In this regard, providing incentives and opportunities for young people already engaged in environmental and climate issues, as well as nurturing the next generation of leaders, becomes essential. We recommend:

- Creating and strengthening local and regional Youth Councils.
- Encouraging diverse and rotating participation of youth in decision-making, consultation, and climate action spaces.
- Promoting municipal environmental restoration programs specifically aimed at young people.
- Awarding and providing technical, financial, and logistical support to entrepreneurial initiatives by young people that promote sustainability and circular economy in their communities.



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- Promoting environmental education, emphasizing the importance of cultural and biological diversity.

Nature and health

Recognizing the interrelations between biodiversity, climate, and health within the context of One Health and Planetary Health, and considering the harmful effects of ecosystem degradation and greenhouse gas emissions on health, we recommend the following actions:

- Preparing the health care system to address diseases whose incidence increases with climate change, such as dengue.
- Promoting food security through sustainable food production that respects planetary land-use limits.
- Expanding school feeding programs targeted at vulnerable youth.
- Developing green spaces that include entertainment, sports, and communal meeting facilities to promote mental and physical health.
- Ensuring that the creation of new green spaces does not result in the exclusion of vulnerable social groups through processes like green gentrification.