



YOUTH DECLARATION

VATICAN AFRICA CLIMATE RESILIENCE SUMMIT

From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience in Africa at Local and Regional Levels

Pontifical Academies of Sciences (PAS) and of Social Sciences (PASS) with CIFOR-ICRAF, NASAC, and African Partners June 30 – July 1, 2025, | Nairobi, Kenya

Preamble

We, the youth of Africa, gathered at the Resilient Africa Summit convened in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 30 to July 1, 2025, under the auspices of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, in partnership with CIFOR-ICRAF, NASAC, and African stakeholders, united in our shared vision for a climate-resilient future.

We, as the youth caucus of this Summit:

Express our appreciation to the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, CIFOR-ICRAF, NASAC, University of Massachusetts, Boston, World Agroforestry, and all stakeholders present.

Affirm our commitment to be active agents of change in shaping the policies, systems, and solutions that determine the sustainability, prosperity, and health, of our continent – now and in the future.

Commend the active engagement of Africa's youth throughout this Summit, most especially the Youth Mitigation, Adaptation and Societal Transformation (MAST) Dialogues which provided the vital space for intergenerational exchange, and the intentional inclusion of youth in co-creating the solutions that matter.

Reiterate Africa's position as the youngest continent, and the urgent need to harness this statistic not just as victims of climate crisis, but as vital actors in the context-specific solutions for Africa at Local and Regional Levels.

Call for meaningful inclusion and co-leadership of young people, in alignment with the principles of intergenerational equity, to co-design and implement multi-resilient solutions at all levels. This also includes formal inclusion of youths in all regional and global climate negotiations at COP30 in Brazil and beyond.

Underscore the need to strengthen the weak interlinkages within the policy-practice nexus and to foster more intentional, multisectoral and multilevel stakeholder engagement to support locally-led adaptation and resilience.

Tangible Outcomes and Commitments

The Conference concludes with the following actionable commitments:

1. On Education and Climate Change

Emphasise that the challenges which creates barriers to climate action still include inaccessible education, unclear jargons, non-contextual solutions, and knowledge disconnect between local and indigenous knowledge and scientific research, and exclusion of grassroots voices in co-creation.

Invite non-state actors including religious leaders and faith-based organisations to strengthen climate literacy efforts **through school and community-based climate drives**, faith-based initiatives, and community learning spaces.

Urge the government institutions and agencies to co-create inclusive, community-driven communication strategies that use **relevant and context-specific language**

Urge researchers and the academic institutions to also incorporate informal and non-formal education, grounded in lived experience, traditional knowledge, and local solutions within the scientific process of research and knowledge management.

Further urge for **governments to integrate climate education** across formal curricula, teacher training, and embedded within national and district/county policies and strategies.

Request stronger government investments in climate education and enforcement of existing education policies.

Further request parties to leverage innovative **digital and technological** tools to facilitate interactive, localised, and inclusive learning.

Further request that all parties and stakeholders actively engage in **policy advocacy** at national, regional, and international levels to mainstream education in climate agendas.

Commend the efforts to embed climate action into education from basic education to tertiary and vocational training.

2. On Jobs and Climate Change

Acknowledge the need for a future where climate action drives innovation, entrepreneurship, and meaningful employment for Africa's youth.

Urge all youth to support a paradigm shift from job-seeking to **job creation** and mainstreaming climate action within business through youth-led **entrepreneurship and innovation**.

Request for government and non-governmental actors to advance policy reforms that **mainstream green jobs** and support just and equitable transitions into resilient and low-carbon economies.

Request increased **government investment** to create, support and upscale youth-led sustainable enterprises, backed by affirmative and robust finance flows and mechanisms.

Request all parties to support the development of climate-smart and resilient infrastructure and support systems that create pathways for decent work.

Urge all parties to commit large-scale investment in **renewable energy and circular economy** solutions.

3. On Health Adaptation

Acknowledge that, a healthy Africa, is a resilient Africa and climate resilience must prioritise the physical and mental health of all person and communities, including young people.

Urge all parties to amplify emission reduction efforts and strategies that directly impact air quality and prevent climate-related illnesses.

Further urge all parties increase **investment in diversified and sustainable food systems** to improve nutrition overall individual, communal, and overall health. **Advocacy campaigns** linking climate change with health outcomes to build urgency and accountability.

4. Food Systems Transformation

Recognize that food systems are at the centre of both climate crisis and climate solution and in Africa 70% of livelihoods are linked to agriculture directly. Therefore, if we fail to fix food systems, we fail to secure our health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and future.

On MAST Solutions

- **Urge** the promotion regenerative agriculture and soil health, reduce food loss, and invest in low-emission technology and renewable energy for food production by all parties.
- **Request** an urgent diversification of crops and the promotion of indigenous climate resilient seeds, improve water management, and strengthen community seed banks and extension services.
- **Further urge** parties to advance societal transformation, address structural and cultural challenges in land use, ownership, and approach to agriculture as well as mindset shift towards circular food economy.

Further urge stakeholders to:

- **Prioritize** food systems in climate plans and budgeting process
- **Empower** youth as agripreneuers and digital innovators through capacitation

5. On Science and Knowledge

Recognise the need for climate science and policy must be accessible, relevant, and informed by African realities.

Urge researchers, academia, and non-state actors to translate scientific research and technical knowledge into **contextual formats and creative knowledge material** such as podcasts, comics and visual storytelling for knowledge sharing and enhancement.

Encourage the youth, research, and academia to protect, value, and **integrate traditional knowledge** systems into formal science **agendas**. **Urge** stakeholder to facilitate **intergenerational knowledge transfer** through mentorship, community gatherings and archival.

6. On Movement Building

Acknowledge the relevance of building youth movements that are sustainable, grow from the grassroots, connect generations, and build collective power that leads to change across.

Urge governments, civil society organizations, and development partners to build inclusive and structured movements that prioritize intergenerational equity, ensuring active participation, leadership, and recognition of the roles of youth, elders, and marginalized groups in climate action.

Call on educational institutions, research bodies, and policy actors to enhance foundational knowledge in climate science and policy while strengthening local capacities to translate this knowledge into informed decision-making and community-led action.

Encourage the creation and institutionalization of platforms that engage children and youth from an early age to cultivate climate leadership, ensure long-term continuity of initiatives, and foster a strong sense of ownership and responsibility.

Further Urge policymakers, development institutions, and knowledge networks to make climate knowledge products, tools, and financial resources widely accessible, particularly to vulnerable populations, to bridge inequality gaps and ensure no one is left behind in the transition to a climate-resilient future.

Further Call for the intentional inclusion of youth not only as stakeholders in consultations but also as implementers, co-creators, and decision-makers in the design, execution, and evaluation of climate-related programs and policies.

Conclusion

We, the youth of Africa, reaffirm our commitment to be active actors in the climate change conversations that defines our future. Today, we spotlight how Africa's young innovators and changemakers are designing and leading MAST solutions towards a low carbon resilient and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

We commit to act boldly, think creatively, and organise collectively. We call on our governments, institutions, civil society, faith leaders, private sector, and the international community to stand with us and not speak for us, in building a resilient, just, and sustainable Africa.

There is nothing about us, without us. Our time is NOW.

*The Youth Caucus of the Resilient Africa Summit
Adopted in Nairobi, Kenya 1 July 2025*

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on the 1st Day of July 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya 1 July 2025 on behalf of The Youth Caucus of the Resilient Africa Summit