



Global Youth
Climate Summit
2025



GLOBAL
YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
CENTER

Belo Horizonte Youth Climate Declaration

We, 200 youth from 39 countries gathered in Belo Horizonte, Brazil at the Global Youth Climate Summit (April 2-5, 2025), organized by the Global Youth Leadership Center in partnership with the Federal University of Minas Gerais, alongside 300 virtual participants worldwide, call for urgent climate action across six key areas: Climate Finance, Youth Leadership, Climate Justice, Sustainable Youth Livelihoods, Traditional Knowledge, and Sustainable Cities.

We recognize education as essential for empowering communities, building resilience, and protecting biodiversity. We call for climate literacy and traditional knowledge integration across all learning levels, alongside measures that empower communities, protect our planet, and create pathways for youth to lead and thrive in the green economy. We call upon the Brazilian Government to use this input to shape the COP30 agenda in Belém.

Presented to Minister Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, on April 5, 2025, at the Summit's closing ceremony.



Climate Finance and Accountability

- Establish a universal definition of climate finance to guide accountability, eligibility, and impact measurement
- Create intergenerational, youth-led audit systems to verify fund implementation
- Ensure climate finance commitments are met within agreed timeframes with penalties for delays
- Guarantee decision-making power for local communities and Indigenous peoples over fund allocation
- Base funding decisions on research while supporting both youth innovation and traditional knowledge systems



Youth Leadership & Participation

- Include proportional youth representation in national delegations based on population demographics
- Share climate data with youth coalitions before key meetings to enable informed contributions
- Partner with Indigenous peoples and local communities to eliminate participation barriers
- Build meaningful relationships with Global South youth to scale their climate action initiatives
- Include youth funding and participation policies in NDCs with transparent reporting in accessible languages



Climate Justice & Equity

- Invest in comprehensive data systems to track climate displacement across all disaster cycle phases
- Institutionalize traditional knowledge in educational curricula while integrating volunteer and employment opportunities
- Develop youth-focused policies addressing climate-health connections, including mental and reproductive health
- Implement inclusive approaches that preserve cultural identities while ensuring equal participation across all communities
- Direct international climate resources to the most affected communities with transparent impact measurement



Sustainable Youth Livelihoods

- Invest in youth-led green entrepreneurship through dedicated funding and incubation programs
- Create pathways to green jobs through strengthening technical skills and employability training
- Establish public-private partnerships to create employment opportunities in sustainable sectors
- Support youth innovation in climate solutions through grants and mentorship programs
- Develop financial mechanisms to scale successful youth-led climate enterprises



Traditional Knowledge & Nature-Based Solutions

- Engage traditional communities as partners to build climate solutions that center and preserve cultural knowledge
- Invest in translation programs to make scientific knowledge accessible to cultural knowledge-bearers
- Support ecosystem restoration through economic initiatives and increased private sector accountability
- Fund research on nature-based solutions to create evidence-based policies for traditional climate approaches
- Transition city infrastructure to adapt to future climate challenges while supporting small agricultural producers



Sustainable Cities & Just Transition

- Democratize climate solutions through strengthening energy literacy and technical skills development
- Implement national policies with citizen participation, monitoring, and incentives for climate-forward cities
- Decarbonize transportation and energy sectors while integrating air pollution monitoring into climate agendas, including health impacts
- Support decentralized urban systems through intersectionality and social technologies for equitable access
- Increase circularity, local food supply chains, and policies that create infrastructure to reduce food waste

