

CCAC YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The November 2022 CCAC Ministerial Communiqué ([CCAC-NOV2022-02](#)) asked to explore the development of a youth strategy, to ensure engagement and representation of youth in the CCAC. [The direction for the strategy](#) was presented and endorsed at the March 2023 CCAC Board meeting. The Board requested the Secretariat to develop a draft strategy document. The present draft was developed in consultation with UNEP Major Groups Youth representatives, CEDHA/FACE Intergenerational Justice, NDC Partnership, and Youth Climate Lab, and will be subject to discussion at the upcoming in-person Board meeting for review and approval of the strategy and proposed implementation actions. Following approval, further details will be developed by the Secretariat and shared with the Board.

1. CONTEXT

Youth play a critical role in tackling climate change and air pollution. They encounter significant health issues from air pollution and will bear the brunt of climate impacts in the future. Air pollution kills 1 in 10 children under the age of 5 globally and can permanently stunt brain, lung, and immune system development.¹

Despite their engagement on climate and air pollution issues, few youth-led local, regional, and international climate and air pollution networks focus on the nexus, or explicitly on reducing Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). At 1.3 billion, today's population of young people is the largest the planet has ever seen.² Engaging youth in the CCAC can lead to long-term behavioural changes, build a sense of responsibility, and a commitment to reducing SLCP emissions across a large demographic. It also provides an opportunity to engage in implementation actions.

2. OBJECTIVES

This strategy has three objectives:

1. Engage youth in the CCAC through participation in events to provide opportunities for exchange, increase awareness about SLCPs, and create new partnerships.
2. Educate and empower youth to take concrete action on SLCPs by supporting young researchers and creating SLCP resources for youth.
3. Amplify youth voices and engagement within CCAC activities and CCAC-funded projects.

¹ World Health Organisation. (2018). Air pollution and child health: prescribing clean air. y. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/CED/PHE/18.01). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

² United Nations. (2019). World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/423). Retrieved April 17, 2023, from https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_10KeyFindings.pdf

3. ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives	Action	Start date
1. Engage	1.1 Expand membership of regionally diverse youth-led organisations in the CCAC ³ .	2023 - ongoing
	1.2 Convene at least one virtual SLCP workshop annually for youth, focused on SLCP education, advocacy, and involvement with CCAC.	Pilot in 2024
	1.3 Encourage youth participation at CCAC meetings, such as the Climate & Clean Air Ministerial and Annual Meeting, as well as sector Hubs as appropriate.	2023
2. Empower	2.1 Establish a 'Young Scientists Programme' linked to the SAP to support youth research on SLCPs. (See description in section 5.)	Pilot in 2024
	2.2 Create a youth information portal on the CCAC website and highlight youth action on social media.	2024
	2.3 Develop communication materials for youth together with CCAC youth organisation partners.	2024
3. Amplify	3.1 Ensure youth engagement is more systematically included in CCAC activities by striving to integrate youth components into projects, seeking youth participation in hubs, and inviting implementers to report on youth engagement and impact.	2024
	3.2 Encourage CCAC-funded projects to capture information about SLCP impacts on youth, including when conducting assessments and scientific reports.	2023

4. ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

- Secretariat to explore the possibility of establishing a paid apprenticeship or trainee role within the CCAC Secretariat in line with UN rules and regulations.
- Direct exchanges between youth organisations that join the CCAC and CCAC leadership.

5. YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME

This programme would support young researchers to work with SAP members on postgraduate fellowships, PhD programmes, or similar. The Secretariat proposes to pilot this and fund 2 young researchers in 2024, for a maximum of 150,000 USD in total. This would be proposed in the draft 2024 Work Plan & Budget. If successful, the Secretariat will seek to mobilize dedicated funding to scale up this effort, with an initial extra 150,000 USD in 2025 for 2-3 additional participants, either directly or through partnership with Youth-focused philanthropies or organizations.

³ As of April 2023, there is only one youth-led organization that is officially a CCAC Partner.