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YOUTH AS CATALYSTS OF CLIMATE ACTION: ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND THE SDGS BEYOND 2030S

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ABSTRACT

PURPOSE: This paper analyses how youth-driven initiatives are reshaping global climate governance and sustainable development beyond the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) timeline. It examines the mechanisms, barriers, and institutional conditions affecting youth influence in climate decision-making.

DESIGN/METHODOLOGY/APPROACH: Using a conceptual and comparative case study framework, the paper systematically reviews youth-led climate initiatives (2011-2025) from the Global South and North. It assesses mobilisation, agenda setting, co-production of policy, climate finance, and litigation as key pathways, supported by empirical cases from Africa, Europe, and Asia.

FINDINGS: Youth activism has shifted from symbolic protest to substantive participation in governance. However, tokenism, institutional exclusion, and resource inequality persist. The study identifies three key barriers, institutional, political, and socio-economic, and presents scalable solutions such as co-governance mandates and equitable finance models.

ORIGINALITY/VALUE: The paper reframes youth as strategic co-architects of sustainability rather than peripheral actors, integrating ethical, political, and practical dimensions of intergenerational equity.

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PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS: Embedding youth participation in law, simplifying access to finance, and aligning education with green-economy pathways are essential to institutionalising intergenerational collaboration and accelerating equitable climate action beyond 2030.

KEYWORDS: *Youth Empowerment; Climate Governance; Intergenerational Equity; Climate Justice; Sustainable Development Goals; Renewable Energy Transition; Global South; Adaptation; Mitigation; Environmental Policy.*

INTRODUCTION

In 2023 and 2024, the Earth recorded its warmest years in history, reinforcing the urgency of the global climate emergency (Xie *et al.*, 2025). Climate change is the defining socio-economic challenge of the 21st century, yet the response remains uneven across generations (Ballew *et al.*, 2019). The accelerating impacts of a warming planet, manifesting as intensifying natural disasters (Schaeffer *et al.*, 2025; Cologna *et al.*, 2025), prolonged droughts threatening food security (Hultgren *et al.*, 2025; OECD, 2025), and extensive habitat loss (Urban, 2024; Bellard *et al.*, 2012), are producing profound social and psychological consequences. Among these, young people face disproportionate burdens, with millions driven into poverty, displacement, and uncertainty about their future (Bezgrebelna *et al.*, 2024; McMichael *et al.*, 2025).

Amid this crisis, youth participation has emerged as a defining force for ambitious climate action. Across the world, young activists have mobilised to demand accountability and advocate for transformative policies that ensure a liveable planet. Their efforts have elevated the moral debate and compelled institutions to recognise youth as legitimate stakeholders in environmental governance. As the 2030 deadline for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approaches, integrating youth perspectives remains essential to achieving equitable development outcomes.

This paper contributes to scholarship on youth-led climate governance by systematically examining how young people shape environmental policy, mobilise collective action, and influence institutional agendas. Drawing on a comprehensive global review, it identifies key mechanisms, innovations, and structural barriers. It underscores the central argument that meaningful youth participation is fundamental to achieving long-term environmental sustainability in the post-2030 era.

The paper seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How do youth-led networks and organisations influence climate adaptation and mitigation strategies across different global regions?
2. What systemic barriers hinder meaningful youth participation in environmental decision-making and policy processes?
3. How can institutional frameworks and intergenerational partnerships better integrate youth perspectives to advance climate justice and sustainable development beyond 2030?

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LITERATURE REVIEW & BACKGROUND

Core Conceptual Themes

Prevailing global research highlights a fundamental intergenerational tension in climate governance. Children and young people perceive themselves as inheriting a crisis caused by older generations, fuelling significant anxiety and demands for structural change (Arnot *et al.*, 2024). This perception underpins the ethical concept of intergenerational equity: the moral obligation to ensure the current generation does not compromise future generations' ability to thrive (Landeira *et al.*, 2025; Daly *et al.*, 2025).

This ethical framing is channelled through climate justice, asserting that climate change is a deeply social and political issue intertwined with human rights, equity, and systemic accountability (Samuel, 2022). Youth movements deliberately demand corporate and governmental accountability, focusing on systemic transformations to address disproportionate burdens (Samuel, 2022; Arnot *et al.*, 2024). This is manifested in their strategic use of digital technologies, public protests, and climate litigation (Landeira *et al.*, 2025; Daly *et al.*, 2025). Studies globally confirm that young people possess significant concern and rudimentary knowledge, reinforcing their potential as agents of change (Baldwin *et al.*, 2023; Tshabalala *et al.*, 2025; Sierra-Barón *et al.*, 2025).

The Debate: Meaningful Participation vs Tokenism

A critical debate centres on the difference between tokenism and meaningful participation, essential for achieving genuine empowerment. Tokenism describes the symbolic inclusion of young people, e.g., in COP delegations, who are denied substantive influence or power-sharing (Landeira *et al.*, 2025; Daly *et al.*, 2025). Despite increased presence, many youth report experiencing symbolic inclusion that lacks real power. This approach risks marginalising diverse experiences, particularly from the Global South, and undermines empowerment (Mehra *et al.*, 2025; Tshabalala *et al.*, 2025). In contrast, meaningful participation requires institutional commitments to power redistribution, transparent mechanisms for influence, and recognition of youths' distinct contexts (Tshabalala *et al.*, 2025). Furthermore, while digital technologies amplify youth voices, this often results in limited direct influence on key decision-makers, leading to frustration and calls for credible, solution-oriented messaging (Arnot *et al.*, 2024; Ben-Enukora *et al.*, 2025).

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Gaps and Future Research Directions

The reviewed literature identifies several notable gaps that require further empirical investigation:

- Intersectional Barriers: While youth activism is visible, a comprehensive understanding of how systemic barriers (e.g., socio-economic status, limited educational access, and cultural factors) intersect with youth empowerment remains under-developed (Ben-Enukora *et al.*, 2025; Sierra-Barón *et al.*, 2025).
- Systemic Education Models: There is a shortage of empirical research on progressive educational leadership and systemic climate education that centres equity and regenerative practices to foster youth agency effectively (Beresford-Dey, 2025).
- Paternalism in Governance: The persistence of paternalistic approaches in policy and governance constrains youth-led rights-claiming and agency; more research is needed on strategies to overcome these institutional barriers (Daly *et al.*, 2025; Landeira *et al.*, 2025).

In summary, the literature reveals a dynamic yet contested space for youth climate action, marked by demands for intergenerational equity and climate justice, yet constrained by tokenism and the struggle for structural inclusion. Addressing these is essential to integrating youth as catalytic agents in advancing sustainable futures.

METHODOLOGY

This paper adopts a conceptual and comparative case study framework grounded in secondary data to examine youth climate activism across Global South and North contexts. This approach is suitable because youth action emerges within distinct systems, requiring analysis beyond homogenised global narratives.

A systematic literature review was conducted to map existing knowledge, identify gaps, and compare regional variations. The review included peer-reviewed articles, institutional reports, and policy documents published between 2011 and 2025, reflecting the evolution of youth engagement discourse. Databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar were used, focusing on youth participation, intergenerational equity, climate governance, and environmental policy. Sources examining youth-led or youth-inclusive climate initiatives were included; purely descriptive or anecdotal accounts were excluded.

Systematic reviews, as highlighted by Neas *et al.* (2022), reveal persistent biases, notably the over-representation of Global North activism and a limited focus on marginalised communities. Regional analyses support this: Mortensen and Dadhich (2025) illustrate

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how political restrictions shape activism in Asia, while Kulanga *et al.* (2025) show how educational access influences engagement in Africa. These findings justify the comparative approach employed here, which seeks to integrate diverse regional perspectives and avoid overgeneralisation.

This design aligns with principles that call for approaches embracing unruly politics and multiple knowledges in sustainability transformations. It further draws on O'Brien *et al.* (2018), whose typology of youth dissent (dutiful, disruptive, and dangerous) offers a conceptual lens to interpret youth agency within and outside formal governance.

By synthesising secondary evidence through this comparative lens, this study contextualises global trends within regional realities, centres marginalised voices, and advances an holistic understanding of youth as catalysts for climate governance and sustainable transformation.

Ethics and Positionality

This study relies exclusively on secondary data, limiting its analysis due to potential publication bias, regional data imbalances, and restricted access to non-English sources. To minimise these constraints, we included diverse perspectives from Global South and North contexts, privileging peer-reviewed and institutionally verified materials. The analysis was conducted with a commitment to avoiding extractive framing by acknowledging the agency of youth movements as knowledge producers.

YOUTH ADVOCACY AND POLICY INFLUENCE

Youth-led climate advocacy has evolved from local protests into structured engagement across global governance. Young actors now influence policy, agenda setting, financing, and litigation, redefining climate justice and energy transitions through measurable institutional impact.

Mobilisation

Since the emergence of Fridays for Future, youth have harnessed school strikes and digital platforms to mobilise millions. A key design feature is the use of intersectional analysis to address internal equity. For example, Daniel's (2025) study of Fridays for Future in Austria tracked a measurable shift from a youth-centric frame to solidarity with Global South communities. Similarly, African youth movements (Benkenstein *et al.*, 2022) leverage digital platforms for capacity-building and policy advocacy, positioning youth as central agents in climate governance.

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Agenda Setting and Multilateral Engagement

Youth advocates have consistently reframed climate debates around justice, renewable energy, and biodiversity protection, effectively setting the agenda in multilateral processes. A critical feature validating youth input is the formal acknowledgement of land-based and traditional knowledge. MacKay *et al.* (2020) demonstrated this at COP24, where indigenous youth experienced validation, fostering leadership skills and community impact. Conversely, Orsini and Kang (2023) documented the "negotiation burden" on European youth, where increased participation is hampered by bureaucratic funding and limited mandates, restricting meaningful influence on negotiation outcomes.

Co-production of Policy and Knowledge

The co-production of policy and knowledge marks a vital transition for youth, moving them from symbolic protest to substantive governance participation (Benkenstein *et al.*, 2022). Successful co-production depends on institutionalising robust adult-youth alliances that dismantle structural barriers. A comparative case illustrates this: Kosciulek's (2024) analysis of the South African Youth Climate Action Plan (SAYCAP, 2021) showed empowered youth co-authored policy, resulting in measurable local change. Conversely, Stavrianakis *et al.* (2025) reveal that Global North efforts, even in EU-funded projects, are constrained by persistent power differentials when engaging Greek students. These cases demonstrate that while co-production is necessary for intergenerational equity, its success requires formalised co-governance mandates.

Climate Finance and Legislative Engagement

Advocacy increasingly focuses on climate finance and legislative reform to secure intergenerational equity, drawing on an intersectional justice framework (Tafon and Saunders, 2025). This framework addresses power imbalances and knowledge coloniality, resulting in measurable demands for youth-responsive finance and legislative engagement. Contrastingly, Sasser (2014) critiques the older, technicalised approach, noting that the merger of population discourse with climate advocacy risks oversimplifying women's rights.

These mechanisms collectively demonstrate that youth advocacy has transitioned from grassroots mobilisations to sophisticated policy engagements, reframing climate narratives around justice, inclusivity, and co-production. However, systemic barriers, tokenistic participation, bureaucratic constraints, and power differentials persist, underscoring the need for structural reforms that position youth as co-creators of sustainable solutions.

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BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Despite youth's undeniable potential to advance climate action, their meaningful involvement in environmental governance is constrained by deeply entrenched structural, political, and socio-economic barriers. These obstacles limit access to decision-making spaces and undermine the legitimacy of climate policies. They can be systematically grouped into institutional exclusion, political resistance, and socio-economic disparities.

Institutional Exclusion and Tokenism

The most pervasive barrier is tokenism, the practice of including young people in governance spaces without affording them substantive decision-making authority. Marah *et al.* (2024) emphasise that despite youth representing over 1.8 billion globally, they face institutional resistance that undermines their contributions. This exclusion is often formalised through a siloed approach, relegating youth to performative roles, such as at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, rather than including them in high-level panels. Yague and Berents (2025) term this the "paradox of youth engagement", where structural design, rooted in colonial legacies, maintains the illusion of inclusion. A scalable solution is to mandate co-governance structures within major climate fora, shifting youth engagement from side events to having substantive voting or veto power in core negotiation streams.

Political Resistance

Political resistance to youth participation manifests through explicit and implicit mechanisms, often stemming from gerontocratic leadership that views youth engagement as a threat to established interests. In Sub-Saharan Africa, where youth are a majority, political elites often resort to clientelism and patronage that exclude genuine participation. This disengagement is reflected in Resnick and Casale's (2011) analysis of African youth, who exhibit lower voting and partisanship partly due to incumbent party rule. Furthermore, weak enforcement of inclusion commitments is evident: a 2019 NDC review found only two African countries, Algeria and Mali, explicitly position young people as key stakeholders (Roberts, 2023). A scalable solution is the legislative adoption of Youth Quota laws for national delegations, coupled with independent monitoring, to challenge gerontocratic power monopolies.

Socio-economic Disparities

Socio-economic barriers fundamentally constrain youth participation, disproportionately affecting marginalised communities. Financial limitations are acute, as youth-led

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organisations often lack the financial literacy and expertise to navigate complex grant processes. Compounding this, structural inequalities limit public involvement; for example, low secondary school enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa directly restricts the technical skills needed for climate leadership (Mindzie, 2015). This lack of educational access intersects with gender disparities, patriarchal attitudes, and the high cost of activism, which causes burnout. A targeted solution is a dedicated, de-risked global youth climate finance mechanism that simplifies application criteria and offers micro-grants and capacity-building to dismantle the patriarchal, bureaucratic funding system.

INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

International climate governance recognises the necessity of youth participation, yet significant gaps remain between aspirational inclusion and meaningful engagement. Youth capacity to exert real influence depends on leveraging structural support to articulate claims and on harnessing multi-stakeholder collaboration to build tangible skills and sustainable access to funding.

Leveraging Influence in Global Arenas

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) serves as the primary platform where youth constituencies, such as YOUNGO, seek to influence climate negotiations (Thew *et al.*, 2020). While the formal architecture can constrain them, real influence is enabled by the strategic articulation of justice claims. Thew *et al.* (2020) demonstrated that youth first established legitimacy via distributive justice claims. Their subsequent pivot to solidarity claims for groups in the Global South, women, and indigenous peoples forced a broader ideological re-framing of the climate debate. Ultimately, youth influence in global settings is achieved not just through official presence, but by strategically shaping dominant discourses and redefining the parameters of climate justice.

Mandates for National Co-Creation

At the national level, meaningful influence is achieved where policy frameworks move beyond mere consultation to include explicit co-creation mandates for youth. A growing number of countries participating in the Climate Promise initiative prioritise youth inclusion in their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Jardanovsky *et al.*, 2023). However, the real impact is seen in specific sectoral and collaborative mandates. Two strong examples demonstrate this:

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1. The National Wildlife Federation's Climate Equity Collaborative (USA), launched in 2022, explicitly positions youth and vulnerable communities as essential contributors to equitable climate solutions (Vecchio, 2022). The lesson is that strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships, including private-sector funding (e.g., General Motors), are crucial for creating entry points for youth leadership that channel resources into community-led climate action.
2. The European Renewable Energy Sectoral Policy's "Participation Level" framework (Markkanen *et al.*, 2024) explicitly mandates youth groups as key stakeholders for the "Involve" and "Collaborate" stages in energy projects. The lesson is that integrating youth into co-design and decision-making for renewable energy not only advances climate goals but also creates direct local employment and skill-building opportunities.

These cases show that influence is maximised when youth are legislatively or institutionally defined as co-authors and decision-makers, rather than merely consultees.

Improving Funding Access through Capacity

Effective youth engagement depends on collaborative frameworks that simultaneously address financial access and the critical gap in green skills competency. Currently, only 29% of youth globally feel competent in climate-related job skills (Jardanovsky *et al.*, 2023). Funding access can be improved by shifting from complex, restrictive grants towards a sustained investment model that builds capacity. This involves establishing 'learning-to-earning pathways' that align skills development with labour market needs (Neas *et al.*, 2022). The solution requires well co-ordinated programmes, funded by governments, education, and the private sector, allowing youth to translate their advocacy into sustainable livelihoods and a permanent, professional policy presence.

As the international community approaches the 2030 SDG deadline, these lessons underscore that empowering youth within institutional structures is both a strategic necessity for effective climate action and a prerequisite for intergenerational equity in environmental governance.

CASE STUDIES

Youth-led climate action across the Global South and Global North demonstrates diverse yet complementary approaches in driving sustainability and climate resilience. While the Global South prioritises entrepreneurial adaptation rooted in local economies, the Global North increasingly leverages litigation and institutional frameworks to mandate systemic change.

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Global South: Innovation and Adaptation

Nigeria: Climate Entrepreneurship

Nigeria's context is defined by environmental degradation, high youth unemployment, and the critical need for decentralised energy solutions. The action involves young entrepreneurs innovating modular, accessible systems within the renewable and related green sectors. Their process requires leveraging technical training, green finance, and mentorship to build resilient local economies. The result is scalable climate solutions (e.g., waste-to-value projects) that reach under-served populations while fostering job creation, particularly among women (Ajayi *et al.*, 2025).

African Youth for Community Resilience

The context for many youth-led initiatives across Africa is the necessity of adaptation and community empowerment due to resource scarcity and localised constraints. The action centres on developing and implementing proactive adaptation strategies tailored to specific contexts. The process involves integrating indigenous knowledge with modern expertise through community-led education and climate-smart agriculture. The result is enhanced community resilience and inclusive growth, demonstrating how youthful innovators effectively adapt to complex constraints (Jaradat *et al.*, 2024).

Global North: Litigation and Institutional Advocacy

South Korea: Constitutional Climate Litigation

The context of this landmark case was the government's insufficient climate measures, which failed to protect its citizens' intergenerational rights. The action involved youth plaintiffs pursuing a legal challenge against the state's inadequate policy framework. The process required utilising the Constitutional Court to argue that weak climate policy violates future generations' fundamental constitutional rights. The result was an historic ruling mandating stronger national climate policy, unequivocally underscoring the power of legal mechanisms to enforce governmental accountability (Igini, 2024).

Europe and the United States: Legal and Political Pathways to Youth Empowerment in Climate Action

Across Europe, youth engagement has evolved from informal activism to structured participation within institutional frameworks. The EU's Youth Climate Pact exemplifies this by formally integrating youth voices into the green transition agenda. Through the Pact, young people co-create projects and engage with public authorities, bridging grassroots mobilisation and formal policy-making (Orsini and Kang, 2023). This represents a shift from protest to institutionalised political engagement. The comparative insights from

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these cases reveal a shared lesson: regardless of whether youth focus on entrepreneurial innovation (Global South) or institutionalised advocacy (Global North), successful youth action requires a shift from informal protest to a structured, outcome-oriented process. Effective climate action therefore necessitates bridging entrepreneurial creativity with institutionalised advocacy, fostering cross-regional learning to enrich intergenerational partnerships that accelerate progress on climate justice and sustainable development.

A parallel dynamic is emerging in the US, where participation increasingly uses legal and constitutional channels. As VanHee (2025) observes, litigation has become a defining strategy for embedding intergenerational equity. The landmark Held v. State of Montana (2024) case illustrates this, where youth plaintiffs successfully argued the state's failure to consider climate impacts violated their constitutional right to a "clean and healthful environment". These experiences highlight complementary pathways: Europe through participatory co-governance, and the US through legal innovation, demonstrating a shift from symbolic protest to substantive governance.

DISCUSSION: PATHWAYS BEYOND 2030

Youth leadership has evolved beyond the SDGs, positioning young people as essential architects of climate action in the coming decades. Central to this expanded role is the urgency of intergenerational partnerships that reconcile the ethical imperative of intergenerational equity with practical governance reforms. To effectively harness youth agency and move policy beyond 2030, we must implement reforms across three time horizons, guided by simple, actionable rules for policy design.

Short-Term Fixes and Structural Reform

Immediate policy attention must focus on dismantling paternalistic frameworks and isolating tokenism. A simple rule guides this phase: Mandate Substantive Roles, Not Symbolic Presence. Governments must quickly integrate youth representatives into official delegations with mandated speaking, negotiating, or voting rights in core committees, ensuring their presence translates into measurable influence. To measure this, policy-makers should track the increase in youth representation on national NDCs and climate finance steering committees and the number of youth-drafted policy clauses officially adopted at UNFCCC COPs. Achieving this requires dedicated, simplified funding mechanisms for grassroots youth organisations to participate meaningfully.

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Mid-Term Reforms and Economic Integration

Mid-term reforms require structural support to enable shared governance and translate advocacy into sustainable economic pathways. The guiding rule for this phase is: Embed Youth as Co-Creators in Sectoral Strategy. This involves establishing formal, collaborative platforms involving governments, private sectors, and civil society to co-design sectoral policies, particularly in energy and biodiversity. Energy transitions exemplify where justice-driven approaches align renewable energy deployment with equitable economic participation and skills development (Markkanen *et al.*, 2024). This requires creating 'learning-to-earning pathways' that align skills development with labour-market needs in the green economy, ensuring that youth entrepreneurship and employment are supported (Jardanovsky *et al.*, 2023). A critical indicator of success here is the percentage of youth (under 30) employed in renewable energy or biodiversity protection sectors, demonstrating that advocacy is successfully driving tangible economic benefits.

Long-Term Goals and Institutionalising Justice

Long-term goals must anchor youth participation in an unwavering commitment to climate justice and accountability. The overarching rule is: centre marginalised voices and future generations in law. This commitment, which extends climate debate beyond emissions to address systemic inequalities (Landeira *et al.*, 2025), must be institutionalised. This involves adopting legislative provisions that mandate intergenerational equity assessments for major infrastructure and climate finance decisions. Policy-makers must track the number of national or international legal rulings citing intergenerational equity or youth-led research to measure the structural enforcement of justice principles.

To monitor progress and ensure accountability, measurable indicators are essential. Four key performance indicators (KPIs) can guide evaluation: (1) the proportion of youth with formal voting or decision-making rights on national climate councils, (2) the percentage of youth-drafted policy clauses adopted, (3) the share of youth receiving direct climate finance or skills-development funding, and (4) the number of legal rulings citing youth participation or intergenerational equity. Each can be monitored through publicly accessible databases.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This analysis affirms that youth are indispensable co-creators of sustainable climate futures, embodying innovation and political agency. Findings show youth-led movements effectively reshape climate narratives around justice and systemic change, even while

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navigating deep structural barriers such as tokenism and funding inequities. To transition effectively beyond 2030, policy must pivot from acknowledging youth potential to institutionalising their power. To ensure practicality, each recommendation is assigned a responsible actor and a precise mechanism for delivery and accountability.

Five Guiding Recommendations

Based on the evidence of successful advocacy and persistent barriers, the following five actions are essential to embed youth agency permanently into climate governance:

1. ***Mandate Co-Governance in Policy Bodies:***
   - Recommendation: Legislate a minimum youth quota (e.g., 25%) on national climate finance boards and NDC committees, granting substantive decision-making power rather than advisory roles.
   - Responsible Actors: National Governments, Parliaments, Multilateral Institutions (UNFCCC, CBD).
2. ***Simplify and Dedicate Climate Finance:***
   - Recommendation: Establish a dedicated global youth climate fund using simplified criteria, dispersing direct-to-grassroots micro-grants to overcome bureaucratic barriers.
   - Responsible Actors: Major Donors (e.g., EU, development banks), Private Philanthropy, Climate Finance Mechanisms (GCF, Adaptation Fund).
3. ***Institutionalise Intergenerational Justice Claims:***
   - Recommendation: Adopt legislative or constitutional provisions requiring Intergenerational Equity Assessments for all major infrastructure and climate policy decisions, allowing youth groups legal standing to enforce accountability.
   - Responsible Actors: National Supreme Courts and Constitutional Bodies, Legislatures.
4. ***Invest in Green Skills and Entrepreneurship:***
   - Recommendation: Create sustainable 'learning-to-earning pathways' through multi-stakeholder partnerships (education, government, private sector) to align youth skills development with emerging green economies.
   - Responsible Actors: Education Ministries, Private Sector (e.g., Renewable Energy Firms), UN Agencies (UNIDO, UNDP).

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5. ***Replicate Successful Co-Creation Pilots:***
   - Recommendation: Scale up successful models that mandate youth co-authorship in local policy design, such as youth climate action plans in cities such as Johannesburg.
   - Responsible Actors: Municipal and Local Governments, International City Networks.

Ultimately, a post-2030 climate agenda predicated on true intergenerational collaboration will depend on recognising youth as vital architects, not spectators, in shaping resilient socio-ecological futures.

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