

# SIKILIZA SAUTI YETU

## YOUTH DECLARATION 2025

### SAUTI YETU, MKATABA WETU: THE KENYA NATIONAL YOUTH CLIMATE COMPACT

**ADOPTED AT THE 1 ST YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE ACTION,  
7-8 AUGUST, KENYA INSTITUTE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
[KISE], NAIROBI – KENYA**



### PREAMBLE

We, the youth of Kenya, gathered under the banner of the National Youth Climate Innovation Summit, issue this declaration as a unified call to action.

This Declaration outlines our shared aspirations, the challenges we face, the actions we demand, and the commitments we make to drive meaningful change.

### WE ISSUE THIS DECLARATION AS A DIRECT CALL TO ACTION TO;

- 1.The National Government, including the Treasury and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- 2.The Nairobi City County Government, particularly the Department of Environment, Climate Change, Water, and Natural Resources
- 3..The development partners, donors, and the private sector.



### THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR VOICE AND AGENCY IN CLIMATE ACTION

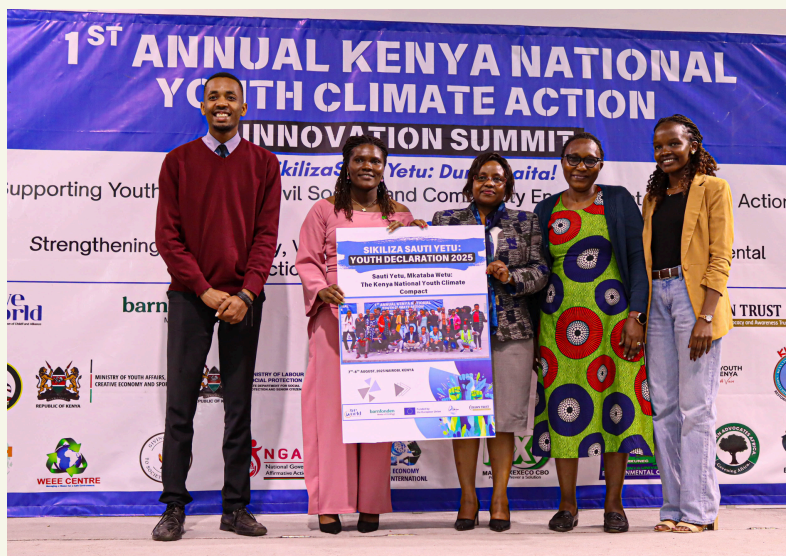
- Climate Justice
- Intergenerational Equity
- Participation and Inclusion
- Transparency and Accountability
- Partnerships for Impact





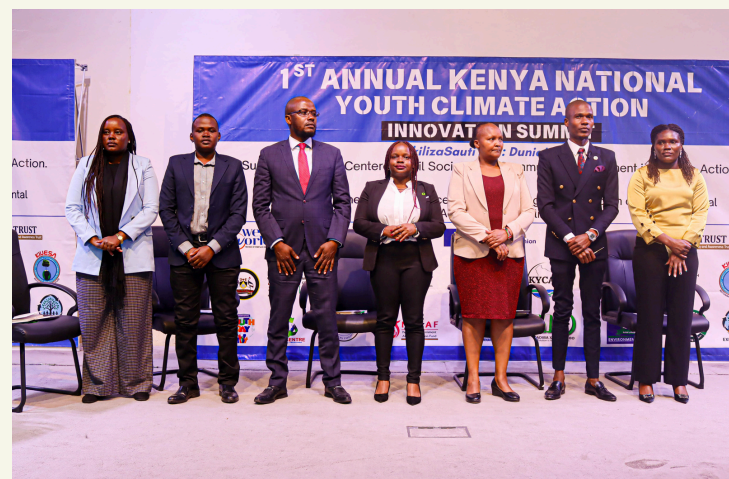
# THE REALITIES WE ACKNOWLEDGE: THE ISSUES

Youth-led initiatives have the legal backing but often lack access to the necessary resources to make a lasting impact. Funding requirements aimed at facilitating youth involvement and action structurally lock out small and promising initiatives by youth in their diversity as a consequence of limited youth voice and agency. Furthermore, due to the absence of dedicated youth positions in strategic policy and investment spaces, youth continue to be underrepresented in strategic partnerships and in key decisionmaking platforms on climate change and environmental management, and miss opportunities to enlist innovative solutions to reach the greater youth demographic despite comprising the majority of Kenya's population. All these, individually and collectively, lead to youth communities that are disconnected from climate action conversations and efforts, and progressively, a demographic that will continually lose out on livelihood and economic opportunities.



## THE DECLARATION DEFINES OUR PATH FORWARD

It highlights our commitments as youth and sets forth our demands for the Kenyan government [national, county, and relevant MDAs], Development Partners, and the Private Sector. Without a youth-centric plan for our future, we risk continuing to be at the mercy of negative health, social, environmental, and economic risks associated with climate change.



## CALL TO ACTION!

As the generation that will bear the heaviest burden of climate change, we call for structured, meaningful, and accountable engagement in shaping Kenya's climate future and her role in the global agenda through the following calls to action:





## CALL TO ACTION I: YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

- The government to operationalize Section 7 National Climate Change Act, 2023 by mandating youth representation in the National Climate Change Council [NCCC].
- The government to allocate at least 30% representation for youth and marginalized groups in County Climate Change Committees.
- Recognition and integration of Kenya Youth Climate Advisory Council (KYCAC) by relevant Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies [MDAs].
- Nairobi River Regeneration, to prioritize supporting youth participation and initiatives in the circular economy, gender equality in the sector, and a community-centered Programme.
- Meaningful, consistent, and structured inclusion of youth in their diversity in the formulation, review, implementation, and evaluation of environmental and climate-related policies.

## CALL TO ACTION II: CLIMATE FINANCING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Constitutional Offices [The Office of the Auditor General, Controller of Budget, and National Assembly] to disseminate Financing Locally Led Climate Action [FLLoCA] annual reports.
- The World Bank and National Treasury to review FLLoCA-CSOs Engagement Mechanisms on to meaningfully program around youth realities and dynamics as relates to climate change.
- Establish a National Youth Green Research and Innovation Fund and operationalize County Climate Change Funds supported by government, donors, and private sector co-financing.
- Embed climate finance literacy, awareness creation, and bankable county-level youth technical capacity building and green skilling programming.

## CALL TO ACTION III: CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Create Public-Youth-Private Partnerships [PYPPs] to operationalize Material Recovery Facilities [MRFs] and local recycling hubs in urban areas.
- Enforce Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR] by mandating accountability and producer partnerships with youth-led waste initiatives.
- Integrate climate and waste education in school curricula per Article 34 of the Sustainable Waste Management Act.
- Mandate National Land Commission and relevant agencies to implement 2022 Commitment in Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda [BETA] to provide circular economy waste separation and recycling sites/infrastructure that are accessible, safe and protected.
- County Governments to ensure accountability in waste management by providing services to all parts of the towns and cities including informal settlements.



## CALL TO ACTION IV: DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

- Implement funding, grants, tax incentives mechanisms and other resources to support youth-led digital innovation initiatives that develop and deploy climate-smart solutions for waste management and climate change mitigation.
- Offer training, mentorship, and capacity-building programs to equip youth with the green and digital skills and knowledge needed to develop and implement digital climate solutions, including data analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Internet of Things [IoT] technologies.
- Implement relevant policies and regulations that support the development and deployment of digital climate innovations, including data protection, cybersecurity, and intellectual property protection frameworks.
- Support innovative youth initiatives around the integration of technology in waste management and awareness-raising efforts.

## CALL TO ACTION V: YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY

- Ensure meaningful representation and participation of youth in climate governance structures, including national and county-level climate change committees, to ensure that youth perspectives and needs are integrated into climate policy and decision-making.
- Provide training, mentorship, and capacity-building programs to empower youth to effectively advocate for climate action, including skills development in advocacy, communication, and leadership.
- Support and amplify youth-led climate activism and advocacy initiatives, including providing platforms for youth to share their experiences, perspectives, and solutions, and promoting intergenerational collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- We demand an end to conflicts, gangs, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the waste management ecosystem.
- The county governments ring-fence 1% of the County Department of Climate budget to strengthen the capacity of Ward and Sub-County Environmental officers and offices on meaningful community engagement.
- The county governments and youth to co-create, plan, and run environmental protection and climate change sensitization activities collaboratively.

## CALL TO ACTION VI: CLIMATE-RESILIENT YOUTH LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Provide targeted training, resources, and support to youth to develop climate-resilient livelihoods, including climate-smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and eco-tourism practices.
- Provide access to climate finance, grants, and economic opportunities that support youth-led climate-resilient enterprises and businesses, including green entrepreneurship and job creation initiatives.
- Implement policies that support climate-resilient youth livelihoods and economic empowerment, including policies that promote youth access to productive resources, credit facilities, and markets, and protect youth rights and interests in climate-sensitive sectors.





## OUR PATH FORWARD

**GUIDED BY THIS DECLARATION, WE WILL LEAD WITH COURAGE, PLACING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AT THE HEART OF OUR CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA AS OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT. AS SUCH, WE COMMIT TO;**

- Mobilize our communities through climate education, digital campaigns, and community projects.
- Hold all stakeholders accountable through data, civic audits, and public engagement.
- Conceptualize and create innovative and inclusive solutions that serve people and the planet.
- Commit to work together with civil society organizations [CSOs], the private sector, government institutions [Ministries, Departments and Agencies], international organizations, and other stakeholders to amplify our voices and establish our agencies: The National Climate Action Youth Innovative Summit and Kenya Climate Action Youth Advisory Council.

