



Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) Statement at the High Level Segment of the Combined Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

It is an honor to stand here today on behalf of the [Children and Youth Major Group](#), the mandated youth constituency to UNEP. Our theory of change is focused on three areas: first, building capacity on skills and knowledge that empower young advocates to drive change; second, developing robust policy positions and actively engaging in negotiations to amplify youth perspectives; and third, partnering with diverse stakeholders to secure access to UN policy forums such as this week's joint COP13 and MOP36.

These objectives were embodied in the Youth Forum on Climate Protection¹, held last Sunday, which brought together young people from across the region to learn about the impact of the Montreal Protocol and its contributions to climate protection. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Institute of Technology, and other collaborators in organizing this forum.

At the heart of our discussions last Sunday were topics critical to our time. First, we explored how the Paris Agreement can work in harmony with the Kigali Amendment to reduce climate impacts through sustainable and green cooling. We also examined the potential for gender mainstreaming as well as green jobs and skills in this sector, emphasizing the importance of investing in professional pathways for youth.

Together with youth groups and individuals, we discussed the role of energy efficiency in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol. We concluded with a discussion the importance of increased financing for ozone and climate action, a crucial step if we are to see impactful, long-lasting changes.

Building on our engagement, which started at MOP35 in Nairobi, Children and Youth call upon **parties and implementing partners to:**

1. Prioritize youth-focused investments in education and skills, create sustainable green jobs within the cooling industry, and support youth entrepreneurship².

¹ Find more information on the Youth Forum on Climate Protection at www.cymgenv.net/yfcp2024

² In line with the [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#) developed collaboratively by UNEP, ILO and UNICEF

2. Champion youth participation by supporting future Youth Forums on Climate Protection at the subsequent MOP sessions—empowering young voices to drive bold, impactful climate solutions worldwide.
3. Establish a dedicated 'Youth' flag in the plenary of MOP and OEWG, highlighting the ongoing contributions of young leaders and acknowledging our rightful mandate to engage in these discussions.
4. Align and integrate key environmental agreements, fully embracing the intent of Resolution 6/4³ adopted at the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to drive synergies, cooperation, and collaborative action for national implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. We strongly urge all parties to embed ambitious targets for sustainable cooling and the phasedown of HFCs within NDC 3.0, solidifying our collective commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development
5. And most significantly, to take a decisive stand by universally ratifying the Kigali Amendment⁴. This step is not just a commitment to phasing down HFCs; it is a powerful decision of our collective resolve to safeguard our climate, protect future generations, and advance sustainable cooling solutions globally.

The recently published Emissions Gap Report of UNEP revealed that we are now on a catastrophic trajectory of 2.6-3.1°C of warming by 2100⁵. The time for incremental change is over. We must take transformative, impactful steps that prioritize the planet, empower young leaders, and build a resilient future for all.

Our message is clear: empower youth as climate leaders, invest in green skills and innovation, and work with us to create a thriving planet.

Thank you for the floor!

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³ [UNEP/EA.6/Res.4](#) - Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments

⁴ Find more on youth demands related to the Kigali Amendment and climate action under the *Section II, Sub-section 1: Climate Change* of the [Global Youth Declaration on the Environment](#) at https://www.cymgenv.net/files/ugd/b938c6_b9814ac1da2b4ce6bf231023f6481800.pdf .

⁵ UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2024: <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2024>