



## A vibrant illustration of six diverse professionals (three men and three women) standing behind a wooden podium on a globe. They are dressed in business attire, with some holding microphones and papers, suggesting a formal presentation or conference. The globe is surrounded by a circular border filled with various environmental and sustainability icons, including trees, clouds, water droplets, a car, a house, a mountain, a recycling symbol, and a lightbulb. The background is a deep teal color, and the overall style is modern and professional.

# INTRODUCTION

In 2024, Youth 4 COP emerged as a vibrant force for elevating youth engagement in climate policy and international negotiations. Spearheaded by The Climate Reality Project India & South Asia in collaboration with the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN)-the executive partner for the year and 6 other esteemed partner organisations. This dynamic program focused on equipping young changemakers with the tools, knowledge, and platforms needed to lead on climate action. Through thoughtfully curated resources and structured capacity-building programs, Youth 4 COP is cultivating a new generation of informed and empowered climate leaders.

Youth 4 COP is founded on the belief that today's youth are dynamic leaders who are actively shaping a more sustainable and equitable future. This program is crafted to equip them with the understanding, confidence, and tools needed to engage effectively in international climate negotiations, particularly within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Conference of the Parties (COP) processes.

Through a series of capacity-building workshops, expert-led sessions, and interactive dialogues, participants are trained to comprehend the intricacies of global climate governance, develop their policy perspectives, and voice their concerns and solutions on global platforms. This program also offers networking opportunities that connect youth with experienced negotiators, climate experts, and fellow changemakers across South Asia.

Youth 4 COP strengthens climate literacy, negotiation skills, and policy engagement to build a pipeline of empowered youth leaders ready to shape a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.





# GOALS

The Youth 4 COP program set out to develop negotiation and leadership skills among youth, bridging the gap between the Global North and Global South, enhancing awareness of COP processes through diverse media platforms. This program successfully fulfilled these core goals through a strong emphasis on the following key areas -

- ◎ **Education and Awareness:** Young people were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and address climate change through comprehensive training in climate science, policy, and collective action.
- ◎ **Leadership Development:** This program enabled the growth of young climate leaders by offering training, mentorship opportunities, and exposure to international forums. Participants were empowered to take on leadership roles in the climate action movement.
- ◎ **Community Engagement:** Youth were encouraged to lead climate action projects in their local communities. Through support, resources, and grants, participants implemented initiatives that drove change at the grassroots level.
- ◎ **Policy Influence:** The voices of young people were amplified in national and international climate policy discussions, ensuring their perspectives were integrated into decision-making processes. They got the chance to facilitate their participation in COP sessions and side events in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ◎ **Global Collaboration:** A global network of young climate advocates was created to promote collaboration, shared learning, and collective action. This network strengthened the impact of youth-driven initiatives worldwide.

By prioritizing these focus areas, the Youth 4 COP program effectively empowered young people to drive transformational change, participate in policy-making, and contribute to building resilient communities.

# CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Under the capacity building workshops, we organized **6 online learning sessions and 3 workshops** to aid the COP 29 negotiations. These sessions focused on enhancing leadership skills and understanding the political decision-making process at COP. The program also highlighted the power of media in amplifying youth voices—using diverse platforms to share stories, raise awareness, and drive meaningful change around COP decisions.

These sessions and workshops covered a wide range of critical topics related to COP, including the historical background, annual climate action agendas, protocols, understanding of the Paris Agreement, evolution of climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Additional topics included climate finance, global stocktake, climate politics, youth and gender in climate action, nature-based solutions, media and reporting, the negotiation processes, and personal experiences of negotiators.





# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program's activities were strategically organized across three key phases: pre-COP 29, during COP 29, and post-COP 29.

In the pre-COP 29 phase, 6 sessions, 3 workshops, and 2 significant events were held till October 2024 to strategize and build a roadmap for the conference. These events served as a platform for young participants to share innovative ideas aimed at strengthening climate action and raising awareness around the key themes of COP 29.

During COP 29 in November 2024, more than **200+ youth** actively engaged through on-ground and virtual activities. They participated in interactive sessions and media campaigns, addressing topics such as the youth perspective on achieving NDC targets, climate justice, the Global South's role in global climate efforts, etc.

The post-COP 29 phase culminated in December 2024 with an event dedicated to reviewing COP 29 outcomes, deliberation of future goals and acknowledging the achievements and contributions of the participants at COP. These contributions highlighted their perspectives as youth, emphasizing strategies for achieving NDC targets and the importance of amplifying Global South voices in the climate action narrative.

## OUTCOMES

This program witnessed outstanding engagement, drawing over **1100 registrations** from across South Asia and participation from more than 15 countries. Centered on elevating voices of the Global South, the sessions explored Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Loss and Damage, climate finance, COP architecture, and pathways to equitable outcomes.

The program attracted students from over **20 higher education** institutions and numerous youth-led organizations. More than 300 participants regularly attended the sessions, culminating in 3 representatives participating in-person at COP 29 and 5 others joining COP 29 virtually.

# KEY INITIATIVES

- ◎ **Content & Communications:** Developed a compelling content and social media strategy that actively engaged stakeholders and expanded the program's reach.
- ◎ **Youth 4 COP Website:** Launched a dedicated knowledge hub—[www.youth4cop.org](http://www.youth4cop.org)—offering critical resources for aspiring youth climate advocates.
- ◎ **Social Media Engagement:** Created interactive chat platforms to deepen connections and expand understanding of Global South climate challenges among young participants.

The program's primary focus was to build youth capacity, enabling them to voice concerns on behalf of Global South countries and bridge gaps with their negotiation skills. Youth engagement extended through social and print media, with positive responses on social media platforms. Participants actively engaged through blogs, sharing insights, and publishing experiences during COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Overall, the Youth 4 COP program had a significant impact, empowering participants to play a key role at COP 29. It successfully built their capacity for future leadership in COP events, achieving key goals such as strengthening youth capacity, bridging the Global North-South divide, and enhancing climate policy engagement. The program's success was recognized by partners, affirming its role in preparing youth to lead and influence global climate action.

1100+	15+	500+	300+
Total Registrations	Country Representation	Youth Sensitized	Youth Trained
18+	25+	20+	250+
Expert Speakers	Hours of Virtual Training	HEIs participated	Social media posts



# SPEAKERS



**Dr. Ajay Mathur**

Director General,  
International Solar  
Alliance (ISA)



**Mr. Sanjay Vashisht**

Director, Climate  
Action Network South  
Asia (CANSA)



**Mr. Harjeet Singh**

Global Engagement  
Director, Fossil Fuel  
Treaty Initiative



**Mr. Amanullah Porag**

South Asia Mobilisations  
Coordinator, 350.org &  
co-contact point- NDCs  
working group of YOUNGO



**Ms. Alka Tomar**

Director, Centre for  
Environment  
Communication (CEC) &  
Centre for Youth (C4Y)



**Ms. Heeta Lakhani**

Founder & Director,  
The ClimAct Initiative-  
Co-Founder, Youth  
Negotiators Academy



**Mr. Prayank Jain**

Climate Diplomacy &  
Energy Transition,  
SED Fund



**Mr. Rituraj Phukan**

National Coordinator,  
The Climate Project  
Foundation



**Dr. Kamna Sachdeva**

Prof., Dean & Joint Director,  
Academics DSEU  
Headquarters

# SPEAKERS



**Mr. Vivek Sen**  
Acting India Director,  
Climate Policy  
Initiative (CPI)



**Dr. Supriya Singh Bhatla**  
Director, Carbon Projects  
Earthbanc



**Mr. Pradeep Bhattarai**  
Climate Negotiator,  
WWF Nepal



**Ms. Meenal Pahuja**  
NbS Expert, IUCN  
India



**Ms. Ritu Bharadwaj**  
Director, Climate Resilience,  
Finance and Loss & Damage,  
International Institute for  
Environment and Development (IIED)



**Ms. Jayashree Nandi**  
Assistant Editor,  
Hindustan Times



**Mr. Vikrant Srivastava**  
Co-Founder, Lead4Earth



**Ms. Ayadi Mishra**  
Global Ambassador, Youth  
4 Nature, Advisory Board,  
UN Decade & IYCN



**Ms. Jhalak Aggarwal**  
Programme Associate  
CEEW, The Council



# OUR PARTNERS

The Climate Reality Project India & South Asia started the program partnering with 8 esteemed organizations. Each partner played a crucial role in executing and successfully completing the program.



Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) is a coalition of 250 organizations across eight countries, driving climate action and policy advocacy.

IYCN brings youth and organizations together for climate action, empowering individuals, fostering engagement, and mainstreaming climate discussions for meaningful change.



Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)

APSWDP is a national non-profit fostering social work education, collaboration, and support for disadvantaged communities while advancing its mission.

Centre for Youth (C4Y) empowers rural and urban youth through civic engagement, governance participation, and sustainable opportunities for inclusive development.



GuruJal aims to promote social responsibility, sustainability, environmental protection, and innovative solutions to address Gurugram's ongoing environmental challenges.

ExploreiT, a youth-led organization, drives sustainable development and societal change by empowering communities with education and action for a greener planet.



Orlina Venture fosters global business, social, and environmental sustainability, uniting communities and conservation to ensure a resilient, nature-friendly future.



# The Climate Reality Project®

## INDIA & SOUTH ASIA

## The Climate Project Foundation

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