



CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS FOR YOUNG AFRICAN NEGOTIATORS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS¹

Announcement in Brief

Course Type: Online Course
Programme Area: Climate Change
Date: 1st– 19th November 2021
Duration: 3 Weeks
Language: English
Application Deadline: **27th October 2021**

¹ IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme

FOREWORD

It is now scientifically factual that climate change is one of the most critical global environmental challenges of our time, and the main cause of climate change is equivocally human activities (IPCC, 2018). Recent extreme weather events and fires all over the globe have demonstrated our growing vulnerability to climate change. As of now climate change impacts continue to affect various sectors, including the agricultural sector, food security, ecosystems, sea level to rise, energy sector, water resources, health sector and sustainable economic developments.

There is no doubt that climate change has created elevated levels of uncertainty about our future and amid this uncertainty, one thing is certain and that is we will leave the Earth to our children, young people and future generations. The young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and opportunities that the necessary transition to low carbon growth entails, and many are joining the global dialogue on solutions, getting involved and taking action. As young people work across the globe to determine their future by acting on climate change, their actions inspire us all (United Nations, 2013).

In accordance with the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), “youth” is defined to include people between the ages of 15 and 24 years (YOUNGO, 2020). However, in everyday life there are differing views on what constitutes youth, with attitudes varying within communities, across cultures and nations about who is considered young and what roles different age groups are expected to perform. In this training, the definition of “youth” will be left open to nations to decide as to who qualifies to be labelled a youth person.

With the window of opportunity to address climate change rapidly closing, the need for solutions, at the global and regional level has never been more urgent. The urgency is clearly demonstrated by the active engagement of youth in the effort to address climate change, leading and participating in a multitude of initiatives at the local, subnational, national, regional and international levels. Their strong commitment to working on this issue has also motivated them to participate in international climate negotiations under the UNFCCC.

Participation in the UNFCCC process gives the youth a chance to raise their concerns on the climate crisis, including both the current impacts of climate change affecting front-line communities and the expected impacts it will have on young and future generations (YOUNGO, 2020). It also serves as an opportunity to provide their input and perspectives into the process. Furthermore, they can hold their governments accountable for their commitments to climate action (or lack thereof) by observing the international climate negotiations (United Nations, 2013). It is therefore expected that this training will empower the African youth with the insight of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) processes, understanding the thinking behind composition of national delegations and what they need to know to effectively and meaningfully participate in the negotiations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The ultimate objective of this work is to develop the capacity of African youth in the UNFCCC climate change negotiation. This e-tutorial will focus on the following themes: 1) Structures of the Conference of the Parties (COP/CMP/CMA) process, and 2) National delegations and participation in the negotiations.

At the end of the course participants should be able to:

- Define the following entities: climate system, climate, greenhouse gas effect, global warming and effects of climate change,
- Explain the Intergovernmental climate change processes (history of climate change, governance system, articles of the climate change convention and its treaties, institutional arrangements, work of established bodies, gender, engagement of other intergovernmental organization and the private sector in the intergovernmental process of climate change),
- State the advancement in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its treaties ((mitigation/NDC, adaptation, loss and damages, periodic review and stocktake), means of implementation (Finance, development of technology and transfer, and capacity building), communication, Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), research and systematic observations, cooperative approaches, transparency frameworks and compliance systems in the UN convention on climate change and its treaties),
- Explain briefly the outcomes of the annual UNFCCC conferences (COP/CMP/CMA),
- Explain the importance of the National delegation and participation in the negotiations.
- Identify key elements of UNFCCC COP 26 to be achieved in the UK, outstanding negotiated elements of the Paris Agreement's rulebook and activities on the road to COP 26,

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

This course features an array of key information that will promote the understanding of climate, greenhouse gas effect, global warming and its effects, the evolution of climate change and the global communities' efforts to tackle the problem of climate change through the intergovernmental processes of climate change. Provide briefs on the outcomes of the annual UNFCCC and its treaties conferences as well as the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 26). It will also be designed to create a user-friendly online training program tailored for Young African climate change negotiators.

The course is divided into six self-standing interactive lessons per module, which is user friendly and includes full reading lists, power point presentation slides, lecture notes, guidelines for discussion sessions and course assignments.

The course will have the following content with some learning goals:

- **Module 1: Climate system**
 - Learning goals: Understand the climate system; Define the greenhouse gas effect; Understand the global warming; Explain the effects climate change
- **Module 2: Intergovernmental climate change process, COP/CMP/CMA**
 - Learning goals: Explain briefly the history of climate change; State the institutional arrangements of the COP/CMP/CMA; Understand the functions of established

bodies; Explain the role of other intergovernmental Organization including gender in advancing implementation; Etc.

- **Module 3: Advancing the implementation climate change convention and its treaties**
 - o Learning goals: Understand the implementation components of the convention, Kyoto protocol and Paris Agreement; Explain the tracking systems for implementation; Explain the support provide to countries; State what is Action for climate empowerments (ACE) and its function; Understand the role of Non state and Sub-national climate actions

- **Module 4: UN climate change conferences COP/CMP/CMA**
 - o Learning goals: State the importance of the annual climate change conferences; Understand the various stages in the work towards adoption of the different climate change treaties.

- **Module 5: National delegation and participation in the negotiations**
 - o Learning goals: State the importance of national delegation in the climate change process and groups of Parties or and coalition; Explain the participation in the various negotiation platforms of the cop process; Understand the different documents produced by the COP/CMP/CMA; Explain the importance of briefings and media conferences; Explain how to navigate the conference area and pavilions; Explain the meaning of different documents produced by the COP/CMP/CMA; Explain the processes of drafting decisions and procedural conclusions.

- **Module 6: UNFCCC COP 26**
 - o Learning goals: Identify key the elements of COP 26 to be achieved; State what can advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement; State the remaining elements to complete the Paris Agreement rulebook; Identify the various activities on the road to COP 26

SKILLS TO BE IMPARTED

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- (a) Knowledge of the different components of the climate system, how does the greenhouse gas effect work and the ability to states and explain the various impacts of climate change;
- (b) Knowledge of the build up from the ultimate objective of the Convention, to that of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement; ability to discuss the three goals of the Paris Agreement (Mitigation Adaptation and Finance)
- (c) Ability to understand Mitigation, Adaptation, Loss and Damage, Stocktake and Periodic Review; reporting and verification systems of the UNFCCC and its treaties, The role of means of implementations (Finance, Technology development and transfer, and Capacity Building) and the knowledge of the role of Action Climate Empowerment in the climate change process; Knowledge of the important role of other inter-governmental organization in the climate change process.

- (d) Knowledge of the trajectory of the intergovernmental processes leading to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- (e) Knowledge of the role of national delegation in the different groups or and coalition under the climate change process and the various meeting arrangement of these groups (i.e. coordination, bilateral preparation meetings, etc); Understanding the work of the various negotiation meetings (plenary, formals, informal, contract groups, etc); Development of interpersonal skills at the side events and work of NGOs in advancing the implementation of the Convention; Ability to identify COP/CMP/CMA documents using the code system; And knowledge of the drafting process.
- (f) Knowledge of the key elements that will make COP 26 a success, ability to elaborate on the outstanding element of the Paris Agreement rulebook and what comes with the processes leading to COP 26.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH & MODE OF DELIVERY

The course will be self-paced and not moderated. The Tutor will be available for two hours in the morning from 10.00 to 11.00 hours South African time and two hours in the afternoon from 14.00 to 16.00 hours South African time, which is Coordinated Universal Time plus 2 (UTC + 2). Otherwise, the Tutor will be available on the E-mail and WhatsApp for any further iteration. The Tutor will conduct introductory lessons at the beginning and at the end of the course. This will provide learners with the introductory insight of the course and the conclusion of the course. Additional interaction can be conducted upon request. The lessons will be downloaded in a PDF format for online learning.

It is expected that participants can complete the course in 15 working days, but the Tutor will be available from 18th October to 5th November 2021 to accommodate additional questions from learners. There will be a set of questions at the end of each lesson Module to assess participants' achievement of the learning goals. There will be no passing or failing marks, but participants should attempt to answer all questions in each lesson Module in order to get a certificate of completion. Further guidance will be given in due course on how to download the certificate of completion.

Participants will be invited to complete a pre training survey or registration form with questions basically developed to assess participants age, gender, field of education, level of academic training, work status, level of understanding English, marital status and so on to enable the Tutor to make an informed decision on the range of social, cultural and education background so that efforts will be made to accommodate everyone in conducting the training. At the end of the course participants will be invited to a post course survey on how they assess the course contents, adequacy of the duration, usefulness of the course and how they intend to put into use the knowledge gained to help the Tutor in evaluating the course.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete all the Learning Modules of the course-related self-assessments.

TARGET AUDIENCE

These modules are developed for the African Youth Negotiators to provide them with some insight to the negotiation process, structures of the Climate Change Convention, Kyoto protocol and the Paris Agreement, the key elements of UNFCCC COP 26 and visualization of participation to the negotiations.

They should be able to provide clear, concise, easy to be understood and up to date information for anybody in any profession interested to follow the intergovernmental processes of climate change. It should also be able to serve as an introduction to other interested government officials, practitioners and academics to the multilateral processes of climate change agreements. This implies that grassroots, as well as technical and professional cadres may be able to use this training modules.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph below to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
 - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

IMPORTANT DATES

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: **27th October 2021**
- Course Period: **1st – 26 November 2021**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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N.B.: IDEP strongly encourages and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme.

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