



YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERS

Global Policy Workshop Series 2025

Youth Statement for COP30 and Beyond:

Shaping Global Climate Action

A Collective Reflection and Statement from the First Indian Cohort of Youth Climate Leaders: Global Policy Workshop Series.

Preamble

This statement emerges from the First Indian Cohort of the Youth Climate Leaders: Global Policy Workshop Series, convened under the theme “Understanding COP30: Shaping Global Climate Policies.”

It reflects the insights of young people across India who engaged deeply with global climate policies and frameworks, exploring how different constituencies, including Youth, Gender, and Indigenous Peoples, participate, influence, and shape decision-making within the UNFCCC.

Through this journey, we reaffirmed what climate action means for us, for our communities, and for the planet. This statement captures our collective learning and our shared commitment to continue building awareness, responsibility, and solidarity.

As emerging youth leaders, we speak as learners, as witnesses to climate realities, and as participants in shaping a just and sustainable future. We affirm that the world is built on community, not competition; on solidarity, not separation.

Climate action cannot be achieved through fragmented or exclusionary approaches; it must be grounded in equity, participation, and justice, recognizing the rights, resilience, and contributions of communities on the margins, those least responsible for the crisis, yet standing at the frontlines of climate action.

Our generation stands at the intersection of crisis and possibility, carrying both the weight of inaction and the will to transform.

As we look toward COP30, we stand not as passive observers, but as committed partners in shaping just, inclusive, and sustainable pathways for our shared future.

01

What Climate Action Means to Us

To us, climate action is not a contest of innovation or visibility, it is an act of repair: of our relationship with the Earth and with each other.

Climate action must restore balance between people and planet, between generations and between values and action. It must be rooted in community, consent, and care.

True climate action must:

- Recognize, Respect, and Protect ancestral and intergenerational knowledge systems as essential to climate solutions and climate justice.
- Ensure meaningful leadership and decision-making power of historically marginalized groups including women, Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Communities and frontline communities in all climate processes.

For Indigenous and Tribal youth, climate action is rooted in who we are, embracing our identity and honouring land and culture as living community that guides us. It means safeguarding our territories, and protecting the traditions and knowledge systems essential to our collective continuity. For allied youth, it is an act of reconnection, supporting one another, challenging systems of exclusion, and believing in our collective power.

We are each unique, yet bound by shared purpose, and when we come together, the world finds hope, courage, and solidarity, nurturing the community-led transformations needed to shift systems from within.

02

Ensure Meaningful Youth Leadership Across All Levels of Climate Decision-Making

We, the youth of this cohort, have learned that leadership is not about being seen, it is about being responsible.

We do not seek token participation; we seek shared power and collective responsibility.

Our message to leaders and institutions is to:

- Recognize and include youth as equal partners in shaping policies and implementation, not just as observers.
- Prioritize investment in youth-led and community-based solutions, especially those advancing local resilience.
- Create spaces for continuous learning, mentorship, and intergenerational dialogue that enable young people to access, participate in, and meaningfully contribute to policy-making spaces.

The strength of our generation lies in collaboration, creativity, courage, and shared responsibility in shaping our collective future.

Gender Equality and Equity Is Climate Action

We believe and affirm that gender equality and equity are not accessories to climate policy, but rather it is integral and foundational.

Across India and around the world, women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals bear the brunt of climate impacts, yet lead some of the most transformative climate actions. Their knowledge sustains families, forests, and futures.

Our message is clear:

- Recognize women and gender-diverse persons as leaders, not beneficiaries.
- Integrate gender equality and equity across all climate planning, budgeting, and education.
- Fund and amplify women- and youth-led initiatives, especially from rural and Indigenous communities.
- Protect and promote women's knowledge systems and leadership in water, forest, agriculture, and land governance.

A climate movement that excludes half of humanity's wisdom cannot reach its fullest potential. Climate action and climate justice flourish when gender equity is not an afterthought, but a foundation shaping how we plan, act, and lead.

True transformation begins when equity lives in our actions, in policy, in participation, and in everyday leadership.

Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities Must Be Integral to Climate Action and Decision-Making Processes

We affirm that Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities must be integral to all climate action and decision-making processes.

Their stewardship protects the world's biodiversity, and their worldviews, rituals, and governance systems embody the balance and harmony that sustainable climate action seeks to achieve. Through their ways of living, cultural practices, and community-led stewardship, they show how harmony with nature sustains all life.

Their songs, stories, and rituals are living ecological knowledge systems, passed across generations, that offer vital frameworks for addressing today's climate and ecological crises. Reviving and protecting these traditions is essential for climate resilience, cultural continuity, and planetary healing.

Yet, while Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities stand on the front lines of the climate crisis, they also face disproportionate impacts from the climate crisis itself and from the very actions and policies intended to address it. Despite these challenges, they continue to lead with knowledge, resilience, and a deep sense of responsibility to protect life in all its forms.

04

Our message is :

- Recognize the leadership and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities as foundational to effective, just, and sustained climate action.
- Uphold the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all climate policies, programs, and projects involving Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities.
- Ensure that climate finance mechanisms are accessible to Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities.
- Promote and strengthen the leadership of Indigenous youth and women, ensuring their meaningful and equitable participation at all levels of decision-making.

For Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities, Nature is a source of identity, culture, tradition, and language. In their Worldview “We are not Mere Part of Nature; we are Nature.”

Recognizing Indigenous leadership and knowledge are central to climate action.

Message from Allied Youth : We Stand in Solidarity with You

We, allied youth, write this in deep respect and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Communities, and local communities across the world.

We recognize your leadership, resilience, and relationship with the Earth, one that teaches us what balance, care, and community truly mean.

Our collective message is this:

We believe in building bridges, sharing platforms, and supporting grassroots and community-led initiatives by walking this journey together, learning and unlearning, mentoring and collaborating, and ensuring fair access to resources.

We believe in using education, storytelling, and culture as tools to inspire empathy, understanding, and collective responsibility.

We believe in walking alongside Indigenous and local communities, with purpose, humility, and care.

In solidarity, we commit to listening, learning, and acting together so that our shared journey toward climate justice becomes one of mutual respect, trust, and transformation.

Conclusion:

Our Collective Reflection and Call to Action

As the first Indian cohort of the Youth Climate Leaders: Global Policy Workshop Series, we conclude this journey with deeper understanding and shared conviction:

- That youth leadership must be collaborative, intergenerational, and accountable. We believe that learning itself is an act of leadership.
- That gender equality and equity must be at the heart of all climate action.
- That the leadership and consent of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Communities must guide global decisions.
- And that solidarity must guide our shared path forward.

As we look toward COP30 and beyond in Belém, we call upon world leaders, negotiators, and climate institutions to act with the urgency and empathy this moment demands.

We urge Parties to translate commitments into justice-driven implementation, and to center youth, Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Communities, and local communities as the foundation of global climate action.

We, the young people, stand ready to co-create solutions, share responsibility, and sustain accountability. We are not the future waiting to be heard, we are the present, leading with care, courage, and conviction.

**“We envision the world is built on community, not competition,
and the future we seek will be built together,
with dignity, equity, and care.”**



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