

# YOUTH CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE INTERVENTION

Ahead of Pre-COP26 and COP26, we - young people from around the world - demand immediate and genuine action on research and dialogue on climate intervention. To avert, minimise and address the worst impacts of climate change, we call upon governments, policymakers, entrepreneurs, scientists, fellow youth and all other stakeholders to make the most of the current unprecedented opportunity, post-COVID-19, to implement our Youth Call to Action (YCA) on Climate Intervention. The YCA consists of proposals under six categories: **Guiding Principles to Move Forward**, **Education & Awareness**, **Research**, **Youth Cooperation & Inclusion**, **Youth Agency & Empowerment**, and **Youth Advocacy**.

## Context of Climate Intervention

"Climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying," according to the Sixth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group 1 report.<sup>1</sup> The report also found many of the observed changes in the climate have no precedent in not thousands, but in hundreds of thousands of years, and that some of these changes, such as the continuous rise in sea level, cannot be reversed until within several centuries or millennia.

Cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is the ideal path for reducing and limiting the negative effects of climate change. However, since the planet is experiencing irreversible changes at such a rapid and unprecedented pace, and the impacts of cutting emissions will only be felt years after they occur, complementary pathways must be investigated and scaled up.

Stakeholders around the world are beginning to consider possibilities for climate interventions (sometimes called "geoengineering"). Interventions such as carbon dioxide removal and solar climate intervention (also referred to as "solar geoengineering", "solar radiation management" or "solar radiation modification") are technological innovations that could potentially mitigate the effects of climate change and keep natural systems stable while society transitions to a zero carbon and sustainable future.

## Why Youth Call to Action?

As youth, we believe it is time to act on climate intervention - and involve young people in the process. All too frequently, climate intervention is discussed among those who will not live to see the worst impacts of climate change, and young people are left out of key decision making meetings and dialogues on the issue. Thus, young participants at the [Safe Climate Youth Summit](#)<sup>2</sup> developed this Youth Call to Action on Climate Intervention - inspired by a similar document on adaptation initiated by the Global Center on Adaptation. Its purpose is to present a youth position on the subject with a goal of advocating for research and dialogue on climate intervention. We hope that this document provides a blueprint for inclusive climate change policy making and therefore help achieve greater intergenerational justice for young people within the climate change policy decision making process.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

<sup>2</sup> See "A NOTE ON PROCEDURE" at end of document.

# OUR DEMANDS

## Guiding Principles to Move Forward

1. **Mitigating Impact.** Reducing harm, suffering and oppressive mechanisms through averting, minimising and addressing risks and climate impacts should be a key guiding principle when considering this subject and its research. We should strive to make decisions that put people and the planet first, but acknowledge that there is no perfect answer.
2. **Diversity.** Inclusivity and diversity are of the utmost importance within the climate intervention dialogues. We must involve those who are most vulnerable, and create opportunities for these groups - such as youth - to form their opinions and come up with policy ideas.
3. **Constructive Dialogue.** Constructive and open communication in climate intervention dialogues, where people are able to discuss the topic without fear of being shut down, and where researchers are not attacked or targeted for their work.
4. **Acceptance.** Uphold mutual respect for one another when holding dialogues on climate intervention, and establish spaces where people feel comfortable to express their views. We must promote unbiased and unprejudiced discussions to foster a constructive dialogue based on the principle of common (but differentiated) responsibilities and capabilities. Remember that people have the right to change their minds, and so we should try to look forward together in innovative ways.
5. **Urgency.** We must move forward on research and dialogue on this topic with a sense of urgency - we are in the midst of the climate crisis. All climate actions must be based on the use of best available science and we should not rush on decisions regarding things that are unknown or potentially unsafe.
6. **Equity.** Prioritise establishing equitable benefit sharing mechanisms when making decisions on climate intervention research and policy.

## Education & Awareness

1. **Communication.** Governments and researchers must share more information about climate intervention with the public. There must also be more communication regarding ongoing research in the media, including about the institutions which currently or could perform research. Such information should be made with accessible language and infographics, videos and other accessible means in order to improve society's knowledge and understanding of climate intervention.
2. **Knowledge Dissemination.** Governments must act to establish climate intervention as a public issue through knowledge dissemination and reduce public skepticism in doing so. We must create pathways and mechanisms to ensure any knowledge on the topic is disseminated fairly, with a greater number of teachers to help give people a fair and objective education about facts and realities.

## Research

1. **Local Expertise.** We must build capacity for poorer and more vulnerable people and countries to carry out their own research to help reduce their reliance on organisations from developed countries to provide information on climate intervention. There must be sufficient information and technology sharing, including resources, tools and technologies.
2. **Diversity.** We must involve a diverse set of perspectives into research and engage more youth on the topic. Currently, those who are opposed to research are dominating the debate. Those who are in favour should speak out more, and have a platform to do so. This will help increase diversity in dialogues on research.
3. **Funding.** We need greater funding for research and the means to scale this up, and establish appropriate and publicly acceptable funding sources.
4. **Minimising Impact.** All research must be controlled, with low environmental impact, and have appropriate safeguards in place to ensure this.

## Youth Cooperation & Inclusion

1. **Inclusion.** Young people, despite conforming to a demographic majority, are underrepresented in decision-making processes. Youth voices are suppressed and are often undervalued. As such, youth and children require more opportunities and spaces to voice their demands and display their ideas regarding climate intervention. Public consultations must allow for meaningful and plentiful youth participation. Governments, non-state actors and other organisations must facilitate spaces to listen and work together with young leaders and young representatives.
2. **Participation.** Better access to information regarding spaces for youth involvement is required to increase youth participation on climate intervention dialogues. Participation of youth needs to move beyond the NGO level and begin also within governments, non-state actors and other organisations. Meanwhile, international cooperation is not only the job of governments - academic and research communities must also work together to ensure youth participation on climate intervention matters across borders.
3. **Governance structures.** We must ensure there are the necessary fora in place, in order to enhance international cooperation on climate intervention. Such fora must spearhead the inclusion and participation of youth and other marginalised groups, and adopt ultimate transparency when representing the public.

## Youth Agency & Empowerment

1. **Capacity Building.** Capacity building is crucial to ensure meaningful youth participation. On climate action, youth capacity building must be geared towards climate governance, mitigation & adaptation, climate intervention, finance and international cooperation. Training youth in developing countries in climate intervention research and policy will foster local expertise and will establish the

foundations for more inclusive and genuine international cooperation. To ensure youth empowerment, more spaces for capacity building must be facilitated and promoted to the public.

- 2. Networking and Knowledge Sharing.** Youth must be provided more opportunities to connect, to exchange ideas and to share their knowledge and experiences regarding climate intervention. Knowledge sharing between youth is more effective and engaging, and will foster collective empowerment.
- 3. Education.** As it stands, it is unclear if we can further mobilise successful international cooperation on climate intervention with the current level of youth knowledge on the topic. We must empower youth with training, education and awareness on climate intervention to help correct this. The youth who are participative must strive to continue learning about climate intervention and share our knowledge with our own local communities and neighbourhoods.

### **Youth Advocacy**

- 1. Representation.** While governments, non-state actors, and organisations must make bold commitments towards youth inclusion and empowerment, youth themselves must also advocate to be heard on climate intervention issues and fill the gaps we see ourselves.
- 2. Support.** Young people encourage and support each other to achieve collective youth action at all levels (locally, nationally, regionally and internationally) on climate intervention.
- 3. Science.** Youth must begin to actively engage in climate research, science and academia, to co-create, formulate and propose actions and solutions towards development in our scientific knowledge of climate intervention.

### **A NOTE ON PROCEDURE**

YOUNGO Technology Mechanism Working Group and SilverLining organised and hosted the world's [first-ever climate intervention youth summit](#) (virtually) on the 24th of June 2021. Gathering young leaders, climate change experts and researchers, the Safe Climate Youth Summit kickstarted an official dialogue among youth and between younger and older generations, to help establish a tangible youth contribution to the field and put young people at the forefront of future developments in climate intervention research and policy.

Young summit attendees were invited to develop the YCA during the final session of the event, in the form of a workshop. During the workshop, the participants explored their ambitions, ideas and concerns regarding climate intervention, with respect to three key policy areas: international cooperation, research efforts, and education and awareness.

The output was then formulated into this document by young members of the Steering Committee, who were all present during the summit and/or workshop. They are Béatrice Coroenne, Madeleine Karlsberg Schaffer, Neeshad Shafi and Ricardo Pineda Guzman.