



477 Madison Avenue,  
Floor 6, New York, NY,  
10022

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## **CYI Submission of written inputs for the UN 2023 Water Conference**

As this historic moment for water action comes to an end, we would like to highlight once more the efforts made by young people in the development of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA).

The Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA) serves as a water and climate blueprint and proposes an action plan to enhance meaningful youth engagement in the water and climate sector globally. It evaluates the values and perception of youth towards water and climate issues, identifies direct and indirect gaps and challenges faced by youth in the water and climate sector, and outlines the respective solutions in form of the Policies, Projects, Programs, and Activities (3PAs).

Based on a mixed-method research design, YDPA implied the use of qualitative and quantitative research. It used a survey based on the Likert scale, which received a total of 4500+ responses from 171 countries. Other tools included expert consultations, literature review, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with youth, validation sessions, qualitative analysis (inductive coding), and quantitative interpretation including the factorial analysis of the data. The global data was processed and further segmented into regional imperatives to better present the regional intricacies regarding water and climate.

Aligned around five key problem dimensions including awareness and capacity, governance, policy, and management, climate change in the water sector, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and youth representation and engagement, YDPA reflects and segregates the solutions/3PAs based on eight key Pillars of action including youth representation and engagement, financing and finance, capacity development, data-knowledge generation and innovation, governance and management, influence and advocacy, direct action, and networking and partnerships. Ultimately, YDPA suggests that as young people progress their way up the ladder as agents of change with better information, knowledge, and skills to take water and climate action, they also progress in the respective Tier of youth empowerment. Therefore, each 3PA corresponds to a specific Tier. These Tiers are: awareness, participation, empowered action, and leadership.

Our key recommendation for decision-makers is to adopt commitments in line with the YDPA (1). The success of commitment-building is contingent on the adoption of three enabling recommendations in parallel: the institutionalization of a Secretariat to monitor progress (2); the creation of a Water and Climate Youth Support Fund (3); and the establishment of biennial conference (4). These asks are explained further below.

1. The adoption of commitments in line with the YDPA

As mentioned above, the YDPA explores the perception of young people towards water and climate challenges, and proposes a series of actions that aim at addressing these challenges. The solutions take the form of 3PAs, which can be understood as potential commitments that stakeholders could adopt in the context of the Water Action Agenda.

## 2. The institutionalization of a youth-focused Secretariat

To secure the implementation of the 3PAs, a youth focused Secretariat should be established to oversee the monitoring process after the submission of commitments. The Secretariat will execute the following functions: support and guidance during the development of necessary baselines; overseeing the monitoring and evaluation process; progress report and impact measurement; and organization of the biennial conference. The configuration of the Secretariat will be defined in a further instance, with the expectation of a tripartite structure: civil society (UNIFY), international organization (UN agency), and government (UN Member State representative).

## 3. The creation of a Water and Climate Support Fund


Stakeholders who submit youth commitments will also have the option to contribute to the creation of the Water and Climate Youth Support Fund. The Fund will be administered by the Secretariat and will aim to sustain its functions. Depending on the funding stream, bilateral funding can be targeted to support the implementation of country-specific youth-related commitments.

## 4. The establishment of a biennial conference.

The Secretariat will oversee the organization of the biennial conference, which is a multisectoral and intergenerational event that aims at discussing and accelerating the progress of YDPA implementation. The conference will also capacitate youth leaders with skills and knowledge.

Further information on the YDPA can be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

  
Khaled Emam  
Head of Organization  
Children and Youth International

