

# 13th Conference of Youth Handbook

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## Content

13th Conference of Youth Handbook.....	1
YOUNGO .....	2
Conference of Youth.....	2
What is COY13? .....	3
Main Objectives of COY13 .....	3
Main Topics of COY13.....	4
FAQ Programme Contributions .....	4
Our Team .....	7
COY13 contact sheet .....	8
List of Sponsors.....	8

## YOUNGO

### Who or what is YOUNGO?

YOUNGO is the UNFCCC observer constituency of youth non-governmental organisations. It has received the provisional status as an observer constituency at COP15 in 2009 and could henceforth actively represent youth in meetings with officials or in climate negotiations.

YOUNGO consists of many youth-led organisations, groups, delegations and individuals working in climate change-related fields. YOUNGO is organised in different Working Groups that focus on different aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations and beyond, and work to ensure that perspectives of young and future generations are taken into account in the international decision making processes. Besides that, YOUNGO members observe and report on the climate negotiations and the implications of their outcomes.



## Conference of Youth

### What is COY about in General?

The Conference of Youth (COY) is an official event of YOUNGO, the official youth-constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is an annual international gathering of young people passionate about environmental and climate change thematics, and takes place right before the annual UN Climate Change Conference, also known as Conference of Parties (COP). A COY is envisioned to have the following objectives:

- providing capacity building and policy training to prepare youths for their involvement in the upcoming climate negotiations
- facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience in the broader context of climate change between the participants
- building and enhancing youth networks and movements

The first COY took place in 2005, when YOUNGO gathered ahead of COP11 in Montréal to prepare and raise the collective voice of youth to be heard at COP11 and ahead. A COY has featured ahead of every COP since, including Nairobi, Cancun, Durban and Paris among others, where it has been organised each time by local youth associations or organisations.

COY continues to involve international youth and their number has grown over the years. Moreover, in 2015, the idea of COY started spreading around the world and inspired young people to organise decentralised local Conferences of Youths (LCOYs), involving national and regional youth movements. The strong voices raised at those local COYs were also heard at the main COY and the COP.

## What is COY13?

Empowering youth for climate action

The 13th Conference of Youth (COY13) will take place in Bonn from November 2 to November 4, 2017 and welcomes young activists and other interested individuals from all around the world to join COY. COY13 is organised by young volunteers and intends to empower youth with regard to climate justice, climate policy and sustainability through a multilingual programme consisting of methodical and content-related sessions.

COY13 will provide space to exchange knowledge and experiences, build new networks and movements, develop creative ideas and prepare for the subsequent 23rd Conference of Parties (COP23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



COP23 is this year's international climate summit, taking place in Bonn under the presidency of Fiji.

## Main Objectives of COY13

This is why COY13 is happening

The core objective of COY13 is to empower and strengthen young individuals and youth movements to take responsibility for and action against climate change. Both participants and programme contributors shall gather knowledge, experience and expertise by being actively involved in COY13. Three main goals have been identified:

- **Capacity Building:** Capacity-building includes policy-training sessions and training in other every-day “tools” of an activist. Capacity-building also includes ensuring participants are up-to-date with recent scientific findings and political agendas. Sharing knowledge lays the foundation for successful participation in political and social processes. Furthermore, capacity-building focuses on enhancing existing youth movements, networks and organisations by showcasing best practices and providing space for the exchange of experiences.
- **Preparation for COP23:** COY13 is a key preparatory event for YOUNGO members participating in the following COP23 climate negotiations. This includes both updating all YOUNGOs on the latest status of negotiations and discussing and developing policy-papers within the different Working Groups. This is key to bringing the voice of youth to the negotiations and making their participation in COP23 as effective and successful as possible.
- **Creative Solutions:** COY13 wants to encourage participants to discover existing opportunities and find new creative solutions to face the many challenges of climate change

and shape the future we want. These solutions will have to happen on different levels, including global, national, local and individual. Besides, creativity is also a means to process challenges and threats posed by climate change and make them more comprehensible.

## Main Topics of COY13

This is what COY13 is about

COY13 will be an opportunity to address a wide-ranging field of topics related to climate change and sustainability. As Fiji holds presidency of this year's COP we will focus on the perspective of Small Island Developing States and the issue of Climate Justice. Furthermore, we want the programme to address the wide variety of theory of changes that are pursued by different parts of the youth climate movements, broadly falling under the category of activism and policy work.

- **Perspectives of Small Island Developing States:** The Fijian COP23-Presidency has led to overall awareness of the perspectives of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), that are vulnerable and that are disproportionately more affected by the impacts of climate change.
- **Climate Justice:** Climate Justice puts climate change and climate action in the broader social and environmental context. This includes aspects such as intergenerational equity, gender, human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. Climate justice also recognises the responsibilities of the Global North due to their historic emissions. Building on this thematic, the participants will be encouraged to reflect not only about the current challenges in the international decision making process, but also about their personal responsibilities towards the Mother Nature.
- **Activism:** COY13 will connect multiple strands and approaches of activism to spark discussion and share skills required in the fields of policy and actions. This also includes possibilities to develop national, regional or international networks and movements, and to showcase how individuals can get actively involved.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Bearing in mind that current negotiations at COP23 are highly technical, COY13 will provide policy training for young participants at COP23. There will be content-related sessions regarding topics addressed in the upcoming sessions of COP, APA, SBI and SBSTA. Furthermore, workshop sessions will share the necessary knowledge and skills for working with policy documents and advocating youth positions in various circumstances.

\*COP - Conference of Parties; APA – Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement;  
SBI – Subsidiary Body on Implementation, SBSTA – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

## FAQ Programme Contributions

Who can submit a proposal for Programme Contributions?

Individuals or entities that have experiences related to various aspects of climate change, environment conservation, climate activism, education, policy or art. Entities could be, but are not limited to, NGOs, inter-governmental institutions, networks, groups.

### What are the objectives of our programme?

The programme will be designed to serve an international audience with various backgrounds and experiences. The core objective of COY13 is to empower and strengthen young individuals and youth movements by providing space for

- capacity building
- preparation for COP23
- creative solutions

More information about the objectives can be found above.

### What topics are addressed at COY13?

COY13 will feature a broad range of topics related to climate policy, climate activism and sustainability. Since Fiji holds presidency of this year's COP23, a particular focus will be the perspective of small island states and various aspects of climate justice. More details about the main topics can be found above.

### Who will be at COY13?

COY13 addresses young people, most aged between 15-35, from all around the world. Three different target groups are expected to join COY13:

- **YOUNGO members:** COY13 connects young people who are participating in UNFCCC processes. Most of them belong to YOUNGO, the youth constituency to UNFCCC. YOUNGO consists of all young individuals and youth-led organisations or groups which participate in UNFCCC processes and at the climate negotiations. COY13 serves as a platform to prepare YOUNGO members for COP23.
- **Climate Activists:** COY13 invites Climate Activists who are not involved in the COP23 negotiations. This group consists of individuals, grassroots movements and organisations that actively engage with climate change. Also, the COY will be an opportunity to develop and prepare actions and solidarity events around COP23.
- **Prospective members of climate movements:** COY13 invites individuals who are not yet active members of climate movements and encourages their involvement. This group may be interested in getting an overview of the key issues in the negotiation process.

### What kind of Programme Contributions are we looking for?

We expect that contributions will address at least one of the three target groups (YOUNGO members, climate activists and prospective members of climate movements). A Programme Contribution could be, for example, workshops, debates, art performances, exhibitions, and many more. As the overall goal is to empower the participants and young Programme Contributors, we especially welcome concepts that encourage active involvement and learning-by-doing.

### How long can a Programme Contribution be?

The duration of programme contributions should be planned to last around either 90 or 180 minutes. In some exceptional cases - with plausible argumentation - it is possible to extend the duration.

### In which languages can Programme Contributions be held?

We intend to create a programme accessible for all to cater to an international, diverse audience. Experience from previous COYs indicates that the main languages are English, French, German or Spanish. Programme Contributions are encouraged to be held in one of these languages. As many participants will speak English as a second language, it is recommended that this is taken into consideration. Unfortunately, we cannot provide translation services.

### Can I submit more than one Programme Contribution proposal?

Principally, any individual or entity can submit more than one proposal - provided they reasonably differ in content and/or method. Nevertheless, COY13 intends to provide a programme which is as diverse as possible in both the topics and origins of its contributors.

### What venue and premises will be used?

COY13 will take place in a school. Therefore, most of the programme will take place in classrooms with an optimal capacity of 30-40 people. Basic conference equipment and infrastructure will be provided (including projector, access to internet, etc.). We will get in touch with all selected programme contributors around mid-September to share more details and assess equipment and infrastructure needs.

### Will COY13 provide financial help for the contributions?

Due to a minimal budget, we cannot cover any costs for your contribution, including remuneration and allowances. We are planning to set up an art space and provide some materials. We will confirm details of this in the beginning of September.

### What are the selection criteria?

- Programme Contributions will be selected in line with the objectives and topics of COY13 and the experience of the contributors.
- Concepts that foster interaction and actively involve participants are preferred.
- The final selection of Programme Contributions will consider a balance of contributors based on regions, affiliation and gender identity (in case of individual contribution).
- In case of two very similar proposals, priority will be given to youth-led organisations over institutions without a specific focus on youth and to younger over older individual contributors.
- Please note that profit-making activities will not be accepted

### What is the timeline for submissions?

Applications can be submitted until **Sunday, 13 August 2017, 23.59 GMT** only through the official submission form. You will be informed by 2 September if your Programme Contribution proposal is accepted.



### Does the submission mean that my proposed contribution will be part of the COY13-Programme?

No. The COY13 Team will select a coherent and diverse programme out of the submitted Programme Contribution proposals. At previous COYs, more proposals were submitted than slots were available. Therefore, we reserve the right to reject Programme Contribution proposals without further explanation. By submitting a proposal you agree to the outlined procedure.

The more comprehensible and detailed the responses to the form are the better we can estimate the suitability of the proposal.

## Our Team

COY13 is not organised as a collaborative approach of different organisations but rather in a joint effort of around 50 young individual volunteers who became the COY13-Team. They take care of the logistics, promotion and overall planning of the event. Youth Alliance for Future Energies ([Jugendbündnis Zukunftsenergie](#)) initiated the planning process and [Eine-Welt-Netz NRW](#) functions as the legal entity. [Project Survival Pacific](#) is part of the organising team representing the Pacific perspective of COY13. Also, COY13-Team is collaborating with the respective Working Group of YOUNGO.

## COY13 contact sheet

### Overall Coordination

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## List of Sponsors



Courtesy for the images used: Facebook Page of COY10, COY11, COY12 and others.