



**ECOSOC  
YOUTH  
FORUM**

**#YOUTH2030**

## **8<sup>th</sup> Economic and Social Council Youth Forum**

### **SUMMARY**

## **SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**8 April 2019**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber, 4-6 p.m.  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

### **Key recommendations and messages**

- Intergenerational justice is fundamental for climate action. Young people are especially impacted by climate change. It is their future that is at existential risk. At the same time, young people are also part of the solution and must be involved meaningfully on all levels - at several places they are already taking the seat at the “table”. They must be provided access to formal decision-making processes, especially the most vulnerable (indigenous peoples, disabled people, etc.) and be able to hold their government accountable to their commitments.
- Governments must increase their ambitions, develop enhanced national determined contribution (NDC), prioritize mitigation and adaptation, and lead radical institutional changes. Young people are calling governments to develop and implement transformative climate ‘master plans’.
- Education is crucial to achieve concrete results in climate action and allow the fundamental changes required to achieve carbon neutrality. Young people are calling upon their schools to mainstream sustainability and climate ambition into curriculum as well as working with them to improve sustainable campus practices. Schools must teach children and young people to become agents of change in their communities and in the world.

- Individual actions are very important and can lead to real impact on the ground, including through collective mobilization. This goes from adopting sustainable lifestyles to engaging in civic and political engagement.
- The economy needs to be transformed, including through eliminating partnerships and subsidies for polluting industries (e.g. fossil fuel industries), while supporting and promoting sustainable alternatives. This should be seen as an opportunity to create jobs, including for young people and women groups, and boost innovation and economies. Capacity building and access to green technology is essential in that context, especially for developing countries.