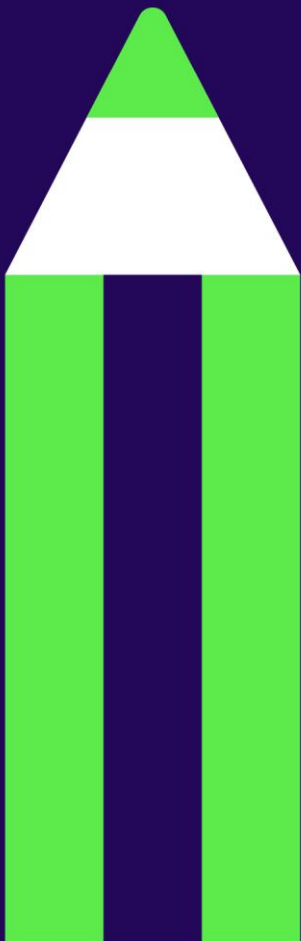
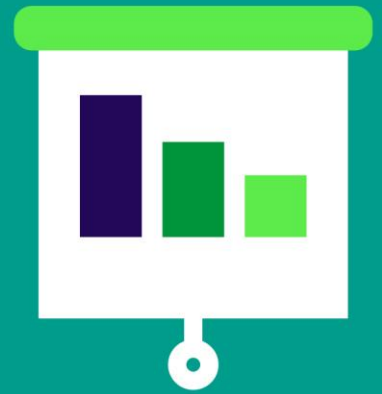


# The Climate Connection

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# Youth Voice on Climate Action

**Mexico**

#TheClimateConnection  
[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection)

# The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action is a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

It is the result of a large-scale research exercise between the British Council and not for profit social enterprise Catalyst in Communities, who used a mixed methodology approach to garner the views, experiences and aspirations of 8,000 young people across 23 countries.

Aiming to be as representative as possible in terms of gender, background, location and socio-economic status, the research team worked through global COVID-19 restrictions to amplify the unheard voice of the climate debate: today's young people. Research for the report was carried out between January and March 2021.

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, and accompanying 8,000 Rising campaign, is part of the British Council's [The Climate Connection](#) programme, a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

**Read the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, the research report and join in the 8,000 Rising campaign here:**

[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter)

## Mexico's young people and climate action

*The following letter and accompanying data represent the views and perspectives of young people in Mexico.*

*It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in Mexico and can be used as a starting point for leaders and policy makers to understand how to address young people's concerns in relation to climate change, and how they can use this untapped potential in to bring about climate action.*

*We hope the following letter inspires both young people and decision makers across Mexico and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.*



# Dear COP26 leaders,

We, the young people of Mexico who participate in the Global Youth Letter Report, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

Mexico is home to a vibrant culture and precious natural habitats, being one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. However, the country has a long list of environmental challenges to address. Among the most urgent are halting deforestation, conserving priority areas for biodiversity and designing environmental policies that take communities into account.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. Among the 8,000 young people that took part in this report, two-thirds are female, some have disabilities, and many are from ethnic minorities. We come from all corners of Mexico, from bustling cities to peri-urban and rural areas. We have different levels of education and employment.

No matter our differences, 95 per cent of us agree that climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our country, and we are here to collectively call for climate action.

## How climate change affects us

We believe there is a general lack of information about the environmental challenges facing our country. Moreover, our voices are not being heard. Depending on where we live, we are experiencing more droughts, excessive rain and tropical cyclones, which exacerbates social inequities such as access to food, water and other resources.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. unbalanced rain patterns
2. depletion of freshwater resources
3. loss of forest cover.

By participating in this research, we've become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26. We are now one step closer to being 'unheard' on issues related to climate change.

For us, the three most important Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. SDG 13: Climate Change
2. SDG 4: Quality Education
3. SDG 1: No Poverty

## Our commitment to climate action

With climate change impacting everyone, we know that policy makers and civil society organisations have a big job to do, but that they can't do it alone. Which is why 96% of us feel very strongly about the role young people can play in climate action. More than 82% of us are willing to become community leaders on climate action, and around 80% of us believe we have the skills to fulfil our potential and to address climate change in our country.



But this potential isn't being realised. For too long we have been ignored and meaningful spaces for our 'active participation' have been closed. More than half of us have never participated in climate awareness exercises or engaged in mitigation actions.

This needs to change if we are to reduce the impact of climate change.

## What we demand from our leaders

Leaders and policy makers, we need your help to remove the hurdles to participation, which include:

- limited or no community-level initiatives to engage young people in climate action
- limited or no youth participation opportunities offered by government
- insufficient role of the media in creating awareness.

We, as a diverse group, are prepared to act, but we cannot do it alone, and neither can you. We need collaboration and collective action. You have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action and to engage us in meaningful ways. You can now be open to hear us as well as to better prepare us by giving us broader access to climate education at schools and universities, by building our capacity to take climate action in our communities, by allowing us to contribute to policy making, and by drawing on our potential within climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in Mexico. And, lastly, by making better use of social media to spread the message.

Through communication, education and collaboration, together we can develop sustainable climate solutions and plan a better future for all Mexicans. The young people of Mexico can act as anchors for collective climate stewardship, but only if you include and consult us when it comes to addressing the major environmental challenges facing our country and our planet.

## Our voices

*'Let's create a space to talk and express ourselves, because in every part of the world, there are people like us who are interested in doing something, so at some point we will coincide with someone who shares our thinking and together do our bit. They say that from union, strength is born. Let it become fashionable to take care of the planet.'* **Rural, female voice**

*'To be active and constantly participate in a long-term process by and for young people in which they can develop not only a discourse but actions that involve the whole of society as well their local communities.'* **Urban, male voice**

*'I believe that we can move beyond just spreading information about climate change, let's implement actions or projects that help us improve it.'* **Rural, female voice**

## Our parting message

The problems we are experiencing in relation to climate change are only the beginning of an uncontrollable sea of problems to come, which must be addressed immediately, or we may not be able to solve them. We are all participants in what is happening, so we must also all be aware and take responsibility for our actions.

