



**Youth for Water and Climate**  
La **Jeunesse** pour l'**Eau** et le **Climat**  
La **Juventud** por el **Agua** y el **Clima**



#YWC

## **Youth for Water and Climate:**

### **A Global Partnership to support Youth Projects addressing Water and Climate Challenges**

#### **Background**

As stated in 2015 during the presentation of the “Water and Youth for Climate” initiative by Global Water Partnership (GWP) Chair and Office Franco Québécois pour la Jeunesse SG, Youth have huge potential for innovation and their voice must be considered. Following up on this conviction, GWP, OFQJ, International Secretariat for Water (ISW), AgroParisTech University, World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW), Water Youth Network (WYN) and other youth networks supported Youth in issuing a White Paper comprising more than 50 recommendations based on field consultations from more than 20 countries from all continents, and an open workshop during COY 11. The Spanish, English and French versions of the White Paper were presented to Government Officials in several countries, including to the Presidency of COP 21, represented by French Minister Segolene Royal. This strong will was translated into a commitment made within the “Paris Pact” on Water.

Most importantly, youth from many countries started implementing actions at their level immediately after COP 21. These efforts were captured in this new “global partnership for youth” and have been made available to other youth on a dedicated web portal called Youth for Water and Climate.

Little more than a year later, lessons learnt show that: 1) youth indeed have a lot to contribute to the global effort towards a more climate resilient planet, 2) youth have higher capacities than they are often given credit for, and 3) partners at all levels, from the local to global, have expressed great enthusiasm for the initiative and would like to see it developed and continued.

Based on this growing momentum, #YWC ambition is to further empower youth so that they are equipped to fully realize their potential and become leaders in addressing the challenges of sustainable management of water resources and climate change in a changing world.

## **Goal**

To enhance the contribution of youth to delivering on the 2030 Agenda by upscaling the implementation of the Youth, Water and Climate COP 21 White Paper recommendations and supporting the development of youth-led initiatives such as youth entrepreneurship.

## **Objectives**

1. To support youth by promoting their contribution to global SDGs and Climate agendas
2. To support youth in developing bankable project based on their ideas and proposals in collaboration with program partners at global, regional and country levels.
3. To facilitate fundraising for youth-led projects through various mechanisms

## **Partners**

Youth networks at global – WYPX, WYN, regional – Central America Youth Network etc. and country levels – Bangladesh, Uganda etc..

Initially led by a few organizations – such as GWP, OFQJ, ISW, the initiative has been joined by several others that are convinced that this a youth-owned process that can allow for real upscaling International Foundation for Science,

A list of partners will be updated regularly on the website.

Everybody is willing to contribute can join the movement. Refer to the YWC website for more information.

## **Examples of planned activities**

1. Supporting youth in the development of project ideas and proposals by building on the strengths of involved partners and experience sharing.
  - a. Encouraging project development through annual and biannual competitions (regional, through Regional Water Partnerships, and global).
  - b. Developing a process for quality assurance with set criteria. Labelling projects once they meet those criteria. See below 2.c the use of the label.
  - c. Creating templates for project development, reporting and monitoring.
  - d. Establishing a helpdesk function to support and finalize project documents. The helpdesk will comprise relevant documents, chat functions etc., based on existing processes implemented by some of the partners (Stockholm International Water Institute, International Foundation for Science).
  - e. Online capacity building training, questions and answers sessions, and

thematic workshops with guests, based on ISW experience. Sessions will be available online.

- f. Developing a community of practice among youth through this helpdesk. This will also be helpful in strengthening their networks. Youth networks are well experienced in this.
  - g. Creating a bank of feasible projects with tools for implementation.
2. Facilitating fundraising for youth-led projects through various mechanisms
    - a. Streamlining and liaising communications between youth entrepreneurs and donors
    - b. Allocation of small grants through competitions and calls
    - c. Easily accessible crowd funding tool
    - d. Communication/marketing tools and promotion of initiatives at various events so as to become a preferred access to project promoters for interested donors.
    - e. Creating an official label to market projects. All the tools of should be standardized/branded to create a cohesive image. Some marketing activities can include:
      - i. Set up a webpage for each project implemented.
      - ii. Upload a short video introduction/testimony of the project from project leaders.
      - iii. Help youth in promoting their projects at conferences/events.
      - iv. Create a list of places and organizations from whom they can obtain additional funding and opportunities.
  3. Setting up transparent governance/management practices with involved partners, creating synergies among existing structures and organizations rather than giving birth to additional ones.

### **Expected Results**

1. High quality youth-led projects in terms of technical specifications, efficiency, monitoring, evaluation, and job creation potential, developed by youth in various countries, contributing to address water and climate related challenges.
2. Funds leveraged for youth-led projects.
3. Strengthening of a global partnership for youth focused on addressing climate and water related issues and acknowledged as a key contributor to the achievement of SDGs and Paris Agreement.

## **Timeline**

Until December, 2016 (COP 22 Budapest Water Summit) - Developing preliminary partnerships and refining the concept

December, 2016 to August, 2017 - Development of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quality Assurance/Technical Manuals and Prototype of digital platform

August 28, 2016 - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of YWC partners during Stockholm Water Week