

OPERATION COP2024

Youth Climate Ambassadors
FINAL REPORT



**The Climate
Reality Project[®]**
AMÉRICA LATINA

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1. INTRODUCTION

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA FOR DECADES.

There has been progress, of course, but not enough. The international community has not translated scientific evidence into ambitious decisions to stop the climate crisis.

According to various reports, 2023 was the hottest year ever recorded, with widely known consequences: droughts, fires, heat waves, floods, rising sea levels and similar effects that will increase in the coming years.

Young people have grown up with the climate crisis on their shoulders. Despite this, their voice is rarely taken into account in formal decision-making spaces. Youth activism has driven protests and actions globally, with a growing impact on public policies. An example of this is the lobbying of young people for the International Court of Justice to issue an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of States in relation to climate change.





THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A CHALLENGE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY.

We are bequeathing problems of great magnitude to people who will be seriously affected, even reducing their expectations of enjoying basic satisfactions. In a warmer world, the scarcity of food, jobs and opportunities in general will be greater.

Intergenerational equity, therefore, remains an unresolved issue in climate negotiations. How can we ensure the voices of young people are heard in the forums where decisions affecting their future are made? How can we eliminate this exclusion and guarantee their meaningful participation?

In this context, Operation COP, Youth Climate Ambassadors, was initiated. It aims to contribute to the creation of a critical mass of young experts in climate change and international negotiations, capable of promoting ambitious climate actions at the local, national, and international levels from a perspective of climate justice, human rights, and intergenerational equity.

The program supports the representation of young people from Latin America and the Caribbean in decision-making spaces such as the COP and advocates for the incorporation of diverse perspectives, including those of vulnerable social groups, in the generation of climate policies. It also offers training in hard and soft skills related to science and climate change negotiations.



Objective

OPERACIÓN COP: YOUTH CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

The primary goal of Operation COP is to contribute to the training and empowerment of young experts in climate change and international negotiations, capable of promoting ambitious climate actions at the local, national, and global levels from a perspective of climate justice, gender, human rights, and intergenerational equity.

FOR THE YEAR 2023, OPERATION COP SET
FIVE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

SPECIFIC
OBJECTIVES
BY 2023

1

Strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of youth from ten countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, allowing them to develop leadership and effectively influence climate negotiations.

2

Increase youth representation in the Latin American and Caribbean delegations participating in COP 28.

3

Increase the knowledge, skills and representation at COP 28 of young people belonging to historically vulnerable groups.

4

Incorporate the perspective of youth and intergenerational equity in international negotiations and climate policies.

5

Increase the number of delegates who support the climate negotiations, thus strengthening the presence and positioning of the delegations from Latin America and the Caribbean.

This report summarizes the process followed during the third edition of Operation COP (2023), in each of the partner countries, as well as an analysis of the results and impact of the program in quantitative and qualitative terms.

2. WHAT FUTURE DO WE WANT?

YOUTH AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

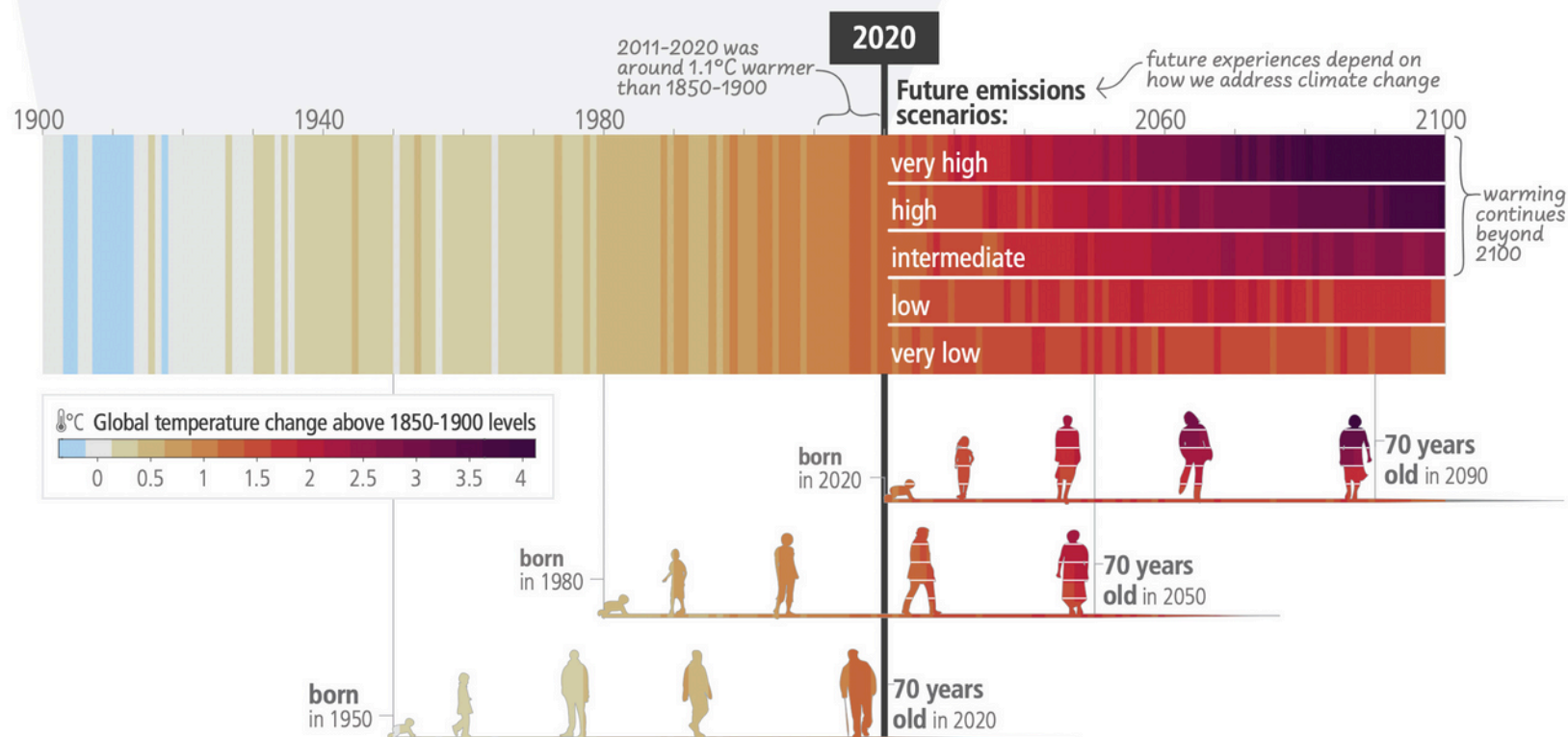
The future, which at one point was viewed with cautious optimism, has become a constant source of concern. The environmental scenario we face is complex and requires innovative solutions, with a new mentality that transcends the current egocentric vision.

In March 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report detailing, among other topics, the differentiated impacts of climate change on various age groups, making it evident that the younger generations will suffer the most severe consequences throughout their lives.

To address this, the IPCC proposes scenarios for three representative generations: those born in 1950, 1980 and 2020, with the last two corresponding to facing situations of greater vulnerability.



c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near term



Fuente: IPCC, Climate Change 2023. Synthesis Report. Summary for Policymakers, p. 7.

In the same vein, the first Children's Climate Risk Index prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2021, indicates that around 1 billion children and adolescents (nearly half of this demographic worldwide) live in countries with extremely high climate risks, which in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean rises to nine out of ten.

UNICEF itself highlights that deprivation derived from climate and environmental degradation at an early age can have extremely negative consequences, and in this sense recommends: "Include young people in all national, regional and international climate negotiations and decisions. "Children and young people must be included in all climate-related decisions."

3. HOW TO DRIVE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE?

INFLUENCE OF YOUTH IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS.



There are spaces within the COP, such as the Youth Conference on Climate Change (COY), and the Children and Youth Pavilion (CYP), that allow the demands and proposals of the younger generations to be presented. It is common for them to issue political documents, such as the “Global Youth Declaration,” through which measures that should be adopted to advance climate action are disseminated. However, these are spaces limited in their scope, with relative impact on the negotiations.



Operation COP goes further,

as it empowers young people through a specialized educational program that allows them to follow up on the commitments made under the Paris Agreement and other instruments established by the UNFCCC. Moreover, it provides them with tools to contribute to the development of their country's positioning and within the negotiation rooms, face-to-face with more experienced negotiators.

By being protagonists, and not mere observers, young people can raise their voice on relevant negotiation topics, such as climate finance, the phasing out of fossil fuels, the increase of renewable energy capacity, climate neutrality, gender equality, and intergenerational equity. Thus, they participate in the collective construction of a sustainable future in a space they have earned on the basis of their merits and conviction.



4. WHO CAN MAKE THIS CHANGE?

WORK METHODOLOGY AND YOUTH SELECTION.

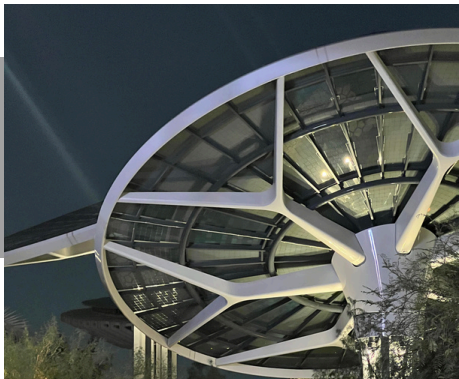
The selection of outstanding profiles is essential to consolidate the success of Operation COP. Therefore, one of the central axes of the program is to ensure that the selected youth has a balance of technical skills, social responsibility and flexibility when facing new challenges.

THE PROPOSED PROFILE IS A YOUNG PERSON WHO, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF THEIR COUNTRY TO THE UNFCCC, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS AND INTERACT IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT. PRIMARILY IN ENGLISH, AS WELL AS SHARING THE LESSONS LEARNED WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES.

LOCAL LEADERS WITH INTERNATIONAL POTENTIAL



Program stages



IN 2023, THE PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THE FOLLOWING AS THE MAIN SOURCES OF MOTIVATION TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM:



Receiving education in climate policy, both nationally and internationally, as well as virtual and in-person access to negotiation spaces.

Gaining knowledge about international negotiations in the context of the UNFCCC and obtaining firsthand experience of what it means to participate in a COP from the perspective of a young negotiator.

Connecting with professionals and leaders who share the same concerns, thereby strengthening the sense of belonging to a global community committed to climate action.

4.1. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

10 COUNTRIES

Operation COP 2023 involved the participation of ten countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic, who called on young people to apply through widely publicized calls for applications.



For instance, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic launched a call open to the entire national territory with two types of requirements: a general one and a special one for youth representatives of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and rural communities.

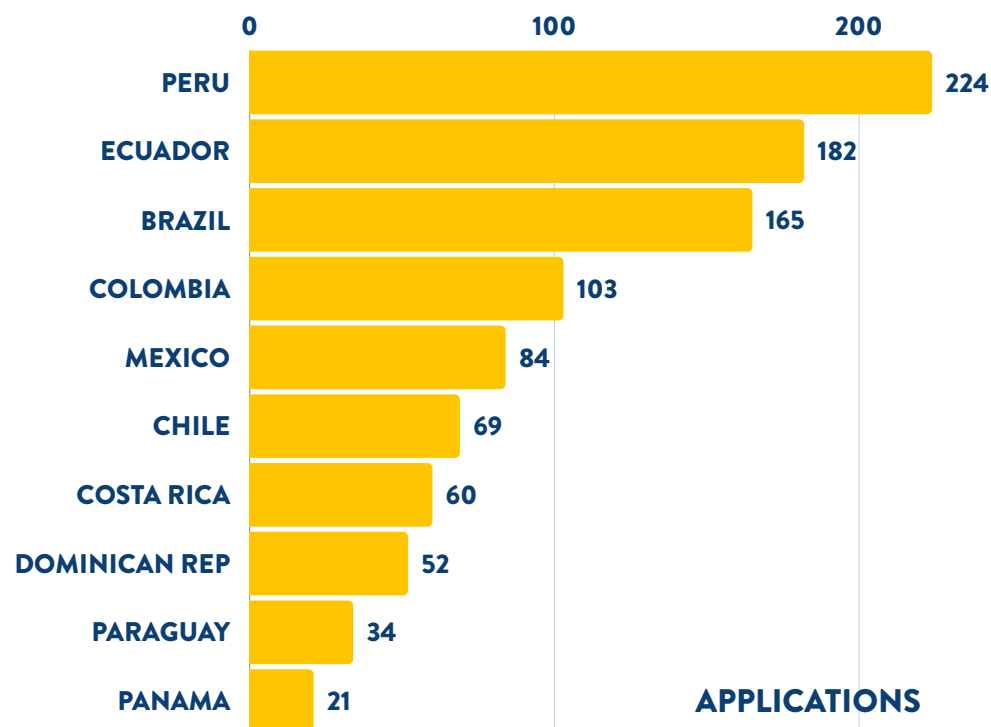
| | Number of applications | Selected young people | Trained young people | Percentage of trained women | Percentage of people from vulnerable groups trained |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Brazil | 165 | 4 | 4 | 50% | 25% |
| Colombia | 103 | 36 | 28 | 78% | 14% |
| Costa Rica | 60 | 35 | 31 | 68% | 13% |
| Chile | 69 | 30 | 25 | 64% | 8% |
| Ecuador | 182 | 35 | 29 | 76% | 27% |
| Mexico | 84 | 37 | 33 | 72% | - |
| Panama | 21 | 18 | 15 | 87% | 27% |
| Paraguay | 34 | 34 | 26 | 92% | 11% |
| Peru | 224 | 37 | 33 | 72% | 36% |
| Dominican Republic | 52 | 35 | 31 | 77% | 35% |
| Total | 829 | 301 | 251 | | |



**10 COUNTRIES FROM LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN PARTICIPATED IN
OPERACIÓN COP 2023**

Applications

As can be seen, in their first year as part of the program, Peru, Brazil and Ecuador led in the number of applications, while Paraguay and Panama reported the lowest numbers.



4.2. COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

The program had the participation of partner institutions and organizations, which collaborated in the promotion of the call for applications, the facilitation of the educational program, managing logistics within each country, and/or providing funding.

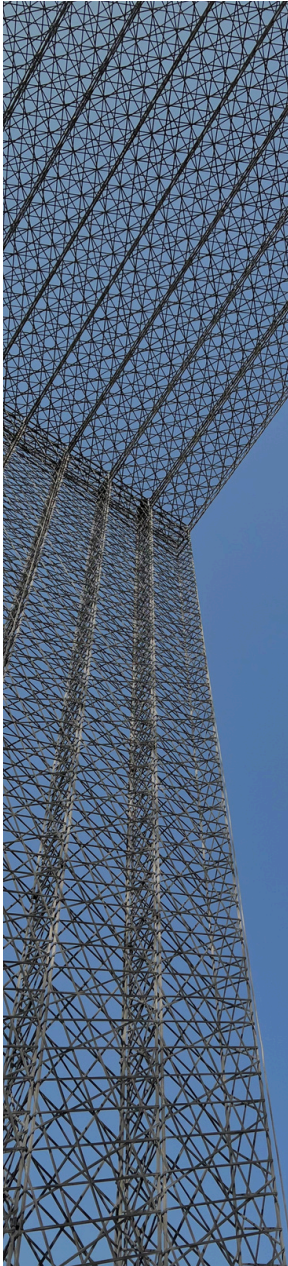


| | Partner institutions and organizations |
|------------|---|
| Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Foreign Affairs• Ministry of Environment and Climate Change• Ministry of Indigenous Peoples• French Embassy in Brazil• INCUBE Institute• Global Environment Facility (GEF)• Open Society Foundation |
| Colombia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Foreign Affairs• Augusto Ramírez Ocampo Diplomatic Academy• GEF• Delegation of the European Union |
| Costa Rica | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship• Ministry of Environment and Energy• Vice Ministry of Youth• Delegation of the European Union• Embassy of the United Kingdom in Costa Rica• German Association for International Cooperation (GIZ)• GEF• UNICEF• Friedrich Ebert Stiftung• Climate Action• Mission 2 Degrees |
| Chile | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Foreign Affairs• Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy• GEF |

**The institutions in bold are the focal points of Operation COP, with whom the program is jointly planned and implemented.*



| | |
|---------|--|
| Ecuador | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition • National Council for Intergenerational Equality • UK Embassy in Ecuador • GEF • United Nations Development Program (UNDP) • UNICEF • Avina Foundation • Esquel Foundation |
| Mexico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of Foreign Relations • Matías Romero Institute • Mexican Youth Institute • National Institute of Indigenous Peoples • GEF • UNICEF • COPPEL Foundation |
| Panama | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment • United Kingdom Embassy in Panama • GEF • UNDP • United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) • National Coordinator of Indigenous Peoples of Panama |



| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Paraguay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development • Embassy of the United Kingdom in Paraguay • GEF |
| Peru | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of the Environment • United States Agency for International Development (USAID) • GEF • UNICEF • Save The Children |
| Dominican Republic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment • Youth Ministry • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • GEF |

We thank our partners



Embajada Británica



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para cada infancia



Save the Children



Fundación
Avina  **ESQUEL**



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**



giz



Ministerio Federal
de Economía
y Protección del Clima

en virtud de una decisión
del Bundestag alemán

IKI



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE



ONU 
programa para el
medio ambiente

50 
1972-2022



Organización de las Naciones
Unidas para la Alimentación
y la Agricultura



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BRASIL



RELACIONES EXTERIORES
SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES



**INSTITUTO
MATÍAS
ROMERO**



imjuve
Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud

INPI
INSTITUTO NACIONAL
DE LOS PUEBLOS
INDÍGENAS



Cancillería



**MINISTERIO DE
AMBIENTE**



**BICENTENARIO
DEL PERÚ
2021 - 2024**

**Ministerio de Relaciones
Exteriores y Movilidad
Humana**

**Ministerio del Ambiente,
Agua y Transición
Ecológica**

**Gobierno
del Ecuador**

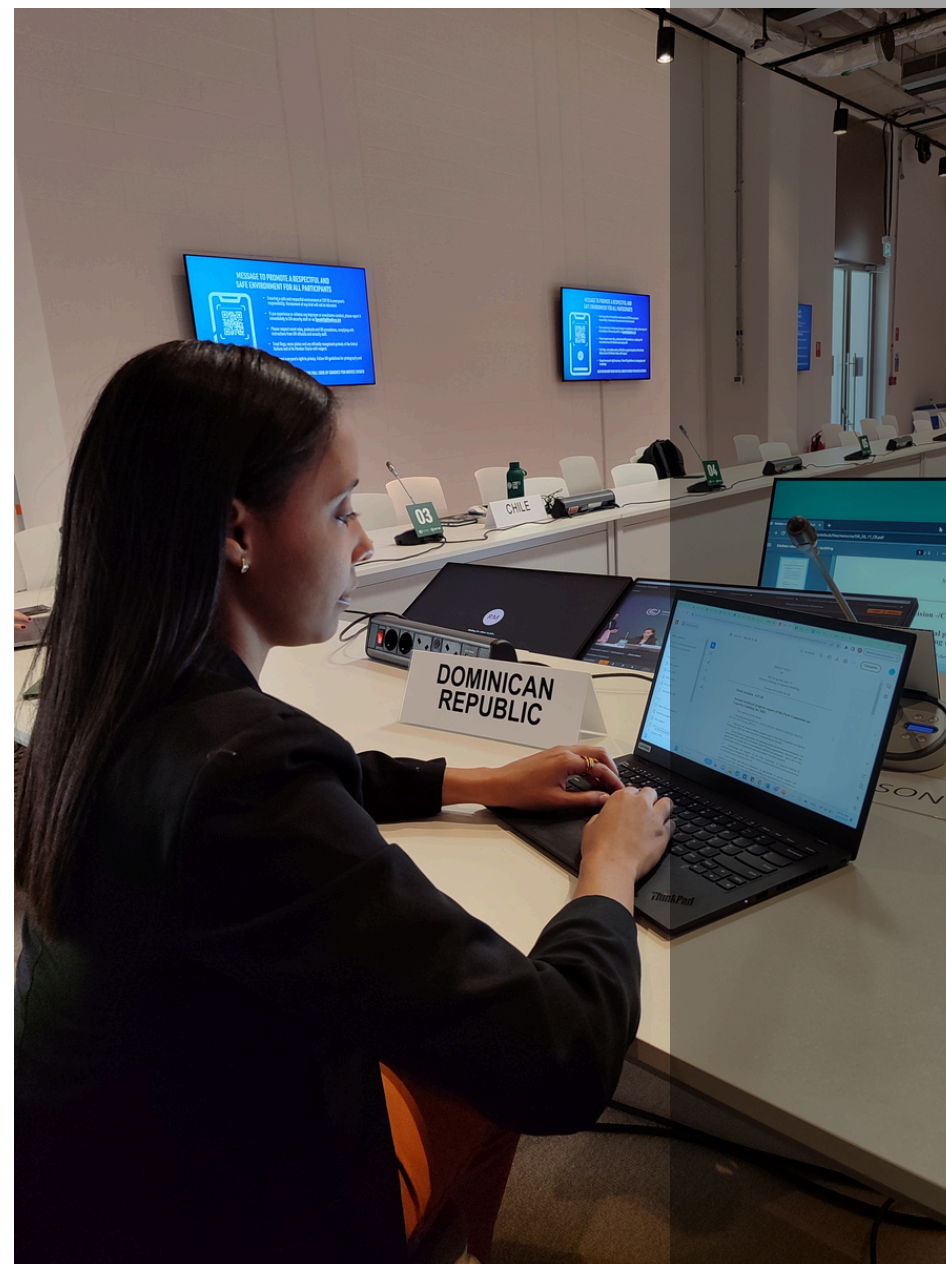


4.3. SELECTION OF YOUNG PARTICIPANTS

Operation COP 2023 had two stages. In the first stage, each country, with the support of a jury comprised of one person from each allied institution or organization, was in charge of evaluating the applicants according to pre-established rubrics. As a result, a group of young people between 18 and 25 years old was selected, who received a series of training sessions on diplomacy and climate change issues.

Upon completing the series of training sessions, the program participants received a second evaluation from a specialized jury, which also graded, depending on the country, the development of a position or an opening speech, in the form of a YouTube video answering specific questions on negotiation topics, and performance during a negotiation simulation.

The finalists were accredited by the UNFCCC as part of the official delegations and traveled to COP 28 to support their governments in the assigned negotiation topics.



4.4. NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The educational program is focused on the priorities of each country, being taught by experts from different government institutions, the official negotiators of the countries and negotiation groups, representatives of The Climate Reality, partner institutions, and the academic/scientific sector.

The program included specialized training on negotiation techniques, through courses taught by the Climate Youth Negotiators Program (CYNP) and Harvard University, who developed interactive negotiation simulation exercises. This training was also extended to national delegations, in order to update their knowledge on climate diplomacy.

After each session, evaluations based on scores were conducted. High scores indicated sessions that were particularly successful in engaging and training participants, while lower scores highlighted areas needing improvement, as well as meeting the needs and expectations of the attendees.



COLOMBIA.-

18 sessions covering topics such as: 1) Introduction to the multilateral environmental regime, 2) UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, 3) Ambition in climate mitigation, 6) Just transition, 7) Gender and human rights, 8) COP 28 priorities .

COSTA RICA.-

The program was designed with 11 sessions: 1) Science of climate change, 2) Mitigation, 3) Adaptation to climate change, 4) Human rights, gender and climate justice, 5) Youth and climate change, 6) Biodiversity and climate change, 7) Paris Agreement, 8) Loss and damage, 9) Financing, 10) Adaptation, 11) Gender and human rights.

CHILE.-

The program was structured around 7 sessions: 1) Introduction to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2) Ambition in climate mitigation, 3) Adaptation to climate change, 4) Climate financing, 5) Technology, 6) Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), gender and human rights, 7) Session with young delegates of COP 27.

ECUADOR.-

The program had 18 sessions that included: 2) Introduction to climate change, 3) Climate change management in Ecuador, 11) Position on adaptation / loss and damage, 12) Position on mitigation / article 6, 13) Position on Koronivia / indigenous peoples and nationalities, 14) Position on transparency / financing.

MEXICO.-

The country offered the most extensive program among all participants with 24 sessions, among others: 1) What is climate change?, 7) Sustainable development in Latin America, 12) Transparency and reporting in international climate policy, 13) Carbon-based markets, 14) National positions on climate financing, 24) Indigenous Peoples in climate action.

PANAMA.-

The program was structured around 6 sessions that included an introduction to critical concepts, the science of climate change, mitigation strategies, adaptation approaches, the importance of nature-based solutions, the intersection of climate justice, and human rights.

PERU.-

The program had 13 sessions covering: 6) General framework of the negotiations, Cross-cutting approaches, Platform for local communities and indigenous peoples, 7) Joint work of Sharm - el Sheikh on the implementation of climate action for agriculture and food security, 8) National adaptation plans, global adaptation objective, 9) Loss and damage.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.-

The program had 11 sessions, including: 1) Introduction to the science of climate change, 2) UNFCCC, 3) Mitigation, 4) Adaptation, 5) Human rights and climate justice, 10) Transparency.

PARAGUAY

The program in Paraguay had 16 sessions: 1) Introductory session, 2) Adaptation, 3) Reinforced transparency framework, 4) Climate financing, 5) Networking, 6) Article 6 Carbon markets, 7) Introduction to the UNCCD, 9) Global balance, 10) Transportation and mobility, 11) Diplomacy in Paraguay, 12) Loss and damage, 13) Energy transition, 14) Drills, 16) Agriculture.

BRAZIL

The methodology used to carry out Operation COP in Brazil is close to that used by the program in other Latin American countries. However, it was necessary to make changes, mainly understanding the Brazilian sociopolitical and cultural context.

In this country there was no national educational program, the selected participants went directly to the regional educational program.



IN THE CASE OF BRAZIL WE HAD A SPECIAL ALLIANCE WITH THE CLIMATE REALITY OFFICE IN THAT COUNTRY.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF OPERACIÓN COP IN BRAZIL, [CONSULT THE FULL REPORT HERE.](#)



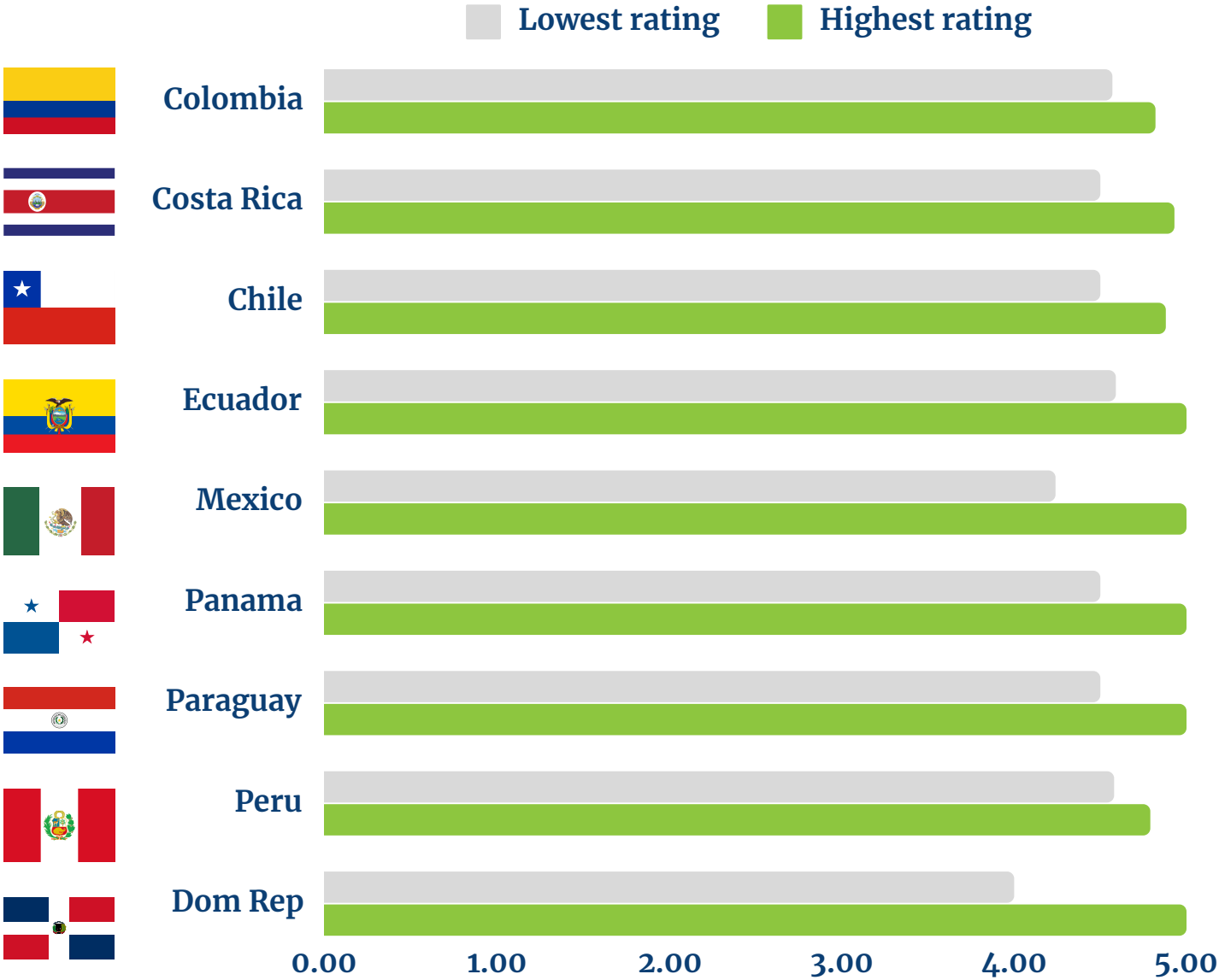
**The Climate
Reality Project®**
BRASIL

EVALUATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BY THE YOUTH

The educational program was evaluated very positively, with an average rating of 4.68 on a scale of 5.00.



AVERAGE MARK



4.5. Internships.

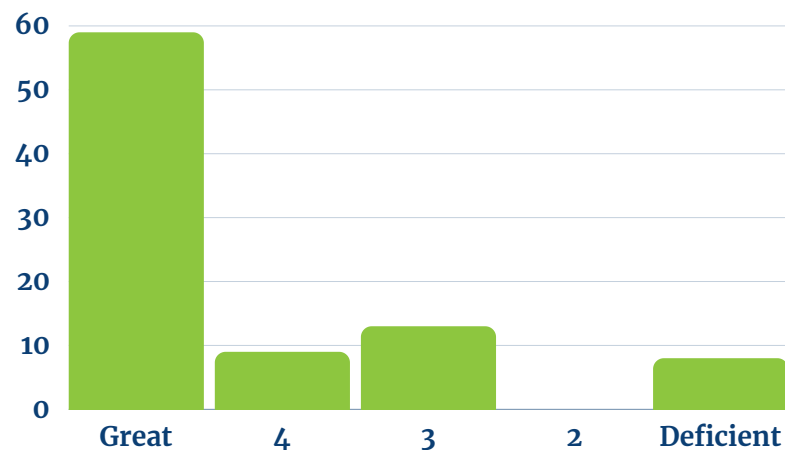
Most governments assigned the chosen ambassadors a negotiation topic, and they were integrated into the delegation teams and the COP preparation meetings, receiving documentation and guidance for their performance during the negotiations.

Chile and Mexico stood out for the early integration of the participants in preparatory activities towards the COP, including internal consultations and requests for inputs for the preparation of the national position paper.

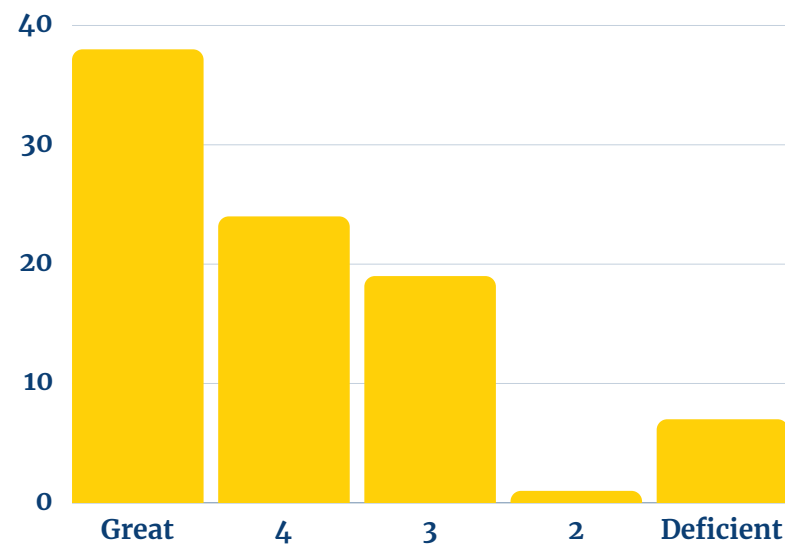


EVALUATION OF INTERNSHIP (SCALE FROM 1 TO 5).

Do you think you were allowed to have an active participation during the internship?



How do you evaluate your own participation in the development of the internship?



75%

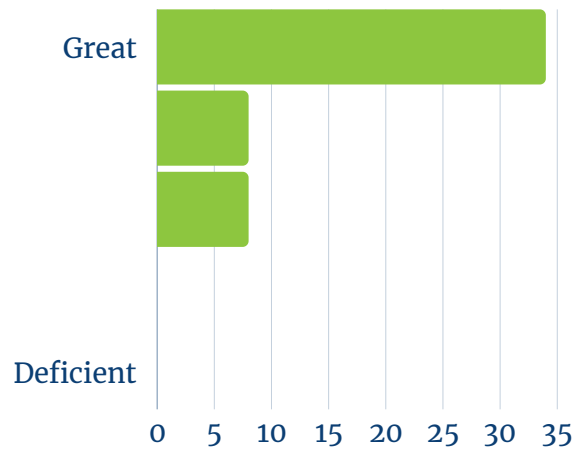
MORE THAN 75% OF THE YOUTH POSITIVELY RATED THE INTERNSHIPS.

70%

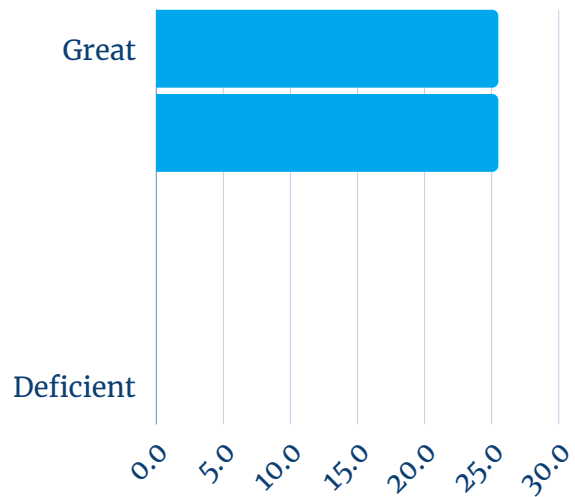
NEARLY 70% OF THE YOUTH POSITIVELY RATED THEIR OWN PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNSHIPS.

GOVERNMENT EVALUATION

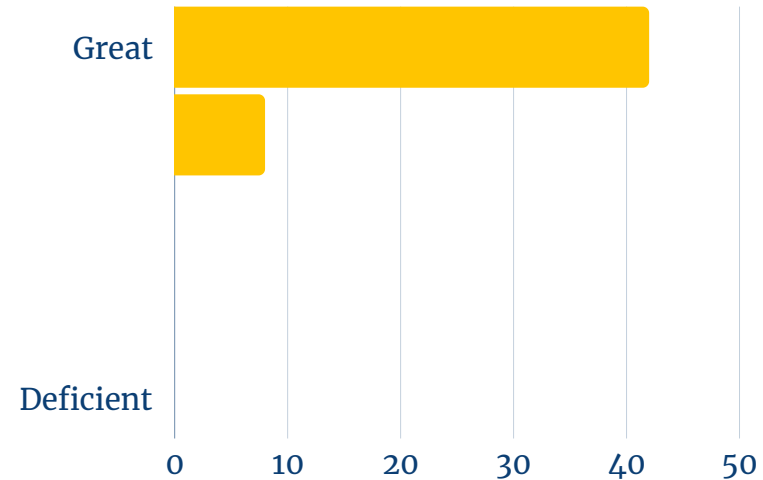
How would you rate the impact of Operation COP youth during COP28?



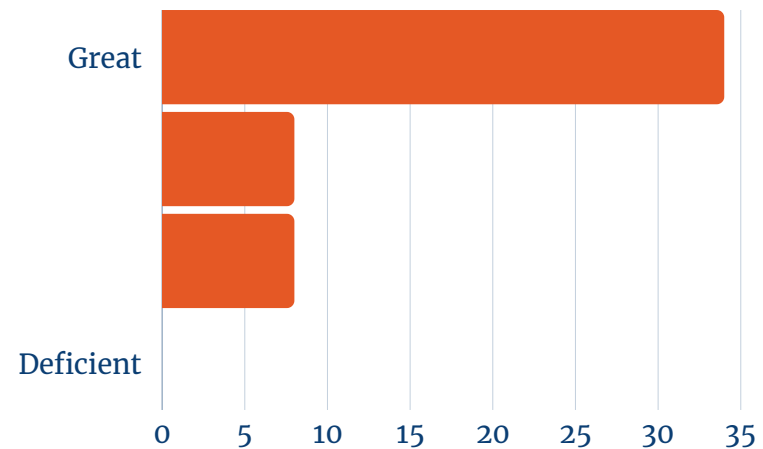
How would you rate your government's performance in the integration and support of Operation COP youth during the internship phase?



Was the objective of increasing the number of delegates supporting in the climate negotiations achieved, thereby strengthening the presence and positioning of the LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) delegations?



How would you rate your government's performance in integrating and supporting Operation COP youth during COP28?



4.6 COP 28

27 YOUTH AMBASSADORS AT
COP 28

19 WOMEN

8 MEN



The background of the slide features a low-angle shot of a modern building's interior. A large, circular skylight is visible at the top, surrounded by a complex, geometric pattern of circular and polygonal shapes. Several tall palm trees are positioned in the foreground, their fronds reaching towards the skylight. The overall image is in grayscale, with the text overlaid in blue and green.

5. SUCCESSES AND AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY.

EVALUATION OF RESULTS.

OBJECTIVE 1

STRENGTHEN THE KNOWLEDGE AND CAPABILITIES OF YOUTH FROM TEN COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, ALLOWING THEM TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AND EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS.

After consulting the youth who joined their national delegations at COP 28, the most relevant aspects regarding this objective are outlined below:

- Understanding of the processes under the UNFCCC, in particular procedural and language management aspects.
- Acquisition of negotiation and consensus-building skills in multilateral environments.
- Active listening, empathy and reading different positions of other actors.
- Know how a national delegation is coordinated and works.
- Writing, critical analysis and synthesis of technical documents and proposals.
- Report on the progress of a topic.
- Tolerance of frustration and management of uncertainty, particularly during the most tense moments of the negotiations during the second week of the COP.
- Extensive network of contacts encompassing delegates from your own government and other countries, fellow issue area negotiators, as well as young climate leaders from various regions.
- Learn about the idiosyncrasies and culture of the COP host country.



YOUTH TRAINED IN 2023

OBJECTIVE 2

INCREASE YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN COP28.

In 2023, the program supported twenty-seven young people during COP 28, with the following distribution: Brazil (three), Colombia (three), Costa Rica (two), Chile (two), Ecuador (two), Mexico (four), Panama (three), Paraguay (two), Peru (three) and the Dominican Republic (three).



YOUTH AMBASSADORS AT COP 28

| | Name | Negotiation topic(s) |
|------------|--|---|
| Brazil | 1) Helena Branco Gouveia 2) Guilherme de Lima Souza 3) Maria Gabriella Rodrigues | Gender Loss and damage Just transition |
| Colombia | 4) Vidalejandra Araujo Rojo 5) Ronaldo Bustos García 6) Sebastian Ochoa Molina | Agriculture, biodiversity and just transition Financing Financing |
| Costa Rica | 7) Alejandra Fernández Álvarez 8) Paula Camila Rueda Mora | Global Stocktake Adaptation |
| Chile | 9) Luciano Travella Barrios 10) Ivette Massiel Ulloa Caniu | Financing / Just transition Capacity building, adaptation and agriculture |



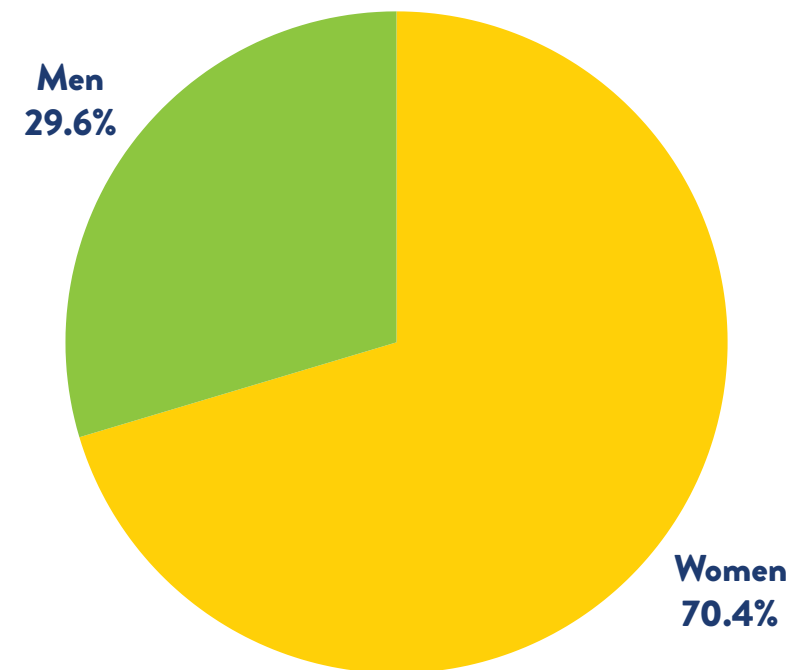
| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Ecuador | 11) María Belén Grijalva 12) Shirley Rodríguez Méndez | Article 6 Global Stocktake |
| Mexico | 13) Cándido Basilio Cruz 14) Lazaro Benavides Lozano 15) Carolina Navarro Armenta 16) Fernanda Ortiz Garza | Science and technology Adaptation Just transition and ACE Loss and damage |
| Panama | 17) Diego Castillo Barahona 18) Mercedes Pinzón Delgado 19) Gabriela Rogers | Gender Adaptation Global Stocktake |
| Paraguay | 20) Camilo Maldonado Cabral 21) Natalia Beatriz Sosa Acha | Loss and damage |
| Peru | 22) Almendra Cáceres Ramirez 23) Dana Masumura Ynami 24) Valeria Rondón Munar | Global Stocktake Global Stocktake Loss and damage |
| Dominican Republic | 25) Carolina de Hostos 26) Ana Nicolle Javier Bueno 27) Juliany Minyety Méndez | Loss and damage Capacity building |

OBJECTIVE 3

**INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS
AND REPRESENTATION AT COP28 OF
YOUTH BELONGING TO HISTORICALLY
VULNERABLE GROUPS.**

Participation data from COP28 reveal important trends and gaps in representation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

It's noteworthy that the majority of those who received training were women (Paraguay and Panama reported 92% and 87%, respectively), and a total of nineteen women (out of twenty-seven representatives) attended COP28, demonstrating a positive step towards gender inclusion.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS



In terms of inclusion, Peru is the country with the best performance, with 36% of trained young people from vulnerable groups. Other countries, including the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Panama, also demonstrate a commendable commitment, with percentages ranging between 27% and 35%. However, the participation of indigenous groups at COP 28 was very limited, with Chile and Mexico including a representative in their delegations.

It is important to highlight that the data collected could reflect a disparity between the concepts of "historically vulnerable communities" and "indigenous communities." These groups may not have been uniformly defined or recognized across countries, leading to variations in data collection and interpretation. This disparity raises the need for a clearer and more coherent understanding of what constitutes a "vulnerable group."



**TWO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES,
ONE IN THE DELEGATION OF CHILE AND
ANOTHER IN THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO**



GOAL 4

INCORPORATE THE PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTH AND INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CLIMATE POLICIES.

During COP28, young negotiators had the opportunity to participate as support or even negotiation leaders on certain issues. In the case of Mexico, the four selected youth served as leaders on the issues of science and technology, adaptation, just transition, and loss and damage, while Chile gave them this responsibility on the issues of just transition and capacity building.



In particular, the delegates from Chile drafted a political declaration for youth engagement in negotiation teams, which was joined by four delegations from Latin America (Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama), as well as from other continents (Belgium, Burundi, Kiribati, Liberia, Switzerland, and Tunisia). See Annex II.





The young people's participation also encompassed an active presence in side events and networking with delegates from other countries, academia, the private sector, and civil society, thereby generating recognition of how the voice of youth can and should inform public policy on climate change.

Overall, young people indicated that the reception from other delegations was positive, experiencing an environment of openness and respect towards their contributions, valuing their perspectives and opinions.



SIDE EVENTS

OBJECTIVE 5

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES WHO SUPPORT THE CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS, THUS STRENGTHENING THE PRESENCE AND POSITIONING OF THE DELEGATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

In 2021, during its first edition, Operation COP trained 107 young people from four countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Mexico. At the end of the training, eighteen young people had the opportunity to be part of their respective countries' delegations and participate in the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP26), held in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2022, nineteen young individuals from seven countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic, were selected to join their delegations during COP27, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Continuing in this vein, in 2023, three more countries joined: Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru. As a result, the third edition of Operation COP ensured the participation of twenty-seven young people during COP28, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Today, more than 60 young graduates of the program form a growing network of climate change specialists with active leadership in their communities.

2021 - COP26 Glasgow

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 4 COUNTRIES | 18 YOUTH AMBASSADORS |
|-------------|-------------------------|

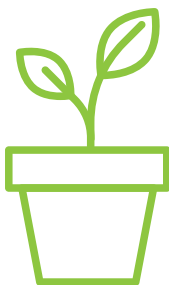
2022 - COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 7 COUNTRIES | 19 YOUTH AMBASSADORS |
|-------------|-------------------------|

2023 - COP28 Dubai

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 10 COUNTRIES | 27 YOUTH AMBASSADORS |
|--------------|-------------------------|

6. Next steps

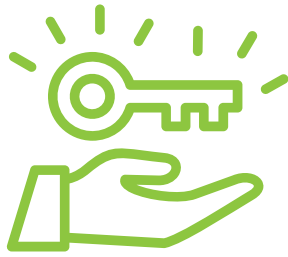


- Design a common core for the educational program, led by The Climate Reality Project, to be taught during the first part of it, focusing on multilateral negotiation techniques and procedural rules of the UNFCCC. The common core will be made available for those countries interested in adopting it.

- Enhance the internship stage to integrate the youth early into the delegation's preparatory activities, including prior consultations with different sectors of society.

- Ensure that young individuals are mentored by experienced negotiators, whether they serve as support or track leaders within the negotiation rooms.

- Strengthen regional interaction with the youth selected from the program to ensure greater familiarity and cohesion of the group before the COP.



- Expand opportunities for Youth Climate Ambassadors to participate in other international climate action spaces, such as the G20, Regional Climate Week and PreCOP.



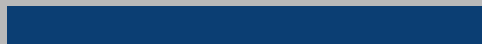
- Consolidate an alumni network, aiming to build on the experience of graduates from the Operation COP program, thereby replicating their theoretical and practical knowledge among new generations.



- Call upon Operation COP Alumni so that, without necessarily attending the negotiation sessions, they can provide technical advice from their country of origin.

Annex I.-

MESSAGES FROM YOUTH CLIMATE AMBASSADORS.



LÁZARO BENAVIDES, MEXICO.



“Through Operation COP I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the COP’s decision-making process, in addition to observing what a COP is like and what type of actors participate. I had imagined a much more efficient process and that countries would have more interest in reaching ambitious agreements. After this experience, I can better understand the complexity of the process and the diversity of interests that must be reconciled to achieve an agreement.”

ALEJANDRA FERNÁNDEZ, COSTA RICA.



“... the COP process is stuck, it is like a giant machine moving at a leisurely speed while the world around it goes up in flames. I believe this is precisely why “new blood” is needed in these processes. We need to hire people who think differently and who are willing to innovate the way these negotiations are conducted.”



MEXICO



COSTA RICA



PANAMA

GABRIELA ROGERS, PANAMA.



“Operation COP marked a before and after in my life. I have no doubt that the knowledge I acquired and the people I met will accompany me throughout my professional and academic life. It is an honor for me to have been part of a generation of Latin American climate negotiators who dare to enter a complicated system to transform it from within. I invite you to also dare and participate in the most important and urgent decision-making of the world we live in.”



VIDALEJANDRA ARAUJO, COLOMBIA.

“Climate action is not just a cause, it is a call to action that invites us to be protagonists of change. Each of us, as young people, have the power to influence and transform the future. Getting involved in climate action and international negotiations is being part of a movement that transcends borders and cultures, it is raising your voice for a more sustainable world. It is embracing the opportunity to learn, bring innovative ideas and work for a future where nature, society and the economy converge in harmony.”



COLOMBIA



MARIA GABRIELLA RODRIGUES, BRAZIL.

“We need to be in these spaces! It's no longer our future they're negotiating about, it's our present! May black, indigenous, quilombola youth and other social minorities be at these negotiation tables, there is a place for everyone in this fight. COP30 will be in Brazil and I hope that Latin American youth will be protagonists.”

BRAZIL



LUCIANO TRAVELLA, CHILE.

“In rooms and circles [of the COP], countries negotiate the future of the climate, but it is in neighborhoods or cities like ours where climate justice can be defined. Being a young negotiator is a unique opportunity to link both things and achieve greater harmony between actions at a local and global level.”

CHILE

Annex II.-

We, Parties under the UNFCCC,
Acknowledging the call of COP28 Presidency to improve youth engagement,
Considering article 6 of the Convention, specially, its call to promote public participation in addressing climate change and training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel,
Also taking into account Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, about cooperation between Parties to enhance the six elements of Action for Climate Empowerment because of its fundamental role in effective climate action,
Recalling decision 23/CP.27, which emphasizes that the ACE action plan should be implemented with intergenerational equity, and decision 3./CP.25 on gender perspective, in order to bring together different expertise, resources and knowledge to accelerate implementation and raise ambition,
Emphasizing the important role that young people play worldwide in raising climate ambition and providing innovative solutions about how to address climate change and its challenges, as well as highlighting the role of young negotiators in representing the youth voice within internal climate negotiations in a meaningful, inclusive and safe way,
Underlining the importance of adequately recognizing the experiences, traditional knowledge and expertise of youth, local and Indigenous communities, including people with disabilities, at the international, national and local level,
Emphasizing the importance of removing barriers such as lack of internet access, language, financial and cultural barriers, faced by youth especially from developing countries,

We call all Parties to:

1. Include young negotiators in their delegations, with a gender perspective approach, in order to ensure meaningful youth engagement in processes under the UNFCCC.
2. Encourage the participation of young people in climate change and climate policy planning, design, implementation and evaluation at national and local level, including NDCs, NAPs, and/or LTS.
3. Establish or strengthen partnerships with youth organizations and non-Party stakeholders which currently foster and support youth participation in decision-making processes on climate change.
4. Empower young people, including local and indigenous communities and people with disabilities, building capacities that allow them to understand and address the root causes and impacts of climate change, with a particular focus on educational systems and programmes.
5. Urge the UNFCCC Secretariat to make the UNFCCC website more intuitive for all people, and to communicate documents and information in a more inclusive way to youth.

DECLARATION, YOUNG NEGOTIATORS IN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS UNDER UNFCCC ON THEIR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS.

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OPERATION
COP2024

Youth Climate Ambassadors

FINAL REPORT



**The Climate
Reality Project[®]**
AMÉRICA LATINA