LCOY

Türkiye 2025

YOUTH DECLARATION

İKLİM ELÇİLERİ

officially endorsed by LCOY | a project of YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

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1. Abbreviations

- **AFAD** – Disaster and Emergency Management Authority
- **CBDR-RC** – Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities
- **CCAP / İDUSEP** – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
- **COP** – Conference of the Parties
- **EEA** – European Environment Agency
- **IPCC** – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- **LCOY** – Local Conference of Youth
- **LTS** – Long-Term Strategy
- **MENR** – Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- **NDC** – Nationally Determined Contribution
- **OECD** – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **TR-ETS** – Türkiye Emissions Trading System
- **TÜİK** – Turkish Statistical Institute

- **UNEP** – United Nations Environment Programme

- **UNFCCC** – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- **UNICEF** – United Nations Children's Fund

2. Executive Summary

Türkiye is at a crossroads in its path to climate resiliency, sustainable development, and intergenerational justice. The direction of the country towards the 2053 net-zero target is not only a national task but an international duty as the country has a vibrant and youthful population and increased dedication to international climate discussions. After the adoption of the Paris Accord, introduction of the Climate Law (No.7552) and the country facing the prospect of hosting COP31, Türkiye is entering a phase of profound structural transformation towards climate action and green transition, which will require the active involvement, initiative, and innovativeness of the youth.

LCOY Türkiye 2025 does not only make youth the beneficiaries of climate policies but as co-creators in the design and implementation of these policies. The Conference is based on the works of the Young Climate Envoys Movement, uniting the youth opinions in the framework of ten thematic areas: Climate Education, Energy Transition, Vulnerable Groups, Green Economy, Disasters, Sustainable Cities, Climate Finance, Health, Water Security and Agriculture and Climate Resilience.

Within these themes, the youths of Türkiye formulate a shared vision on a fair, inclusive, and science-based transition that is integrative of social equity and environmental integrity. Their proposals emphasize the need to reform education extensively, create an equal and non-discriminatory access to renewable energy, deliver gender responsive and generation-friendly climate policies, enhanced disaster resilience and climate-responsive urban planning based on data and participation. The National Youth Statement entails a re-conceptualization of the climate architecture of Türkiye, which will be developed through the alignment of the national approaches, including the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (IDUSEP),the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan(IDASEP), the Long-Term Strategy (LTS), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Green Deal Action Plan with the realities and hopes of the young people.

The important recommendations involve:

Integrating climate change education at every level of schooling, teacher education and community education systems.

Rapid renewable energy implementation and creating youth-driven R&D, incubation, and innovation.

A fair changing of hands of vulnerable groups and workforce caught in the moves of decarbonization policies.

Increase access to young innovators to green finance and entrepreneurship.

Through organized youth involvement and the internet, the construction of disaster resilient communities.

Making cities inclusive, carbon-neutral and accessible with smart and nature-based urban planning.

Raising climate-related health systems, water management, and agricultural resilience to enhance autonomous protection of people and ecology.

This report reflects the dedication of young Turkish citizens to improve the climate objectives of the country using collaboration, creativity and responsibility. It understands that the climate crisis can only be solved with the help of more than just technology and money but with a change of values based on justice, education, and collective action. LCOY Türkiye 2025 is a policy roadmap and also a moral compass to an equitable climate future by harmonizing the demands of youth with the national and international commitments made by Türkiye.

3. Introduction

As a country that borders three regions Europe, Asia, and the Middle East Türkiye stands at the center of regional climate efforts, sustainable development, and youth mobilization. The growing effects of the climate crisis heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires along with increasing food insecurity and water stress, have demonstrated the necessity of a comprehensive transformation that integrates environmental, social, and economic concerns.

In Türkiye, according to the national greenhouse gas inventory results, total greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 were calculated as 552.2 million tons (Mt) of CO_2 equivalent (CO_2 eq). Energy-related emissions accounted for 71.6% of the total, followed by agriculture (13.0%), industrial processes and product use (12.8%), and the waste sector (2.5%).

Under the Paris Agreement, to which Türkiye became a party in 2021, the objective is to ensure that global emissions peak as soon as possible and decline to net-zero levels by the middle of the century. In this context, Türkiye announced its 2053 Net-Zero Emission Target and developed comprehensive national strategies, including the Green Deal Action Plan, the Long-Term Climate Strategy (LTS) completed in 2024, and the Climate Law (No. 7552), which strengthens Türkiye's commitments on climate change by providing a legal basis for greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate change adaptation.

Türkiye's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)—built upon the Updated First NDC (2023) and aligned with the LTS—sets a target to reduce emissions to 643 million tons by 2035, corresponding to a planned reduction of 466 million tons compared to the reference scenario. In line with these targets and the 2053 net-zero vision, Türkiye's green transformation should be accelerated through an approach that promotes emission reduction, enhances climate adaptation capacity, strengthens competitiveness, ensures a just transition, and makes effective use of global climate finance mechanisms.

However, policy frameworks notwithstanding, the success of climate action in Türkiye will ultimately depend on the active involvement of its citizens, especially the youth. The current generation of young people is not only a witness to the ongoing climate crisis but also a driving force of change capable of shaping the nation's response. Since 2021, hundreds of university and city representatives have been mobilized through the Climate Envoys Movement, initiated by the Directorate of Climate Change under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. Alongside the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY Türkiye), these youth networks have taken a central role in participatory climate governance across the country.

The LCOY Türkiye 2025 Report has been formulated within this ecosystem of collaboration and aspiration. It combines Türkiye's national climate strategies with youth-driven policy innovation, reflecting both national priorities and global unity in the lead-up to COP30 and Türkiye's candidacy to host COP31.

The report also recognizes that the climate crisis is multidimensional, or that it intersects with education, economy, health, gender, justice, and technology, and offers specific youth-led solutions to it in ten thematic pillars:

Climate Education: Curricular reforms, capacity-building of teachers and sustainability in lifelong learning.

Energy: Moving to renewable, furthering the R&D, and a just/equitable energy transformation.

Vulnerable Groups: How to protect children, women, the elderly, and those with disabilities by ensuring inclusive climate justice policies.

Green Economy: Youth- employment, innovation- and circular economy- based solutions, to a low-carbon future.

Disasters: Strengthening communities in response to disaster preparedness, simulation, and youth-led response.

Sustainable Cities: Transforming Urban living with clean mobility, green infrastructure and participatory governance.

Climate Finance: Increasing equitable access of young people to green funds, carbon markets, and financial literacy.

Health: Incorporating environmental health, eco-therapy, and digital health systems into the national strategies of adaptation.

Water Security: Understanding water as a human right and focusing on sustainable management and innovation.

Agriculture and Climate Resilience: Promoting Farmers, Biodiversity and Food security with adaptive and technology-driven policies.

Biodiversity: Protection of ecosystems, habitat recovery, and nature-based solutions to promote ecological balance and climate-resiliency.

Climate Governance, Politics and participation: Empowering youth and local communities; enhancing transparent, inclusive systems of global climate governance; and encouraging accountability in global climate decision-making.

The paper makes youth co architects of the climate future of Türkiye. Their voices and their activities connect the worlds of science and policy, national vision, and local reality, urgency, and sustainability in the future. LCOY Türkiye 2025 is therefore a youth declaration as well as an intergenerational action plan- a call to unite the government, academia, and the private sector, and the civil society in the quest to have a more resilient, fair, and greener Türkiye.

4. Education

Climate education plays an essential role in the fight against climate crisis. In order to address this global challenge, a multi-dimensional approach is needed, with education standing as one of its most critical components. Raising awareness and fostering a deep understanding of the climate crisis among today's youth is vital for building sustainable societies and empowering the decision-makers of tomorrow.

We, being the youth of Türkiye believe with the utmost that climate education and the establishment of inclusive learning environments is a core factor in increasing the knowledge, engagement, and action of the youth. These should be in line with the national strategic documents of Türkiye, such as the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (IDUSEP) [1], Long-Term Strategy (LTS) [2], Child Rights Strategy [3], Women's Rights Strategy [4], and other such documents and be in line with the national obligations of the country in global processes such as the Paris Agreement [5], UNFCCC [6], and COP30 preparations [7].

4.1Current Situation and Observations

Society needs to be educated and aware to be developed into a conscious and informed society that could handle the climate crisis. It is very important to provide the young people with the accurate up-to-date knowledge on climate change, using the official data provided by the relevant ministries, the Turkish Statistical institution (TUIK) [8] and the quality information provided by the well-known international organizations such as the IPCC [9] and UNICEF [10], as this will help to promote the sustainable lifestyles, the critical thinking and participation in the civic life. Climate education should be informative and inspirational. In Türkiye, there are numerous stakeholders who are involved in the activities related to raising the awareness and educating about the climate issues and they include public institutions, civil society organizations, universities, and representatives of the private sector. The projects, seminars and campaigns to popularize issues like Zero Waste, Energy Efficiency, and Environmental literacy have become more apparent. Nevertheless, coordination, continuity, and alignment to national strategies should be improved further. The Climate Law is a valuable piece of legislation that can be used to facilitate and organize these educational and awareness activities, and Climate Envoys are active to ensure that young people and adults should be more climate-literate and engage in the process. This was achieved by the introduction of the elective course Environment and Climate Change in middle schools by the Ministry of National Education [11]. Although this is a step in the right direction in terms of implementation, it is not very interactive, participatory of students, or innovative in pedagogy. Moreover, the majority of school curricula continue to refer to the issues of the environment within the broader topics of science or social studies without properly assigning the urgency and complexity of the climate crisis.

Countries around the world are also appreciating the strategic value of the youth on climate policy. To close the gap between policymakers and the younger generations, youth climate delegates are assigned to represent their countries in the negotiations at the UN and youth-led assemblies and citizens forums are pioneered. Türkiye has done some other valuable steps in this respect by dispatching.

Young representatives have been officially included in the Conference of the Parties (COP) processes since COP28. Nevertheless, the practice ought to be broadened and institutionalized to make sure that the youth are involved in all processes of climates decision-making consistently, inclusively, and meaningfully. These illustrations indicate that intergenerational climate justice can be realized with the appropriate political will and political innovation of democracy.

4.3 As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

- Consideration of climate change to be part of a mandatory cross-curricular curriculum in primary to higher educational levels and should be taught not only in science but also in social sciences, arts, and in vocational training courses.
- Considerate revision of official textbooks in accordance with the next cycle of curriculum adjustment, introducing the latest scientific information (IPCC [9], TUIK [8]) and the case studies of the climate reality of Türkiye.
- The teachers should be provided with pedagogical tools, interactive methodologies, and recent climate science through mandatory in-service training so that they can teach climate in an interactive and engaging manner.
- Creation of youth-driven educational programs in schools and universities such as climate action clubs, sustainability challenges and student-instigated awareness efforts.
- School, municipal, NGO, and university partnerships to develop practical learning, i.e. community clean-ups, energy efficiency classes, urban gardens, and biodiversity surveillance.

- The awareness campaigns among children and young people are carried out nationwide, addressing young audiences with the help of clear and creatively formatted media messages.
- Learning resources (digital platforms, open-source tools, and mobile applications) that are accessible and inclusive (including rural communities and underserved young people as well as those not enrolled in formal education systems) are made available.
- Incorporation of vocational and green skills training at high school and university level to educate the youth on the future of employment in the low-carbon economy.
- Introduction of climate change as a mandatory and cross-curricular course of study beginning in primary and continuing to the highest education level, taught not just in science, but also in social sciences, arts, and vocational training institutions.
- The next cycle of the curriculum update will be revising the official textbooks to incorporate the recent scientific information and case studies to reflect the realities of Türkiye climate.
- Compulsory in-service training of the teachers and the school staff to equip them with pedagogical tools, interactive methodologies and latest climate science to facilitate participatory and engaging teaching.
- Integrating an annual day devoted to climate in the nationwide teacher conferences, covering the most important environmental issues of the year in order to consolidate the level of awareness and professional self-absorption.
- Formation of R&D and sustainability centers in schools with the assistance of trained coordinators or responsible teachers to supervise and see through the implementation and monitoring of climate change related projects.
- Introduction of AI and VR technology in climate education in order to maximize the opportunities of interactive and experiential learning.

- Creation of easy to learn educational resources (animations, illustrations, and free source materials) in preschool and primary school levels to ensure young people are environmentally literate at a young age.
- Establishment of youth-led educational programs in schools and universities, including climate action clubs, sustainability competitions and awareness campaigns.
- Establishment of climate or sustainability clubs in all institutions of higher learning with rewards to enhance their visibility and activity rates.
- Forming of collaboration between schools, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and universities to offer practical learning tasks, such as community clean-ups and urban gardening, biodiversity surveillance, energy efficiency training, etc.
- Field-based learning opportunities (e.g. visits to waste management and recycling centers) included in all stages of education in order to bridge the gap between theory and practice.
- Development of the national digital platform with climate-related training, webinars, and certifications available to everyone, and rural and underprivileged youth in particular.
- Adoption of requirements of sustainability certification of institutions of higher learning so as to provide institutional accountability and standards.
- Encouraging youth entrepreneurship initiatives based on climate innovation and sustainability as a mentor and financial or institutional provider.
- Emboldening cooperation on the institutional and community level, enhancing cooperation between schools, local councils, NGOs, and the private stakeholders.
- Implementation of a reward-based recycling program, to incorporate the recycling bins and the incentive systems that will encourage active participation and behavior change.

5. Energy

Energy in the modern world is a very critical aspect in sustainable and modern societies. The sudden increase of the population and industrial world has pushed the consumption needs up; to respond to the growing energy needs, the need to move towards the green and renewable energy technology that is nature compatible has become an essential part of the current situation. Besides, to ensure maximum energy and resource efficiency, the principles of the circular economy should be implemented in order to reduce the number of wastes. As such, economic and ecological sustainability will be ensured by maintaining the carbon footprint to a minimum.

5.1 Transition to Renewable and Clean Energy Sources and Current Situation in Türkiye

In 2023, Türkiye's total primary energy supply reached 158.4 million tons of oil equivalent (toe), marking a 0.4% increase compared to 157.8 million toe in 2022. Examined by renewable energy sources, solar energy increased by 19.3%, geothermal by 7.5%, and bioenergy and waste by 13.2% compared to the previous year [17].

In 2024, Türkiye's electricity generation mix consisted of 34.7% from coal, 18.9% from natural gas, 21.1% from hydro, 10.4% from wind, 8.7% from solar, 3.1% from geothermal, and 3.1% from other sources [17]. As of the end of September 2025, Türkiye's total installed power capacity reached 121,418 MW. The distribution of installed capacity by energy source was: 26.6% hydro, 20.2% natural gas, 18.1% coal, 11.7% wind, 19.9% solar, 1.4% geothermal, and 2.1% other sources [17].

Türkiye has made remarkable progress in its energy transition in recent years. Electricity generation from renewable energy sources has increased both in share and diversity, supported by national strategies, policies, and incentive mechanisms. Between 2015 and 2024, Türkiye's total installed electricity capacity rose from 73 GW to 116 GW, while renewable energy capacity more than doubled, increasing from 31 GW to 69 GW. Currently, 60% of installed capacity is based on renewable sources.

During the same period, solar and wind energy capacity grew from 0.2 GW and 4.5 GW to 19.8 GW and 12.9 GW, reaching a combined total of 32.7 GW. This progress elevated Türkiye to 5th place in Europe and 11th globally in renewable energy capacity. The country also ranks 2nd in Europe for hydropower and 1st in geothermal capacity [17].

Türkiye's primary energy intensity, which was 0.145 toe per 2015 USD, improved by 24.5% over the past 20 years, outperforming the global average improvement of 16.9%. However, Türkiye's energy intensity remains 25.7% higher than the OECD average and 33.0% higher than the EU27 average, indicating a significant potential for energy savings [20].

Despite Türkiye having numerous renewable energy sources, the country has not yet fully utilized its potential. Solar energy has a high potential due to the large number of sunny days, while wind energy potential stems from favorable wind speeds. Nevertheless, the level of energy efficiency remains below the OECD average [14], [15].

As reported by Ember and Anadolu Agency, over 120 GW of energy could be obtained from rooftop solar power systems in Türkiye alone—equivalent to around 45% of the country's electricity consumption [16].

Energy consumption in Türkiye continues to rise due to population growth and industrialization. The government aims to enhance energy efficiency, increase renewable energy use, and reduce dependency on imports. Türkiye's energy policy focuses on ensuring supply stability and maximizing the use of domestic renewable resources [17], [21].

The green transformation of the energy sector is crucial not only for achieving sustainable development goals but also for addressing the growing impacts of climate change. This transformation, aligned with circular economy principles, will increase resource efficiency and contribute to economic growth. Türkiye is rich in renewable energy sources and holds substantial potential for producing green energy. To better exploit this potential, the country must develop long-term strategic roadmaps.

Considering the increasing impacts of climate change, adaptation strategies in the energy sector should be expanded and systematically assessed. Within this framework, the Directorate of Climate Change under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change has defined two adaptation strategy objectives for the 2024–2030 period:

1. To develop a political and legal framework for climate change adaptation, strengthen institutional capacity and cooperation, and enhance the production and sharing of data and information.
2. To reinforce the production, transmission, distribution, and storage infrastructure of energy resources with climate-resilient designs, and to improve the flexibility of the electricity system [18].

In light of these developments, Türkiye aims to fully realize its energy efficiency and renewable energy potential by 2035. The transition from fossil fuels to green energy is seen not only as a solution to environmental challenges but also as a means to strengthen social and economic resilience.

5.2 As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

- Advocating the transition to renewable and clean energy sources and accelerating efforts in this field.
- Developing R&D activities for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage systems to facilitate the achievement of 2035 mitigation policies; involving youth through academic institutions.
- Conducting applied research at existing facilities or establishing field sites to test the real-scale feasibility of academic studies on energy efficiency and recoverability.
- Increasing research on carbon-neutral biofuels and bio-batteries to offer sustainable options for transportation. Providing tax incentives for electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Establishing dedicated financing instruments for innovative projects led by youth in the energy sector and encouraging young entrepreneurs to engage in these projects.

- Launching youth leadership programs in collaboration with NGOs and the government to enhance youth leadership in the energy transition and involve youth in energy issues from an early age.

- During the energy transition, it is important to put an emphasis on social and economic justice; this involves making renewable energy more widely available and reducing energy poverty.
- Building large-scale solar power plants in desert and steppe areas to augment the production capacity.
- Enhancing collaboration between universities and the industry in producing solar energy technologies in the country.
- Extensive use of energy storage facilities to guarantee that there is constant use of solar energy.
- Increasing the awareness of the society about energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and promoting the educational programs.
- Encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles in the transportation industry and improving the public transport infrastructure by offering more incentives to decrease energy use. Developing incentives to develop and electrify the public instead of individual transport in collaboration with the local governments.
- Increasing application of green energy certificates in the production of energy as well as use of the same as incentive in business.
- Giving the local governments more powers to fund energy saving initiatives and renewable energy projects.
- Funding education and job training services to establish new jobs and careers in the renewable energy industry.
- Introduction of mentoring systems and internship programs among the youth so as to provide them with experience in the energy sector.

- Marketing youth volunteerism by taking advantage of the success of the youth in the energy sector to create awareness to society.
- Empowerment of the young people to acquire experience in sustainable energy by having national and international youth exchange programs.
- Creating new professional areas in the renewable energy industry, including Energy Architecture, Energy Management and Consultancy, Nature-based Solutions Expertise and Education, and Robotics and Autonomous Systems Engineering, in order to guarantee interdisciplinary approaches and innovation in the energy transition. Incorporating the idea of interdisciplinary cooperation between environmental, meteorological, mapping, and electrical-energy systems engineers so that the renewable energy projects could be planned in accordance with the ecosystems.
- Promoting participation of biologists, ornithologists and nature scientists in energy projects to reduce the effects on the biodiversity and to provide the ecological sustainability of the energy production processes.
- Increasing investment in basic sciences (physics and mathematics) to produce experts who would be able to work in advanced energy technologies, such as nuclear and next-generation renewable systems.
- Improving awareness and education on the society at every level to enhance energy efficiency and conservation; making sure children and the youth are actively involved in the awareness campaigns.
- Establishing intergenerational dialogue platforms to enable knowledge and experience exchange between generations, fostering a culture of shared responsibility for sustainable energy use.
- Creating mobile simulation centers within municipalities and educational institutions to educate children and young people about energy efficiency and renewable energy, serving both educational and awareness-raising purposes.

- Expanding R&D funding mechanisms and grant programs to support youth-led innovation and facilitate the prototyping of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Türkiye.
- Establishing dedicated energy-focused incubation centers providing mentorship, technical support, and investor connections to enable young innovators to transform their ideas into viable technologies.
- Organizing national and international competitions on renewable energy and energy efficiency to encourage youth creativity and provide platforms for visibility and collaboration.
- Strengthening cooperation between academia and the private sector to enhance the practical application of research and enable students to contribute to real-world energy solutions.
- Establishing Youth Innovation Councils within ministries and local governments, ensuring that young people have a voice in policy design and decision-making processes related to energy innovation.
- Encouraging young people to assume educational and leadership roles in the energy transition by disseminating their knowledge and fostering awareness in their communities.
- Providing mentorship systems and internship opportunities that allow young people to gain practical experience in the energy sector and build their professional capacity.
- Supporting volunteer and exchange programs that enable young people to engage in sustainable energy initiatives nationally and internationally, fostering global learning and cooperation.
- Recognizing the importance of youth as agents of change in the energy transition, ensuring their full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes and policy implementation.

6. Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerability in the context of climate change refers to the degree to which individuals or groups are exposed to and unable to cope with the adverse effects of climate-related hazards. It is shaped by social, economic, and environmental factors that limit adaptive capacity. Addressing vulnerability is therefore essential for achieving sustainability, resilience, and justice.

In Türkiye, children, women, persons with disabilities, and older adults are among the most affected groups, making it not only an environmental crisis but also a matter of social and climate justice. As a country that has ratified the Paris Agreement and adopted the 2053 Net Zero Emissions Target**,** Türkiye should integrate the principles of climate justice and just transition into its climate policies.

Holistic and rights-based approaches, consistent with national policy frameworks such as the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (İDUSEP) and the Long-Term Climate Strategy (LTS)**,** are required to protect vulnerable groups. Empowering local governments and increasing participation of these populations in decision-making are key for an inclusive and equitable climate transition. In the context of the upcoming COP30, it is crucial that Türkiye's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC**)** reflect strong social dimensions.

6.1 Climate Change as a Justice Issue in Türkiye

Climate change represents an environmental, social, and economic crisis that disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations. Its effects intensify pre-existing vulnerabilities, particularly in Türkiye, which is highly exposed to climate risks due to its geographical position within the Mediterranean Basin.

National climate policy, coordinated by the Directorate of Climate Change, should emphasize climate justice to ensure that the transition to a green economy is fair and inclusive. Türkiye, having ratified the Paris Agreement (2021) and adopted the 2053 Net Zero Emissions Target, should prioritize social protection during this transformation.

According to the United Nations, the most vulnerable to climate change are women, children, and migrants, despite their minimal contribution to global emissions [22]. Within Türkiye, vulnerability is examined under frameworks such as İDUSEP, and fairness should be embedded in national and local policies—particularly during the preparation of the updated NDC ahead of COP30.

6.2 The Structural Nature of Vulnerability

Vulnerability refers to the state developed by physical, social and economic aspects that predispose a community to damage by hazards. This is enhanced in Türkiye by difficulties in urban planning, loopholes in disaster preparedness and structural poverty. Although the vulnerable groups, such as children, women, persons with disabilities, and elderly, are considered as vulnerable groups in the official strategies, the underlying reasons of their vulnerability are not well prioritized in the national or local action plans.

a. Children and Climate Change

The children are also particularly vulnerable, because they are still developing and they also lack political representation. Climate change worsens some of the most urgent problems in Türkiye which include:

Health Risk: Air pollution aggravates respiratory diseases such as asthma, especially in cities.

Insecure Living Conditions: Unsafe weather patterns such as droughts and floods endanger access to clean water, safe shelter and nutritious food.

It is in agreement with the objectives of Child Rights Strategy of Türkiye that are compromised by the effects of climate [22].

b. Women's Climate Vulnerability

Women particularly pregnant and postpartum women—are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters, facing barriers to food security and access to reproductive health and hygiene services.

The earthquakes of 6 February 2023 in Kahramanmaraş exemplified this vulnerability. More than

4.1 million reproductive-age women were affected, many displaced to temporary shelters lacking basic health and hygiene products [23].

This experience underlined the need for gender-sensitive emergency response mechanisms and recovery measures consistent with Türkiye's Strategy to Empower Women.

c. The Impact of Wildfires

The wildfires of summer 2021 demonstrated the compounded effects of climate change and inadequate land management. The fires destroyed over 139 000 hectares of land, resulting in significant economic damage, displacement, and loss of life.

The resulting air pollution triggered widespread respiratory illnesses, emphasizing the public health dimension of climate-related disasters [25]. These events highlight the need for integrated adaptation policies linking environmental, social, and health priorities.

d. **Policy Recommendations**

To build a climate-resilient and just future for all, we demand the following actions:

Inclusive & Just Governance:

1. Implement a fair transition process that safeguards the vulnerable communities and employees as they transition to a green economy.
2. Provide the youth and women with the participatory policymaking on all mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate changes.
3. Enhance regulatory and monitoring systems to make sure that climate policies are properly implemented and give preference to the needs of the vulnerable.

Targeted Support for Vulnerable Groups:

1. Incorporate climate justice education in the national school curriculum.
2. Ensure all disaster management procedures are gender responsive such as regular supply of hygiene kits and mobile health services to the women.

4. **Resilient Infrastructure and Local Action:**

    1. **I**nvest in universal access to clean water, sanitation, and waste management, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas.
    2. Fund climate adaptation infrastructure, such as flood and drainage systems in at-risk metropolitan areas.
    3. Empower local governments with dedicated funding to implement community-based adaptation measures that safeguard local health and livelihoods

6.3 As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

- Inclusion of education on climate justice in school syllabus to make the future generation aware of addressing environmental and social inequity nexus.
- Frequent delivery of hygiene kits used in times of emergency especially in times of disaster particularly to women; increased mobile health and mobile hygiene.
- Diagnosis and early treatment of respiratory diseases in children; campaigns to raise awareness among the population, prevent exposure to air pollution.
- Universal urban infrastructure at each settlement area, availability of clean water, sanitation, electricity, health services and waste management.
- Investments into flood and drainages particularly in the metropolitan areas that are prone to flooding every year. Increased rural infrastructure and incorporation of small villages into the national programs such as KÖYDES.
- Availability of modern cooking technologies and energy-saving stoves to the rural women to decrease health risks.
- The assistance of women and children with mental health should be performed by professionals who are culturally and linguistically competent.

- Awareness and accountability to the people on vulnerable increasing urban constructs.
- Participatory policymaking, which would bring the youth, especially those of vulnerable groups, on board in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Committed investment in the local governments to pursue community-based adaptation measures at the local level to safeguard the health, livelihoods and safety of vulnerable populations.

7.Green Economy

Green transformation refers to change in order to introduce environmentally friendly technology as well as practices in many sectors, such as energy, transportation, industry, and agriculture. Such a change is significant in the context of sustainable economic development, mitigation of environmental effects, and addressing the increasing impacts of climate change. Having a policy of preserving the natural riches and enhancing the social well-being is also a fundamental policy. Sustainable development has been given more importance as global problems like global warming; lack of resources and environmental degradation have become more global. It is here that green economy and green transformation have been one of the most useful courses of action in dealing with such emergent global problems.

7.1Current Situation in Türkiye

In the recent past, Türkiye has made tremendous steps towards green transformation through the establishment of increased renewable energy capacity, implementation of energy efficiency initiatives and promotion of environmental sustainability. Use of renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, wind energy, and geothermal, will not only enhance power supply security, but also decrease the consumption of fossil energy. By 2025, Türkiye is on the crossroads of its climate policy development. The Climate Law strengthens Türkiye’s commitments on climate change by providing a legal basis. The Türkiye Emissions Trading System (TR-ETS) is being established, and the responsible institutions for the operation and control of the market have been determined. The developments are important towards realizing the vision of Türkiye,

which is to become a net-zero emission country by 2053.

However, the current initiatives are still not enough to prevent the constantly increasing effects of climate emergency. There is a need to have more durable, cross-sectoral, and holistic solutions. This transition encompasses the embracing of low carbon production paradigms, intelligent transportation technologies, and just transition policies as well as nature-based solutions.

7.2As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

- Green employment schemes and entrepreneurship funds that are youth-oriented need to be created to facilitate youth employment and innovation in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-industries.
- Youths thought to be involved in national and local green budgeting, green public procurement, and climate finance decision-making.
- Tax cuts and grants that are backed by the state should be offered to start-ups and cooperatives in the circular economy, waste valorization, and low-carbon technologies.
- Financial institutions and banks ought to come up with green products based on loans to young entrepreneurs and university-based start-ups.
- Youth projects in the community in rural and vulnerable areas should be facilitated to promote inclusive development that emphasizes regional equality.
- The country should also have a national digital platform to pair the youthful talents with green job opportunities, internships and mentorship. Besides this, the training of green skills among young people in universities and high schools should be done at an earlier age.
- The cooperation between the regions should be reinforced to avoid the carbon leakage and facilitate the shift to carbon pricing.

- There should be independent advisory mechanisms that are set to do research that would safeguard the economic rights of future generations.
- We demand that climate education be expanded to raise awareness among students.
- We call for a fair and inclusive transition to sustainable energy systems.
- We demand the implementation of reskilling programs for the workforce and the revision of national education policies in line with green transformation.
- We call for training, skill development, and social protection mechanisms to help workers with long working hours adapt to this transition.
- We demand the implementation of just transition policies to ensure that no worker loses their job during the green transformation process.
- We call for equal access to education, opportunities, and support mechanisms for all during the transition.
- We demand that unpaid domestic labor be recognized and supported through policies that assign economic value.
- We call for an approach that both protects existing jobs and integrates new professions into the transformation process.
- We demand that transition policies be developed regionally and locally.
- We call for local incubation centers and development agencies to support green projects based on local resources.
- We demand the adoption of a circular economic approach that enables a zero-waste future where every product is reused, and every waste is recycled.
- We call for the establishment of Circular Economy Centers at universities and their standardization under the Higher Education Council (YÖK).
- We demand the promotion of upcycling projects that extend the lifespan of recycled materials.
- We call for the development of industrial symbiosis systems and the establishment of public transportation networks in organized industrial zones to reduce carbon footprints.

- We demand transparency in industrial input-output chains and the introduction of waste heat taxation mechanisms.
- We call for public awareness campaigns, education, and media initiatives to enhance understanding of the green transition.
- We demand that sustainability reports be published transparently and subject to democratic oversight.
- We call for the simultaneous implementation of incentives and sanctions in the green transition process.
- We demand the establishment of a nationwide deposit return system.
- We call for the promotion and state support of bioeconomy, green transformation, and green hydrogen initiatives.
- We demand the expansion and financial support of compost production facilities.
- We call for increased research and investment in green hydrogen technologies suitable to Türkiye's geographic and economic context.
- We demand the restriction of offset mechanisms and the prevention of merely symbolic environmental compensation measures.
- We demand that instead of imposing fines, companies be encouraged to adopt profit-oriented circular economy models.
- We call for the integration of renewable energy sources—solar, wind, and geothermal—for sustainable energy generation.
- We demand investment in carbon capture systems and the creation of dedicated funding for such technologies.
- We call for public banks to prioritize green loans and investment funds and for private banks to be included in this process.
- We demand clarification of which investments qualify as sustainable within the framework of green taxonomy principles.
- We call for the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) to allow greater

flexibility in interest rate applications for green loans.

- We demand the transparent publication of Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) data and the classification of companies based on their sustainability performance.
- We call for a mandatory sustainability officer in companies above a certain revenue threshold and for these officers to receive social security (SGK) support.
- We demand that climate related projects be subject to transparency requirements and that project data be made publicly accessible.
- We call for the creation of sub-industrial hubs and targeted incentives that take disaster risks into account.
- We demand the implementation of negative incentives to limit development in high-risk areas.
- We call for the establishment and promotion of smokeless organized industrial zones.
- We demand the transformation of the construction sector through the use of green buildings and recycled materials.
- We call for the expansion of wastewater treatment plants and the strengthening of infrastructure systems.
- We call for an increase in the share of renewable energy in energy production, in line with just transition principles.
- We emphasize the widespread use of clean energy sources, including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and nuclear, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

8. Disasters

Disasters are natural, technological and anthropogenic events that demand the combined efforts of numerous institutions and organizations, bring about economic and social losses and influence societies or communities by stopping or disrupting the normal life and human activity. Disasters can be natural, technological, or human-caused and do not only happen to the environment but to society as a whole and show disparities in preparedness and capacity [26]; [27]. To be considered a disaster, they must lead to loss of life and property otherwise, they will only be natural occurrences not disasters ([26].

Türkiye has experienced several disastrous events that have had a severe impact on its society, economy, and institutions in the course of its modern history and and continues to strengthen its disaster management framework through the National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP) . 2023–2030 [28]The key natural disasters that have hit Türkiye according to the 1974 report by the United Nations Disaster and Emergency Relief Commission are earthquakes, landslides, floods, and avalanches [29].

Despite development of science and technology, human ability to avert natural catastrophes is not that much. Consequently, the best and the most practical one would be to do the research, establish preventive measures and introduce the measures to reduce their effects on the communities ([26].

Disasters are another case in which societies cannot defeat disasters only within their resources since they produce a severe devastation to nature and social existence ([27]. These circumstances require external assistance, proper governance and coordinated disaster risk management systems at both the local and national government.

Disasters, also referred to as unexpected events which threaten ecosystems, economies and communities' security. Whether organic or man-made, disasters often outstrip the existing response capacity and are long lasting in their impact. Climate change effects have resulted in floods, wildfires, droughts, storms, and heatwaves which have become more frequent and wilder. Disaster management has become a discipline that needs to focus on the lowering of risks, making society more resilient, and becoming part of the sustainable development strategies as opposed to being confined to the crisis response only, as happened in the past.

8.1 The New Normal: Climate-Induced Disasters

Throughout Türkiye's modern history, the country has faced an alarming rise in both geological and climate-induced disasters. According to AFAD's 2024 Disaster Statistics Report [30], both the frequency and severity of these disasters have significantly increased over the past decade.

A report by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) [31] gives all indications that currently, there have been more than 90 percent of the natural catastrophes that can be attributed to risks connected to weather and water. In addition, this 2024 information of Munich Re also discloses that 93 percent of the sum of losses demonstrated to disasters are as a result of these events [32]. Climate change and its result in environmental changes and the occurrence of extreme weather have been further aggravating the frequency and magnitude of the disasters. Such a scenario is further compounded by spontaneous, high-rate urbanization, environmental degradation and socio-economic vulnerability.

Reports given by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [33], [31] confirm that unprecedented heatwaves and droughts are exposing the developing world to high chances of thermal shift in the semi-arid region to becoming arid climatic areas especially in Türkiye and its southern frontiers. The risk of forest fire will increase drastically along the Mediterranean and Aegean coasts. The scale of climatic or climatic-related disasters and their frequency has vastly increased with reference to the existing data.

Even with today's advanced knowledge and technological capacity, humanity still has limited power to prevent natural hazards such as earthquakes, storms, or droughts [26]. The most effective strategies should therefore focus on preparedness, long-term planning, and building resilient communities.

Such an increase in threat emphasizes the importance of not only using reactive response strategies, but rather risk-based approaches. The essential step in the current scenario is to coordinate climate policies into working structures, invest in long-term sustainable city building, and establish disaster-resistant communities. The key things needed are raising awareness and making sustainability the principles that would be incorporated in every single level of a decision.

With a more preventative and inclusive approach, we will be able to reduce the catastrophic consequences of the climate-provoked disasters and secure the future generation a safer country to live in.

8.2 Disaster-Resilient Youth

Türkiye is one of the most vulnerable nations in the globe to climate change related catastrophes. During the recent years, the effects of the climate crisis became more evident than ever, as a number of disasters occurred that were on a massive scale. The year 2025 has been another period of devastating disasters for Türkiye, following the Western Black Sea floods in 2021, which led to the evacuation of thousands of people [35] and the Antalya–Muğla wildfires. According to the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry [34], extreme heat and strong winds this year have triggered severe wildfires in provinces such as Bursa, Karabük, Eskişehir, and İzmir, destroying thousands of hectares of forest, forcing the evacuation of residential areas, and resulting in significant loss of life [38]

Disasters are situations that societies cannot overcome solely through their own resources, which is why empowering communities and integrating youth into national disaster management systems are vital steps toward resilience [27] In these emergencies, youths were quick in mobilization via social media and local networks where they would conduct aid campaigns and contribute willingly in the field. Nevertheless, this kind of participation may be mostly without an institutional framework of sustainability, an intervention process that does not mature into an organized and trained system of intervention.

However, there are exciting programs that are coming up. One of the objectives of the Erasmus+ funded youth participation in disaster management project that is being implemented by AFAD is to be involved in the decision making of the youth. The Young Fire Volunteers Program under TEMA Foundation equips young people so that they are prepared in terms of pre-disaster risk awareness and ecological restoration. Underlining and bringing a logical order in disaster education and preparedness has been set up through AKUT Youth Volunteering Program [36].

In Türkiye, there are currently notable and effective practices in disaster awareness education in schools and in the participation of youth in local disaster plans.

Nevertheless, despite these good practices, it is possible to reach an even higher level, and as a nation, we have the capacity to achieve this. By making more effective use of the potential of the young population, accrediting them, and integrating them as a permanent element of the national disaster management system, we can further strengthen societal resilience against disasters [34], [37].

8.3As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

The fact that the young people are recognized as decision authorities in local and national interpretations related to managing disaster, Professional disaster awareness and first aid and crisis training at high schools and universities, Drills on realistic scenario (therapeutic) disasters that are specially designed to fit the youth, This resulted in the creation of Youth Response Units in every province, facilitating structured youth engagement at the local levels, Permanent Disaster Volunteering Partnerships between the youth NGOs, AFAD, [increased investment on eco-friendly developmental areas, Specifically in case of children and youth who were affected by disasters, the provision of mental health support mechanisms. Youth should be recognized as active partners and decision-makers in local and national disaster management processes.

- Civil society organizations should be supported to expand volunteer capacity and increase youth participation.
- Youth camps and hands-on drills should be organized to provide first aid, search and rescue, and crisis response skills.
- Volunteerism in other professions like engineering, health, communication, and logistics should be encouraged and targeted to disaster management.
- Volunteering needs to be professionalized and improved by means of education and certification programs that would increase the quality of response.
- The issues of disaster awareness should be inculcated at tender age to enable the youths to be actively involved in creating awareness at family and community level.

- The demand of the young generation to get organized training on these disasters must be converted into country-level training.
- Psychosocial first aid training should be provided to young volunteers to facilitate post disaster recovery and mental health.
- The young population must participate in the post-disaster recovery by collecting data, coordination within the community, and open monitoring.
- The household preparedness, which includes first aid kits and emergency plans, should be encouraged through public awareness campaigns.
- Young people must ensure that they are in charge of prevention, misinformation and proper communication during disasters.
- Neighborhood-based alignment and joint planning should be enhanced in order to cooperate with local governments.
- To come up with practical solutions, the local resiliency programs should be aligned with university projects and internships.
- It needs to incorporate disaster and climate resilience education into curricula with the help of the Higher Education Council (YOK).
- The municipalities ought to form Youth Advisory Councils whereby the youths should have direct input in the decisions made in the municipalities.
- Practical disaster preparedness education should be done by developing mobile simulation trucks and community training centers.
- The young professionals are supposed to be involved in interdisciplinary infrastructure teams in order to bring in innovative and technical solutions.
- There should be a single Ministry of Disaster and Climate that can be used to co-ordinate risk reduction, response, recovery and climate adaptation.
- Youth councils, certification programs, and volunteer networks should be incorporated in this ministry.

9. Sustainable Cities

9.1 Current Situation in Türkiye

The definition of a sustainable city according to the United Nations [39] is a residential area that balances economic development with the environment preservation and social welfare, which is founded on the efficiency of resources. Türkiye is struggling to balance between sustainable urbanization with the context of high population growth, environmental and socio-economic aspects. The rate of urbanization in Türkiye is at 93 percent [40], which means that the city has to focus on sustainable city planning. Nevertheless, the youthful generation has highlighted some of the main challenges towards achieving their idea of climate-friendly, inclusive, and livable cities. These include:

Transportation and Urban Roads: The constraints of bicycle lanes and allowing people to get away with their abuse are impediments to the environmentally friendly mobility. The haphazard and unplanned construction lowers accessibility and leads to urban sprawl. There are also pedestrian areas that are usually unsupervised and not punished adequately.

Accessibility: The urban planning is not providing enough access to individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Inadequate available public areas are a detriment of inclusivity and equality.

Green Spaces: It lacks green spaces and recreational grounds among young people and green infrastructure to improve air quality and other health aspects of the mind and body.

Policy frameworks on sustainable urban development have been given by national strategies like the National Smart Cities Strategy (2020-2023), the Green Deal Action Plan (2021) and the Climate Law (2025).

In 2024, the internal migration was 2.68 million individuals, which is 3.13 percent of the population [41]. This movement increases pressure on energy and waste disposal and transport systems.

In the meantime, urban energy and transport infrastructure are still predominantly powered by fossil fuels and more than three out of 4 are private vehicle journeys [42].

The ratio of green areas is 7.5 m2 per capita, which is less than the recommended 9-10 m2 by the World Health Organization [43]. In mega cities such as Istanbul, industrial, financial and population concentration exerts more environmental pressure and creates economic disparity between regions. However, policy achievements have not yet helped Türkiye to combine sustainability principles into local urban planning and guarantee resilience to disasters.

9.2 Youth Observations

Urbanization, though favoring economic growth, has had massive structural challenges to sustainability as observed among young people in Türkiye. Habitable, accessible and just principles are still yet to be achieved in city planning.

The aesthetic and social cohesion that is necessary in the transformation of cities in the area of earthquakes is often not provided, and this undermines the bonds between communities. Inequality in urban areas is supported by the lack of infrastructure, uneven population distribution, and ineffective transport infrastructure.

- Numerous cities continue to rely on transport systems that are based on fossil fuel. The lack of electric vehicle charging stations reduces the process of moving to sustainable mobility.
- There is poor development of rail systems, and the spontaneous growth usually leaves the green space to be utilized as a commercial site.
- There is a great deal of concern over air, water, noise pollution, and the energy systems of cities are still inefficient.
- The systems of waste management do not have tough legal enforcement, and the separation-at-source systems are not used widely.
- Sensor-based lighting, traffic control, and digital payment applications are all smart city technologies that are not completely integrated yet.

- A study commissioned by TUBITAK (Project No: 118K748, 2023) [44] found out that teacher intending students were able to determine dangerous domestic waste correctly only in 52.9 percent, and there are evident gaps in education about sustainability.
- Moreover, the knowledge regarding water usage, energy performance and individual carbon footprints is still low. Young people demand the use of human-centered, environmentally friendly, and integrative approaches to cities that merges technical and social change.

9.3 As the young people of Türkiye, we demand:

- Taking into account geographical, ecological, and cultural data in all urban planning processes.
- Involving educated and experienced young people in decision-making processes for sustainable economic growth and urban policies.
- Designing zoning and housing policies based on disaster risk and climate realities.
- Prohibiting new residential construction until infrastructure systems are fully completed.
- Establishing energy, water, and food cycles for self-sufficient urban ecosystems.
- Integrating green infrastructure and nature-based solutions into city planning and architecture.
- Strengthening local production networks and community economies to reduce dependency on central cities.
- Preventing the concentration of heavy industry and financial centers in a single city.

  • Ensuring balanced regional development and fair investment distribution across Türkiye.
- Promoting transparent decision-making through direct citizen participation.
- Expanding accessible green spaces for all residents.
- Setting carbon-neutral city targets and expanding renewable energy use.
- Enhancing rail systems, bicycle lanes, and electric vehicle charging networks.

- Widening smart traffic and parking systems adaptable to real-time density.
- Scientifically reviewing daylight-saving practices to improve energy efficiency.
- Increasing inspections and sanctions on waste management; making recycling mandatory.
- Establishing neighborhood-level waste separation systems and circular waste collection networks.
- Ensuring free access to clean drinking water for all citizens.
- Promoting eco-conscious consumption habits and responsible urban lifestyles.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to reduce water and energy waste in production and daily life.
- Adding sustainability, environmental ethics, and climate change to national curricula.
- Strengthening environmental education for children, youth, and adults.
- Encouraging eco-friendly behaviors through reward–penalty systems.
- Supporting youth-led agricultural projects adapted to regional climates.
- Expanding digitalization in public services and urban management
- Replacing plastic-based payment systems with digital platforms in transportation.
- Using sensor-based systems in traffic, parking, and lighting management.
- Setting quantifiable targets to reduce air, noise, and water pollution.
- Promoting youth-led awareness campaigns for deposit-return systems and expanding local pilot regions.
- Conducting regular carbon footprint measurements for cities.
- Creating collaborative platforms where NGOs and youth can jointly promote sustainability.
- Implementing comprehensive urban transformation policies to improve disaster resilience.
- Incorporating the needs of children, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities into city design.

- Supporting rainwater harvesting systems and monitored water wells through public advocacy.
- Creating safe, inclusive urban spaces that uphold gender equality.
- Strengthening youth assemblies, forums, and advisory boards within local governments.
- Promoting an urban culture that respects nature, people, and future generations.

10. Climate Finance

For a sustainable global environment and economy, structural reforms beyond orthodox production techniques are required, necessitating smart systems and next-generation production. To ensure environmentally friendly and sustainable production and development in the coming times, structural change is required in all sectors as well as in the lifestyle of individuals. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 2024) defines climate finance as *local, national, or transnational financing provided from public, private, and alternative sources to support mitigation and adaptation actions to combat climate change*[45]. At the very heart of global climate action sits, or should sit, finance. This is not merely a concept of resource allocation but one of fairness and solidarity in shared responsibility for the future of this one world we inhabit. There must be adequate and equitable financial support for countries and communities particularly support going to the most vulnerable among them to build resilience as well as capacity to make the transition to sustainable low-carbon economies. Unfortunately, there remains a massive gap between what has been committed in terms of global financing and what is being instituted in actual support; it undermines trust and confidence, let alone progress. Financial decisions define the future that the young generations will inherit. However, existing mechanisms for climate finance are less transparent, have limited access, and do not sufficiently incentivize youths to participate.

According to **OECD (2024)** data, climate finance provided by developed countries to developing countries has steadily increased in recent years, reaching **$115.9 billion in 2022**, yet this remains below the target level of $100 billion per year established under the Paris Agreement【46】.

Although financing has gradually increased over approximately 10 years, it is still not sufficient. It is also important to determine which areas need more financing by identifying risk priorities.

10.1 Current Situation in Türkiye

Türkiye has made significant progress in the green transformation of its economy, but its climate finance structure is still developing. While the **Green Deal Action Plan (2021)** and the **Climate Council (2022)** have laid out roadmaps for aligning financial systems with sustainability targets, the practical implementation of climate finance mechanisms remains limited [47].

The number of financial institutions that have implemented sustainable climate-risk assessment frameworks is lower than 10% even though in 2024 the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK) released its Sustainable Finance Principles to motivate the banks to include environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects in credit evaluations [48].

The Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (TCMB) has launched Green Finance Framework (2023) to facilitate the issuance of green bonds and sustainability-linked loans by the corporate entities. Investors, however, continue to deal with a fragmented financial environment that is not as transparent, coordinated, and long-term green investment incentives [49].

Nevertheless, these issues have not stopped the banking and corporate sector of Türkiye to start issuing Green Bonds and Sustainability-Linked Loans to fund renewable energy and efficiency initiatives, as there is an increasing understanding of the value of sustainable finance [50].

At the local level, the municipalities have begun incorporating climate-based projects in their development schemes, but access to financing is a major challenge, particularly among youth-led or community-based green initiatives.

It is important to have a more inclusive climate finance ecosystem that emphasizes transparency, accessibility, and education to enhance the capability of Türkiye in experiencing a just and effective energy transition.

10.2 Youth Observations

It is evident that despite the extensive discussion on climate finance, young people in Türkiye do not have awareness of how it works. Lack of Financial literacy, mentorship, and institutional facilities needed to be able to pursue green entrepreneurship or sustainable investment [48][49] Traditional banking practices tend to categorize green projects as high-risk and therefore young entrepreneurs may find it difficult to access credit or investment [50].

It is observed that there are no organized courses on sustainability finance and carbon markets at universities by students and early career professionals [47].

In addition, the absence of the young generation in the decision-making institutions of the state financing and climate funds influences the potential inclusivity and innovativeness of switching Türkiye to low-carbon economy.

To overcome such difficulties, youth dwell on the value of participatory models of finance, youth-based loan schemes, and more localized grant programs, relating sustainable ideas and real funding opportunities.

10.3 As the Young People of Türkiye, We Demand:

- Establishing a transparent, reliable, and internationally compliant regulatory framework for countries' climate finance.
- Finance should be allocated according to risk prioritization.
- Public banks should increase the variety of green funds.
- Direct incentives such as tax exemptions in the early stages or tax deferrals in the first few years should be offered for climate-friendly projects.
- Public banks should offer low-interest, long-term “Climate Loans” with reduced collateral requirements exclusively for green initiatives.
- Establish low-cost Carbon Funds that focus on credits in local or international carbon markets, green technologies, or sustainable projects, enabling young people to invest even with small amounts.
- Specialized consulting support should be provided for green initiatives.

- Tax cuts and grants that are backed by the state should be offered to start-ups and cooperatives in the circular economy, waste valorization, and low-carbon technologies.
- Financial institutions and banks ought to come up with green products based on loans to young entrepreneurs and university-based start-ups.
- Youth projects in the community in rural and vulnerable areas should be facilitated to promote inclusive development that emphasizes regional equality.
- The country should also have a national digital platform to pair the youthful talents with green job opportunities, internships and mentorship. Besides this, the training of green skills among young people in universities and high schools should be done at an earlier age.
- The climate crisis has been identified to have psychosocial effects on the youth, and youth involved in sustainability should receive mental health support.
- The cooperation between the regions should be reinforced to avoid the carbon leakage and facilitate the shift to carbon pricing.
- There should be independent advisory mechanisms that are set to do researches that would safeguard the economic rights of future generations.
- University clubs, start-up teams, and youth cooperatives should be eligible to receive sustainable development-oriented grants programs.

11. Health

Climate change is currently among the biggest threats to the health of people not only over the world, but also in Türkiye. Extreme heat waves, unpredictable precipitation, floods, drought, and air pollution have caused devastating effects on the physical and mental health. These climatic changes directly affect cardiovascular, respiratory, and infectious diseases, whereas decreased water supply, malnutrition, and post-disaster psychological trauma become the growing problems of the community health. According to the report by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Health and Climate Change Country Profile - Türkiye (2022), the country is extremely susceptible to the health issues linked to climate change [51].

11.1 Current Situation

Türkiye has in the past years engaged in a few key policy initiatives to overcome such challenges. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030) puts public health at the center of national climate action and encourages intersectoral collaboration in health, disaster management, agriculture, and water resources [52]. Ministry of Health has also embarked on research to determine the effects of climate change to water, air quality, nutrition, and health-related disasters. There is an increase in the use of the community to adapt to changes by carrying out public awareness campaigns on heat stress, drought, and air pollution [53]. Since efforts have been made at the national level, the implementation is still not uniform across all regions. Cities are slowly developing into conditioned lessons regarding the dangers of climate change, but the rural population is not as ready. The effects of climate change are more felt in these regions, including seasonal restrictions in getting clean water, agricultural income, and access to healthcare services in the aftermath of the disaster. Crops fail leading to food shortages and frequent nutritional deficiencies, which cause a rise in morbidity in the period of long-term heat waves and dry seasons.

Higher humidity and warmer temperatures will provide good conditions to such diseases that are transmitted by vectors and water, and it will bring increased risks to rural populations and those with a low income [54]. But local level data gathering, incorporation of early warning mechanisms in healthcare facilities, and post-disaster psychosocial services are not adequate. Additionally, the psychological aspects of climate change such as eco-anxiety and post-disaster trauma have not been involved satisfactorily in the policy frameworks.

These breakages are apparent and dire to the youths. Numerous young people, particularly in arid and climate-prone areas, can see with their own eyes how droughts, water shortage, and food insecurity can be turned into health risks and poor well-being. They also note that school and online health education seldom discuss the relationships between environment, climate, and the health of the population.

In conclusion, the establishment of the relationship between climate and health in policy level is still in its initial stages in Türkiye. More efforts should be made to intensify practice - by frequent assessment of health effects, by adding more resources to rural health, by working more closely with local government and by raising public awareness. These are among the enabling conditions that can be taken to create a climate-resilient health system that shields the body and mind of people.

11.2As the Young People of Türkiye, We Demand:

- The e-Nabiz should provide better access to individuals with environmental health issues and allow them to locate the appropriate specialists effortlessly and be provided with individual guidance.
- e-Nabiz should also provide guidance about good nutrition and healthy living, smoking cessation, and connect health awareness to environmental health.
- To enhance the linkage between healthcare and sustainability, Family Health Centers (ASM) should convey clear information about environmental and climate-related diseases and focus on carbon footprint of medical processes.
- The implementation of the projects of "Green Hospital" should be elaborated and introduced to the country in a way that would make environmental sustainability a common practice in all healthcare facilities.
- Families are supposed to have psychologists to assist in mental health and other psychological impacts of the environmental stress and disaster.
- Pharmacies and health centers should use safe disposal boxes on expired or unused medicines to avoid environmental pollution.
- There should be awareness campaigns to emphasize the health and environmental hazards of smoking, pollution and other detrimental chemicals.
- Cooperation between the organizations like Yesilay, Kizilay and other NGOs are to be reinforced to implement combined environment and health awareness campaigns.
- Institutional and financial support should be paid more attention to NGOs, local

organizations devoted to climate and health where young people will play an active role in each of the phases.

- The number of nature-based therapy (eco-therapy) programs should be increased at the national level to stimulate mental and physical recovery.
- Ministry of Health is advised to provide more capacity of early warning mechanisms, collection of environmental health data, and post-disaster psychosocial support at the local level.
- Volunteers and health workers in the community must be educated to sensitize the people to climatic related diseases and encourage environmental health practices within rural and vulnerable areas.
- Hospitals and health centers ought to observe and report on their environmental performance and embrace energy-efficient and low-waste medical technologies

12 Water Security

The Synthesis Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2023 states that water security has become a particularly acute problem in the global arena. A higher population, agro-industries, energy, industrialization, textiles, and urbanization are increasing the rate of depletion of water resources and subjecting them to enormous pressure. This situation is further worsened by the issue of climate change, which increases drought and disrupts rainfall patterns and therefore makes water highly inaccessible [55].

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) propose that to make safe and affordable drinking water available to everyone by 2030, infrastructure, sanitation, and hygiene systems should be invested in. According to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Global Water Report 2020, the estimated cost of inaction regarding the water crisis is reported to be five times more than the estimated cost of action to address the crisis [56][57].

Climate change not only impacts availability and quality of water, but also alters geographical balance of distribution, which is taking the crisis outside the country.

This consequently adds to competition and stress in the transboundary river basins, especially in areas where there is already shortage of water.

12.1 Observations

Being among the nations with severe water stress, Türkiye is already being exposed to the degrading groundwater levels, the widespread agricultural losses caused by drought, and growing unequal water distribution in the region [57]. The lack of water and the availability of clean water are not just the matter of the environment but also human rights and social justice as well as sustainable development.[56]

According to the IPCC 2023 Synthesis Report, the hydrological cycle is aggravated by the effect of human-induced warming, and water-related vulnerabilities are increasing globally. About half of the world of 3.3-3.6 billion people suffer extreme shortage of water at some time of the year. Raised frequency and severity of agricultural and hydrological droughts have already been experienced due to climate change. Besides, the anticipated increase in the occurrences of heavy precipitations will result in more devastating floods; a substantial fraction of the world calamities and economic damage since 1970 have already been attributed to flooding [55].

1. 5°C target target on global warming would mean that a lot fewer individuals will experience extreme effects of water and food insecurity. To conclude, there is a narrowing window of opportunity to tackle the issue of water security. The issue of sustainable access to water by imposing more robust management, investment in infrastructures, and educating the population should become a priority.

12.2As Young People, We Demand:

- Appreciate the right to clean, safe and affordable water as a human right entrenched in law.
- Embracing water security in national climate action plans and investing more in sustainable infrastructure.
- In designing the unit wastewater treatment systems, avoid leakage into clean water sources.

- Encourage use of modern irrigation practices (drip and sprinkler) in agriculture and increase the use of greywater in the industries.
- Use modern methods of collecting rainwater and minimize water wastages to increase efficiency.
- Prohibit the use of scarce drinking water resources by industry and reorganize the process of producing high water-footprint products.
- Stop release of un-treated wastes onto natural systems.
- Correct the situation with microplastics in water bodies and avoid plastic contamination of rivers and oceans.
- Conserve ecosystems and promote scientific studies and local collaboration to conserve biodiversity related to water.
- Improve water resource allocation and management transparency and accountability.
- Hygiene and sanitation should be included in the water management policies of a country to avoid water-borne diseases like cholera and typhoid.
- Establish AI modeling and forecasting systems to plan the future water management.
- Include preventive measures to prevent disaster and rehabilitating rivers in urban planning, which provides clean water in times of need.
- Fund creative youth-led, institutional, and business initiatives on water resources.
- Inventing ecosystem based approaches and technologies to minimize evaporation across all water resources.
- Hold national and global water congresses annually to review progress and generate new solutions.

13. Agriculture and Climate Resilience

Türkiye is at a critical junction within its agricultural sector both, in production efficiency and socio-economic sustainability due to the issue of climate change. Due to the increasing temperatures, erratic rains, droughts, and unexpected frost, farmers are suffering huge economic losses. On the one hand, the level of awareness of the producers about climate change is quite high; on the other hand, there is a lack of knowledge, financial resources, and institutional support. This has led to the exodus of small-scale farmers out of production, the greying of agricultural labour force, and rural migration increase which are long-term risks to the food security of the country [58], [59].

There is also the issue of increasing variability of rainfall and increasing number of droughts especially in Central Anatolia and Southeastern regions affecting agricultural production of Türkiye. As the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry [62] argues, climate-related water shortage has also reduced crop yields in some regions up to 15% of the usual output. The formulation of global policies in production, education, and technology, biodiversity, and economic resilience is thus now critical to creating a climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable agricultural system.

13.1 Current Situation in Türkiye

To achieve sustainable agriculture, it is not just sufficient to keep up with production, but also must protect the sustainability of ecosystem services and social equity among the rural communities. Agroecological practices that guard the health of soils, current irrigation strategies that maximize water use, and renewable energy changes that decrease carbon emissions are all major constituents of agricultural resilience [60], [61].

Nevertheless, the restricted access to training and digital tools is also a significant obstacle. A lot of farmers still use traditional methods that are susceptible to climatic stress. The development of climate literacy, digital competencies, and sustainable production training can be aided through partnership between universities, ministries, and local governments and the private sector and is likely to decrease risks significantly and assist farmers in adapting to innovative approaches [63].

Agricultural production should cease being based on the quantity approach, but rather be environmentally friendly, efficient and value-producing. Young people, women and local producer cooperatives are important players in this process to have sustainable rural development networks. The promotion of ecological and economic resilience will come through the encouragement of agricultural practices that can support the development of locally appropriate crops, better management of water resources, preservation of local seedstock, and the use of renewable energy sources [64].

13.2 As Young People of Türkiye, We Demand:

- Enhance farmer empowerment at the village level, by building their capacity and creating awareness on climate adaptation programs, facilitated by the universities, ministries and civil societies.
- Create a National Agricultural Data Bank so that there is a governance of agriculture that is more data-driven, such as pesticide application, water, soil health and the productivity of crops.
- Enhance production systems that use contracts to limit the imbalance of supply and demand of products and food waste.
- Manage overextraction of ground water, encourage locally suitable agriculture and punish unsustainable irrigation.
- Establish participation-based governance space to make certain that farmers are directly engaged in making agricultural policies.
- Introduce international collaboration initiatives with other nations in the Mediterranean climate, to share knowledge and best practices in climate adaptation in agriculture.
- Encourage agricultural by-products and residues by supporting initiatives in the circular economy that make agricultural products valuable by granting incentives and innovation.
- Protect seasonal and child workers who are engaged in agricultural work socially and make the sector free of child labor.
- Increase the regional training facilities and vocational high schools on agriculture to create local capacity.

- Offer economic incentives and subsidies to farmers who embrace the use of climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Develop local disaster and crisis response departments to respond to frost, drought, and floods which should be equipped with early warning systems.
- Institute equitable income and price strategies to be able to give equitable returns to both the producers and consumers.
- Make land and capital accessible to the young people, by distributing idle agricultural land to the youthful farmers.
- Incorporate agroecological methods into national agricultural policies and local adaptation options.
- Give priority in delivery of government subsidies and grants to people whose main source of income is in farming.
- Create ALAU at local bar associations and develop a national short-dial hot line to free or low-cost legal advice.
- Use drone and satellite technologies for real-time monitoring and parcel-based pasture management.
- Reseed and expand erosion-preventing plant species to enhance soil and water retention capacity in rangelands.
- Regularly inspect antibiotic use in livestock to protect both animal and public health.
- Promote biological pest control methods with financial incentives and awareness programs for farmers.
- Develop technological literacy programs to improve farmers' competence in digital tools and smart agriculture systems.
- Expand agricultural electrification through electric motors, battery-based irrigation, and low-emission technologies.
- Encourage the use of drought-resistant seed varieties and modern irrigation systems.
- Increase investment in agricultural R&D to strengthen resilience, productivity, and competitiveness in the sector.

- Support alternative production models that integrate innovation and sustainability at the local level.

14. Biodiversity

14.1 Current Situation

The country, Türkiye, is among the biologically diverse countries worldwide that are found at the convergence of three different biogeographical areas- the Euro-Siberian, Irano-Turanian, and Mediterranean ones. This distinctive situation has made it possible to have a spectacular variety of habitats and endemic species to co-exist. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry [65] states that there are more than 12,000 species of plants in Türkiye, almost a third of them are endemic. The fauna is also incredibly diverse in the country with mammals, birds, amphibians, and sea creatures, becoming a regional biodiversity hot spot [66].

Nevertheless, there is a major and rapid threat to biodiversity in Türkiye. The destruction of important ecosystems like wetlands, forests, and coastal habitats due to rapid urbanization, habitat fragmentation, agricultural development, pollution, and unsustainable land use has been experienced. In the last century more than 80 percent of wetlands have been destroyed or modified and the species number of some endemics has decreased drastically because of the human-caused pressure [67], [68]. More than that, climate change, in terms of lengthy droughts, heating**,** and changing precipitation patterns, has made ecosystems more vulnerable [69].

14.2 Observations

Biodiversity is not only an environmental concern but also a foundation for food security, water management, public health, and cultural heritage. Deforestation, river degradation, and rangelands also diminish the ability of nature to supply the basic ecosystem services, i.e., carbon sequestration, pollination, and flood regulation, that have direct impacts on human welfare and economic stability [70]. Even with the advances in creating conserved zones, it is not until recently that approximately 9 percent of the Türkiye land mass is covered by conservation status, as compared to global standards [71].

Youthwise, education on biodiversity, voluntary programs to work in the field, and field research have not been sufficiently available. Youths do not have the institutional means of participating in local decision making or conservation planning. Nevertheless, the fact that they are energetic and creative means have unexploited potential of promoting ecological innovation.

14.3 As Young People, We Demand

- The creation of a National Biodiversity Data and Monitoring Platform to bring together species information, mapping of ecosystems, and other citizen science goods in a public-access format.
- Incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience issues into curricula of schools and universities, both at primary and tertiary levels, and including field-based ecological education and observation of local species.
- Increase in area under protection and implementation of management plans to be in line with the global 30x 30 biodiversity conservation target.
- Rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded ecosystems wetlands, forests, grasslands and coastal habitats through community-based rehabilitation and reforestation activities using youth volunteers.
- Green corridors created in order to re-link dispersed habitats and enhance genetic diversity between regions.

- Adoption of a National Endemic Species Conservation Program, which is geared towards seed banks, breeding facilities and gene repositories.
- Greater investment in research on biodiversity issues, ecological surveillance systems and innovation initiatives by the youth in conservation science.
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) - promoting urban greening, wetlands restoration, soil regeneration in city and regional planning.
- Enhanced partnership between ministries, municipalities, universities and NGOs to promote the management of biodiversity at both national and local scales.
- Provision of eco-tourism and rural livelihoods to promote conservation that will guarantee local communities and youth cooperatives sustainable revenues.
- Laws that aid in curbing the illegal trade of wildlife, over fishing, and the spread of alien species.
- Incorporation of biodiversity value in the agricultural, forestry and water policies to achieve sustainable use of resources.
- Promotion of the involvement of the youth in biodiversity councils, protected area committees and environmental impact assessments.
- Grants and financial incentives on youth-led start-ups and community projects that are oriented at ecological restoration, green product design and circular economy models.
- Introduction of the so-called Biodiversity Youth Academies or local training facilities where conservation methods, GIS mapping, and environmental advocacy knowledge can be acquired.
- Funding of the emergence of digital biodiversity tools and interactive sites to engage and raise awareness of the public.
- Annual Biodiversity Forums to review progress and best practices and enhance cooperation among multi-stakeholders.
- Improved defense and sustainable management of marine ecosystems with a specific focus on the Mediterranean and black sea biodiversity hotspots.

- Integration of biodiversity impact evaluation into every big infrastructure and development project.
- Identification of biodiversity conservation as a national young agenda, where the youth voices are to be adequately represented in all pertinent policy formulation.

15 Climate Governance , Politics and Participation

15.1 Current Situation

Türkiye faces significant governance challenges in addressing the climate crisis. Although policy decisions are generally made at the central level, the Climate Law has now established a strong legal foundation for inclusive and transparent climate governance. The law emphasizes key principles such as equality, climate justice, participation, integration, sustainability, transparency, and just transition aligning Türkiye's approach with international climate law frameworks [73].

In addition, the Regulation on the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (YİDEP) has reached its finalization stage, ensuring that institutional coordination and participatory mechanisms are embedded within Türkiye's national framework for climate action. These efforts aim to create a coherent system where national, regional, and local actors operate within a shared vision for climate resilience and sustainability.

While local authorities have begun implementing climate action plans, there is still a need to ensure that these initiatives are better harmonized with national strategies and implementation mechanisms [74]. Effective multi-level coordination remains crucial to prevent policy fragmentation and strengthen the adaptive capacity of both local administrations and civil society.

Youth participation, on the other hand, represents one of the most dynamic aspects of Türkiye's evolving climate governance. While youth representation in parliamentary committees and international negotiations is still evolving, Türkiye's Climate Envoys actively participate in COP processes and national climate dialogues, ensuring that young voices are formally represented in governance mechanisms. Through initiatives such as the Climate Envoys Programme**,** Local Youth Climate Councils**,** and the LCOY Türkiye platform, young people now contribute directly to policy discussions, awareness campaigns, and implementation of local climate actions [76].

Building on these advancements, it is essential to further institutionalize youth engagement —not only as participants but also as decision-makers in both adaptation and mitigation processes. Strengthening these participatory structures will ensure that Türkiye's climate transition is not only scientifically sound and policy-driven but also socially inclusive and intergenerationally just.

15.2 Observations

The climate governance system of Türkiye remains a centralized system whereby the civil society and youth are viewed as consultative but not decision-making [72]. There are numerous adaptation initiatives at the local level that have not been coordinated with national policies, and the data transparency is not widespread across ministries [74].

Youths, even though they are the immediate victims of the long-term effects of the change in the climate, are seldom in a position to utilize formal decision-making processes. There are youth councils but their suggestions are hardly realized, or even reported back [76]. Besides, the distance between policy formulation and actual execution increases as a result of ineffective monitoring, lack of consistency in accountability as well as inter-ministerial collaboration [75].

Türkiye should establish participatory systems where the youth are involved in all aspects of policy, local councils up to the international forums and be transparent, accountable and stable on sustainability of the long term policies [60].

15.3As Young People of Türkiye, We Demand:

- Through law, ensuring that the youth participate in every level of climate governance, whether at national or local climatic councils, parliamentary committees and advisory boards.
- Creation of youth quotas in the decision making organs so that the young people are not just heard but they have a true say in the formulation of climate policies.
- Local governments to implement the mechanisms of participatory democracy (community assemblies, climate forums) that directly gets the people and youth positions taken into the local climate strategies.

- Consultations processes during Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to be binding, transparent and accessible to every citizen, and not symbolic processes.
- Compulsory transparency and reporting of national pledges (NDCs) and municipal climate plans and corporate climate pledges via open data platforms.
- Monitoring systems of the implementation of climate commitments by independent youth- and civil society-led mechanisms to monitor the implementation and report publicly on the implementation.
- Compulsory climate governance training to the policymakers, members of parliament, mayors and representatives of the political parties so that their decision making is based on facts and science.
- Political parties to have youth wings with actual powers in party policies and national agendas.
- Introduction of climate governance, sustainability, and policy literacy courses into formal studies at every level of education - facilitated through simulations, workshops, student councils, etc.
- A cross-party Climate Accord in Parliament which provides continuity of national climate policies through administrations and avoids a continuity discontinuity.
- The presence of official youth representation in the delegation of Türkiye in research of COP and UNFCCC meetings, not with the view of an observer, but with the right to negotiate and make decisions.
- Decentralized "city-to-city" climate diplomacy programs that facilitate solidarity between cities that have varied adaptation capacities by sharing resources and knowledge.
- Establishing inter-ministerial Youth and Climate Coordination Mechanisms which combine Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports, and Environment to make youth part of climate policy.
- Youth councils should be transformed into effective and binding bodies that seek formal government feedback on the youth proposals on a fixed timeline.

- The acknowledgment of youth participation as a democratic right and not a privilege - making sure that youths are the equal partners in climate governance, which will determine their future.

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