



Global Youth Climate Action Network

Green Mindset. Youth Leadership. Sustainable Future.

Launching at UNFCCC COP31 · Antalya, Türkiye · 9–20 November 2026





Contents

1	Who We Are	06
2	Our Global Partnerships	10
3	The Opportunity	14
4	Network Mission	17
5	Six Core Commitments	19
6	Governance Structure	21
7	Role of the Founding Partners	23
8	Activities and Deliverables	24
9	GreenBook – Connecting the World for Climate Action	26
10	Member Benefits	29
11	Sub-regional Allocation	30
12	Launch Timeline	31
13	How to Join	32



Message from the Convenors

The Global Youth Climate Action Network brings together universities, governments, UN bodies and young people across the Global North and the Global South to turn climate education into climate action.

GYCAN is launched at UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, by six founding partners: the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, Green Skills and Climate Actions; the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), Republic of Indonesia; Global Youth Philanthropy (GYP), United States; the Ministry of Industry, Federal

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa.

Our ambition is clear: member universities and partners in 100 countries by 2030, a green mindset on every campus, and a generation of young leaders equipped to deliver a just, green and sustainable future.

This brochure sets out who we are, how the Network is governed, what we will deliver, and how your institution can join.



Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi

UNESCO Chair — Education for Sustainable Development, Green Skills and Climate Actions
Chair, Founding Governing Board · Co-Facilitator, GYCAN



Mr. Kazi Rawnaqul Islam

Managing Director, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Co-Chair, Founding Governing Board



H.H. Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud

Chair and Founder, TALGA — Saudi Arabia's first NPO on Sustainability
Co-Chair, Founding Governing Board





1. Who We Are

The Global Youth Climate Action Network (GYCAN) is a global alliance of universities, governments, UN bodies and civil-society organisations, launched at COP31 Antalya, that connects young people and higher-education institutions across the Global North and the Global South to turn climate education into climate action.

Founded by the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development, Green Skills and Climate Actions together with the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, Bappenas (Indonesia), Global Youth Philanthropy (United States), the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia and the WHO Regional Office for Africa, GYCAN builds a green mindset, youth leadership and a sustainable future — with member universities in 100 countries by 2030.

“This is our world — one planet, one shared future. We need to care for it, together.”



Our Vision

A climate-ready generation leading a just, green and sustainable future.

Vision

Our Mission

To unite universities, governments and youth across the Global North and South to advance green education, research and leadership — turning every campus into a driver of climate action.

Mission

What we stand for: Green Mindset · Youth Leadership · Sustainable Future · Global North–South solidarity · Education as climate action.



Box 1

Our world — we need to care, together

Key global climate facts that make youth-led, education-driven climate action urgent.

1.55 °C

Global mean temperature in 2024 above the pre-industrial level — the warmest year on record (WMO)

57 GtCO₂e

Global greenhouse-gas emissions in 2023 — a record high (UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2024)

42 %

Cut in global emissions needed by 2030 to keep the 1.5 °C goal within reach (UNEP)

3.3–3.6 bn

People living in contexts highly vulnerable to climate change (IPCC AR6)

195

Parties to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC

US\$ 300 bn

New annual climate-finance goal for developing countries by 2035, agreed at COP29 (NCQG)

Sources: WMO State of the Global Climate 2024; UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2023–2024; IPCC Sixth Assessment Report; UNFCCC (Paris Agreement; COP29 New Collective Quantified Goal).





2. Our Global Partnerships

GYCAN is initiated by six founding partners spanning higher education, government, civil society and the UN system, and supported by advisers from fifteen countries.

Founding partners



Partner and advisory board countries



Six founding partners · Fifteen countries represented · One network for 100 countries by 2030



UNESCO Chair

Academic Anchor and Convenor — Education for Sustainable Development, Green Skills and Climate Actions

Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi · Academic Visitor, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

World's Top 2% Scientists — Stanford University

★ **Chair of the Founding Governing Board · Co-host of the Secretariat**



Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT)

Government Partner — Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Custodian of the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund · Dhaka, Bangladesh

★ **Founding Partner — Host of the South Asia Regional Hub**



Ministry of National Development Planning / Bappenas

Government Partner — Republic of Indonesia

National coordinating body for development planning and the SDGs
Jakarta, Indonesia

★ **Founding Partner — Host of the Southeast Asia & Pacific Regional Hub**



Global Youth Philanthropy (GYP)

Civil Society Partner — United States · Canada · China

Unite Youth Power, Innovate Philanthropic Practices

Boston · San Francisco · Toronto · Shanghai · Aligned with UN Youth 2030 & the SDGs

★ **Founding Partner — Youth Philanthropy & Social Innovation**

Founding partners — profiles (continued)



Ministry of Industry

Government Partner — Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Green industrialisation, skills and youth employment
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

★ **Founding Partner** — Host of the Africa Regional Hub



World Health Organization — Regional Office for Africa

UN Partner — WHO Africa
Climate, health and resilience across the African Region
Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo

★ **Founding Partner** — Climate & Health Lead





3. The Opportunity

100

COUNTRIES BY 2030

6

FOUNDING PARTNERS

6

GLOBAL REGIONS

Join universities from 100 countries by 2030 in establishing the premier platform for global higher education and youth to advance both SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) while bridging the gap between the Global North and the Global South.

Box 2

The challenge we address

- Development Paradox: Negative correlation between education and climate
- Emissions Crisis: Regional GHG emissions exceed 20,000 MtCO₂e annually
- Capacity Gaps: Severe North–South disparities in accreditation, research, and green skills
- Financing Shortfall: Education expenditure averages only 3.6% GDP
- Youth Employment: NEET rates reach 28.2%; urgent green economy pathways need



Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GYCAN's work contributes directly to these twelve Goals, with **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** at its core.





4. Network Mission



The Global Youth Climate Action Network serves as the premier platform for universities and youth worldwide to drive coordinated action on the education-climate nexus:

- ✓ Integrate climate action across teaching, research, and operations
- ✓ Develop green skills curricula aligned with net-zero transitions
- ✓ Standardize carbon footprint reporting using unified protocols
- ✓ Advance research on climate solutions and sustainability
- ✓ Bridge the Global North–South gap in climate education, research and finance
- ✓ Share best practices on Education for Sustainable Development
- ✓ Bridge education quality and environmental stewardship
- ✓ Mobilize climate finance for education resilience
- ✓ Mentor underserved regions and vulnerable institutions





5. Six Core Commitments

All member universities commit to advancing these six pillars.

01

CARBON NEUTRALITY PATHWAY

- Establish institutional net-zero target with defined timeline
- Report annual Scope 1–3 emissions using standardized protocol
- Participate in regional carbon footprint benchmarking

02

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

- Integrate ESD and climate modules across 50% of programs by 2028
- Develop certified green skills tracks in priority disciplines
- Offer interdisciplinary sustainability programs

03

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- Participate in regional research consortia on climate solutions
- Contribute to annual GYCAN publication series
- Share research outputs via open-access platforms

04

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT — GLOBAL NORTH & SOUTH COLLABORATION

- Support youth-led climate initiatives and innovation projects
- Pair Global North and Global South universities in youth exchanges and joint projects
- Establish climate literacy baseline assessment

05

DATA TRANSPARENCY

- Submit annual sustainability reports using common framework
- Participate in THE Impact Rankings or equivalent
- Contribute to Regional SDG 4–13 Live Monitoring Dashboard

06

REGIONAL SOLIDARITY

- Mentor universities from underserved regions seeking accreditation
- Provide technical assistance to climate-vulnerable institutions
- Share resources and expertise across the network





6. Governance Structure

GYCAN is governed by a nine-tier structure that places the six founding partners — the UNESCO Chair, the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT), Bappenas of Indonesia, Global Youth Philanthropy (GYP) of the United States, the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia, and the WHO Regional Office for Africa — at the institutional centre, chaired by the UNESCO Chair with BCCT and H.H. Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud as Co-Chairs. The structure is deliberately lean to keep decision-making efficient and accountability clear.

01 Chair & Co-Chairs — UNESCO Chair (Chair) · BCCT and H.H. Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud (Co-Chairs)

Chair: Professor Mohammad Nurunnabi, UNESCO Chair. Co-Chairs: Mr. Kazi Rawnaqul Islam, Managing Director, BCCT; and H.H. Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud, Chair and Founder, TALGA. Strategic leadership on behalf of the founding partners; represent GYCAN at high-level UNFCCC fora and at the COP31 World Leaders' Summit in Antalya.

02 Founding Governing Board — Chaired by the UNESCO Chair; co-chaired by BCCT and H.H. Princess Abeer

Composed of the Chair and Co-Chairs, ministerial and senior representatives of each founding partner — Bangladesh (MoEFCC/BCCT), Bappenas, GYP, the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia and WHO Africa — plus one senior representative from each of the six sub-regions and the Chair of the Founding Global Youth Leadership Committee. Sets the annual work plan; approves budgets, public statements, and all policy outputs of the Network.

03 Founding Global Advisory Board — Policy, academic, UN and civil-society leaders

Composed of senior government, UN, academic and civil-society leaders from the Road to COP31 partner community. Provides technical guidance; peer-reviews the annual Best Practice Report; advises on methodology, certification and standards. Additional members are proposed jointly by the founding partners.

04 Secretariat — Hosted by the UNESCO Chair and BCCT

Operational support provided in-kind by the UNESCO Chair and BCCT teams during 2026–2027, with regional hubs hosted by Bappenas (Jakarta) and the Ministry of Industry (Addis Ababa), and a climate–health workstream led by WHO Africa. Day-to-day operations: communications, member relations, reporting, events, and dashboard maintenance. No new permanent post is required of the partner institutions at launch; arrangements are jointly reviewed at the end of Year 1.



Governance Structure

05 Founding Global Youth Leadership Committee — Youth voice in governance

Young leaders (18–35) nominated by each founding partner and sub-region, plus Global Green Youth Leadership Award laureates. Holds a seat on the Governing Board; co-designs youth initiatives, the webinar series and the Global Green Book Platform.

06 Founding Green Education & Research Council — Academic engine

All academic and expert members holding doctoral or professorial rank, chaired by the UNESCO Chair; develops the Green Skills Curriculum Framework, certification standards, the Research & Policy Paper Series and the Global Green Universities Ranking methodology.

07 Founding Indigenous Youth & Climate Committee — To be formed

Brings Indigenous youth voices, knowledge and land-based climate solutions into the Network; to be constituted in 2027 through nominations from member universities and Indigenous youth organisations in each sub-region.

08 Founding Women & Climate Leadership Committee — To be formed

Advances gender-responsive climate education, research and leadership (SDG 5 × SDG 13); to be constituted in 2027 with women leaders from the founding partners, member universities and the Founding Global Advisory Board.

09 Founding AI & Climate Committee — To be formed

Harnesses artificial intelligence and data for climate education, carbon reporting, the Global Green Book Platform and the Ranking; promotes responsible, inclusive AI skills for youth; to be constituted in 2027 with technology, data and climate experts.

Decision rule: consensus where possible at the Governing Board. Where a vote is required, simple majority of members applies, with the Chair holding the casting vote. All public statements issued under the Network's name require explicit clearance by the Governing Board.



7. Role of the Founding Partners

The UNESCO Chair, BCCT (Bangladesh), Bappenas (Indonesia), GYP (United States), the Ministry of Industry (Ethiopia) and WHO Africa are the founding partners and convening authorities of the Network. The UNESCO Chair chairs the Governing Board, with BCCT and H.H. Princess Abeer S. bin Farhan Al Saud as Co-Chairs; the UNESCO Chair and BCCT host the Secretariat.

BCCT, Bappenas, GYP, Ethiopia & WHO Africa — Founding Partners

- BCCT co-chairs the Governing Board and co-hosts the Secretariat
- Custodians of member endorsement — the member list is published under the Co-Chairs' signatures
- Anchor GYCAN in national climate and SDG planning and host the Dhaka, Jakarta and Addis Ababa regional hubs; WHO Africa leads the climate–health workstream
- Co-publishers of all GYCAN policy outputs, briefs and annual reports

UNESCO Chair — Convenor

- UNESCO Chair chairs the Governing Board and co-hosts the Secretariat with BCCT (in-kind, 2026–2027)
- UNESCO Chair leads methodology, reporting standards and the annual Best Practice Report

Cost to the founding partners at launch: No new staff, no operational budget, no recurrent commitment. The founding partners retain full strategic authority while the UNESCO Chair and BCCT carry the operational load through the launch phase, at no cost to the partner institutions.



8. Activities and Deliverables

GYCAN's activities follow an annual cycle of learning, capacity building, certification and recognition. Realistic targets to 2030 are scoped below; subsequent years follow the Governing Board's biennial review.

Year 1 — November 2026 – December 2027

- Launch Communiqué issued at COP31 Antalya (November 2026)
- Bi-monthly GYCAN webinar series — six sessions a year on ESD, green skills and climate action
- GYCAN Global Green Book Platform launched — the Network's own digital platform where member universities and youth share green initiatives, research, courses and best practices
- Capacity-building programme for member universities: carbon accounting, climate reporting and green curriculum design
- Global South Youth Climate Initiatives — seed support for youth-led projects, prioritising Global South members
- Green Commitment Certification launched — recognition of member universities delivering the Six Core Commitments
- GYCAN Research & Policy Paper Series launched — open-access working papers and policy briefs on the education–climate nexus
- GYCAN Global Green Youth Leadership Award — first presented at COP32 (2027), then every year



Activities and Deliverables

2028 – 2030

- Annual GYCAN Best Practice Report, co-published by the founding partners (from 2028)
- First cohort of Green Commitment Certified universities recognised (2028)
- GYCAN Global Green Universities Ranking — first edition 2028–2029
- Global Green Book Platform expanded to all members as the hub for certification, award nominations and ranking data
- Global Green Youth Leadership Award presented annually at each COP; Policy Paper Series continued each year
- Biennial GYCAN Summit (2028, 2030; host selected by the Governing Board)
- Joint policy submission to UNFCCC COP processes (2029)
- Member universities in 100 countries by 2030; biennial review of governance and membership

The Six Core Commitments set out above remain the common framework against which every member university is held accountable. Activities listed here are the Network-level deliverables produced by the Secretariat and the Governing Board.



9. GreenBook – Connecting the World for Climate Action

One Planet. One Community. One Green Future.

The Global Youth Climate Action Network (GYCAN) will introduce GreenBook — a global social networking and knowledge-sharing platform dedicated to sustainability, green education, climate innovation and youth-led action. Built on the familiar format of social media, GreenBook gives the global climate community a shared digital home.

GreenBook will connect students, young climate leaders, universities, researchers, governments, UN agencies, civil society and green businesses across the Global North and the Global South — enabling members to exchange ideas, build partnerships, showcase innovation and turn climate awareness into measurable action.

GreenBook
PEOPLE • IDEAS • ACTION • A GREENER TOMORROW

A Greener Tomorrow Together

A Social Platform for a Greener Generation

Connect. Learn. Collaborate. Take Action.

GreenBook brings together youth, universities, and climate communities to share ideas, build projects, and create real impact for a sustainable future.

Green Feed & Sharing
Share ideas, stories and climate action.

Green Groups
Join communities at school, university or globally.

Green Events
Discover and host climate events.

Learning
Access courses, resources and skills for a sustainable future.

Projects
Find collaborators and turn ideas into real impact.

Opportunities
Internships, grants, volunteering and career opportunities in the green economy.

The GreenBook platform — web and mobile.

Key Features of GreenBook

Box 3

One platform. Seven ways to act green.

Everything members need to connect, learn, collaborate and deliver climate action.

01

Green Profiles & Networks

Connect with individuals, institutions and climate communities worldwide.

02

Green Feed & Sharing

Share updates, photos, videos, stories and climate initiatives.

03

Green Groups & Events

Build communities, organise campaigns and join global events.

04

Green Learning & Research

Access courses, webinars, publications and collaborative research.

05

Green Jobs & Opportunities

Discover internships, scholarships, funding and green careers.

06

Green Projects & Innovation

Showcase climate solutions, green entrepreneurship and youth-led initiatives.

07

Green Impact & Recognition

Track climate contributions, celebrate achievements and earn recognition.



Our Global Ambition

GreenBook will become GYCAN's global digital community, connecting youth, universities and partners across 100 countries by 2030. Development and initial launch are planned for 2026–2027, followed by the progressive expansion of features and international membership.

100

COUNTRIES BY 2030

2026–27

DEVELOPMENT & LAUNCH

Global

NORTH-SOUTH COMMUNITY

GreenBook — Connect Green. Share Green. Act Green.



10. Member Benefits



Knowledge & Capacity Building

- Exclusive webinar series featuring global ESD experts
- Technical training on carbon accounting and climate reporting
- Curriculum development resources and green skills frameworks
- Policy briefs and research syntheses

Recognition & Visibility

- Official GYCAN membership designation and digital badge
- Featured in network communications reaching global stakeholders
- Priority consideration for UNESCO Chair appointments
- Showcased in annual Best Practice Report
- Eligibility for the annual Global Green Youth Leadership Award (from COP32) and the Global Green Universities Ranking

Collaboration Opportunities

- Connection to peer institutions in up to 100 countries by 2030
- Access to regional research grants and funding
- Student and faculty exchange programs within network
- Partnership facilitation for joint programs
- Member profile and project showcase on the GYCAN Global Green Book Platform

Advocacy & Financial Support

- Collective voice in climate education policy dialogues
- Representation at COP side events and UNFCCC processes
- Priority access to Climate-Education Emergency Fund
- Seed funding and matching grants for collaboration



11. Sub-regional Allocation

Six sub-regions, each with a regional hub and a priority focus, working toward 100 member countries by 2030.

SUB-REGION	PRIORITY FOCUS
South Asia (Bangladesh Hub)	Climate vulnerability, adaptation, climate finance, green skills
Southeast Asia & Pacific (Indonesia Hub)	Disaster resilience, youth, green skills
Türkiye, MENA & Central Asia	Just transition, NEET, green skills
Africa (Ethiopia & WHO Africa Hub)	Green skills, climate & health
Europe & the Americas	Research excellence, finance, green skills
SIDS & LDCs	Vulnerability, adaptation, green skills



12. Launch Timeline

Oct 2026

Founding Partner Agreement & Launch Brochure

Nov 2026

Official Network Launch at COP31 Antalya

2027Call for members opens — universities and partner organisations (rolling)
· webinar series begins**2028**

First Green Commitment Certification cohort · first GYCAN Summit

2030

Members and partners in 100 countries



13. How to Join

GYCAN is open to universities and to every organisation that can help young people lead climate action. Members join through a simple four-step process; partner organisations are welcomed on a rolling basis.

Box 4

Who can join

Universities & Higher-Education Institutions — Full members: adopt the Six Core Commitments; eligible for Green Commitment Certification, the Global Green Universities Ranking and GYCAN awards

UN Bodies & Intergovernmental Organisations — Institutional partners: technical guidance, co-convening of events and policy channels to UNFCCC processes

Governments, Ministries & Public Agencies — Government partners: national anchoring, regional hubs and endorsement of member cohorts

NGOs, Civil Society & Non-Profit Organisations — Civil-society partners: youth engagement, community-level climate initiatives and advocacy

Private Sector & Industry — Corporate partners: green skills, internships and apprenticeships, and support for youth initiatives, awards and the Green Book Platform

How to apply

01

EXPRESS

Apply by email to the Secretariat

02

REVIEW

Secretariat evaluation

03

SELECT

Membership confirmed

04

ONBOARD

Integration & launch

Required application materials

- Institutional profile — university accreditation status or organisation registration
- Current sustainability and climate initiatives, commitments and youth programmes
- Rationale for joining (500 words maximum)
- Letter of support from the President, Rector, Head of Agency or Chief Executive
- Preliminary carbon-footprint data and intended contribution to the Network (if available)

NETWORK SECRETARIAT

Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi

Co-Facilitator, GYCAN · UNESCO Chair on ESD, Green Skills & Climate Actions
Secretariat: UNESCO Chair & BCCT · Hubs: Bappenas (Jakarta) · Ministry of Industry (Addis Ababa) · WHO Africa

GET IN TOUCH

✉ prof.mohammad.unescochair@gmail.com · ☎ +966 550 096 835



Countries by 2030

*Be among the pioneering institutions shaping the future of
climate-responsive education and youth empowerment
worldwide*

LAUNCH
November 2026

APPLICATIONS
Rolling from 2027

TARGET
100 countries by
2030

#GYCAN · #YouthClimateAction · #SDG4 · #SDG13 · #COP31





GYCAN

GLOBAL YOUTH
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Green Mindset. Youth Leadership. Sustainable Future.

Global Youth Climate Action Network · Launching at UNFCCC COP31 · Antalya, Türkiye · November 2026

