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Protection

Youth Forum on Climate Protection 2024  
27 October 2024  
The Sukca Bangkok



**Y**outh **2**  
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**C**limate **4**  
**P**rotection

**SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOME REPORT<sub>1</sub>**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Youth Forum on Climate Protection extends heartfelt gratitude to the Ozone Secretariat, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) for their invaluable support. Their commitment to youth empowerment and climate action has inspired and enabled meaningful discussions that will guide the next generation of environmental leaders. This forum's success would not have been possible without their partnership, expertise, and dedication to a sustainable future.

The YFCP Coordination team would also like to thank the partners for their significant contribution towards the success of the Youth Forum:

- a. Office of UNEP Deputy Executive Director
- b. UNDP and UNEP China Office
- c. UNDP Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific
- d. UNEP Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific
- e. GIZ Proklima & GIZ Thailand
- f. Cool Up Programme
- g. Asian Institute of Technology
- h. International Institute of Refrigeration
- i. International Institute of Energy Conservation
- j. Sukosol Hotel Management

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Forum on Climate Protection, organized by the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP focused on the important role of youth in advancing climate action, particularly in the cooling sector, energy efficiency, green jobs, and the synergies between NDCs, MP, and the Kigali Amendment. Held at the Sukosol Hotel on October 27, 2024, this forum brought together youth, experts, and policymakers to discuss critical agreements such as the Montreal Protocol, Paris Agreement, and Kigali Amendment. The event featured capacity-building workshops, insightful discussions on green jobs, and innovative financing approaches for climate and ozone action.

The forum opened with an overview of international treaties guiding climate and ozone protection. The Montreal Protocol's historical success was celebrated, yet emphasis was placed on its evolving relevance with the Kigali Amendment. Participants then explored how youth can champion the synergy between national and international policies, especially through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The intersection of policy, technology, and practical solutions in the cooling sector was highlighted, stressing the need for sustainable refrigeration and air conditioning practices.

Green jobs in the cooling sector were a focal point, acknowledging that youth must be prepared with the skills needed for sustainable energy careers. Workshops highlighted the need for skilled technicians familiar with low-impact cooling systems and the global economic and environmental potential within this field. This segment underscored the benefits of upskilling in alignment with global standards like the Kigali Amendment and emphasized the importance of data collection for informed policy-making. Concluding with a discussion on energy efficiency and sustainable cooling, speakers urged greater integration of natural refrigerants and innovative cooling methods. The forum closed with calls to action for circular solutions, green financing, and broader access to sustainable cooling. The conclusion of the Youth Forum also established the momentum for youth advocacy and spirit for the Combined Vienna Convention COP 13 and Montreal Protocol MOP 36 that succeeded the Youth Forum as the avenue for meaningful youth engagement.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Youth Forum on Climate Protection (YFCP)—a groundbreaking platform where young leaders from around the world converge to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time: climate change. With the Montreal Protocol as our foundation, we are not just talking about protecting the ozone layer—we're pioneering innovative solutions for a cooler, more sustainable future.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer stands as one of the most successful global environmental agreements in history. It has effectively governed the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made compounds known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), setting the stage for the ozone layer's recovery. In 2016, the Kigali Amendment expanded the Protocol's mission to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gasses commonly used in cooling systems, which could prevent up to 0.5°C of global temperature rise by 2100.

## **OBJECTIVES OF YFCP**

### **1. Policy Training and Capacity-Building on Montreal Protocol**

Youth Forum primarily serves as a capacity-building and training ground for youth individuals and organizations. Through consultations, workshops and sessions, we aim to equip young people with the background on the Montreal Protocol, key issues related to ozone and climate protection and the skills required to engage in this space. Skills development is key to this process, where youth will learn how to formulate and present meaningful interventions based on inputs from diverse participants, regions and groups.

### **2. Engagement to the 36th Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol and 13th Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention**

Part of the Youth Forum will equip the youth participants to be engaged as a youth delegation of CYMG to MOP 36 and COP 13. Reflecting upon the historic situation last MOP 35, CYMG is committed to continue the advocacy of highlighting the critical role of meaningful youth engagement in one of the most successful MEAs. Youth delegates will maximize their participation by attending meetings and side events, learning from the panels of experts, practitioners and scientists.

### **3. Network Building and Activism**

Youth Forum creates a fertile ground for future leaders interested in environmental action, ozone and climate protection to establish new movements and networks. In addition to policy discussions, the forum provides a platform for artistic expression, movement building, activism, and cross-collaboration.

## SESSION SUMMARIES

### 1. Official Opening Segment

In the official opening of the Youth Forum on Climate Protection, the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema called upon youth to assume leadership roles in the climate movement, stressing that their involvement is essential for achieving sustainable change. She highlighted the climate crisis as a human rights issue, emphasizing that vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected and that universal access to sustainable solutions, such as clean cooling, should be a priority. Mrema encouraged young participants to challenge current norms, push for innovative solutions, and hold leaders accountable to climate commitments. Joining her were Clarence Gio Almoite, the Ozone and Clean Air Focal Point, who reiterated the vital role of the Montreal Protocol, and Wang Qi, a Youth Delegate from UNEP China, who shared insights on youth-led environmental efforts in China. Together, they set an inspiring tone for youth to shape climate policy and action.





(In photos: During the official opening plenary of YFCP held at Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand)

## **2. Overview of Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention**

The Montreal Protocol was recognized as a groundbreaking environmental agreement that significantly reduced ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by restricting CFCs. Its updates, including the Kigali Amendment, align ozone protection with climate mitigation by addressing HFCs. The Vienna Convention was acknowledged for establishing a framework to protect the ozone layer, enabling international cooperation that has led to ongoing healing of the ozone layer. This historical perspective underscored the importance of multi-country action for environmental preservation.

## **3. Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol**

Participants discussed the complementary objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol, particularly in reducing greenhouse gases through energy-efficient cooling solutions. These agreements set ambitious goals, including the Paris Agreement's target to keep global warming below 1.5°C. By phasing out high-impact HFCs, countries can advance these climate

goals, as lower-GWP refrigerants play a crucial role in reducing emissions in line with both agreements.

#### **4. NDCs in Focus: Policy Coherence between National Commitments and International Agreements**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were highlighted as essential tools for aligning local policies with international climate agreements. Participants emphasized that the integration of the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector into NDCs could accelerate progress on emissions targets. The session discussed steps to integrate the RAC sector into NDCs that can be achieved through: adopting policy instruments, creating GHG inventories of the RAC sector, comprehensive cooling sector mitigation approach along with its coordinated mitigation measures across government agencies and institutions, and establishing Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems for compliance.

#### **5. Workshop on Green Jobs and Skills in the Cooling Sector**

This workshop focused on the emerging green job market within the cooling industry, emphasizing the need for youth training in eco-friendly RAC technologies. The transition to natural refrigerants and efficient cooling systems was discussed as crucial for environmental sustainability and job creation. Participants recognized that youth must be equipped with relevant skills to meet future demands in sustainable cooling. During the Workshop, a facilitated roundtable interventions from the participants of the Youth Forum were done to hear more about the responses and new insights from youth on how to make the green jobs in the cooling sector much more appealing and interesting for youth. The issue of the informal cooling service is also discussed as the implementation of new non-ODS technology could only be achieved if there is proper training, capacity building, and qualified human resources. This is important, particularly as we are moving forward to new non-ODS substances that require a much more sophisticated and trained handling.

#### **6. Energy Efficiency in the Cooling Sector**

The importance of energy efficiency in achieving climate goals was discussed, with a specific focus on its role in the cooling sector. Key



strategies included reducing cooling demand through advanced cooling technology, optimizing system design, and harnessing natural refrigerants. Challenges like limited awareness and infrastructure were highlighted as obstacles, while successful examples from the EU and other regions showed the positive impact of energy-efficient cooling practices. Enhanced energy efficiency was recognized as essential for reducing both direct and indirect emissions, aligning with Kigali Amendment targets for sustainable cooling. During the session, an interactive deep dive discussion with the participants took place. The discussion examined the energy efficiency policies and markets in Southeast Asian countries and linked it with refrigerant policies. It is found that both energy efficiency and refrigerant policies are indeed intertwined in policy areas such as standards, labeling, codes, and rating systems.

## **7. Financing for Ozone and Climate Action**

Financing mechanisms were explored as crucial support systems for climate-focused and ozone-protection initiatives. Programs like green bonds and national schemes were identified as viable options to back energy-efficient projects, particularly in developing regions where access to capital can be challenging. Participants discussed how green financing could make sustainable cooling projects more accessible and reduce environmental impact. The potential for enhanced financial support from private sectors and international organizations was seen as essential for the widespread adoption of low-impact cooling technologies.

The Youth Forum also discussed the conceptualization of the Statement to be delivered by Children and Youth at the High-level Segment of the Combined COP 13 - MOP 36.

## **Children and Youth Major Group (CYMG) Statement at the High Level Segment of the Combined Thirteenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

Madam President, I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh and it is an honor to stand here today on behalf of the [Children and Youth Major Group](#), the mandated youth constituency to UNEP.

Our theory of change is focused on three areas: first, building capacity on skills and knowledge that empower young advocates to drive change; second, developing robust policy positions and actively engaging in negotiations to amplify youth perspectives; and third, partnering with diverse stakeholders to secure access to UN policy forums such as this week's joint COP13 and MOP36.

These objectives were embodied in the Youth Forum on Climate Protection<sup>1</sup>, held last Sunday, which brought together young people from across the region to learn about the impact of the Montreal Protocol and its contributions to climate protection. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Institute of Technology, and other collaborators in organizing this forum.

At the heart of our discussions last Sunday were topics critical to our time. First, we explored how the Paris Agreement can work in harmony with the Kigali Amendment to reduce climate impacts through sustainable and green cooling. We also examined the potential for gender mainstreaming as well as green jobs and skills in this sector, emphasizing the importance of investing in professional pathways for youth.

Together with youth groups and individuals, we discussed the role of energy efficiency in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol. We concluded with a discussion the importance of increased financing for ozone and climate action, a crucial step if we are to see impactful, long-lasting changes.

Building on our engagement, which started at MOP35 in Nairobi, Children and Youth call upon **parties and implementing partners to:**

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<sup>1</sup> Find more information on the Youth Forum on Climate Protection at [www.cymgenv.net/yfcp2024](http://www.cymgenv.net/yfcp2024)

1. Prioritize youth-focused investments in education and skills, create sustainable green jobs within the cooling industry, and support youth entrepreneurship<sup>2</sup>.
2. Champion youth participation by supporting future Youth Forums on Climate Protection at the subsequent MOP sessions—empowering young voices to drive bold, impactful climate solutions worldwide. We urge parties and other partners to allocate resources voluntarily through the Ozone Secretariat to facilitate meaningful youth engagement at future Meetings of the Parties, enabling a diverse representation of young voices that can contribute innovative perspectives to ozone and climate protection efforts.
3. Establish a dedicated 'Youth' flag in the plenary of MOP and OEWG, highlighting the ongoing contributions of young leaders and acknowledging our rightful mandate to engage in these discussions.
4. Align and integrate key environmental agreements, fully embracing the intent of Resolution 6/4<sup>3</sup> adopted at the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), to drive synergies, cooperation, and collaborative action for national implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. We strongly urge all parties to embed ambitious targets for sustainable cooling and the phasedown of HFCs within NDC 3.0, solidifying our collective commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development
5. And most significantly, to take a decisive stand by universally ratifying the Kigali Amendment<sup>4</sup>. This step is not just a commitment to phasing down HFCs; it is a powerful decision of our collective resolve to safeguard our climate, protect future generations, and advance sustainable cooling solutions globally.

The recently published Emissions Gap Report of UNEP revealed that we are now on a catastrophic trajectory of 2.6-3.1°C of warming by 2100<sup>5</sup>. The time for incremental change is over. We must take transformative, impactful steps that prioritize the planet, empower young leaders, and build a resilient future for all.

Our message is clear: empower youth as climate leaders, invest in green skills and innovation, and work with us to create a thriving planet. Thank you for the floor!

*Delivered by: Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik, Global Coordinator, CYMG*  
*Submitted by: Clarence Gio Almoite, Ozone and Clean Air Focal Point, CYMG*  
*For further information, please contact [admin@cymgenv.net](mailto:admin@cymgenv.net)*

<sup>2</sup> In line with the [Green Jobs for Youth Pact](#) developed collaboratively by UNEP, ILO and UNICEF

<sup>3</sup> [UNEP/EA.6/Res.4](#) - Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments

<sup>4</sup> Find more on youth demands related to the Kigali Amendment and climate action under the *Section II, Sub-section 1: Climate Change* of the [Global Youth Declaration on the Environment](#) at [https://www.cymgenv.net/files/ugd/b938c6\\_b9814ac1da2b4ce6bf231023f6481800.pdf](https://www.cymgenv.net/files/ugd/b938c6_b9814ac1da2b4ce6bf231023f6481800.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2024: <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2024>

## WHAT'S NEXT?

As climate action intensifies globally, the role of youth in the green cooling sector emerges as critical for achieving meaningful environmental and social outcomes. At the recent Youth Forum on Climate Protection, participants emphasized that sustainable cooling is not only a technological transition but also a social necessity, particularly in regions most vulnerable to climate impacts. Youth leadership is central to this shift, with calls to integrate sustainable cooling practices directly into national climate policies. Participants outlined a roadmap that places youth at the forefront, envisioning them as champions of awareness campaigns on energy efficiency and as skilled practitioners of green jobs within the cooling and refrigeration sectors. The potential for future UNEP-supported youth forums was highlighted, aiming to deepen climate education, develop technical skills, and establish platforms for youth to influence climate policy with a focus on sustainable cooling.

Building on these discussions, the forum recommended engaging youth in practical initiatives like localized cooling projects and circular economy programs. Specific training in refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) that aligns with the Kigali Amendment was proposed as a foundation for youth involvement, emphasizing the need for skills in natural refrigerants and efficient energy systems. Notably, youth were encouraged to support the universal ratification of the Kigali Amendment by 2026, with an understanding that the amendment is essential for a phased reduction in high-GWP (global warming potential) refrigerants. These initiatives would equip youth to work within the evolving cooling industry, addressing both immediate needs and long-term climate goals. Through these targeted programs, young people can contribute to global climate targets by reducing emissions and energy demands in the cooling sector, while also building resilience in their communities. The shift toward sustainable practices in cooling would also generate green jobs, creating pathways for youth to contribute actively to environmental solutions.

Such ambitious objectives require coordinated support from government bodies, international organizations, and private sector stakeholders. By working closely with partners and other relevant organizations/institutions, youth advocates can access critical resources, mentorship, and technological insights to bring their climate goals to fruition. The forum concluded that multi-stakeholder collaborations will be essential in providing youth with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to make sustainable cooling a mainstream component of climate action. Through sustained partnerships and resource sharing, young leaders can drive forward a greener cooling sector that meets both present and future needs for a sustainable planet, with universal commitment to the Kigali Amendment as a landmark milestone on this path.

