



Confluence 4 Peace #C4P

Impact Report

8th Beyond the Youth, 2023



YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Impact Report – Confluence 4 Peace (C4P)

Introduction

Youth General Assembly is an autonomous assembly that has been formed in order to provide a credible platform that instigates a true sense of policy & strategy making, equitable administration and non-customary legislative, public speaking and social issues by empowering enthusiasm in youth for being the future ambassadors and democrats. Nurturing critical thinking among young people is at the core of the assembly's activities to broaden their perspectives about understanding true democracy. Youth General Assembly's activities are true example of grassroots movements contributing to the top-level political changes in the country both in the short term via advocacy and in the long term via training next generation of political leaders and ambassadors. **Every year, Youth General Assembly recruits around one thousand ambitious members across Pakistan. Till now, we have 8000 alumni and more than 1000 active members.**

Beyond the Youth (BTY) is a flagship event of the Youth General Assembly. This event helps enable young, future, policy and strategy makers to come forward and showcase their leadership qualities. BTY provides a platform for the youth to present their ideas and policies which could serve to eradicate the socio-economic problems in the country. BTY congregates vibrant youth, visionary politicians, and esteemed experts to discuss and ignite change on impactful topics. **Climate change and peacebuilding remained the most discussed topics in the country last year and therefore, we introduced a new segment to BTY i.e., "Confluence 4 Peace"**

Confluence 4 Peace, organized as one of the sub-segments of BTY, intended to engage young people in developing peace-building dialogues, roadmaps, bridges, and strategies centered around climate change. **Confluence 4 Peace helped young in identification of the conciliation benefits, as climate change is already affecting the entire region, with no borders attached.**

As future generations stand to bear greater consequences, we have thus endeavored to unite young people and adolescents, placing emphasis on the shared cultural heritage of the South Asian region. We aimed to cultivate the next generation of change agents, dedicated to fostering collaborative initiatives, exchanging ideas, and actively involving themselves with local governance. Through these efforts, they will become the catalysts for peacebuilding, endeavoring to overcome and mitigate the challenges posed by climate change.

We have achieved notable success in realizing the objectives of our pilot project, prompting the creation of this impact report to underscore the significant outcomes of the C4P project in alignment with its goals. **It's important to reiterate that the overarching aim of the project was not to dictate what young people should think, but rather to encourage critical thinking about the world they inhabit.**

Best,
Youth General Assembly

Pilot Project's Outline & Overview

The pilot project was structured around three basic aspects, corresponding to each activity in “Confluence 4 Peace” program. These key aspects are easily digestible and prepared in consultation with young people from Pakistan (members of YGA). These key aspects are designed for adolescents and young people between the age of (16-25) and can be easily modified and scaled in different contexts.

1. Conflict is an inherent part of the human condition-how it is related to climate change.

Conflict is a natural element of human existence and, as such, an inseparable part of any democratic society. Conflicts are complex and linked to various aspects of our society and environment. The hallmark of a prosperous democratic society lies in its ability to directly confront and manage conflict, skillfully embracing and overseeing differences of opinion and dissent among its populace. This aspect of the toolkit covers the basic understanding of the conflict and how conflicts can be linked to climate change as an issue.

2. Geographies susceptible to the climate induced conflicts and commonalities between them.

Climate induced conflicts have the tendency to escalate into violent conflicts specially for the countries engaged in cold conflicts. Therefore, it is important to identify the geographies susceptible to the climate induced conflict around the country (in South Asia). Furthermore, it is important to identify the commonalities between these countries e.g., shared culture, youth bulge, climate related projects. Whether on a personal or an international level, peace is possible when parties in conflict with one another use peacebuilding tools to manage their disagreement. Disagreements can be best managed when we start with focusing on commonalities and building trust.

3. Leveraging the power of commonalities to deal with the climate induced conflicts – talking about the future.

It is important to focus on how young people can be peacebuilders by focusing on the future actions/plans/ideas. It is important to create a linkage between commonalities among the nations in the South Asian region and climate induced conflict management. How can we change the future?

Key Activities:

In line with the above-mentioned aspects, the key activities/events in the pilot projects included:

- Activity 1: Defining the Climate Induced Conflict
- Activity 2: Identifying Geographies & Commonalities
- Activity 3: Reshaping the Future
- Activity 4: Policy Competition.

Key Objectives:

The objectives of the project are:

- **Knowledge & Perspective Exchange** - To develop a program and platform to engage youth and allow them to gain capacity and exchange perspective on climate induced conflicts;
- **Dissemination to the Grassroots** - To mobilize capacity and exchange of perspectives, among young people, on climate induced conflicts and urgency of the issue;

- **Policy Implications** - To evaluate the effectiveness of the designed program and platform on youth’s capacity building and their motivation to engage in action, dissemination and policy conversations related to climate induced conflicts in South Asia.

Evaluation Metrics:

Aligned with the core objectives of the project, evaluation metrics and indicators were developed. An online survey, tailored to these indicators, was created, and distributed to all 224 project participants following the event and 188 participants participated in the survey. The evaluation framework is presented in Table 1 for reference.

Table 1. Evaluation Framework – Confluence 4 Peace

Goal	Metric	Indicators
Exchanging Knowledge & Perspectives	Awareness & Perspective Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The of knowledge on climate induced conflicts, the urgency of the issue • Exchange of perspective aligned to each activity
Dissemination - Grassroots	Engagement & Intentions to Disseminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries highlighted in the dissemination pledge form • Number of participants showing commitment to the cause • Number of participants engaging
Policy Implications	Initiative Drive Policy Conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of policy recommendations • Perception of engaged/invited politicians

Visual Highlights:



Impact

This section delves into the impact of the "Confluence 4 Peace" pilot project, which attracted 224 participants aged between 18 and 24. This age group is particularly well-suited to engage in discussions about peace and conflicts, especially through the lens of climate change—a topic often not extensively covered in their academic curriculum. Moreover, the effects of climate change have been observed firsthand by many young people in South Asia. "Confluence 4 Peace" offers them a platform to bridge their practical experiences with the long-term peace-related ramifications, aligning with scientific principles. The pilot project empowered young people to identify ways through which they can contribute to addressing climate related challenges.

Exchanging Knowledge & Perspectives

Among the total survey participants (n=188), a significant majority of 81%¹ mentioned that they have gained a good understanding of climate-induced conflicts including their root causes, and the susceptibility of different regions to such conflicts. This data is illustrated in Figure 1.

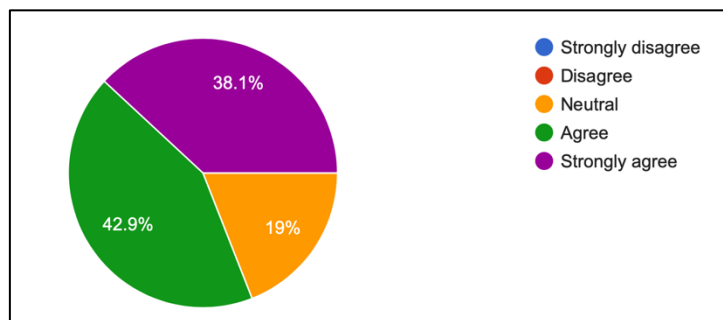


Figure 1: Percentage of participants who gained a good understanding of climate-induced conflicts and underlying causes (81% = 42.9% + 38.1%)

Furthermore, all participants either agreed (66.7%) or strongly agreed (33.3%) on the critical importance and urgency of taking action to address climate change, recognizing its potential to escalate latent conflicts into violent ones. This insight is visualized in Figure 2.

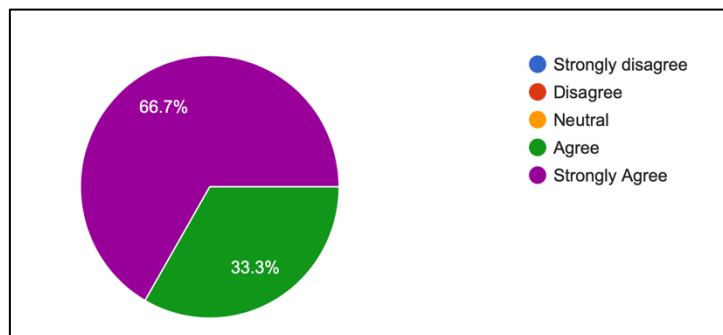


Figure 2: Percentage of participants who understood the importance and urgency of taking action to address climate change.

¹ Figure corresponds to participants who selected agreed or strongly agreed in their survey responses.

Most of the participants (91%) concurred that the discussions held during all activities were productive. Additionally, 95.2% of the participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to gain new perspectives regarding climate induced conflicts throughout the workshop. For more information, refer to Figure 3.

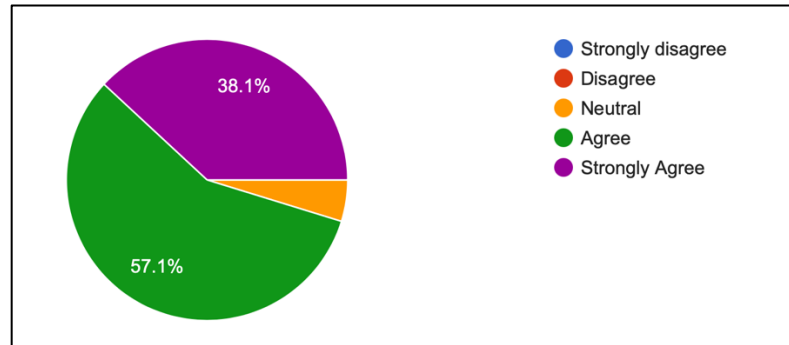


Figure 3: Percentage of participants who gained new perspectives on climate-induced conflicts during the workshop.

Dissemination

Majority of the participants (90.5%) expressed their intention to share the knowledge and perspectives acquired during the workshop within their community or network, both in their professional and personal capacities. Among them, 52.4% pledged² to disseminate this capacity to 10-50 individuals, while 23.8% committed to mobilizing it among 200 or more people within their community or network (see figure 4).

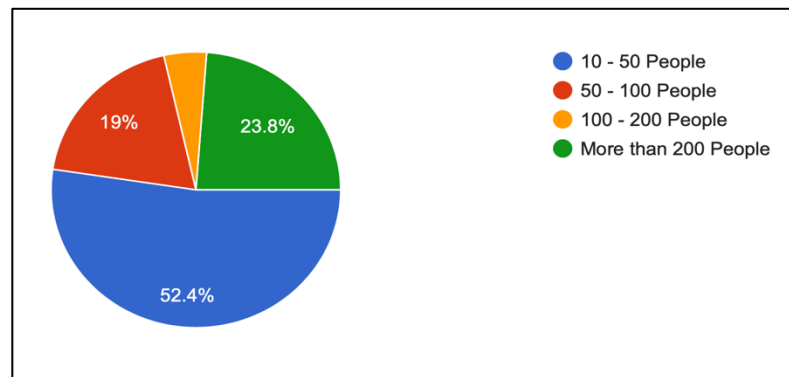


Figure 4: Percentage of participants who showed the intentions and pledged to disseminate the knowledge and perspectives gained during the workshop among number of people in their community/network.

Policy Implications

The group work during the workshop allowed the participants to discuss the topic at length and a significant majority of the participants, 90.5%, reported that they formulated an action plan or policy recommendation following the workshop, as illustrated in figure 5.

² Pledge forms were signed by the participants.

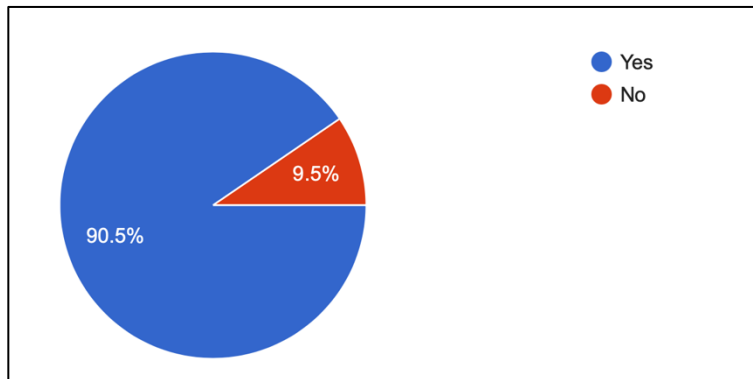


Figure 5: Percentage of participants who formulated an action plan or policy recommendation after the workshop.

The main themes of policies/action plans discussed and presented in the context of Pakistan are listed as follows:

- **Reforestation and Afforestation:** Officials should launch large-scale reforestation and afforestation programs to increase forest cover and carbon sequestration. This could involve incentivizing tree planting initiatives, protecting existing forests from deforestation, and promoting sustainable forest management practices.
- **Water Conservation and Management:** Develop policies to improve water conservation and management practices, particularly in water-stressed areas. This could involve promoting water-saving technologies in agriculture and industry, implementing water pricing mechanisms to incentivize conservation, and investing in water infrastructure projects.
- **Renewable Energy Promotion:** Government should implement policies to incentivize the development and adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. This could include subsidies for renewable energy projects, tax incentives for renewable energy investments, and streamlined permitting processes for renewable energy infrastructure.
- **Waste Management and Recycling:** Policies should be implemented to improve waste management and promote recycling and composting initiatives. This could include establishing waste collection and recycling facilities, implementing waste segregation programs, and imposing penalties for illegal dumping.
- **Public Transportation Expansion:** Investments in the expansion and improvement of public transportation infrastructure to reduce reliance on private vehicles and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. This could involve building new mass transit systems, upgrading existing public transportation networks, and promoting non-motorized transport options such as cycling and walking.
- **Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Implement policies to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices such as conservation agriculture, crop diversification, and water-saving technologies. This could include providing training and support to farmers, subsidizing climate-resilient seeds and inputs, and investing in irrigation infrastructure.
- **Climate Adaptation Planning:** Integrate climate change considerations into national and local planning processes to enhance resilience to climate impacts. This could include conducting climate risk assessments, mainstreaming climate adaptation into development plans and policies, and establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events.

- **Climate Education and Awareness:** Each national of country should be aware of climate change and its consequences. Government should integrate climate change education into school curriculum and public awareness campaigns to build public understanding of climate issues and foster behavior change. This could involve developing educational materials, organizing workshops and training sessions, and leveraging media and social media platforms to disseminate information.

The main themes of policies/action plans discussed and presented in the context of South Asian region are listed as follows:

- **Joint Research and Development Initiatives:** Collaborate with regional partners on joint research and development initiatives to develop climate-resilient technologies and solutions tailored to the specific needs of South Asian countries. This could involve partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, and private sector firms to innovate in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, water management, and disaster resilience.
- **Regional Climate Resilience Fund:** Advocate for the establishment of a regional climate resilience fund, jointly financed by South Asian countries and international donors, to support adaptation and resilience-building projects in the region. This fund could provide grants, loans, and technical assistance for initiatives such as climate-resilient infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, and community-based adaptation, benefiting all countries in the region.
- **South Asian Climate Diplomacy Forum:** Establish a South Asian climate diplomacy forum to facilitate dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on climate change issues among governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in the region. By promoting mutual understanding, trust, and collaboration on climate-related challenges, Pakistan can build stronger diplomatic relationships with neighboring countries and reduce the risk of conflicts over climate change impacts and responses.
- **Transboundary Water Management Agreements:** Work with India, Afghanistan, and China to negotiate and implement transboundary water management agreements for shared rivers such as the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Kabul rivers. These agreements could outline mechanisms for equitable water allocation, data sharing, and joint infrastructure development to mitigate water-related conflicts exacerbated by climate change.
- **Regional Climate Action Plan:** Develop a comprehensive regional climate action plan in collaboration with South Asian countries, outlining specific goals, targets, and timelines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience, and promoting sustainable development. This plan could be based on a thorough assessment of each country's climate vulnerabilities, priorities, and capacities.
- **Climate Security Dialogue:** Establish a dedicated climate security dialogue mechanism between Pakistan and neighboring countries to address shared concerns about the security implications of climate change, including resource scarcity, migration, and conflict risks. This dialogue could facilitate mutual understanding, trust-building, and cooperation on climate-related security challenges.
- **South Asian Climate Technology Exchange Platform:** Establish a South Asian climate technology exchange platform to facilitate the sharing of innovative technologies, best practices, and lessons learned in climate adaptation and mitigation. This platform could connect researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers across the region, fostering collaboration on technology development, transfer, and deployment to address shared climate challenges.