

LEVERAGING ADAPTATION NETWORK TO EMPOWER EMERGING YOUTH NEGOTIATORS

Report on the Third Adaptation Convening
Under the project 'Scaling the Nexus Approach – Adaptation and Loss & Damage'



Venue: Zoom (Virtual);



Date: 30th October, 2025;



Time: 19.00-20.30

CONTEXT

As part of its ongoing efforts under the initiatives Scaling the Nexus between Adaptation and Loss & Damage (supported by the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group) and Technical Support to Climate Vulnerable Countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), for Addressing Loss and Damage, ICCCAD is advancing the development of the Gobeshona Network on Adaptation and Resilience (GNAR). Conceived as an international, multilateral “network of networks,” GNAR aims to strengthen regional collaboration, evidence generation, and policy engagement while building the capacity of youth and emerging negotiators and bridging the gap between research and negotiation spaces.

This vision directly informed the session titled Leveraging Adaptation Networks to Empower Emerging Youth Negotiators, which explored how such a platform can enable civil society, academia, youth, and development actors to work collectively to shape adaptation and Loss & Damage narratives, while ensuring stronger coordination between knowledge, capacity, and policy influence across scales.

With that in mind, this workshop aimed to engage youth into meaningful discussions and leverage their idea about the job of a negotiators. During the workshop they shared their side of expectation of what they envision from a negotiator and skills they is required for a negotiator to have. Panelists from countries like Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines and Bangladesh working in various sectors of climate action e.g- loss and damage, mitigation, resilience shared their experiences and all appreciated the endeavor taken by ICCCAD. Later this workshop will help incorporate those aspirations while launching the network. This will pave a way to empower youths, the future leaders with negotiation skill and to give them a voice to say their mind in global arena.

The webinar started with Towrin Zaman Raya, Project coordinator of the CECG project introducing the platform and its ambitions. She gave an overall introduction to the project, the platform and work done till now. Later, to break the ice among the participants, she shared a mentimeter link and asked prompts like 'what superpowers do negotiators need?' and 'how they can achieve those superpowers or what factors can strengthen it?'. In which the participants responded quite enthusiastically. 15 participants responded to the superpower question and shared their thoughts on it.



And when asked what type of support and resources they need to acquire those superpowers, the participants responded,



Following these two-energizer question session, panelists of this webinar were invited to share their mind in the next segment.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Sumaiya Binte Selim, Program coordinator, Youth and Gender program, moderated the panelist session. She introduced the panel members, prominent youths working in the discourse of climate action. She set the stage for the youths to share their opinion on how a potential negotiator can be trained and what aspects are needed to bring into consideration.

Farhana Faruk Jhumu (Bangladesh, Mitigation lead, people's climate diplomacy program)

She highlighted the importance of grounding youth engagement in strong technical understanding. She pointed out that while many young people participate as volunteers, they often lack impactful voices in formal negotiation spaces. She appreciated ICCCAD's initiative to involve youth in the technical dimensions of negotiation. According to her, aspiring negotiators must begin with a thorough study of UNFCCC texts, understanding its objectives, structure, and key decisions—such as CMA1 paragraph 4 in mitigation discussions. Beyond documents, she stressed the value of informal learning at UNFCCC negotiations, engaging experienced negotiators in casual spaces like food counters or corridors helps youth “read the room,” understand negotiation dynamics, and gain practical insight. Such exposure, she noted, helps youth balance their roles as activists and negotiators.

Charles Zander Deluna (Philippines, L&D YOUNGO Rep)

He emphasized on the unequal starting points for youth from developing countries. Despite their lived experiences of loss and damage, they often struggle to access negotiation spaces, unlike peers from developed countries who benefit from formal training and institutional support. He reflected on the gap between technical policy language and lived realities, arguing that adaptation is as much about collective survival as it is about science. He viewed the proposed network as a bridge—technical yet ethical, local yet multilateral. He introduced the idea of “ethical literacy”: the ability to understand the human consequences behind policy text. He also emphasized the need for care structures within such networks, including mentorship, safe spaces for debriefing, and regional

Muhammad Fahim Hussain (Bangladesh, Founder of Green Lead)

He presented the adaptation perspective, citing these networks as a source of collective strength and knowledge. He noted that negotiators debate every word, comma, and clause, which makes deep familiarity with UN frameworks e.g. as the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) essential for youth. He defined negotiation as an art that requires both expertise and collaboration, and saw ICCCAD's initiative as a platform to cultivate future negotiators through shared learning and peer exchange.

Shohanur Rahman (Bangladesh, Executive coordinator, YouthNet Global)

He reflected that advocacy alone is insufficient without practical negotiation training and the ability to bring ground realities into formal spaces. He also highlighted the role of media engagement in amplifying youth perspectives and accelerating climate action outcomes.

BREAKOUT ROOM ACTIVITIES

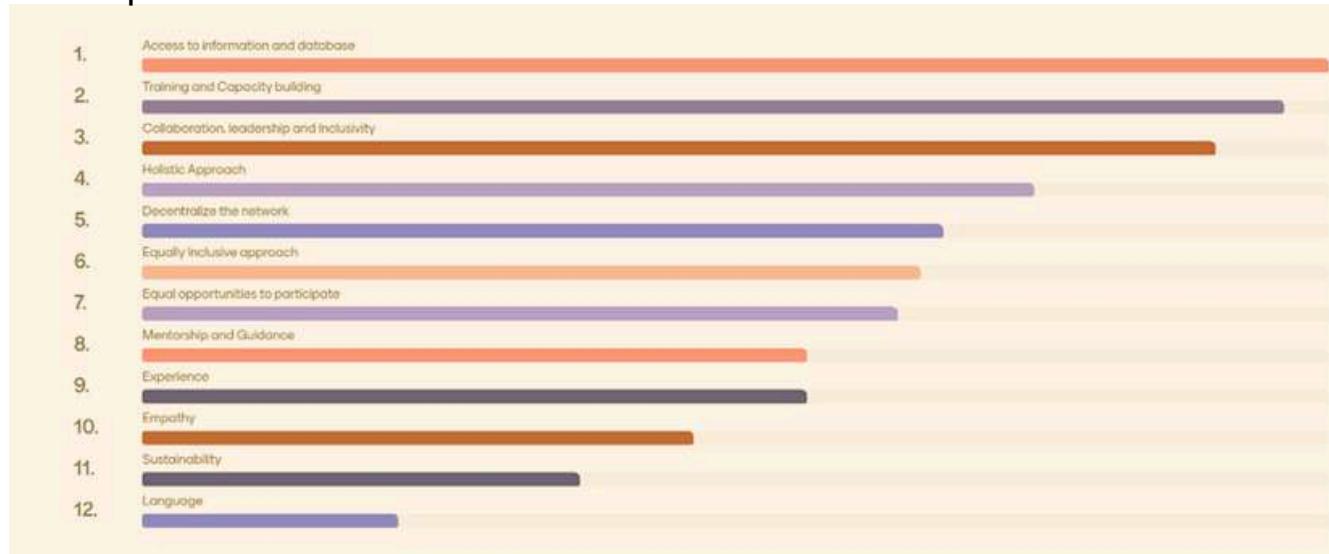
Following the panelist session, the participants were divided in 3 groups and there they engaged in discussion, conducted the activities designed for them and presented them through the Miro Board. The breakout rooms were supervised and conducted by ICCCAD team.

Activity 1: Design Your Dream Support System

The participants discussed among themselves and found the most effective factors that are needed for the network. They provided logic and argued with the most suitable ones. All breakout groups pasted their thoughts in the walls of Miro board. Marimar Rodriguez shared her insights from the break out group 1. She appreciated the mention of inclusivity and collaboration that came when talked about the youth negotiators. She emphasized the need for training and capacity building to strengthen the skills and confidence of members so they can engage, meaningfully in negotiations and collaborations and regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to participate and be heard. She also mentioned decentralization, meaning decision-making should not just come from the top, but also involve local or grassroots voices. More or less these were common factors that also reflected the other break out groups.

Activity 2: Reflection & Prioritization: What Support Matters Most

The participants returned from breakout rooms and presented their findings to the wider group of participants. At this stage everyone again discussed among themselves and prioritized the factors that matters most. The prioritization of the factors are –



Most of the participants agreed to that fact that information and accessibility database is crucial for any negotiators to formulate their debates in international stages. Training and capacity building and collaboration, leadership and inclusivity were two other factors that got the agreement from the youth participants. Many argued very strongly to the decentralization of such platforms so youths who are interested can join through this and pursue their career as negotiators.

With that along, the webinar came to its end. Lastly Towrin Zaman summarized the key findings that came up was capacity building, trainings, and mock negotiations for negotiators to actually build their skills, to evolve their skills, the translation of UNFCCC proceedings were also deemed as important. But before finishing, one last prompt was provided to evaluate what participants would do if they were a network-



The youths here mostly emphasized on synergy, communication, adaptation among other fellow negotiators.

CONCLUSION

In his closing remarks, Saqib Huq, Managing Director of ICCCAD, thanked the youth participants for their active engagement despite time zone differences, travel, and field commitments. He reiterated that mentorship, peer learning, and collaborative networks are essential to preparing emerging negotiators to navigate complex global processes such as the UNFCCC, COP, and other regional and international forums. While these spaces may initially appear intimidating, he noted that guided exposure and community learning can make them more accessible and meaningful for young participants.

He reaffirmed ICCCAD's commitment to creating platforms that connect experienced practitioners with emerging climate leaders to foster knowledge exchange, confidence, and practical skills. Reflecting on recent climate impacts, including Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean, he reminded participants that climate negotiations must remain rooted in the lived realities of people and communities behind the statistics.

He encouraged participants to sustain collaboration beyond COP moments and continue engaging throughout the year to advance adaptation, resilience, and loss-and-damage efforts. The webinar concluded with a shared sense of purpose and optimism that today's youth will play a vital role in shaping more inclusive and humane climate negotiations in the future.