

Youth DeclarACTION

on Zero Waste & Climate Action

A youth-led call to action from the Zero Waste Forum 2026 — on the road to **COP31 in Antalya, November 2026** and beyond.

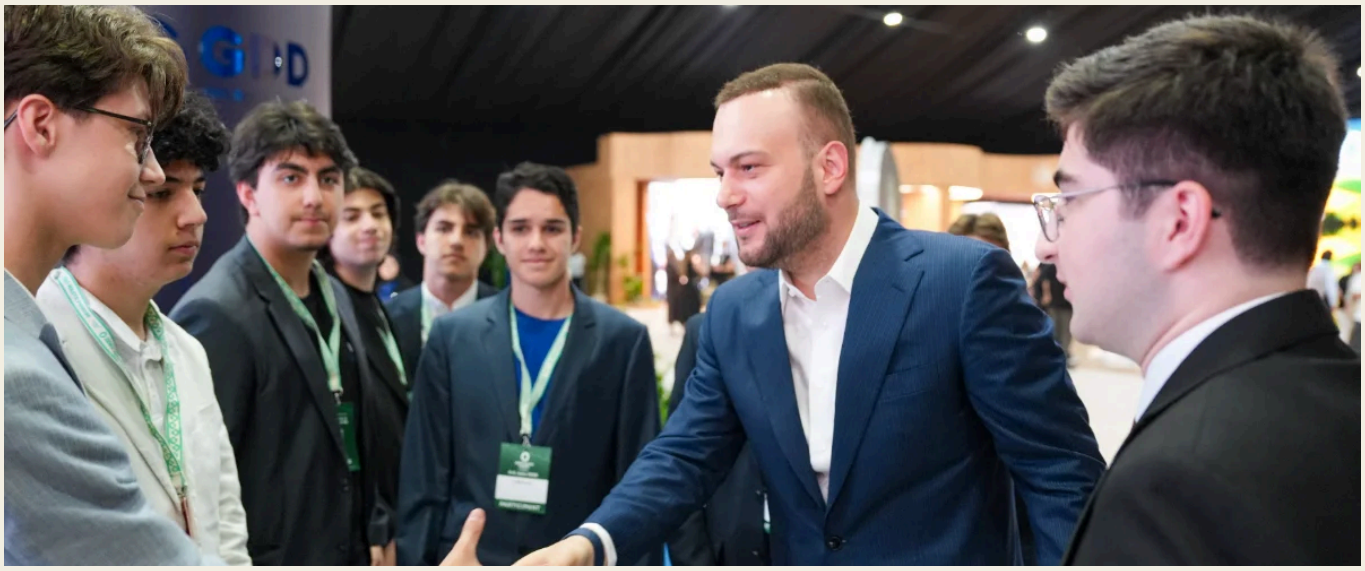
Organized by **Genç Diplomasi Derneği** (Youth Diplomacy Association)
In partnership with the **Zero Waste Foundation** & the COP31 High-Level Climate Champion's Office

ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE · 6 JUNE 2026 ADOPTED BY ZWF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AND AGENCIES

FOREWORD

Diplomacy for all, not for the few

GENÇ DIPLOMASI DERNEĞI



The world is facing increasingly severe ecological challenges with each passing day. As young people, we have a responsibility to act today so that we are not forced to bear the consequences of these challenges tomorrow. Climate change and sustainability are no longer solely environmental concerns; they have become central to international cooperation and global solidarity.

As the Youth Diplomacy Association, guided by our motto, "Diplomacy for All, Not for the Few," we believe that young people should not only participate in discussions on global issues but also contribute to shaping their solutions. The Youth Session, organized as part of the Zero Waste Forum, is a reflection of this vision — and emerging from it is the Youth Zero Waste Climate Action Network.

Bringing together young people from around the world, the platform provided a space to exchange ideas on climate change and zero waste, develop policy recommendations, and collaboratively draft a declaration. Participants also engaged directly with policymakers and representatives of international organizations, ensuring that youth perspectives became part of the broader conversation. As the world moves towards COP31 Antalya, this initiative represents an important step in strengthening the role of young people in global climate action.

We hope this publication reflects the collective commitment of young people to building a more sustainable future, and we extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to making this platform possible.

We wish to thank **Mr.Samed Ağırbaş**, President of the Zero Waste Foundation and COP31 High-Level Climate Champion, for his visionary leadership, and the staff and advisors of the Zero Waste Foundation whose commitment ensured that young people's engagement was meaningful and carried forward onto the road to COP31.

"The greatest challenges facing the world today are not limited to climate change. We cannot speak of true global justice while millions continue to face hunger, lack access to electricity, and live in poverty."

SAMED AĞIRBAŞ – CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA ROUNDTABLE, BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Background & Contents

80 DELEGATES
3 COMMISSIONS



BACKGROUND

This DeclarACTION is the product of a structured process of deliberation, drafting, and academic review. Eighty selected delegates from the GDD and youth international delegates worked across three thematic commissions — moving from problem identification to concrete recommendations under the guidance of experienced facilitators.

The outputs of each commission were brought together into a single collective text and presented to an academic consultation panel, which reviewed the consolidated draft for analytical rigour, evidence grounding, and alignment with current policy frameworks. We thank **Hilde van Dijon** and **Samuel Rigu** for their thoughtful review and guidance.

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I

COMMISSION I

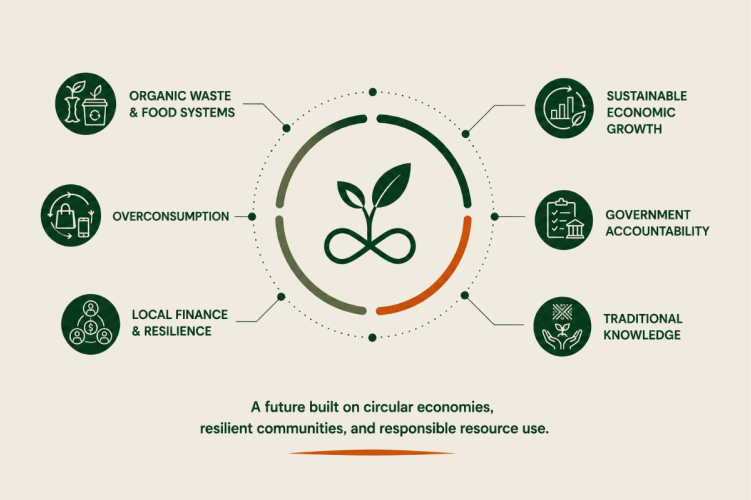
Circular Economy & Economic Transformation



The transition to a circular economy has become a key priority for achieving sustainable development and long-term economic resilience. Traditional linear economic models, based on excessive consumption and continuous waste generation, place increasing pressure on natural resources and economic systems. A circular economy promotes resource efficiency, innovation, and sustainable growth while reducing environmental impacts.

Young people have an important role in shaping this transformation through leadership, innovation, and active participation. Recognizing this responsibility, the participants of the Circular Economy and Economic Transformation Commission present the following declaration.

Identified Challenges



01 **Organic Waste & Food System Inefficiency**
Organic waste occurs across the entire value chain — production and distribution, not only households and restaurants. Food waste is closely tied to global hunger and food security. Surplus and discarded organic material that could nourish people, sustain livestock, or restore soils is too often lost rather than recovered.

02 **Disproportionate Overconsumption**
Global resources continue to be consumed at unsustainable rates. Consumption has become a marker of social status, while the frequent replacement of functional products generates avoidable material and electronic waste. This culture of constant acquisition accelerates resource depletion.

03 **Centralized Funding & Energy Systems**
The lack of fair distribution and clear regulation of financial resources limits the growth of local circular economy initiatives. Highly centralized funding structures and energy systems reduce local autonomy, slow the flow of resources to communities, and weaken regional resilience.

04 **Growth vs. Environmental Sustainability**
Short-term economic models frequently conflict with environmental objectives. Achieving genuine sustainability requires long-term growth that decouples prosperity from resource extraction and waste generation.

05 **Weak Government Accountability**
Many governments lack sufficient accountability mechanisms for implementing circular economy and sustainability policies. Without transparent monitoring and enforceable, sector-specific obligations, commitments often fail to translate into measurable real-world progress.

06 **Overlooked Traditional Knowledge**
Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge systems are frequently overlooked in circular economy and food-system planning. They carry valuable practices for composting, nutrient recovery, soil restoration, and community governance — essential for resilient, low-carbon, zero-waste communities.

COMMISSION I · CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Recommendations & Commitments



01 **Community-Led Circular Food Systems**
Governments should redirect surplus food to people, livestock, and healthy soils; support local composting, nutrient recovery, and soil restoration; and address organic waste at production and distribution levels to combat hunger and strengthen food security.

02 **Decentralize & Localize Resources**
Decentralize funds through community financial mechanisms and local loan hubs; establish government intermediaries for fair distribution and regulation; and decentralize energy grids to strengthen local resilience, autonomy, and access.

03 **Reduce Overconsumption**
Detach social status from constant consumption and recognize resource efficiency as a shared value; extend the use of functional products rather than replacing them; and raise public awareness of sustainable consumption and responsible production.

04 **Strengthen Accountability**
Set up clear monitoring and reporting systems for circular economy policies; publish regular, publicly accessible reports; and involve youth, civil society, academia, and the private sector in reviewing policies.

05 **Enforceable, Sector-Specific Policy**
Implement real-world policies businesses are required to follow; develop sector-specific regulations aligned with circular economy principles; and promote long-term sustainable growth as the foundation for lasting environmental sustainability.

06 **Incorporate Traditional Knowledge**
Recognize Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge as essential to resilient, low-carbon communities; integrate it into circular solutions; and invest in our shared future through climate mitigation, waste reduction, and just food systems.

> *We reaffirm our commitment to sustainable economic transformation through innovation, cooperation, and responsible resource management – and call upon governments, businesses, civil society, and young people to build a more resilient, circular future for all.*

II

COMMISSION II

Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Waste generation, unsustainable consumption, and unequal access to green innovation have emerged as defining challenges of the twenty-first century. Rapid population growth, the proliferation of non-biodegradable materials, and corporate practices disconnected from environmental accountability continue to strain planetary boundaries and deepen existing inequalities.

Young people remain systematically underrepresented in the decisions that shape sustainability outcomes, despite being among those most directly affected. Empowering youth as present-day innovators, advocates, and leaders is essential. Recognizing this, the participants of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Commission present the following declaration.

"As the COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion, my focus is on elevating the voices of those children and young people leading action on climate change in their communities. This includes a focus on elevating the innovation, creativity and resilience of young people in our agriculture sector and the critical role they play in ensuring the resilience of our food systems."

SALLY HIGGINS – COP31 PRESIDENCY YOUTH CLIMATE CHAMPION

Identified Challenges



01 **Structural Barriers to Youth Innovation**
Young people are disproportionately affected by sustainability challenges yet frequently excluded from the decisions meant to address them. Despite the largest youth population in human history, they face barriers of visibility, representation, and credibility that limit their role as actors in sustainability systems.

02 **Limited Access to Funding & Mentorship**
Meaningful innovation requires education, technology, connectivity, and financial support — resources that are not equitably distributed. Rural and underserved communities often lack reliable internet, while high energy costs, scarce mentorship, and the absence of community input reduce the reach of locally relevant innovation.

03 **Low Corporate Awareness**
The emissions and waste of widely operating corporations remain disproportionately high, driven in part by low employee awareness of environmental practices and limited organizational commitment to waste reduction and resource efficiency.

04 **Inaccessible Sustainable Alternatives**
Biodegradable and eco-friendly products are often unavailable in smaller towns and rural areas, and their higher cost limits uptake. As a result, many consumers continue to rely on non-biodegradable products, increasing environmental pollution.

05 **Unequal Distribution of Benefits**
The benefits of innovation remain unevenly distributed. Projects developed without local input generate lower engagement and reduced effectiveness, ensuring the communities most in need of sustainable solutions are often the last to benefit from them.

06 **Rising Waste from Population Growth**
With a global population exceeding eight billion, waste generation has become one of the most urgent environmental challenges. Finding effective pathways to reduce waste and promote sustainable consumption is essential for protecting resources for coming generations.

COMMISSION II · INNOVATION

Recommendations & Commitments



01 **Scale Youth-Led Initiatives**
Support young people in creating scalable solutions; increase youth access to investment and financial opportunities; and foster partnerships that enable youth innovations to be replicated across regions and countries.

02 **Youth Inclusion in Decision-Making**
Each country should ensure youth representation in relevant UN processes; establish international youth consultation mechanisms on global sustainability; and integrate sustainability education into school curricula from an early age.

03 **Corporate Accountability & Training**
Ministries of environment should designate qualified environmental experts at city level to deliver sustainability training to corporations and conduct regular compliance reviews, with findings published after each inspection.

04 **Make Alternatives Accessible**
Governments should incentivize uptake of biodegradable and eco-friendly products through reward programs, tax reductions, and cashback schemes, making sustainable alternatives financially accessible to a broader population.

05 **Bridge the Innovation Access Gap**
Expand access to funding, mentorship, and digital education in rural and underserved communities. Solutions should be co-developed with local communities and designed to be both locally relevant and globally scalable.

06 **Hold Corporations Accountable**
Require corporations to make sustainable options more accessible; transition product materials toward eco-friendly alternatives; and develop policies that phase out the production of non-biodegradable products.

> *Meaningful progress requires dismantling the structural barriers to education, technology, funding, and representation. Through accountability, collaboration, and scalable entrepreneurship, we call for a future in which sustainable alternatives are accessible to all.*

III

COMMISSION III

Zero Waste, Sustainable Systems & Energy Transition



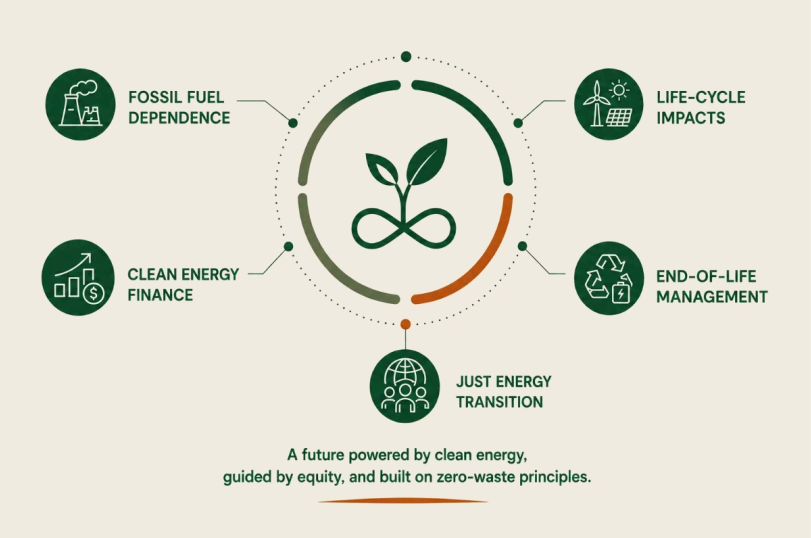
The global transition toward sustainable energy and zero-waste systems has become one of the defining governance challenges of our time. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels and building circular resource systems requires comprehensive restructuring of infrastructure, financing, and political frameworks across all levels of governance.

The path to a climate-secure future is not a simple technical exercise; it involves profound economic, ethical, and logistical tensions that must be navigated with equity and realism. The transition will not deliver its potential if it generates new waste, deepens inequalities, or leaves exposed communities without affordable, reliable energy. Recognizing this, the participants present the following declaration.

"Decarbonize the demand. Make energy use more efficient. Build the grids and storage. Increase the use and production of sustainable fuels. That is the transition—and it is already improving people's daily lives: through the cars they drive, the systems powering their homes, lower energy bills, cleaner air, and reduced energy waste."

SAMED AĞIRBAŞ & DAN IOSCHPE – THE KOREA TIMES, "ACTION AGENDA CAN HELP ASIA SCALE ITS ENERGY TRANSITION," 24 APRIL 2026

Identified Challenges



01 Persistent Dependence on Fossil Fuels

The global energy system remains heavily dependent on finite fossil fuels, sustained by entrenched industrial infrastructure, transportation systems, and investment structures that continue to favour carbon-intensive sources over sustainable alternatives.

02 Life-Cycle Impacts of Renewables

Renewable systems significantly reduce operational emissions but are not without cost across their life cycle. Manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries requires intensive extraction of materials such as cobalt and lithium, generating emissions and ecological disruption.

03 Insufficient Clean-Energy Financing

The current cost advantage of fossil fuels continues to constrain investment in clean alternatives. Financing for sustainable energy projects remains scarce, particularly for communities in the global south and regions with limited access to international capital markets.

04 End-of-Life Renewable Components

Turbine blades, solar panels, and battery cells are difficult or impossible to recycle with current technologies. Without enforceable extended producer responsibility, these materials risk a new wave of hazardous waste — undermining the zero-waste principles transitions should embody.

05 Inequitable Distribution of Transition Costs

Countries do not begin from the same starting point. Developing regions bear the greatest burden of climate impacts while contributing least to cumulative emissions. Without differentiated policies and targeted support, costs and benefits will be inequitably distributed.

COMMISSION III · ENERGY TRANSITION

Recommendations & Commitments



01 International Energy Transition Fund
A global fund financed by governments, institutions, and the private sector — operating with full transparency, publishing annual reports, and prioritizing access for developing regions.

02 Differentiated Transition Models
Transition plans developed per country's starting conditions and resources. Annual intergovernmental meetings should publish trackable, publicly accessible, adequately funded plans.

03 Cooperation with Historical Accountability
Developed countries should acknowledge their disproportionate share of cumulative emissions — contributing beyond minimum obligations, sharing technology, and providing expert support.

04 Pre-Approval Environmental Assessment
Governments should adopt pre-approval research frameworks, assigning qualified environmental engineers to assess ecological impacts — particularly mining — before project approval.

05 Resilience & Emergency Planning
Invest in backup storage and green hydrogen reserves and diversify energy sources to reduce crisis vulnerability. Long-term protections must hold during emergencies, supported by international coordination.

06 Extended Producer Responsibility
Hold manufacturers legally and financially responsible for end-of-life management of renewable products, incentivizing design for recyclability and reuse in line with zero-waste principles.

07 The Role of Nuclear Energy
Nuclear offers significant generation capacity without direct CO_2 emissions and warrants inclusion in energy-diversity discussions — with heavy regulation and proactive risk management as non-negotiable conditions.

> *A just, effective, zero-waste energy transition is possible. It requires political will, equitable financing, and governance that ensures no community is left to absorb the costs of a transition they did not cause.*

ACTION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Commitments & Requests

COMMISSIONS
I & II



COMMISSION	YOUTH COMMITMENTS	REQUESTS TO GOVERNMENTS
I **Circular Economy & Economic Transformation**	• Advocate for circular food systems that reduce organic waste — a key methane and climate lever. • Champion resource efficiency and circular consumption as shared social values. • Incorporate traditional and Indigenous knowledge into local circular and climate solutions. • Track and publicly report our own progress on waste, food systems, and climate.	• Commit to community-led circular food systems; treat organic waste as a climate & food-security priority. • Decentralize funding and energy systems to strengthen local resilience. • Establish enforceable, sector-specific policies with transparent monitoring and youth participation. • Recognize and integrate Indigenous knowledge into climate-aligned waste and food planning. • Support the establishment of youth-led programmes such as the Upcycling Innovation Hubs.
II **Innovation & Entrepreneurship**	• Develop and scale youth-led climate innovations, prioritizing rural and underserved access. • Apply consumer pressure and direct corporate engagement for sustainable practices. • Build international youth networks for green entrepreneurship and replication. • Advocate for youth as structural decision-makers — not consultees — in governance.	• Guarantee equitable youth representation in climate decision-making at COP 31. • Mandate corporate accountability for emissions and waste via enforceable standards. • Expand equitable access to financing, mentorship, digital infrastructure, and education. • Incentivize the shift to biodegradable, low-carbon products; phase out non-biodegradables.

Commitments & Requests



COMMISSION	YOUTH COMMITMENTS	REQUESTS TO GOVERNMENTS
III **Zero Waste, Sustainable Systems & Energy Transition**	• Advocate for just, differentiated transition policies reflecting unequal starting conditions. • Support transparency and accountability in international climate finance and transition funds. • Promote zero-waste principles — including scrutiny of renewables' full life-cycle impacts. • Engage publics on energy diversity with accurate, accessible, evidence-based information.	• Establish a transparently governed International Energy Transition Fund with priority for developing regions. • Adopt differentiated national transition plans, inclusively developed and publicly tracked. • Require pre-approval environmental assessment for renewable projects, including mining. • Implement extended producer responsibility for renewable-energy components. • Maintain environmental protections during energy crises; invest in diversified sources. • Developed countries must honour historical responsibility through finance, technology, and expertise.

DeclarACTION on Zero Waste & Climate Action

Created by the participants of the Youth Session, Zero Waste Forum 2026. Organized by Genç Diplomasi Derneği in partnership with the Zero Waste Foundation & the COP31 High-Level Climate Champion's Office.

ISTANBUL · 6 JUNE 2026
ROAD TO COP31, ANTALYA

ANNEX A

Organizations & Programmes Represented

38
ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTED

- Genç Diplomasi Derneği
- Accept International (Kenya)
- The Ashley Lashley Foundation
- Centre for Environmental Sustainability
- Children and Youth Major Group — UNEP
- COP31 High-Level Climate Champion's Office
- COP31 Youth Climate Champion
- CRFAIR
- Empower Youth Movement
- Enkilla Afrocouture
- Equa Consulting
- Gatwitch Club (South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya)
- Green Center for Societal Transformation
- Green Hope Foundation
- Growth4Change (Dandora and Mathare)
- Gua Africa
- Hill Plast
- IAAI GloCha
- International Youth Conference
- Lucky Summer Environmental
- Mara Terrazzo
- Mathare Roots Initiative
- Mto Wangu Initiative
- The Mustard Seed
- Nane Experience Community Hub & Library — Kibera
- Obonyo Foundation
- Otavalango Centre
- Student Energy
- Turning Tides Society
- UN-Habitat
- UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board
- UNEP
- Water Is Right Kenya
- Young Champion of the Earth (UNEP)
- YOUNGO
- Youth Climate Council (Sierra Leone)
- Zero Waste Climate Action Network (ZWCAN)
- Zero Waste Foundation Youth Programme

Representation of an organization at the DeclarACTION deliberations does not constitute adoption or endorsement of this declaration by that agency.

ANNEX B

Zero Waste Climate Action Network

Annex B was prepared by the ZWCAN Coordinators.

B1 The Network and Its Mandate

After adopting this DeclarACTION at the Youth Session of the Zero Waste Forum in Istanbul on 6 June 2026, delegates and partners formed the Zero Waste Climate Action Network (ZWCAN) to put its recommendations into practice. The Network seeks to support and scale up local action by youth-led and community organisations in the Global North and Global South that deliver zero waste and food security work.

SERAC-Bangladesh and Turning Tides Society act as Coordinators, with support from Genç Diplomasi Derneği. The Zero Waste Foundation and the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion's Office provide administrative and programmatic support. Members aim to formalise ZWCAN as a non-governmental organisation by COP31.

ZWCAN runs two core programmes:

- **Upcycling Innovation Hubs:** youth-led enterprises that turn discarded material into products and income.
- **Leave No One Behind Food Security Initiative:** food hubs that move surplus food to people and return organics to soil, coordinated through the Youth Food Security Initiative.

Both programmes follow two principles:

- **Diversity.** Members come from informal settlements, rural communities, schools and cities on four continents, and women and young people hold leadership roles.
- **Indigenous perspective.** Indigenous knowledge holders shape programme design. Currently, Maasai, Kichwa Otavalo and First Nations communities lead parts of this work.

B2 How ZWCAN Implements the DeclarACTION

DECLARACTION COMMITMENT	PROGRAMME	DELIVERY
I.01 Community-Led Circular Food Systems	Leave No One Behind Food Security Initiative	Food hubs send surplus to people first, then to livestock and soil
I.02 Decentralize & Localize Resources	Both	Each hub is locally governed and funded through crowdfunding, sales and community finance
I.03 Reduce Overconsumption	Upcycling Hubs	Discarded textiles, glass and plastics return to the market as products
I.06 Incorporate Traditional Knowledge	Both	Maasai, Kichwa Otavalo and First Nations knowledge holders lead design
II.01 Scale Youth-Led Initiatives	Upcycling Hubs	The Kenyan model is being adapted in Ghana and Ecuador
II.05 Bridge the Innovation Access Gap	Both	Training, equipment and markets reach informal settlements, rural areas and schools
Youth commitment: track and publicly report progress	Both	Shared metrics, reported at COP31 (B5)

Programme 1: Upcycling Innovation Hubs

KENYA · GHANA · ECUADOR

The model. An Upcycling Innovation Hub is a youth-led enterprise that turns discarded material into products, income and local business. Each hub provides training, equipment and access to markets, and the community it serves runs it. Hubs start from their community's own craft and add recovered material to it. Crowdfunding and sales fund each hub from the start, reducing reliance on one-off grants.

Kenya Upcycling Innovation Hub (founding hub). Sponsored by the COP31 Climate High-Level Champion's Office, the Hub came out of the Zero Waste Forum. There, youth-led organisations from Nairobi's informal settlements (Mto Wangu Initiative in Mathare and Nane Experience in Kibera) partnered with an Indigenous Maasai enterprise (Enkilla Afrocouture in the Maasai Mara). Each partner contributes its own strengths: young people in Nairobi bring urban recovery networks, and Maasai artisans bring design skills and cultural knowledge. Young people in Nairobi recover the material, Maasai artisans design and finish the products, and both communities share the income. On 3 October 2026, the Hub launched its first collection in the Maasai Mara, made from denim recovered from the Dandora dumpsite and the Mathare River.

Ghana: Centre for Sustainable Transformation (CeST), Accra. CeST runs Eco-Schools Ghana, the E-SPACE pilot in fifteen schools, and Young Reporters for the Environment. Students in these programmes have turned bottles, sachets and plastic bags into desks, brooms, shoes and sandals. A Hub would add an enterprise pathway for students and graduates aged 18 to 25. The proposal is at discussion stage.

Ecuador: Museo Viviente Otavalango, Otavalo. Master artisans at the museum hold and teach the weaving knowledge of the Kichwa Otavalo people, including the callwa backstrap loom. A Hub would bring young weavers into a training and incubation cohort led by these master artisans. Textile offcuts, discarded garments and packaging would enter the workshop alongside traditional fibre, with Kichwa Otavalo design and technique shaping each product. Collective branding and online sales would raise prices above wholesale rates and reach buyers beyond the museum, so young weavers can earn a living from the craft. The proposal is at discussion stage and would be directed by the museum's own governing body, with Lenin Zambrano leading locally.

HUB	COMMUNITY	INDIGENOUS & DIVERSITY FOCUS	STATUS
Kenya	Mathare, Kibera, Maasai Mara	Maasai design; urban and rural youth; women artisans	Launched October 2026
Ghana	Schools in Greater Accra, Eastern Region and north	Students and young graduates	Operational
Ecuador	Kichwa Otavalo, Imbabura	Kichwa Otavalo weaving knowledge	Operational

Programme 2: Leave No One Behind

YOUTH FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

Ensuring access to food, reducing waste and building climate-resilient food systems through youth-led action

The principle. In keeping with the 2030 Agenda, Hubs begin where food insecurity is deepest, starting with informal settlements, flood-affected and displaced communities, and people and families struggling to put healthy food on the table. Each Hub responds to the local causes of exclusion, from conflict and flooding to rising living costs. Young people lead the work, connecting food access, waste reduction and climate resilience where the need is greatest.

Inspiration. Leave No One Behind draws inspiration from regional food security programmes such as the Regional Food Hub in Greater Victoria, Canada. Through the Hub, partners doing food rescue, local farm supply and school meals work together, each contributing their unique skills, relationships and resources. Together they rescue more than 3.5 million pounds of food a year for 84 community agencies, buy from 86 local producers and serve more than 3,000 students every school day. Farms collect inedible food for compost and animal feed, so none of it goes to landfill.

The need. Food insecurity is rising in both the Global North and Global South. In Canada, almost a third of food bank clients this year came for the first time, including double-income families. In Nairobi, about 70% of households face some level of food insecurity, and roughly a quarter face severe food insecurity. Rates in Kibera and Korogocho range from 48% to 85%, and only about one household in five is fully food secure. Residents of informal settlements live on 5 to 6% of the city's residential land.

The model. Each Hub combines six functions, adapted by the community to its own site.

- **Rescue:** collect edible surplus from retailers, markets, farms and events.
- **Aggregate:** pool local farm supply and give small producers a route to market.
- **Transform:** process rescued and local food into meals for schools and institutions.
- **Distribute:** reach households through a hub-and-spoke network of trusted local groups.
- **Train and employ:** offer paid, credentialed work to young people and equity-denied groups.
- **Return to soil:** send inedible organics back to farms as compost, animal feed or natural fertiliser, building living soils.

The anchor organisation varies by site and can be a food bank, a municipality, a cooperative, a youth group or an Indigenous community. Hubs in the Global North focus on rescue and localised circular food systems, while Hubs in the Global South focus on aggregation, cold storage and distribution, because most food there is lost at harvest and in storage.

Partners in the Global South. Youth groups in Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan deliver several of the six functions.

- **LEWMO, Lucky Summer, Nairobi:** a youth-led waste group in a low-income neighbourhood of northeast Nairobi. Trained waste pickers collect food waste from more than 100 households twice a week. Black soldier fly larvae convert it into fertiliser and feed, in a pilot with IITA and Nairobi County.
- **Growth4Change, Dandora and Mathare:** a youth network working in Dandora, home to Nairobi's main dumpsite, and Mathare, where land to grow food is scarce. Members grow vegetables in hydroponic towers built from recycled bottles, then earn income training their neighbours.
- **Youth Climate Council, Sierra Leone:** young people make up 62% of Freetown's urban farmers and run solar cold storage and drying. Food loss fell from 20.6% in 2013 to 12.6% in 2019, and youth food demands are included in Sierra Leone's NDC 3.0.
- **Gatwitch Club, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya:** severe flooding has submerged farmland across South Sudan, leaving families dependent on food aid. Young people grow maize and sorghum on riverbanks as waters recede, and four are training in rice farming in Kisumu, Kenya. Members also test soil and water in oil-producing areas.

Partners in the Global North. Partners in Canada share their own models and commit to learning from programmes in the Global South.

- **Mustard Seed and CRFAIR, Greater Victoria:** food rescue and regional food planning partners share a collaborative regional circular food hub model.
- **Turning Tides Society, Canada:** compost producers, farmers, scientists and Indigenous knowledge keepers work together to return food scraps and farm residues to the land as healthy, living soil. Pilot sites are underway or planned in partnership with Indigenous communities in Canada and communities in Türkiye, guided by the white paper From the Ground Up: Regenerative Farming, Living Soils, and the Climate Intervention We Are Missing.

Indigenous peoples. Each Hub will engage Indigenous peoples, such as the Maasai in Kenya, the Nuer in South Sudan and the shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation in Canada, as partners in design and governance. Indigenous knowledge of land, seed, harvest and preservation will inform each Hub's food and soil practices. Hubs on Indigenous land will follow Indigenous-led priorities and serve traditional foods. In Greater Victoria, the Regional Food Hub supplies a free food market run with four First Nations.

Youth leadership. Young food leaders coordinate Leave No One Behind with communities, farmers, elders and local organisations at each Hub. The work follows the Kampala Principles on Youth-led Development, combining youth leadership with adult and peer mentorship. Together they set goals, share decisions and build the network of Hubs ahead of COP31 in Antalya.

ANNEX B · B5

Results and Road to COP32

2026 · 2027
2030

PROGRAMME	2026 RESULTS	NEXT STEPS TO COP32
Upcycling Innovation Hubs	Kenyan Hub launched; 300 kg of denim recovered; around 20 artisans engaged; profiled by ZWF and the Champion's Office	Complete PBO registration; open first markets; decide on Ghana and Ecuador hubs
Leave No One Behind Food Security Initiative	Six-function model set; Southern partners documented; Caucus revived	Open a first regional hub and three community hubs, including one on Indigenous land; publish a replication guide

PROJECTIONS

INDICATOR	COP32 (2027)	2030
Upcycling hubs	3	8
Material recovered per year	3 tonnes	8 tonnes
Young people earning income	75	200
Food hubs (regional + community)	1 + 3	3 + 15
Food rescued or diverted per year	1,000 tonnes	3,300 tonnes
People reached	32,000 people and 1,500 households	96,000 people and 7,500 households
Emissions avoided per year	950 t CO_2e	3,100 t CO_2e
Young people trained	100	450

Assumptions. Each upcycling hub recovers about 1 tonne a year (three to four collections at launch volume) and engages 25 young people. A regional food hub operates at half the Greater Victoria benchmark, about 800 tonnes a year and 32,000 people. A community food hub reaches 500 households and diverts 60 tonnes a year, which is LEWMO's current target. Each food hub trains 25 young people. Each tonne kept from landfill avoids about 0.95 t CO_2e (US EPA factor, 100-year basis).

Shared metrics. Both programmes will report on material or food recovered, income earned by young people, people trained, and organics returned to soil. Each hub will also report on Indigenous participation and the gender balance of its leadership.

Action Agenda. The COP31 Presidency youth work plan commits to connecting youth-led innovation with Action Agenda programmes. ZWCAN offers both programmes as working examples of that commitment, with results to be presented in Antalya.