



## UNFCCC COP29: "Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions"

Venue: UNFCCC COP29 Blue Zone, Pavilion F8,

Event No. \_

### "Youth and Children in Global Climate Processes: Promoting Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions"

#### CONCEPT

Date: November 18, 2024

Time: 90 minutes, 10.00-11.30

Moderators: **Askar Toktorbekovich Shaikidinov** - Head of the Youth Policy Department of the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and **Begin Zhanuzakova** - Coordinator of Unison Group, RCOY 2024 Organizing Committee

**Online participation:** To participate online, please register using the following link: [link](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to access the conference. Registration is required only once, and the provided link will grant you access to all events at the Pavilion "Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development" throughout its entire duration November 13-21, 2024.

#### Introductory information:

Humanity is facing a red line of climate crisis, beyond which the scale of the consequences of climate change may be unpredictable. Climate issues have long since moved into the existential plane: the question is whether our humanity will develop sustainably when we cross the critical line.

Children born in 2021 are projected to experience seven times more heat waves, nearly three times more droughts and twice as many wildfires than their grandparents. However, these impacts will be felt unequally, with young people living in developing countries suffering the most.

The climate threat is therefore not only an issue of environmental and social justice, but also of intergenerational justice. Future generations should not suffer from decisions taken without taking their interests into account. Young people have every right to participate in decisions concerning their future, and this right cannot be ignored.

Kyrgyzstan is actively implementing climate commitments through the preparation of NDCs, the National Adaptation Plan and the Carbon Neutrality Strategy, and is preparing for a new round of NDCs in 2025. It is important to note that the voices of young people have been heard and taken into account in the process of preparing climate strategies. For example, the Regional Conference of Youth and Children of Central Asia and Afghanistan (RCOY Central Asia and Afghanistan 2024), held in September 2024, became a key event designed to promote the power of climate action, united by young people of the region. The result of RCOY Central Asia and Afghanistan 2024 is the Regional Statement of Youth and Children, which has become an integral part of the Global Youth Statement, which has already been presented at COY19 and COP 29, and will influence the adoption of key climate decisions.



Since the first COP, children and youth have shown strong interest in and presence in UNFCCC processes and have sought to advance greater ambition. Since COP26, the Global Youth Statement (GYS) has been recognized in all COP outcomes, with Parties to the UNFCCC increasingly recognizing the importance of children and youth participation at all levels of climate decision-making. Inclusion, a fundamental pillar of the COP29 Presidency and the PYCC mandate, will be critical to achieving ambitious and equitable outcomes at COP29 and advocating for youth demands.

This is to help meet climate commitments under Articles 6 and 12 of the Paris Agreement, known as Action on Climate Education (ACE). This program covers all six elements of ACE: climate change education, public awareness, training, public participation, access to information, and international cooperation.

An important aspect of climate action is also ensuring gender equality, actively supporting initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls so that they can play a key role in shaping a sustainable future. A recent needs assessment on the involvement of girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) showed that in Kyrgyzstan, only one third of women actively use the Internet and are computer literate. The share of female graduates in STEM is 31.3%. This is clearly insufficient for women to actively participate in the digital transformation process.

The mountainous regions of Central Asia are not only a source of fresh water and biodiversity, but also home to millions of people. These ecosystems are at serious risk from climate change, and their conservation requires urgent action. Young people, as protectors and guardians of nature, must be at the forefront of these efforts, joining forces to protect mountainous regions from the devastating effects of climate change.

Against this backdrop of challenges, the role of young people and children becomes even more important. They are not just inheriting the world, they are actively creating it. And this role requires from all parties not only the right to participate in decision-making, but also the responsibility to take the initiative, put forward bold ideas, and hold leaders accountable to their promises. Young people are not just adapting to new conditions – they are initiating change, contributing to a sustainable future.

### **Session objectives:**

1. To discuss the role of youth and children in climate processes, as well as in the conservation of mountain ecosystems in the context of the global challenges of climate change.
2. Provide youth and children with tools and platforms to initiate and implement projects on climate change and the conservation of mountain ecosystems.
3. To highlight the leadership role of the Kyrgyz Republic in initiatives to protect mountain regions.
4. To develop specific recommendations and initiatives for international cooperation on the protection of mountain ecosystems with the participation of youth.

### **The main focuses of the program:**

- Emphasis on international cooperation and leadership in climate processes of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Strengthening the role of youth and children in global climate processes;



- Presentation and promotion of the Regional Statement of Youth and Children of Central Asia and Afghanistan 2024;
- Supporting youth and children in the protection of mountain ecosystems;
- Signing a resolution to consolidate efforts and take concrete measures at the global level.

## PROGRAM

### 10:00–10:15 | Session opening

#### Welcome speech:

- Video message or address **of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic** on the importance of preserving mountains and the role of youth in these processes.
- **Baisalov Edil Zholdubaevich** - Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Leyla Gasanova** , Youth Climate Champion KS29

### 10:15–10:35 | Keynote speeches from representatives of Central Asian ministries and agencies on the topic “The Role of Youth in Climate Resilience of the Country and Region”

- **Tagaev Marat Tolomushovich** - Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- **Kochetov Evgeny Dmitrievich** — Vice Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- **Kattakhanova Dilnozahon Sobir qizi** - Deputy Director of the Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- **Rahimzoda Shabnam Karim** - First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### 10:35–10:45 | Presentation “Regional Statement of Youth and Children of Central Asia and Afghanistan”

- **Begim Zhanuzakova** - RCOY 2024 Organizing Committee, Coordinator Unison Group

### 10:45–11:00 | Successful youth initiatives in the fight against climate change

**Format:** Short speeches (3-5 minutes) from youth leaders and students from various mountain countries.

- **Begimai Baatyrbekova**, Project for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Tien Shan Mountains (National Company "Zhashyl Muras"), NGO "Students of Kyrgyzstan for a "Green" Economy", representative of youth from the Kyrgyz Republic;
- **Alimkhan Abulkhan** , Climate For Us, Youth Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan;



- **Behruz Yusupov** , member of the National Youth Network of Tajikistan for Water and Climate, Youth Representative from the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Representative of youth from the Republic of Turkmenistan
- **Sugdiyona Khushnudbekova**, Youth Representative from the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Representative of youth from Afghanistan

### **11:00-11:05 | Presentation of initiatives of the Kyrgyz Republic**

**Askar Toktorbekovich Shaikidinov** - Head of the Department of Youth Policy of the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic

- Presentation of the initiative to hold the "World Festival of Mountain Youth" with the aim of creating a platform for the development of expert dialogue, climate diplomacy, exchange of experience, fundraising to support initiatives among the youth of mountainous countries, the creation and implementation of environmental projects for the protection of mountain ecosystems.
- Presentation of the initiative to hold the competition "A City Friendly to Children and Youth in Mountainous Regions" aimed at creating a comfortable and safe urban environment for young residents in mountainous regions.

### **11:05–11:25 | Panel Discussion: “Vulnerability of Mountain and Climate Youth and Children in the Context of Climate Change and the Role of International Organizations in Supporting Mountain and Climate Youth to Overcome Challenges”**

- UNDP (TBC)
- UNICEF, Ms. Maria Osbeck, Regional Adviser Sustainability & Climate, ECARO UNICEF
- UNITAR (TBC)

**Key topics for discussion:** 1. The impact of climate change on mountain ecosystems and the socio-economic conditions of youth in mountainous regions. 2. Limited infrastructure in mountainous regions: access to basic services, quality education and health care. 3. The role of international organizations in strengthening the resilience of mountain communities to climate change. 4. Education and skills for sustainable development. 5. Financing and support for innovative youth projects.

### **11:25–11:30 | Closing remarks and thanks**

#### **Final words:**

**Tagaev Marat Tolomushovich** - Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic

- Announcement of support for initiatives from the Kyrgyz Republic and international organizations.