



# A MASTERCLASS ON CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS



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# Acknowledgements

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# A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations



## PURPOSE

Young people are critically underrepresented in international climate negotiations, most notably in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) that is held annually. The inclusion of youth in combating the climate crisis is paramount. Active participation is necessary for climate diplomacy to involve all relevant voices.

"A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations" was devised as a joint effort between Generation Climate Europe (GCE) and Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) to effectively prepare youth delegates and activists to lead, act, and participate in climate negotiations at an international level. The series, comprised of a weekend of training and an informational webinar, was a three-day event intended to:

1. Conduct a conversation around climate diplomacy and climate action.
2. Provide an overview of international climate negotiations and the UNFCCC.
3. Engage participants in interactive discussions about key climate issues.
4. Immerse young changemakers in a negotiation-based group activity.
5. Facilitate the development of a toolkit for its use in future negotiations.

Activities at the training were spread over a 7½ hour period in total. This was composed of informal conversations, educational presentations, interactive discussions, training on applied skills, a team activity on climate negotiations, and the development of a toolkit to prepare participants for future climate negotiations.

Among the different topics at the live session webinar were engaging in climate diplomacy as a young person, tips and advice provided by young experts in climate negotiations, and how to meaningfully engage in international climate negotiations.

The series was created as an accessible means for young people around the world to learn and share knowledge with one another in a virtual setting.

# ORGANISERS



**Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)** is the largest independent European network of environmental youth organizations. YEE unites 42 member organisations coming from 25 countries. YEE aims to unite environmental youth non-profit organisations in Europe.

<https://yeenet.eu/>



**Generation Climate Europe (GCE)** is the largest coalition of youth-led networks at the European level, pushing for stronger action from the EU on climate and environmental issues. GCE brings together 381 national organisations across 46 countries across Europe.

<https://gceurope.org/>



**Pegah Moulana**

**Advocacy Manager, Youth and Environment Europe**

Pegah Moulana is a British-Iranian currently based in Prague, Czech Republic. She has LLM in Public International Law from University of Leiden, Geneva and Sheffield. She is responsible for the YEE's young leadership programme known as Advocacy Working Group, composed of eight individuals and has been leading YEE's delegation to COP26 and COP27.

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**Penny Pinar Kapsuzoğlu**

**Project Co-Lead on COP 27, Generation Climate Europe**

Penny Kapsuzoğlu is a Turkish-American currently based in Istanbul, Turkey. She earned an M.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University with a focus on International Law and Organizations. Her areas of expertise include sustainable development, international human rights law, energy efficiency, and global gender policy. She will lead GCE's delegation to COP 27.



[LinkedIn](#)

[Email](#)

# STRUCTURE



"A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations" was an interactive training experience held virtually to reach a broad audience of youth participants around the world. Each day of training was conducted in 3-4 hour intervals.

Held on the weekend of 8 October and 9 October 2022, the training was led by 11 facilitators, all young professionals with experience in climate negotiations and facilitation. In the interest of hosting a training led by youth for youth, facilitators were given complete creative control over their respective sessions, each of which was led by 1-2 facilitators.

The training was held over the web platform Zoom for 60 participants where features such as breakout rooms, polls, and interactive discussions were utilized. As young people interested in climate diplomacy were the target audience of the masterclass training, "A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations" was designed specifically to engage young leaders and negotiators in these discussions through immersive dialogue and activities.

"A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations: Live Session" was a webinar devised to fill the demand for accessible content on youth engagement in climate negotiations that arose when the masterclass training was announced.

Due to the constraints of creating an interactive experience, participation for the training was limited. The webinar succeeded in disseminating information and advice by four expert speakers to all of the interested parties, both who registered to watch the event live and who watched it after its conclusion.

This webinar was live-streamed to all who registered and was also uploaded to YouTube for the participants who could not attend the session live.

# THE MASTERCLASS TRAINING FACILITATORS

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CLIMATE DIPLOMACY & MEANINGFUL ACTION

## ALEXANDROS KASSAPIS

Alex Kassapis studied Law in Warwick University. Following his studies, he spent a year volunteering in the NGO SEEDS Iceland, organising environmental workshops and helping around charitable projects. He is currently pursuing master studies on Law & Sustainability in Europe at Utrecht University. In the meantime, Alex is passionately engaged with climate activism, as a Climate Reality Leader, Climate Fresk Facilitator, Climate Pact Ambassador among others! Alex's latest venture includes filing a lawsuit against 12 European states regarding their violation of human rights due to their membership in the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY & MEANINGFUL ACTION

## LOU COLLIN

Lou Collin is a French student in her final year of a Bachelor in Specialization Human Environment (Geography Department) in Montreal. She has numerous experiences in the environmental justice field with international and local non-profit organizations like Climate Reality, Youth Environment Europe, Coalition Climat Montreal, Care about Climate and Generation Climate Europe. She participated in negotiations like the UNFCCC SB56 in Bonn and contributed to designing a COP course training for and by the youth with Care about Climate. She is constantly advocating for youth to be recognized as agents of change in the climate crisis and included in every space related to this topic.



OVERVIEW OF INT'L CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

## CLARA FAURÉ

Clara Fauré, from Paris, is passionate about climate change issues. After a bachelor's degree in international relations she started a master's degree in environmental policy. She has been involved for 3 years in the youth-led organization Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour le Climat (JAC) to raise awareness in schools with a systemic perspective of environmental issues. Her passion for geopolitics led to an interest in the actions carried out at different regional levels (EU and global) to understand what is at stake and how to mobilize civil society and young people in these forums. Currently co-coordinator of the international pole she is working on the critical challenges of COP27.



# THE MASTERCLASS TRAINING

# FACILITATORS

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## OVERVIEW OF INT'L CLIMATE DIPLOMACY



### RACHIT TIWARI

Rachit Tiwari is a young environmentalist from India who aspires to understand environmental problems through the lens of politics and society while responding to the global climate emergency via his political advocacy and research. He is currently working as a research fellow with Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, India, for their Natural Farming Initiative. Having a master's degree in Environmental Studies, Rachit has a multidisciplinary background in working with socio-environmental issues and follows the political narrative to make this planet sustainable.

## PARTICIPATING IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

### HUBERT PUT

Hubert Put is a 27-year-old Pole, currently working as a Regulatory Consultant in Ørsted in Warsaw, Poland. He is a double degree graduate from InnoEnergy Masters School in the field of Energy Engineering and Management as well as Chemical Engineering. OECD Youthwise Alumnus and Prince2® Practitioner certificate holder fascinated by energy markets and active in delivering workshops and volunteering. Cooperated with such organisations as ESN, GCE, YEE, EIT, EFET, Climate Outreach and mentioned OECD.



## PARTICIPATING IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

### NURUL ARDIAN

Nurul is from Semarang, Indonesia and holds a BSc. Land Resource Management from Brawijaya University. In terms of professional experience, she works in PT. Sido Muncul as community development team (environment department), as well as for Climate reality leader: The Climate Reality Project Indonesia. She has spoken on national environment day and climate literacy in the era of industrial revolution 4.0 and society 5.0. Nurul is a community facilitator for millennial farmers in Banyumas, Indonesia, and also an organic farming facilitator.





# THE MASTERCLASS TRAINING

# FACILITATORS

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## KEY CLIMATE ISSUES

### SALMA HASSAN TAMMAM

Salma Hassan Tammam is from Egypt and has a passion to change the way in which humans impact our environment. She wants to inspire a change in people and make the world a better place.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

### CORENTIN GENTIL

Corentin Gentil is a 23-year old PhD student in mathematics and climate modelling. He is also involved in UNFCCC climate negotiations as a youth delegate member of the French delegation. He also loves sharing knowledge, whether it be about science or climate negotiations.



## GROUP ACTIVITY

### OBIORA VICTOR AMADI

Obiora Victor Amadi is a graduate of Animal Science from Nigeria. He is a member of UNMGCY, YOUNGO and volunteering on various working groups of The UN youth constituency. Obiora is also a Sports Enthusiast with a diploma in P.H.E, The Executive President of AFFAM, member of ISPI of Sport diplomacy USA. His idea is to use all available tools in sports to inspire youths to advocate, mitigate and collaborate on issues concerning Climate Change and other UN SDGs.

# THE MASTERCLASS TRAINING

## FACILITATORS

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### IONA MURDOCH

DEVELOPING A TOOLKIT

Iona is an Eduk8 Trainer at Erasmus Student Network. With a background in law and educational policy she focuses her trainings on developing soft skills in communication and public speaking, as well as topics surrounding intercultural dialogue, the environment, and mental health. Having developed a passion for climate diplomacy since she studied International Environmental Law as part of her degree, she is a strong advocate for using soft power and discussions with people to foster change.

DEVELOPING A TOOLKIT

### MARIA-ALEXANDRA CONSTANTINESCU

Maria is working as the Sustainability Specialist for Bridgestone Corporation after specialising in Global Governance and Climate Action. In spite of her corporate day-to-day, Maria is co-leading the COP27 project at Generation Climate Europe, but also co-leading the EU Policy team at Climataalk - volunteering work that keeps her active in the youth-led NGO sphere. Originally from Romania, after studying and volunteering in several countries, Maria is currently based in Belgium from where she continues to drive her work and projects.



YEE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### TIMEA ABUEISA

Timea holds a master's degree in International Relations from the Corvinus University of Budapest. She works at the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on programmes and projects related to natural resources, biodiversity, and climate change. Besides her job, she acts as the Liaison Officer on Climate Crisis at YEE, and some of the key causes she cares about are the climate and biodiversity crisis, climate justice, human rights, and sustainable food systems.



# CLIMATE DIPLOMACY & MEANINGFUL ACTION

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During this session, the facilitators provided insights on the negotiation processes in international climate conferences, as well as practical advice on the ways to engage meaningfully in such conferences, including the participation in bilateral meetings, side events, and strikes. The protocol of participating in negotiation rooms and the settings to make interventions as an observer were also explained to participants.

Networking was highlighted as an important element of climate diplomacy. The facilitators explained that the climate negotiations experience can also be enhanced by creating a digital business card, attending side events and receptions, and researching negotiators present at the negotiation space ahead of time in order to maximize the scope and visibility of youth voices.

Participants had the opportunity to discuss prominent challenges for youth in breakout rooms. Hurdles addressed included access to the process and substance of negotiations, highlighting the difficulty young leaders face when they enter spaces where negotiation rooms exclude observers.

## INT'L CLIMATE DIPLOMACY: AN OVERVIEW

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In this presentation on international climate diplomacy, the facilitators gave an overview of negotiations history and the main bodies, fora, and settings where climate diplomacy takes place. Understanding the international climate regime and the key agreements made during past negotiations were assessed with a critical eye to how to proceed in future engagements.

The composition of actors at climate negotiations were set apart and analyzed by the facilitators. Some notable participants in these spaces included nation states, organisations, and coalitions of nation states. Determining priorities and potential commitments during climate negotiations was emphasized with a view as to how youth can create more prospects for how they can take part and take action in climate diplomacy.

# PARTICIPATING IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

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The presentation on participating in climate negotiations consisted of five segments: the purpose of negotiations, the reasoning behind them, the importance of climate negotiations, the leading principles of negotiations, and how to perform them successfully.

A Jamboard was utilized by the participants to analyze their negotiation methods, and the results were compiled to be discussed by the participants. The facilitators emphasized always negotiating whenever the opportunity arises. Changing circumstances and setting achievable goals prior to entering negotiation spaces were also underscored.

Among other key points, the session highlighted the roles of decision-makers, the environment, and leveraging points. The presentation closed with the facilitators imparting advice about how to get involved in negotiations.

## KEY CLIMATE ISSUES

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The interactive dialogue on key climate issues was the closing session of the first day of training. This session prompted the participants to share the causes and effects of the climate crisis on their own communities.

Within this session, participants shared the impacts stemming from deforestation, draught, and pollution, and other causes of climate catastrophes. Due to the global nature of the training, a variety of different settings and experiences were spotlighted. In addition to any common experiences, there were also key differences over regions, locations, and environmental conditions. Solutions to these problems were then solicited.

The discussion among participants centered on the effectiveness of individual vs. collective action and how a young person may influence change where youth are critically underrepresented.

# GROUP ACTIVITY ON CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

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Day 2 of the masterclass training opened with a group activity to analyse past climate negotiations, and understand why a piece of legislation may not have yielded a consensual result when presented to decision-makers in the past.

Participants were divided into four breakout rooms, each consisting of 12-15 people, where they assessed five excerpts from past proposals and why those excerpts may have seemed problematic to negotiators and/or leaders.

Then, participants discussed how to amend the doctrines to be more agreeable for potential negotiators while maintaining the spirit and intentions of the doctrine itself. By putting themselves into the position of climate negotiators (and dissenters), the participants explored potential hurdles and priorities to take into account when entering future negotiations. This is the [document](#) where each group compiled their findings and thoughts.

## DEVELOPING A TOOLKIT

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The toolkit development session was the culmination of the masterclass training. It included the lessons learned and best practices from the training overall that were integrated into a long-term resource for future negotiations. Various free and accessible resources were provided to participants within the slides and the toolkit to be jointly published by GCE and YEE at the end of "A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations" series.

A legislation checklist for negotiations was devised for practical use. In the audience segment, the facilitators urged participants to share their hopes, experiences, and knowledge in multiple guiding exercises focused on determining one's audience, and finding or building a community. The participants reflected on their non-negotiables, values, and communication methods in the final segment of the toolkit before the training concluded.

# OUTCOMES OF THE MASTERCLASS TRAINING



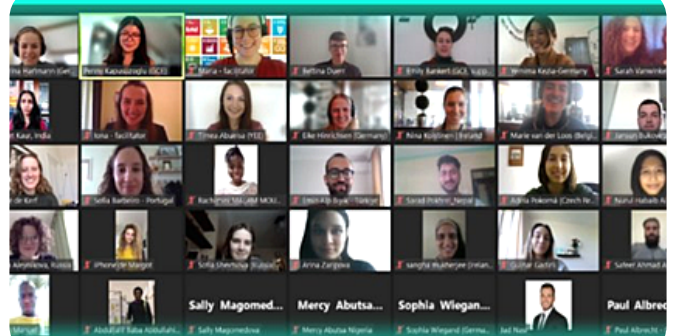
- Informal Session
- Presentation: Overview
- Presentation: Participation
- Interactive Discussion

## DAY 1

After the opening, the participants began the training by engaging in an informal session about climate diplomacy and what meaningful engagement constitutes. Two presentations followed, one giving an overview of international climate diplomacy's history, and the other addressing how to approach policymakers and participation. The day closed out with an interactive discussion about the causes and effects of key climate issues affecting participants around the world.

## DAY 2

The second day kickstarted with an interactive activity. Each participant was sorted into breakout rooms of 10-12 people with the task to put themselves in the shoes of climate negotiators when discussing non-consensual outcomes from past negotiations. Then, the training closed the interactive development of a toolkit where participants were given different resources, and shared their priorities and challenges in climate negotiations. The toolkit development enabled participants to determine how to achieve an ideal outcome in negotiations.



- Group Activity on Climate Negotiations & Legislation
- Developing a Toolkit, resulting in a toolkit to be published by GCE & YEE.

# THE MASTERCLASS LIVE SESSION

# EXPERT SPEAKERS

## ELISHA WINCKEL

EXPERT SPEAKER

Elisha Winckel is a young activist from Luxembourg who gained his first advocacy steps in the youth political participation space before joining the climate movement (including YEE for a while). His perspective is shaped by advocating for young and marginalised voices inside and outside of the structures that only give us a voice when it's convenient. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management at The New School.



## ELYSA VAILLANCOURT

EXPERT SPEAKER

Elysa dedicates her work to support communities to adapt to climate change by empowering youth and ensuring their voices are heard at the highest levels. As a Project Manager at the International Secretariat for Water she leads the development of programs to support the professional development of the youth regarding water and climate. In 2022, she led the development of the Youth Space of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal and was nominated as North-American representative on the Global Center on Adaptation's Youth Advisory Panel to the CEO. She is currently leading the youth movement towards the UN2023 Water Decade Conference. Previously, she supported the development and implementation of the Quebec's Government International Climate Cooperation Program. Also a winner of a 2019 United Nations Global Climate Action Award.



## LOU COLLIN

EXPERT SPEAKER

Lou Collin is a French student in her final year of a Bachelor in Specialization Human Environment (Geography Department) in Montreal. She has numerous experiences in the environmental justice field with international and local non-profit organizations like Climate Reality, Youth Environment Europe, Coalition Climat Montreal, Care about Climate and Generation Climate Europe. She participated in negotiations like the UNFCCC SB56 in Bonn and contributed to designing a COP course training for and by the youth with Care about Climate. She is constantly advocating for youth to be recognized as agents of change in the climate crisis and included in every space related to this topic.



## XAN NORTHCOTT

EXPERT SPEAKER

Xan currently acts as a Global Focal Point for YOUNGO and is passionate about young people receiving the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to thrive and resolve the challenges of the modern world. Among his past work he supported youth climate action, political engagement, and social entrepreneurship. In the past, he acted as Coordinator of the Generation Global educational programme at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. His experiences also include the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Generation Citizen, the Climate Reality Project, and United Nations Development Programme.



## AGNES GKOUTZIAMANI

MODERATOR

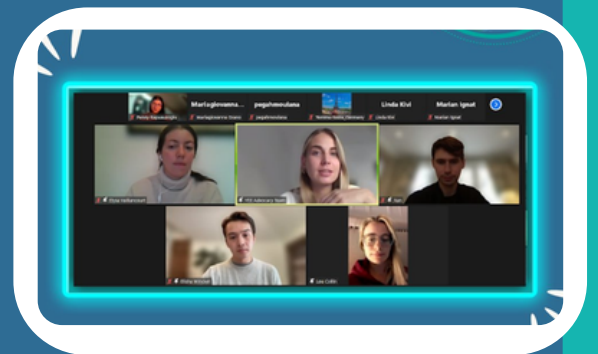
Agni (Agnes) Gkoutziamani is the Policy Coordinator at YEE, leading the environmental law project and co-managing the advocacy working group, responsible for the portfolios on energy and biodiversity. Agnes is a certified Lawyer, and member of Thessaloniki's Law Bar Association, holding a Bachelor of Laws from Aristotle's University of Thessaloniki, and a Master of Laws in International and European Legal Studies with a specialization on Public International Law. Additionally, she holds another Master of Laws (LLM) in Energy and Climate Law from the University of Groningen where she focused her thesis on climate litigation. She has 4 years of experience in coordinating and facilitating EU-funded projects while working as a trainer on various environmental topics.



# THE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The "Masterclass Live Session" webinar sought to address four main questions, each of which were asked by audience members during the registration process:

- How can you get involved in climate diplomacy?
- What are tools and tips for young people participating in international climate negotiations?
- What is the most important thing to know when entering these spaces?
- How can you engage as a youth participant meaningfully and make your voice heard?



## **NOTABLE QUOTES FROM THE EXPERT SPEAKERS:**

Believe in yourself because we need you, the world needs you, and I'm excited to see what you're all going to be able to do at COP, if you're attending COP, if not, in your own local communities and your own countries, we need everyone no matter where you are in the world. - Elysa Vaillancourt.

I believe collective action is much more powerful than individual action, and we often forget that our power is not just as a consumer and how we spend our money, but as a young person, as citizens. Citizens with a voice, rights, and responsibilities. - Lou Collin.

All of this and what you heard today is about trying to empower you and for you to believe in yourself. You wouldn't be in these places if you really didn't already prove yourself to a certain extent. You may be fearful because it is daunting to speak up, but in the end, you are ready to do these things. You are there because of everything that you experienced. - Elisha Winckel.

My main advice is to take it seriously when you go. Particularly in COP, the most important decisions in climate change shaping the future of the world are happening, but you're surrounded by all sorts of distracting things. If you're going to COP, really take it seriously and go to negotiate because we can join the actual negotiation sessions as young people, and can put policy proposals forward. - Xan Northcott.

The recording of the live session has been uploaded to YouTube in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KL7k7Au0II4>



# THE AFTERMATH OF THE MASTERCLASS SERIES

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## OUTCOMES

Throughout the "A Masterclass on Climate Negotiations" series, participants were prompted to reflect on their experiences, challenges, perspectives, and overarching goals (individually and collectively) regarding international climate negotiations.

With COP 27 approaching, young people must have a community, network, and a concrete idea of what to expect when taking part in the pivotal conversations about climate change, meaningful action, and youth engagement at future COPs.

By gathering young changemakers from around the world to discuss international climate negotiations, GCE and YEE sought to make youth engagement more accessible and transparent. Ideally, this masterclass series will assist youth in being recognised as equal partners and contributors at international climate negotiations.

## WHAT NEXT?

**Curious about the toolkit that we developed?** It will be posted on our channels shortly for all young people to access and utilize.

**Attending COP 27 and want a network to lean on?** We have created a group chat on WhatsApp for young changemakers who will be attending COP 27 in November 2022. If you would like to be added to it please contact [cop27@gceurope.org](mailto:cop27@gceurope.org) with your name and your request.

**Interested in learning more about the masterclass and its outcomes or speakers?** Reach out to Penny or Pegah (contact information linked on p5).