

COP 27 REPORT GLOBAL YOUNG GREENS

INTRODUCTION

Global Young Greens, being accredited by UNFCCC as an official observer organisation since COP26, also participated at COP27. This COP27 was the second COP for GYG.

Being part of the UNFCCC process and able to attend the climate COPs with its own delegation is of crucial importance for GYG. Our aim in composing our COP delegations is to bring young Greens to these conferences while putting an extra effort and emphasis on the representation of young Greens from the Global South. This gives them the opportunity to raise their voices and hold the world leaders and the decisions they make to account, underlining that the civil society and among this the activists have an important role in the international diplomacy to solve the climate crisis.

The presence at UNFCCC COP supports the further growth and development of GYG as well, as it is a place that helps to facilitate our old and new collaborations with Green actors and offers perspectives to enhancing partnerships or even creating new ones.

As an organisation entirely run by volunteers, GYG had to seek support from others inside the Green family to be able to get a young and diverse group of activists to COP, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend the climate summit.

This report consolidates the activities carried out by the GYG delegation and its members at COP27. It also gives an overview of the related social media and media coverage. It is sorted in pre-COP work, the two COP27 weeks and after COP.

PRE- COP27 WORK

The pre-COP work started with a rigorous selection process for delegates. We received 27 applications and through internal ratings, interviews with the applicants and final decision making came to sending 12 delegates for GYG to COP27. We were especially happy to send our youngest delegate, the nine-year-old Karen to COP27.

The following pre-COP work involved the GYG COP27 delegates.

The delegation prepared the content and logistics for the “Climate Clinics” and two side-event panels on the topics of “A Healthy Prescription for a Green New Deal” and “Climate Justice and Intergenerational Equity”.

Furthermore, the delegation issued two statements prior to COP27:

- [Time to Act is Now!](#)

This statement made clear what needs to be agreed on to make COP27 a success or at least to prevent it from failing as COP26 did, written from a Young Greens perspective.

- [Change the System not the Climate!](#)

Pointing out the issues that are within the structure of climate COPs as well as pointing out the political environment of COP27 as far from ideal for a global conference.

In preparation of the COP27 we also networked with activists, civil society organisations and youth movements to plan actions/ demonstrations together and to facilitate cooperation on the spot in an easier way.

This enabled us to connect Janmejai with the youth delegation of Greenpeace which helped GYG in the coordination for actions at a larger scale. Through this we were also provided with the opportunity to be part of the daily meetings of the Climate Action Network (CAN) which were helpful in following up with the negotiations.

And finally, we supported our fundraising efforts with an accompanying [crowd-funding campaign](#) that was promoted on our website and through social media. From that campaign we took quite a lot of learnings on how to organise crowd-funding campaigns even more effectively in the future.

COP27 WEEK ONE



Global Young Greens Delegates for COP27 week one

We participated in actions as well as content providing side events.



We held multiple “Climate Clinics” at the WHO Pavilion, where we discussed healthy solutions for the climate crisis rooted within a Global Green New Deal and made links to the climate and health community. This led to

participation in an event organised by The Youth Climate and Health Network collaborated with YOUNGO on “Climate Justice and Intergenerational Equity”, where we explored the intersections of climate and health as well as the role of the youth movement as a spearhead towards climate justice.



We applied for a meeting room to have a session in COP 27 and for the 1st time in COP, GYG held a session as a side-event inside the Blue Zone on 10 November 2022. GYG organised this session on "Young Voices on Loss and Damage" which had young global south speakers. This was a hybrid session which was well attended virtually as well.



Impressions from the session “Young Voices on Loss and Damage”



GYG organised a side-event together with the Global Greens at the end of week one, the 11 November 2022. During the event Green delegates to COP27 discussed together with partners the state of play of the negotiations at the end of week one and what to expect from the second week of COP27.

Parts of the GYG delegation also participated in a High-Level Side event which focused on accelerating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), through forest land and rangeland restoration with the President of Kenya, UNEP Executive Director and One Leaf Coalition CEO, African Development Bank Vice President among other dignitaries.

We also participated in several actions inside the Blue Zone of the COP27:

On 9 November GYG was part of an action to protect the German village Lützerath which is threatened by open-cast mining for brown coal. The protest was linked to the demand to preserve the 1.5 degree target and remind (not only) the German negotiators of the importance of sticking to that target. The protest aligned the COP27 activities with climate protest inside of Germany fighting to save the village Lützerath and end coal mining to preserve the climate.



We participated in a protest organised by Ukrainian activists on stopping fossil fuel imports to stop fuelling dictators and wars on 11 November. The strong message was “Fossil Fuels Kill!”.

A representative in the ‘STOP EACOP’ campaign also participated to point out the effects on Uganda of this fossil fuel pipeline project.

We also joined a die-in protest on how climate change is aggravating health issues with health professionals and the climate and health community.



GYG also participated in one of the biggest actions "flood the COP" of which we were planning with CSO's prior to COP 27. It was very well covered in the media as well and pointed out the importance of real contributions to Loss and Damage financing and the importance of this for Global South countries.



On Saturday 12 November, the end of week one, we participated in the big climate march inside the Blue Zone. It was one of the biggest demonstrations and marches inside the Blue Zone ever and was also used to point out the lack of possibilities for protest outside the COP27 Blue Zone due to the very strict regulations by the Egyptian regime. Nevertheless it showed that climate

activists won't be silenced and will keep calling for climate justice and ambitious climate action.



Together delegates of both the delegation of GYG and FYEG painted banners and placards for the demonstration using the civil society hub and our connections made during this.

We also demonstrated along with fellow young activists on human rights and in solidarity with more than 6,000 political prisoners in Egypt. The main message was "No Climate Justice without Human rights" on 10 November and was done as a human rights chain.



A message that was well aligned with our second statement and our participation in the campaign of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament. As part of that campaign we also shared badges stating "No Climate Justice without human rights" in English, French and Arabic with COP27 delegates.

Additionally, we were able to organise a couple of meetings with stakeholders in the UNFCCC process:



The GYG COP27 delegation met with the Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment Espen Barth Eide together with the Norwegian Civil Society movement. We presented our views, particularly Uttarakhand in India and from Kenya on the urgent needs for climate action and already happening climate atrocities. We urged them to support a real and efficient Loss and Damage finance mechanism and to reduce their emissions rapidly.

Together with youth activists from the Global Majority and Norway, GYG organised a meeting with the Norwegian Minister for International



Development, Anne-Beathe Tvinnereim. We presented experiences from Uttarakhand, India, and asked for support for loss and damage and adaptation.

In both meetings we were joined by representatives of the Global Greens COP27 delegation.

Additionally, GYG contributed to meetings with European youth activists from NGOs and delegates in elaborating [a statement on ending fossil fuels in the EU by 2030](#). This was followed up and published in the second week to urge European leaders to ambitious climate action.

Our delegate Ivar Germiso Arnesen made a video with the Norwegian Green Party International Secretary Paal Frisvold.

At the end of the first week of COP27 week, we met for a handover between the delegates of week one and two. The delegates of the first week shared their learnings and impressions from the first week at COP and also introduced the new delegates for week 2 in ongoing processes of coordination. After that the delegation used the time for shared strategizing for the following week of COP27.



GYG COP27 Delegation Handover Meeting

COP27 WEEK 2

For week one the majority of our delegation changed, so just the head of delegation (Janmejai Tiwari) stayed the same.



[Our panel event at the WHO Pavillion on “A Healthy Prescription for a Green New Deal”](#), brought together on the ground activists and movement leaders to share the theory and action needed to realise a Global Green New Deal. The video starts at the time 05:17:10.

Parts of the GYG delegation attended the African Cop 27 Youth Caravan event where everyone shared their first hand experience on the effects of Climate Change in their Countries and the role the youth should take to help in adapting and mitigating Climate Change. We also got to speak about the challenges that we were facing in having our voices heard both in our countries and at COP 27.

In week two we were again able to organise meetings with stakeholders in the UNFCCC process:



On 14 November we met with Michal Bloss, Member of the European Parliament and part of the delegation of the European Union to COP27. This meeting was happening together with the delegation of the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG). We discussed our approach to the remaining days of COP and strategies to align forces for the second week. We also pointed out our demands and the special importance of the Loss and Damage finance mechanism for us.

On 14 November we met as well with the German member of parliament Kathrin Henneberger to discuss the importance of Loss and Damage financing, the needed support for the Global South and how especially the German delegation would be able to support these demands.



On 15 November the GYG COP27 delegation met with Marieke Schouten, representative from the European Committee of the Regions and part of the official EU delegation to COP27. We talked about our definition of climate justice and the linked demands. We also discussed that young people are not involved enough in the decision making and how this can be changed to ensure true intergenerational dialogue and dissemination of information and opportunities. It was agreed that a just transition can only be achieved together. Another main discussion point of the meeting was the importance of subnational diplomacy and

subnational climate action that is often more ambitious than on the national level and at the same time easier to be influenced by young committed activists.

On 16 November we met with the Belgian minister for Energy, Tinne van der Straeten. This meeting was organised together with the FYEG delegation. We discussed the need for countries to leave the ECT and the problems in cooperating with regimes like the one in Egypt. We also entered in discussions about the importance of a Loss and Damage finance facility but were met with hesitance.



The GYG COP27 delegation together with the delegation of FYEG met with the Finnish minister of environment and climate change, Maria Ohisalo, on 18 November. We discussed the rights of indigenous people in the context of adaptation to climate change with regards to the Saami population in Finland. Additionally, we talked about the relief of financial debt for countries of the Global South. Finally, we underlined the importance of staying on track with the Paris Agreement as well as not falling behind the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Group picture from the Green family breakfast at COP27.



The COP27 delegation of the Global Young Greens was invited to the Green Family Breakfast that is traditionally organised by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament in the second week of COP and held on 16 November this year. We were updated about the state of play of negotiations and also were able to stress the perspective of the Global South countries which was not as present as it could be in the discussions before as they (in that context naturally) focused on the European initiatives. We also underlined the need for the EU to phase out fossil fuels.



GYG COP27 delegate Liliane participated together with Marieke Schouten in a live Q&A session reporting about the COP27, the state of play in the negotiations, the influence of subnational diplomacy and the perspective of climate activists for the Local Councillors' Network of the European Green Party.

We participated in actions in the second week as well:

We started the week participating in [a dance protest of activists from the Philippines and other MAPA countries](#) using the creative form of protest to raise awareness for their already desperate situation, their frustration because COPs are not delivering and them being left out of the negotiations. The demands included “Pay Up For Loss And Damage” and “Phase Out Fossil Fuels”.

Together with FYEG and the European Youth NGOs, GYG organised a [protest to keep alive the 1.5 degree target](#).

Janmejai Tiwari gave a speech on behalf of GYG at this protest. WE highlighted the vital importance of the 1.5 degree and the dangers that would be arising from not keeping to it. This was a reaction from the tendency of the negotiators to switch away from their 1.5 degree.





We also participated in the people’s plenary, a [powerful moment](#) with representatives from the different civil society constituencies voicing their demands and pointing out the shortcomings of the state of play in the negotiations of the COP27. This was followed [by a march](#) to the building where the negotiations were happening and a sit-in reading out the demands of the [people’s declaration](#).

As GYG had Loss and Damage as one of its main demands chosen for COP27, at the end of the conference our delegates along with other young activists reached out to lead negotiators, ministers and delegations of countries who were mainly blocking the Loss and Damage Finance facility for COP 27. Efforts were made to make them understand how necessary it is for Global South countries and especially the youth. They were asked tough questions and sometimes made them feel uncomfortable as that was at times necessary when we were not given the space or not heard.

Having a Loss and Damage Finance Facility at COP 27 is a small victory for all the CSOs and youth movements fighting for it, but still a lot more needs to be done.

SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

We shared our activities, achievements and viewpoints in all GYG social media channels throughout the conference.

On [Facebook](#) we reached more than 1000 people per post and achieved new followers adding up to 5.940 followers of the GYG facebook page by now. The top post in the COP27 period was about the [delegation handover](#).

On [Instagram](#) we increased our reach to 985 accounts per post which is an increase of 21,6% compared to the pre-COP period. We could also increase the numbers of followers by 3,4% to 1.259 followers in total now. [The top posts were](#) one of the introductions to delegates reaching 413 people, followed by the [post of our first statement](#) reaching 295 accounts.

On [Twitter](#) we also increased our followers up to 3.274 followers in total currently. The top posts were one of the [introductions of our delegates](#) with 6.697 impressions and the [tweet on the “Fossil Fuel Kill”](#) protest with 1.768 impressions.

Additionally, we were able to connect with new activists and people involved in COP27 through direct messages and established new connections during the conference.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The GYG delegation managed to get quite some media coverage which is collected here as far as we are aware of links to the contributions:

- We organised an interview with several of our activists with the Norwegian television channel TV2 on how they were personally affected by climate change, on our demands, and on future actions. The interview was sent Saturday 12 November 2022 18:30 CET ([link](#), behind paywall).



- We were cited in [this article](#) for Norwegian online economics newspaper E24 on the human rights situation in Egypt during COP 27.
- Ivar was interviewed by Sandy Dauphin for French radio channel *France Inter* on overpopulation and climate change. We said that overconsumption, not overpopulation is the cause for climate change. [Published 14th November](#).
- Together with a collective of health organisations, we shared our reflections on the results of COP27 – this was coordinated by the Global Climate and Health Alliance as a [press release](#).
- Karen was featured by the Greens/EFA group in the European parliament in their communication on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Liliane was invited to an [Instagram-Livestream](#) to report about COP27 (German speaking).
- Liliane was [interviewed by the local newspaper “Westdeutsche Zeitung”](#) on her experience at COP27.
- Liliane was able to follow up on this [with a summary and reflection of COP27](#) in the same newspaper.
- Karen was featured in [Kenyan TV](#).
- Four of our delegates were featured in an [opinion piece for the Guardian](#), as part of the Greens/EFA campaign.
- [Our protests](#) were recognised by other social media accounts.

- The Greens in the European Committee of the Regions shared [impressions from our meeting](#) with Marieke Schouten.

POST COP 27 ACTIVITIES

Ivar participated in the panel of a webinar with the Norwegian Green Party on COP 27 on Thursday 24th November 2022 and gave some reflections on the outcomes of COP27 and the activities of young activists within the UNFCCC process.

Additionally, we were able to network with German politicians and already started the preparations for COP28. This includes state secretary Stefan Wenzel working in the Ministry of Environment and Economics and Anna Lührmann, state secretary in the Ministry for foreign affairs. These exchanges included exploring possibilities to increase the funding for youth NGOs to help them meet logistical challenges, e.g. concerning rooming and financing. But also included our political demand and possible support in fighting for them.

LEARNINGS

As this was our second year of participation in the UNFCCC COP we were already able to increase our activities.

The delegate selection process was a success as this really helped us to send a powerful delegation covering different experiences, national backgrounds and skills which really helped in the preparation and the work at the conference itself.

We also became better in coordinating on the spot although due to the size of the conference this is not always easy. We recognised that agreeing on a common meeting point and catching up several times through the day was a really beneficial addition to the messenger groups.

The preparations of our statements before COP was well invested energy as this helped us to refer to an agreement of demands we could voice in interviews and actions.

Logistical challenges are still the biggest issue in bringing delegates to COP27, especially from the Global South or if they are very young.

LIST OF DELEGATES

Abidur Rahman Abid (Planned for Week 1)

Abhijay Negi (Week 1)

Amiteshwar Singh (Week 2)

Harold Mugozi (Planned for Week 2)

Ivar Mekonnen Germiso Arnesen (Week 1)

Janmejai Tiwari (Head of Delegation)

Johanna Ellerhoff (Week 2)

Karen Wanjiru Kimani (Week 1)

Liliane Pollman (Week 2)

Riwa Ghawi (Week 2)

Ronald Omondi Dianga (Week 1)

Salome Gikonyo (Week 2)