

International Youth Day 2024: Amplifying Youth Voices for a Just and Equitable Energy Transition



Clean energy is the way to go for a sustainable future because it will help in mitigating climate change.

ERIC KIBALAMA, 24, UGANDA

Prioritize clean energy to secure our future: invest in renewables, phase out fossil fuels, and support innovation to combat climate change and ensure a sustainable planet for future generations.

ZURUFAH HUDAH, 24, UGANDA

Subsidize clean energy services and ensure the sensitization of all nationals about clean energy sources and their advantages, while ensuring the availability of clean energy forms in all communities. Involve women, youth, and children at the forefront of clean energy drive campaigns. Additionally, governments should adopt zero tolerance to corruption of clean energy funds, thus ensuring that the funds are used for their intended purposes.

VICTOR NAHAMYA, 26, UGANDA

Empower women for climate action through clean cooking than investing in fossil fuels. Over 80% of rural women in Uganda use charcoal and firewood, which cause air pollution, contribute to climate change, and lead to health issues. To reduce the use of these carbon-heavy fuels, the government and stakeholders must include youth and women in the fight against fossil fuels, invest in renewable energy, and organize workshops to educate rural communities on clean cooking practices. By decentralizing renewable energy solutions to grassroots communities, we can defeat energy poverty and provide affordable, clean energy.

EMMANUEL ONGYEER, 26, UGANDA



Invest in renewable energy, prioritize sustainability, and create opportunities for youth to lead the transition. Our future depends on it!

JAMES MUYANJA, 30, UGANDA

A significant portion of our population lacks access to energy, yet we already have all the resources needed to transition to a clean energy economy. A step towards a clean energy transition is a step towards increasing energy access and economic growth.

AISHA SULEIMAN, 26, NIGERIA

I believe it is time for us, as a country, to spearhead the drive for a clean energy transition as a matter of urgency to protect the future of young people in Ghana.

ADAMU MICHAEL, 22, GHANA

Policies should be put in place and thoroughly executed to realize the fruits of clean energy transition. Policies on infrastructure development, gender and inclusivity, education, skilling and capacity building should be the priorities of government leaders. Government leaders should lay out policies that favour financing of energy projects and private investments from the private sector. We should all acknowledge that clean energy transition is a collective effort, commitment and responsibility.

BENSON OGUTU, 27, KENYA

Lead Nigeria's clean energy transition by investing in solar, creating jobs, and ensuring energy access for all. We need policies, incentives, and skills development to unlock our renewable potential and drive economic growth.

GREGORY IKPEA, 27, NIGERIA



Investing in clean energy is not just an environmental imperative but it is also an economic opportunity. Transitioning to renewable sources of energy can create new jobs, spur innovation, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. By prioritizing clean energy now, we can build a more sustainable future for generations to come. It's time to act decisively and make the necessary changes to protect our planet and ensure a prosperous future for all.

SHABIBI NURLYYEVA, 21, TURKMENISTAN

I advise the government to:

1. Set ambitious renewable energy targets.
2. Invest in grid infrastructure and energy storage.
3. Offer incentives for private sector innovation and adoption.
4. Promote education and workforce development in clean energy.
5. Lead by example with government procurement and infrastructure projects.

This will drive a swift and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy.

SARAH KANYESIGYE, 24, UGANDA

It is said that there is light at the end of the tunnel, but I prefer to say that it is better to give one light to navigate the tunnel. A clean energy transition should begin with the unserved.

JIL OBEIFUNA, 20, NIGERIA

Just as clean energy is crucial for a healthy planet, empowering the youth is essential for a just and resilient transition. Let's invest in education and training in the clean energy sector.

PROMISE NWOGU, 27, NIGERIA

Switching to clean energy is no longer a favor, but a necessity if we are to save our planet. This means not only stepping up policies, but also investing in access to sustainable, reliable and affordable energy, which is the key to development.

NOUHOUN DIARRA, 30, COTE D'IVOIRE



To provide clean energy alternatives that mitigate climate change and protect the environment, we should focus on efficient solutions. Connecting villages to affordable electricity will enable the use of energy-efficient pressure cookers. Solar boxes, panels, and parabolic cookers are also effective, as they do not release carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. Increasing the share of renewable energy in our mix is essential, given that cooking accounts for a significant portion of energy demand.

RONALD ANGUIYO, 30, UGANDA

I will say to them: Act now to strengthen public energy institutions for a fair energy transition and future legacy.

JEAN MELICE MERZIER, 27, HAITI

Increased energy independence: By relying on domestic renewable energy sources, we reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhancing our energy security and controlling costs. I urge you to make renewable energy the cornerstone of our transition. This will protect our environment, boost our economy, and secure a better future. Together, we can tackle climate change and build a sustainable energy future for our nation.

CADEAU ADJAMIE, 24, MADAGASCAR

I would ask the government and decision-makers to improve the structure and functioning of the electricity market, to promote a just energy transition, where renewable energies are incorporated without harming communities of people, as well as increasing locally distributed renewable energy generation.

PATRICIO REYES, 27, CHILE

Technologies must be implemented where applicable to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and drive sustainable development. We must focus on the needs of the population and strategically fulfill them.

RIGOBERTO AMAYA, 26, PANAMA



Prioritize investment in clean energy infrastructure and policies to ensure sustainable development, job creation, and improved health for all citizens, while combating climate change effectively.

ONYEKWACHI NWAFOR, 32, NIGERIA

Dear leaders, it's time to stop the expression 'geological scandal' that everyone knows about my country. It's time to save the world!

MOISE MUZALIA, 24, CONGO

The greatest challenge of the country's energy transition lies in the effective integration of renewable energies, which implies overcoming technological, economic and political barriers, as well as promoting public policies that encourage investment and innovation in clean energies.

GABRIELA AGULIAR, 23, MEXICO

Our planet's future relies on today's actions. The clean energy transition is vital for a sustainable, equitable society. We must invest in renewables, support innovation, implement strong policies, engage the public, and ensure equity.

AXELL SUTTON, 30, MEXICO

It is urgent to work for an enabling environment to allow the private renewable energy sector fill the energy access gap.

EMMA BUKERA, 24, BURUNDI

To accelerate the clean energy transition, we should reduce installation costs by lowering import duties on raw materials and leveraging on blockchain levelized cost of energy (BLCOE).

LOVE DAVID, 30, NIGERIA



I feel that to make a better future for the next generation, as a country we need to invest in clean energy transition,

TYDON DADZIE, 11, GHANA

Let's fast-track renewable energy projects, invest in geothermal exploration, and create a legal and financial framework that attracts even more clean energy investment. Let's work together, government, businesses, and young people like me, to make Djibouti a beacon of clean energy in Africa.

YOUSOUF EUSMAN, 34, DJIBOUTI

Kenya needs investments to transition away from carbon intensive energy sources and to enhance energy efficient technologies. There is need for awareness raising among Parliamentarians on the national and international climate change commitments that Kenya is a signatory to.

KILONZI CHARITY, VIVI, 27, KENYA

Prioritize investment in solar and wind energy, enforce energy efficiency, support research, strengthen regulations, and empower communities to ensure a sustainable and resilient energy future for Malawi.

TIZGOWERE KAMENYA, 29, MALAWI

Investing in clean energy is essential for our future. Prioritize renewable energy sources, support green technologies, and create policies that encourage sustainable practices, combat climate change, create new jobs, and ensure a healthier environment for future generations. Your actions today will shape the world we inherit tomorrow.

MMABONTLE ANETTA TUELO, 32, BOTSWANA



I would say, please pay attention. The world is on fire, flooded, cracked, and angry. She has been trying to tell you for decades, and we haven't listened. Climate change and global warming are real. As a self-proclaimed world superpower, the best of the best, you have the resources and power to actually change the world for the better. So do it.

ELAINE ABRAMS, 26, UNITED STATES

We, the young generation, demand a swift and just transition that prioritizes renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. We need bold action, not incremental steps. Our future depends on it. Lead the way, and we will follow with enthusiasm and dedication!"

MUNYANEZA BUDAGA, 24, CONGO

The conversation on clean energy transition needs to focus on the micro and macro level of governance. My government should not just listen youth voices but needs to engage youth in the decision making processes and let the youth take charge of energy transition in their countries.

FELIX AKELLO, 34, KENYA

While the country is striving for ways to curb actions against climate change, our government needs to play a vital role in ensuring that clean energy gets funded as we aim for a full transition to clean energy.

HASSAN NKATA, 29, MALAWI

Prioritize renewable energy sources and innovative technologies, to create jobs, improve public health, and position our country as a leader in the global energy transition. Incentivize industries to collaborate with universities and technical schools to develop innovative solutions that can reduce harmful emissions of pollutants. Enact policies that drive this change, foster innovation, and support sustainable growth.

SAMUEL OYEFUSI, 20, NIGERIA



We need to embrace clean tech and leverage ICT to accelerate the clean energy transition, fostering innovation, efficiency, and a sustainable future for our nation.

BENDJEDID RACHAD SANOUSSI, 28, BENIN

Let's incentivize and invest in technologies that help us harness renewable energy sources. From the term renewable, it means we cannot at any point deplete them. It depends on how much we are willing to harness them.

OLADIMEJI OLADOKUN, 24, NIGERIA

The Nigerian government should involve Youths in higher institutions and be willing to collaborate with them on projects. Great to have these set of people in committee as done for the Tax Committee. This is because ENERGY is a determining factor for our economy as well as other spheres of lives as citizens of Nigeria.

EMMANUEL EGBOR, 26, NIGERIA

Invest in renewable energy infrastructure, support green innovations, and implement policies that incentivize sustainable practices to secure a clean and prosperous future for all.

HAJARAH NABBANJA, 23, UGANDA

My message to our my government leaders on the clean energy transition is that they embrace the renewable energy the more for the transformation of our country especially the rural communities that always experience total blackout.

NDUKUBA CHRISOGONUS, 31, NIGERIA

Subsidize solar panels and LPG cylinders to make them affordable because they are cleaner and more cost-effective.

BRIDGET PINKRAH, 24, GHANA



I would say our world needs to be protected by everyone who lives on it. The use of nonrenewable resources will eventually come to an end, and we need to focus on transitioning to clean energy. In the next five years, a certain percentage of our energy should come from clean sources. We can achieve this by building more hydro plants, wind turbines, and solar installations.

NTUTHUKO NEMBULA, 33, SOUTH AFRICA

Prioritize renewable energy investments and policies to create sustainable jobs, reduce emissions, and ensure energy access for all, empowering our nation's growth and future resilience.

DYLAN CHEWE, 26, ZAMBIA

We need to optimize the benefits of the clean energy transition for low-income residents, ensuring it is just and dignified. Address their energy needs to help them rise out of poverty, enabling activities like online learning and improving employment prospects. Prioritize electrifying bus and taxi fleets to support those who rely on them. Take full advantage of Africa's abundant sunlight.

WILLIAM SEKGOBELA, 25, SOUTH AFRICA

Investing in renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power is essential. These technologies cut greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and boost economic growth. Supporting research and development will drive innovation and sustainability.

Promoting energy efficiency in homes, businesses, and transportation can significantly reduce consumption and costs while lowering our carbon footprint.

Public engagement is crucial for a successful transition. Educational campaigns can inform citizens about clean energy benefits and ways to contribute, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

PHURPA WANGDI, 23, BHUTAN



The Republic of Benin has abundant solar and hydroelectric potential. I hope the central government will invest in these energy sources to enhance their contribution to the country's energy mix and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Additionally, it is crucial to train and utilize young people in this transition.

MARIAS ESDRAS TOKPASSI, 24, BENIN

Dear Leaders, please prioritize clean energy in our great country, Nigeria. It will help fight climate change, create jobs, and most importantly, foster a healthier environment, paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future. Together, we can make this change for a better and more prosperous tomorrow.

IBUKUNOLUWA GEORGE, 16, NIGERIA

Empower us to drive change! Provide education, resources, and platforms for youth to innovate and lead the clean energy transition. Our future depends on it

SULEIMAN ABDULAH, 31, NIGERIA

The government can aid the global energy transition by reducing energy use, supporting renewables, promoting sustainability, engaging communities, backing leaders and policies for sustainability, and continuously learning

EMMANUEL CHIRCHIR, 23, KENYA

Your policies shape our future; decide sustainably.

MICHAEL BERKO, 23, GHANA

Let's unite governments, businesses, youth, Indigenous peoples, women, and marginalized communities to build a just, strategic, and actionable roadmap for a clean energy transition by 2030! By combining ancestral wisdom and cutting-edge technology, let's transform our energy story now!

PAOLA FLORES, 25, BOLIVIA



Energy is the present and future, as are the youth. How can we enable a just transition by combining these two aspects? To increase energy adoption, we must integrate youth into the sector. What can you do for energy students to support their involvement and innovation in the energy sector?

RONNY MUSENYE, 21, KENYA



As a young professional in training dedicated to tackling climate change and promoting sustainable energy solutions, I urge our leaders to prioritize investment in renewable energy and sustainable practices. Small Island Developing States, like ours, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, making it crucial for us to lead by example. It is essential to support youth-driven initiatives and innovations that aim to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency, strengthening their capacities and allowing creativity and motivation to be part of the change. With adequate resources and platforms for young people to develop and implement their ideas, we can drive significant change and build a resilient future. Let us work together to create policies that not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also empower the next generation of leaders to continue this vital work. Our collective efforts today will determine the legacy we leave for future generations. We, the youth, have the power and passion to lead this transition, but we need the support and trust of our leaders to make it a reality. The transition to clean energy is a shared responsibility and an opportunity to build a better world for all people.

DIANA MUDARRA, 25, PANAMA