



LCOY

SYRIA

2025 LCOY SYRIA NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT



THEME:
PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Syria 2025 adopts this year's main theme, Peace and Climate Justice, as a comprehensive framework that recognizes the deep interlinkages between peacebuilding, human rights, and environmental sustainability. Climate justice cannot be achieved without addressing conflict, displacement, and inequality, nor can peace be sustained without embedding climate resilience and social inclusion. This statement represents the collective voice of +150 Syrian youth, emerging from dialogue sessions, community consultations, and youth-led initiatives conducted across Syria. It outlines key demands under four overarching categories: Conflict and Peace, Youth Involvement in Climate Action, Technology and Innovation, Finance and Accountability and Recovery and Resilience.

1. CONFLICT AND PEACE

CHALLENGES:

- Climate change exacerbates displacement, resource scarcity, and social tensions, especially in conflict-affected regions.
- Women and vulnerable groups face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and economic exclusion under climate stress.
- Water insecurity, especially regarding Euphrates River flows, poses a serious threat to stability and regional cooperation.

DEMANDS:

- Integrate climate-security risks into national peacebuilding and governance frameworks.
- Establish climate-resilient safe zones for internally displaced persons (IDPs), with access to water, shelter, health services, and community agriculture.
- Promote gender-responsive climate adaptation, creating tailored economic opportunities for women and survivors of conflict.
- Negotiate regional water cooperation agreements, especially with Turkey, while exploring joint solutions such as water desalination and equitable resource-sharing.
- Strengthen the role of international organizations (e.g., ICARDA, UNEP, FAO, IUCN, WWF, IPCC) in facilitating cross-border cooperation and conflict-sensitive climate programming.

2. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

CHALLENGES:

- Youth are excluded from national climate policymaking, with limited representation in governance bodies.
- Environmental education, capacity-building, and funding opportunities remain insufficient.
- Youth-led initiatives are under-recognized, underfunded, and fragmented.

DEMANDS:

- Establish a National Youth Climate Council under relevant ministries to institutionalize youth participation in environmental governance.
- Guarantee youth representation in NDCs, NAPs, and DRR strategies to ensure policies reflect local realities.
- Provide logistical, financial, and technical support for youth-led projects in waste management, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.
- Create climate innovation hubs to train youth in adaptation, circular economy, and environmental entrepreneurship.
- Foster peer-to-peer exchange with youth in other conflict-affected regions to co-develop community-driven solutions.
- Launch nationwide youth awareness campaigns linking climate change with public health, water safety, and gender equality.

3. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

CHALLENGES:

- Outdated infrastructure and weak regulatory systems hinder technological innovation.
- Lack of investment in renewable energy, water management, and waste treatment.
- Insufficient monitoring systems for air, water, and climate-related hazards.

DEMANDS:

- Expand early warning systems for wildfires, floods, and droughts, integrating mobile alerts and community-based monitoring.
- Support decentralized waste and water treatment technologies, particularly in rural areas and IDP settlements.
- Promote grey-water reuse and modern irrigation systems to address water scarcity.
- Invest in alternative energy systems (bio-waste, algae fuels, solar and wind power, biogas from landfills).
- Encourage green technology startups with tax incentives, incubation hubs, and regulatory support.
- Develop digital environmental-planning tools and sensor technologies for air/water quality monitoring.
- Strengthen national gender-responsive data systems, collecting disaggregated indicators by age, gender, and vulnerability.

4. RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

CHALLENGES:

- Post-conflict reconstruction often ignores climate risks and environmental protection.
- Widespread water pollution, degraded ecosystems, and hazardous waste from war threaten health and livelihoods.
- Climate-induced health risks (respiratory diseases, cancers, heat stress) are rising, with limited healthcare capacity.

DEMANDS:

- Implement ecosystem-based recovery programs, including reforestation with climate-appropriate species, land rehabilitation, and sustainable farming.
- Integrate climate adaptation into reconstruction and urban planning (wastewater management, rainwater harvesting, coastal protection).
- Ensure equitable water distribution through infrastructure repair, rainwater collection, and drought-resistant agriculture.
- Promote sustainable waste management, building sanitary landfills and incentivizing private investment in recycling and circular economy.
- Build climate-resilient health systems, integrating SRHR, GBV prevention, and mental health services into recovery frameworks.
- Enhance community engagement through awareness campaigns, youth employment in environmental restoration, and school-based environmental education.
- Advocate for Syria's access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by preparing rights-based, inclusive climate projects aligned with national priorities.

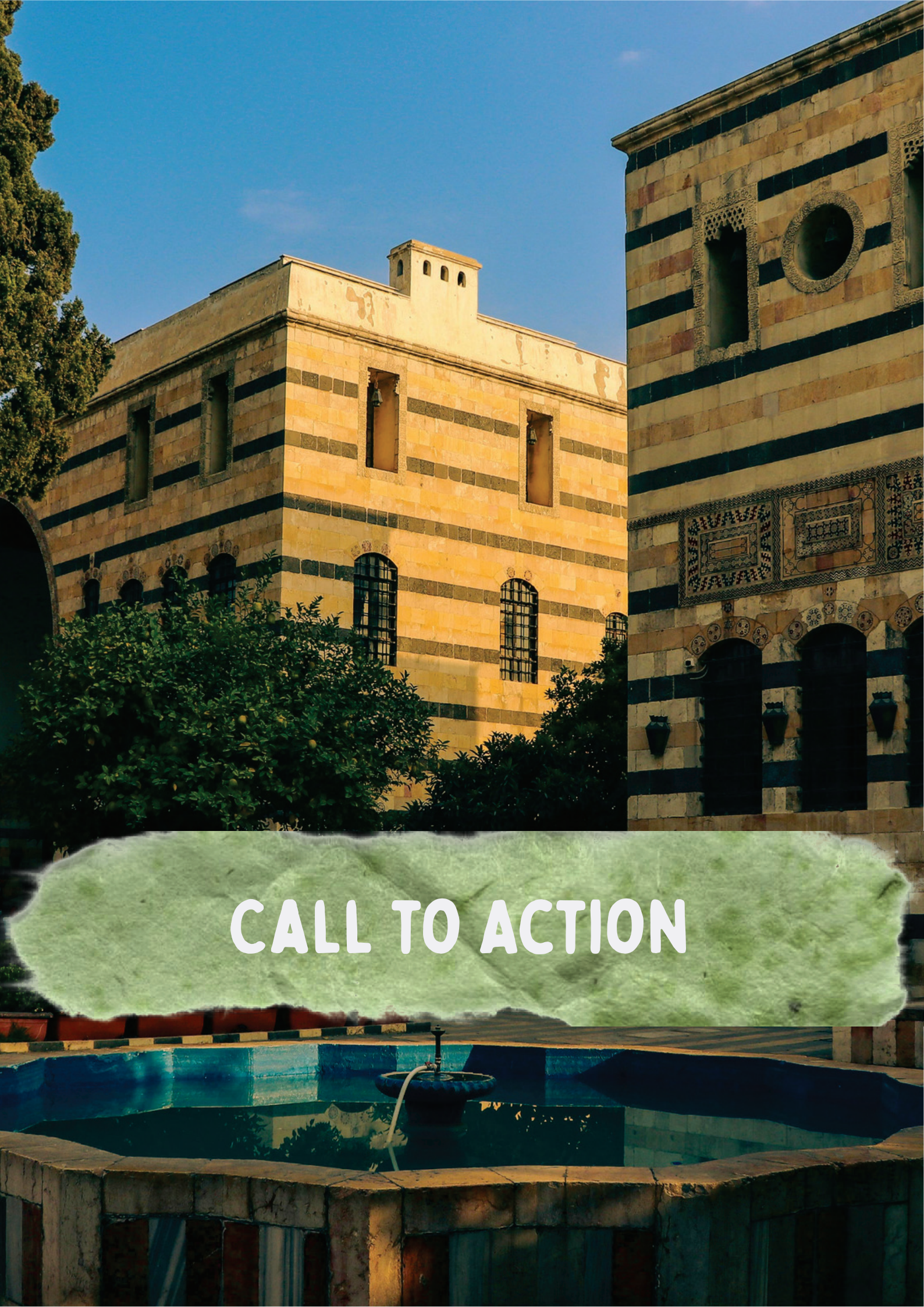
5. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CHALLENGES:

- Limited access of Syrian youth initiatives to international funding sources due to sanctions, weak official channels, and lack of institutional trust.
- Absence of transparent mechanisms to hold donors and implementing entities accountable for fair distribution of funds.
- Concentration of support in short-term humanitarian projects, while funding for capacity-building, innovation, and long-term adaptation is marginalized.

DEMANDS:

- Require donors to open dedicated funding windows for Syrian youth, with clear and simple criteria that enable local initiatives to apply and directly access resources.
 - Establish joint accountability mechanisms that include youth as monitors and evaluators of funded projects, to ensure transparency in project selection and resource allocation.
 - Allocate a fixed percentage of funding toward long-term projects in climate adaptation, circular economy, and green reconstruction, instead of limiting it to short-term responses.
 - Facilitate youth access to training and accreditation in project proposal writing and grant management, to increase their chances of acceptance and build donor confidence.
 - Link funding to clear impact indicators such as creating green jobs, involving women and vulnerable groups, and ensuring sustainability of projects beyond the grant period.
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CALL TO ACTION

SYRIAN YOUTH AFFIRM THAT PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ARE INSEPARABLE. WE DEMAND INCLUSIVE, RIGHTS-BASED, AND INTERGENERATIONAL CLIMATE POLICIES THAT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF VULNERABILITY, PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION, AND ENABLE SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY.

THROUGH LCOY SYRIA 2025, WE COMMIT TO ADVANCING THESE PRIORITIES, AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF YOUNG SYRIANS, AND BRINGING THEM TO INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS INCLUDING COY AND COP30.



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