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VIETNAM YOUTH STATEMENT

The following messages represent Vietnam's young people's contribution to the Global Youth Statement on Climate Action to COP26.

These voices are supported by **7,484** signatures from Vietnamese youth and **50 youth organizations** participating in Vietnam Youth Letter by Youth Climate Action Network Vietnam (2021), the British Council's Next Generation research in Vietnam (2020) and UNDP Vietnam's Special report "Youth for Climate Action in Vietnam" (2021).

The Vietnam Youth Statement is available in English, Vietnamese, Jrai, Ede, Khmer, Hmob.

Together with youth around the globe, we consider climate change to be one of the largest and most unprecedented threats to the entire world, and we believe that our focused and coordinated efforts are key to addressing this issue.

Section I: Preamble

Youth Climate Action Network Vietnam (YNet) was established in 2020 with 16 core member organisations and over 100 individual members. YNet is keenly aware that currently, there are many youth projects in all climate action fields, some using technological innovation and nature-based solutions in highly creative ways. However, most projects are still not widely known and face many challenges that prevent them from contributing effectively to the national NDC. At the local level, youth-led climate organizations suffer from four main bottlenecks: lack of funding, stakeholder engagement, youth capacity, and access to technology. At the national level, there is a lack of coordination mechanism among the youth initiatives to enable them to collaborate and extend their collective participation in climate policy actions. YNet aims to:

- Foster collaboration between youth-led organisations and initiatives across the country to increase the participation and contribution of young people to the development, implementation of NDC.
- Build capacity by enhancing knowledge, experience for youth-led climate action organisations.
- Create a platform for young people to dialogue and engage with different stakeholders such as the government, private sector, CSOs, experts, academia, donors.
- Advocate for youth participation in the development and implementation of national, local climate policies.

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Section II: Background

Vietnam is a signatory of the Paris Agreement and has been active in mainstreaming climate change into national policies. In 2020, the country submitted its revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with ambitious goals for mitigation as well as adaptation in the next decade. Key to meeting these goals is the participation of youths from 14-35 years old, who make up 70% of the population and care about climate change—as demonstrated by a United Nations Thematic Group on Adolescent and Youth survey which found the climate to be youth's second-largest concern. Yet despite this enthusiasm, Vietnamese youths face formidable barriers to engaging in climate action which has hitherto hampered their projects' growth.

Section III: Commitments

YNet commits to:

Raise climate awareness of youth:

- Increasing the visibility of at least 50 high-potential youth climate projects, their achievements, and shortcomings via regional roadshows, experiential tours, and a constantly updated online portal.
- Implement public engagement campaigns and empower climate actions among the young population through innovation, partnership, and collaboration.

Build capacity of young people:

- Implementing at least 5 capacity-building opportunities for leaders and members of youth climate projects, focusing on most-needed skills (fundraising, project management, human resource management, etc.) and climate knowledge (Natural-based Solutions, Innovation, Adaptation)

Advocate for youth participation in climate politics:

- Youth mainstreaming of NDCs and other climate policies in Vietnam through at least 1 offline event (COP simulation, policy dialogues) and 3 online campaigns before COP26.
- Launching a collective of Climate Policy Youth Working Groups working on key issues in Vietnam's NDC, to compile an official policy brief from Vietnamese youths for COP26.

Section IV: Demands

1. Action for Climate Empowerment and Education

We demand the commitment to **establish the national ACE (Action for Climate Empowerment)** focal point for all nations by 2022. Provide legislation and financial support for ACE mechanism to support youth to contribute to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation and update.

1.1 Climate Education

We call for decision-makers to strengthen **local and national youth development efforts** towards climate action in the digitalized world that promotes an establishment of inclusive, skilful, and leadership-oriented generations who are responsive to climate adaptation, mitigation, and preparedness. Integrating **climate, sustainable development lessons into formal and extracurricular training programmes** across all education levels. Considering **gender and socio-cultural inequalities** by contextualising learning materials for specific communities and disadvantaged groups.

1.2 Training

We recommend active measures to empower youth to play an active role through volunteering and professional work in different settings to enhance their skills and contributions to our nation, starting from a community level. Enabling youth to campaign and advocate at the community level as well as at national level.

We support the application and transference of innovative ideas and best practices on climate change adaptation, mitigation and responses by promoting multi-stakeholder sharing and learning opportunities through digital platforms such as the Viet Nam's Youth for Climate Learning Hub, recognition of youth climate initiatives through contests, awards such as Youth for Climate Innovation Contest and the Youth for Climate Roadshow.

We demand the encouragement of the culture of learning and therefore bridging the gaps across generations through mentorship and coaching programmes to enable youth to garner more experience and professional advice from professional individuals and sustain the ecosystem of youth leaders across the wider climate sector and beyond.

1.3 Public awareness

We encourage government, private sector and stakeholders across all sectors to fully utilise social media to engage with young people and provide equitable access to electricity, devices and the internet in rural areas to increase outreach amongst children and youth regionally.

1.4 Public participation

We demand multi-level governance and collaborations between the public sector with youth networks, private sector, and communities to provide support in addressing climate change issues at the local, national and international levels.

We demand **regular youth-friendly dialogues** organised by the government, legislature, stakeholders, communities, and youth networks to enable young people to express their views and sentiments towards the future of our planet. Enable young people to contribute to the development and implementation of the national climate policies such as National Action Plan on Climate Change Response (NAP), National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS), Nationally Determined Contributions Implement Support Programme (NDCISP), etc.

1.5 Access to information

We demand decision-makers and stakeholders to ensure that initiatives to ensure access to information are inclusive and take into consideration the needs and skills of women and girls, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, and other marginalised groups by making information and opportunities more accessible using online platforms, mobile applications, and other forms of media and technology.

1.6 International cooperation

We urge the decision-makers, private sector, and CSOs to develop specific measures to ensure the representation of youth and young officials to the government delegation at regional and international forums such as the Conference of Parties (COP26), the Conference of Youth (COY), and Pre-COP Summit by utilizing their skills and talents to spread awareness on the different social issues and to take necessary and lasting action to tackle the climate crisis.

2. Climate Finance

We urge decision-makers at all levels, in public and private sectors, to create a transparent and accountable climate finance system with robust regulation of carbon emissions, eradicating the climate investment trap in the most vulnerable communities, while ensuring equal opportunities for people of all genders, ages, and backgrounds, as well as eradicating exploitation of women and child labour.

We demand policymakers from developed countries to commit to the climate finance goal of 100 billion by 2022 to support Developing and Small Island Developing States to adapt to climate change, including a transparent and accessible financial flow and mechanism. Aim for ambitious new Common Global Climate Finance Goal after 2025, with clarification on how countries will be compensated for unavoidable Loss and Damage

We recommend the introduction of the adaptation-related levy on transactions under new carbon market mechanisms: We strongly encourage continued sourcing of the Adaptation Fund from an adaptation levy under any new carbon market mechanism of the Paris Agreement. The levy should account for at least 5 percent of all finance channeled via the new market mechanism.

3. Climate Justice and Rights

We call the public sector, private sector, relevant stakeholders, stakeholders, and other relevant agencies, especially social enterprises, education institutions, and intergovernmental agencies to create potential and sustainable green job opportunities for young people, ensuring the necessary skills and knowledge are provided to ensure that no one is left behind during the green transition.

4. Clean Energy

We call for an urgent, holistic, diversified and inclusive energy transition by 2030 that prioritizes energy efficiency and sustainable energy, keeping the +1.5 goal within reach by aiming for net-zero by 2050. Rapidly foster the abolishment of fossil fuels energy and increase the financial support as well as creating an enabling environment for investment in sustainable renewable energy. Abolishing the fossil fuels industry must begin rapidly.

5. Adaptation & resilience

We demand strengthening of diverse means of implementation to be made immediately available for locally-owned adaptation, resilience, and loss & damage measures to ensure proper and continuous solutions reach the most vulnerable groups and regions.

6. Nature-based Solutions

We demand Nature-based Solutions (NbS) be prioritized as a key strategy to address the climate crisis. Integrate NbS in the planning and implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies, plans systematically at the national and regional scale. Emphasise the need for a socially just and equitable society especially by recognizing, representing, respecting and protecting local and indigenous peoples' rights and place-based knowledge.