

# SCoPA

January 2, 2019

## STUDENT CONFERENCE ON THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

*A Voice for Youth Ages 14-19 in the Climate Change Debate*



### Mission Statement

The mission of SCoPA is to help empower youth to be an important part of national and global efforts to mitigate climate change through real world, cross cultural experiences of awareness and action. SCoPA also supports the work of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in schools and communities.

### \*SCoPA: COP26

SCoPA's focus in 2019-2020 is in support of:

- *UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action and other related SDGs.*
- *The Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings and related actions with member states to help mitigate climate change.*
- *Providing educational support related to the work of various UN, and non-UN based mechanisms. This includes the important work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).\*\**
- *International distant learning applications bringing youth together in real time.*
- *Bringing to the United nations a youth voice on mitigating climate change.*

In these pursuits, SCoPA supports the Preamble to the Paris Agreement which includes an acknowledgement "that climate change is a common concern of humankind" and that "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their

respective obligations on human rights". SCoPA is dedicated to this principal and understands its importance in climate change action.

### **2018-2020**

The 2019-2020 time period is one for youth to become active participants in mitigating climate change.

- *Students and teachers* will have access to an orientation and training program on climate change issues to learn how to bring their perspectives on their country's role to mitigate climate change. The annual reports of the UNFCCC, and other reputable sources, are important components for youth awareness on climate change issues in their country.
- *Students will* move from awareness to action by videoconference with their peers in another country on problems and solutions evolving from COP21 and culminating in COP26. This videoconferences will also have other youth interactions via social media to help bring a global perspective to their discussions.

### **2018-2020 (continued)**

#### **Day One at UN**

- In late winter, or early spring, *2020*, selected students from the completed country-based videoconferences will be invited to the United Nations in NYC for a two day conference to present their ideas and recommendations to the UN. Youth not at the UN can participate via an interactive webcast with their group or individually.

A goal of the 2020 meeting at the United Nations is to offer a serious youth perspective on solutions to mitigating climate change for inclusion at the November COP26 meetings when climate change decisions become binding on the member states. Day one of this NGO sponsored conference will be in a youth discussion format across cultures to vote on a final Youth Plan of Action to be presented to the UN on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day.

#### **Day Two at UN**

- With youth discussion on their approved Plan of Action, it is formally presented to the UN Envoy on Youth and forwarded to the UNFCCC.

### **2021-2030**

The 2021-2030 time period will have program and methodology adjustments with new local and regional work. Future UN conferences will include innovative ways to envision real climate change through art, film robotics and more.

A mechanism will also be put in place by youth to keep youth leaders connected to this project after high school. Their "alumni" support and inside understanding will be very important to help ensure the future of the conference and the inclusion of youth in the movement to

mitigate climate change. SCoPA is making climate change education real to help save the planet.

The time for SCoPA: COP26 has arrived.

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\*The SCoPA: COP26 focus is an integral part of SCoPA's mission to empower youth to help mitigate climate change..

\*\*With the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, parties to these agreements have progressively reaffirmed the role of the UNFCCC as the UN entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change.

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