

Cop 27 – Education and Youth

Cop 27 could be considered one of the most significant gatherings since Paris 2015. Cop 27 saw G77 + China agree to provide financial reparations in the form of a 'loss and damage' fund for developing countries (mainly the global south) to help these nations recover from the damage and economic losses as a result of the ongoing impacts of climate change. Although this is a significant step forward, Cop 27 did not end with a commitment to phase out fossil fuels. Many people remain dubious as to whether this loss and damage fund will materialise into anything, especially as no legal action can be taken against countries that don't contribute.

Although much attention was paid to the specifics of the 'loss and damage' fund throughout the conference, education also took a significant step forward. For the first time, education had a dedicated platform for voicing their demands for quality climate change education for all. The Covid 19 pandemic saw the largest disruption to the education system in history. More than 90% of children worldwide were negatively impacted, with girls and young women being disproportionately affected. Youth movements have become more and more prominent and vocal in recent years in advocating for action on climate change. From the Fridays for Future movement to the Youth Climate Movement, young people are actively working towards making quality education for sustainable development accessible to all worldwide.

This seminar will use available information from the Sustainable Development Goals (specifically SDG 4), Non-Governmental Organisations and national legislation to explore and possibly find answers to the questions below.

Who – Should be included? What age range?

What – What should Education for Sustainable Development look like in practice?

When – The SDGs are time-sensitive, with a target to achieve all of them by 2030. Is this a realistic timeframe?

Why – Why is education so important? Are there other more important issues that should be addressed first?

How – How could Education for Sustainable Development be delivered? Locally, nationally and globally? How far away are we from success? How are women and girls disproportionately affected

