

# Nationally Determined Contributions Analysis

## Introduction

In order to enable a just transition towards decarbonization, we must prepare and empower the public to take on climate change. It will be impossible to reach the mitigation and adaptation targets necessary to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees without effective engagement. That is why it is imperative for countries to take education (formal, informal and non-formal), public awareness and participation, and capacity building seriously in order to enable long-term, sustainable change. This need is recognised in UN Sustainable Development Goals and more specifically the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Article 6 -- Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)-- and again reiterated in the Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

Youth will be the most affected by climate change, making intergenerational equity integral to fostering climate justice. Young people are vulnerable to climate change, but also are leaders on solutions and thus should be provided access and capacity to enable the transition.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were submitted by Parties in advance of COP21 to communicate their contributions to the Paris Agreement. The NDCs often fail to include any language or plans surrounding young people or ACE.

In this report, YOUNGO provides analysis on the published NDCs in regard to their attention to both youth as an important constituency and the integration of education into their comprehensive plan to deploy action on the Paris Agreement.

## Methods

All available NDCs were examined to identify keywords as they related to the two topics of ACE and Youth (Table 1). Identified instances within the text were then extracted for analysis and ranked according to respective Rubrics.

The ACE Rubric was based off of the types of engagement listed in Article 6: namely education, public access, public participation, and scientific training (Table 2). This Rubric was based off of a scale of 0 to 5, where a 0 indicates no reference of ACE mandates and 5 indicates that all five types were incorporated with a plan for action. See appendix 4 below for country scores.

For the youth rubric, a score of 0 indicates that no mention of the topic is present, and a score of 3 indicates that the topic is mentioned and is accompanied by plans for implementation (Table 3). See appendix 5 below for country scores.

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## Analysis

Out of the 196 Parties to the UNFCCC only 63 countries (32%) mention education, 36 (18%) mention youth, and 23 (12%) mention both ACE and Youth. Overall, this shows a lack of acknowledgement of ACE and Youth in the NDCs. Some trends emerged from the data based on the content, or lack thereof.

The EU, highly regarded for its collective countries' educational systems, failed to include any language on either Youth or ACE. This was also true for the United States, Canada, and Australia, all of whom are some of the highest emitters per capita.

In direct contrast, some of the small island states that are most vulnerable to climate change, such as St. Lucia and Dominica, have comprehensive ACE plans and mentions of youth integrated in their NDC. Twenty seven African parties include mention of ACE. Seychelles having the highest overall score of any country, fulfilled a rating of 5 on ACE and 3 on Youth. Seychelles' introduction to their outline on ACE reads, "There is a need to accelerate efforts to integrate climate change education into the school curriculum at all levels, including primary, secondary and professional centres and ensure that adequate attention is given to adaptation measures."

India, Brazil, and China are often heralded as some of the fastest developing nations. Of these three large-scale players, India and China have mentions of education. Unlike India, China has included a robust three paragraphs on ACE. See an excerpt here: "To enhance education for all citizens on low-carbon way of life and consumption, to advocate green, low-carbon, healthy and civilized way of life and consumption patterns and to promote low-carbon consumption throughout society." The UAE stands out in the Middle East and North Africa region, with a 5 for ACE but no mention of youth.

Antigua, Barbuda, Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Kiribati, and Solomon Islands have all included ACE initiatives, however have indicated that implementation is dependant on additional funding.

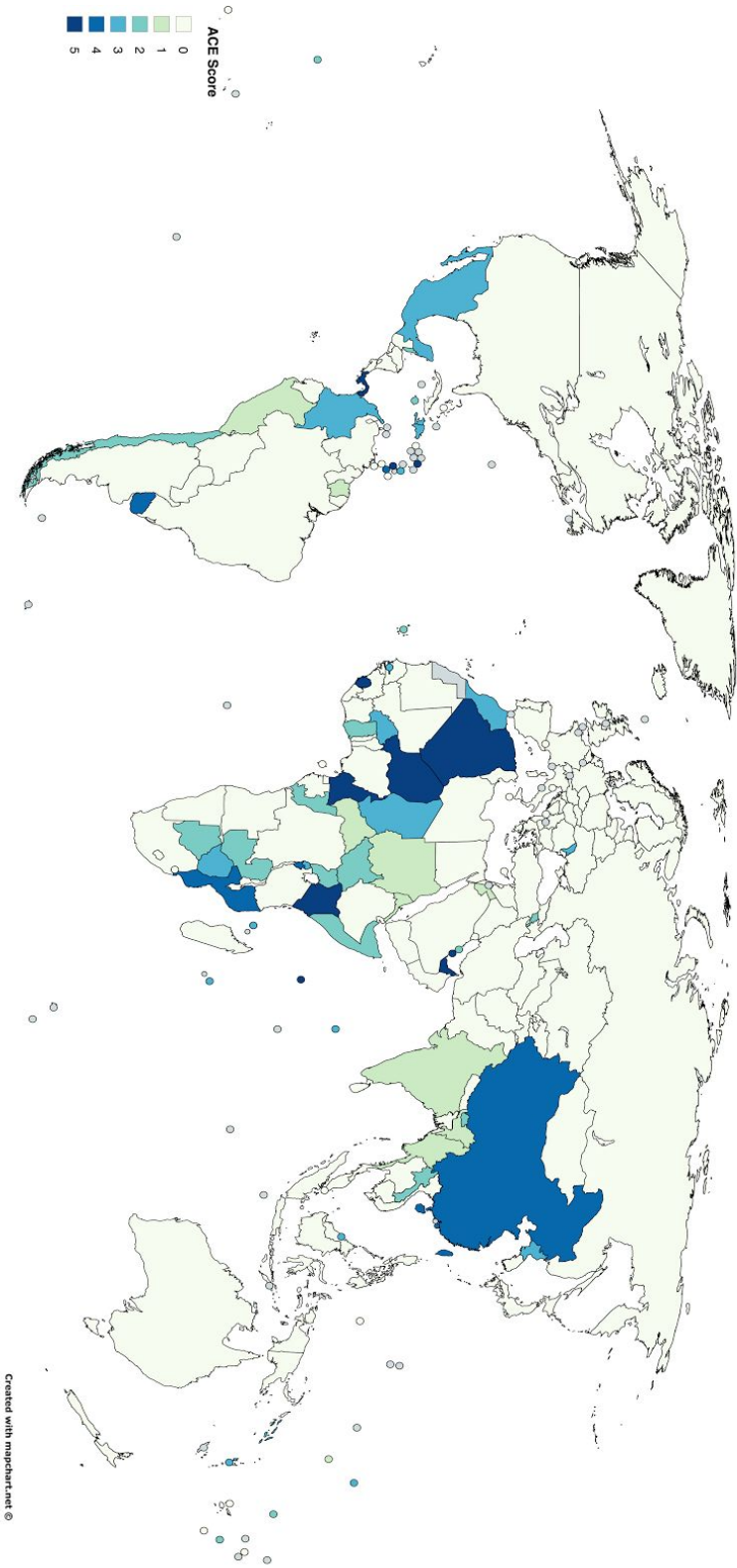
Ninety nine countries (50%) have identified ACE focal points, though there was only a slight correlation (mean of 1.13 versus 0.69 with a p-value of 0.062, wilcoxon test) between the ACE and Youth score of the country and if they had identified a focal point.

With these results having been established, we wish to highlight the possibility that countries may have intentionally not included any mention of ACE or Youth in their NDCs so as not to detract from the from the importance of their mitigation and adaptation strategies. This conjecture must be researched further, but also highlights the necessity of transparency from all Parties. The analysis is solely based on NDCs; we emphasize that the results do not necessarily reflect Parties' national policies in their entirety.

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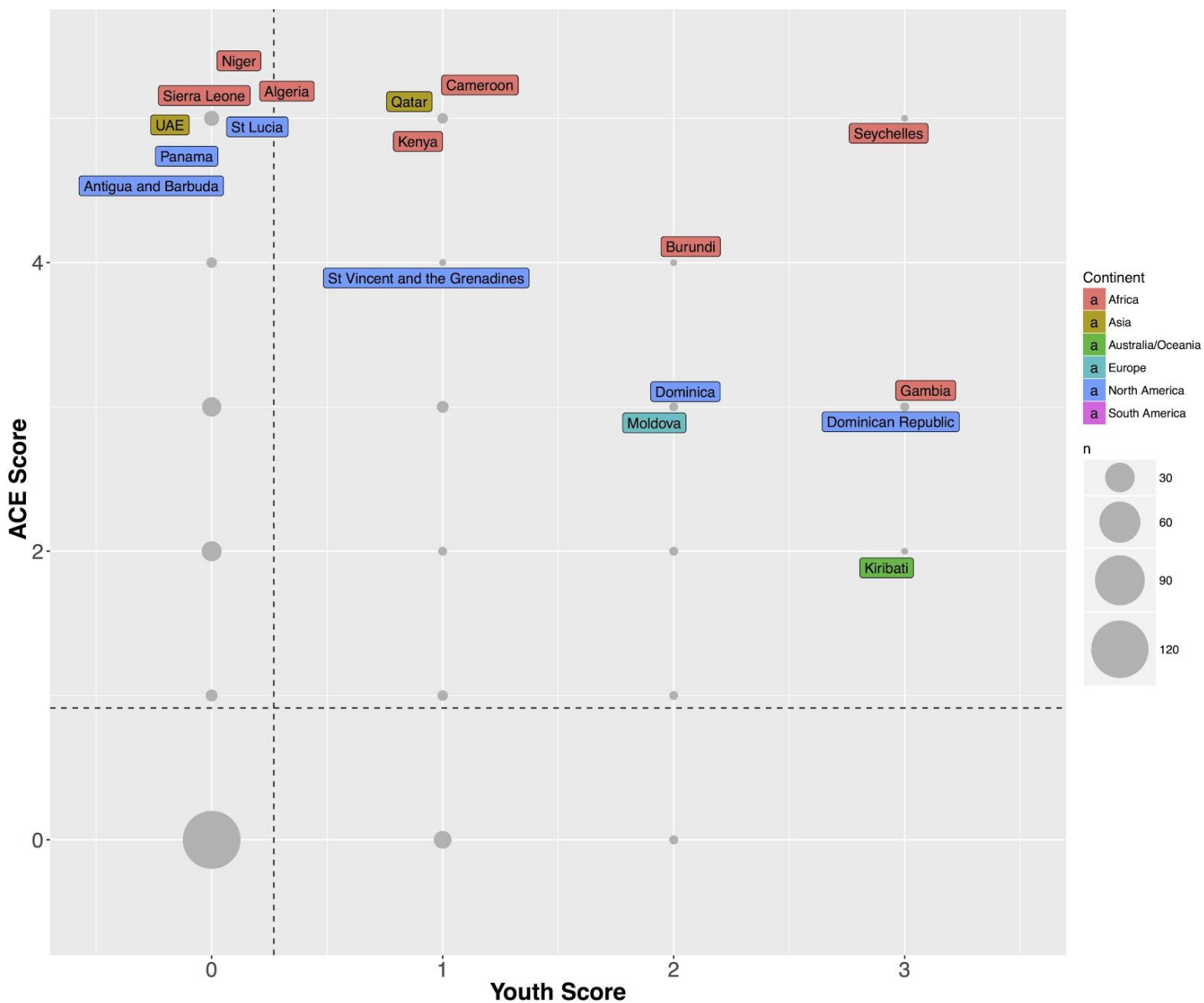
## Figures

Figure 1: World map of the ACE score.



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**Figure 2:** Two dimensional plot of ACE and Youth Scores. Dotted lines are the Means and named countries have a cumulative (ACE + Youth) score greater than 4.



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## Appendices

| Topic | Keywords  |
|-------|---|
| ACE   | Educat, curricu, train, research, engage, aware |
| Youth | You, child, intergen                            |

**Appendix 1:** Keywords for NDC search

| 0           | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| No mention. | Mention without substantive plans in their NDCs. | Mention of one of the following with plans for implementation: education, public access, public participation, scientific training in their NDCs. | Mention of two of the following with plans for implementation: education, public access, public participation, scientific training in their NDCs. | Mention of three of the following with plans for implementation: education, public access, public participation, scientific training in their NDCs. | Mention of all of the following with plans for implementation: education, public access, public participation, scientific training in their NDCs. |

**Appendix 2:** ACE Rubric

| 0           | 1                                | 2  | 3   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| No mention. | Acknowledge youth in their NDCs. | Acknowledge and mention partial plans for youth in their NDCs. | Acknowledge and mention concrete/comprehensive plans regarding youth in their NDCs. |

**Appendix 3:** Youth Rubric

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts |
|---|---|

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|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Vietnam, Yemen |
| 1 | Central African Republic, Eritrea, India, Jordan, Myanmar, Nauru, Peru, Sudan, Suriname  |
| 2 | Armenia, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Ghana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niue, Somalia, South Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Zambia   |
| 3 | Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Haiti, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe  |
| 4 | Burundi, China, Mozambique, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay  |
| 5 | Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Kenya, Niger, Panama, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates   |

### Appendix 4: ACE country rating

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, |
|---|---|

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|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)                      |
| 1 | Barbados, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe |
| 2 | Burundi, Dominica, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia   |
| 3 | Dominican Republic, Gambia, Kiribati, Seychelles   |

**Appendix 5:** Youth country rating