

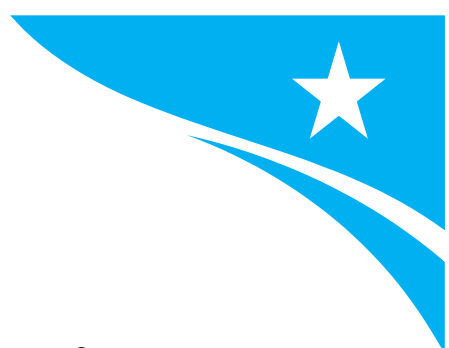


# NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT



## LCOY SOMALIA 2024 HOSTS





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## Foreword:

This national youth position statement of Somalia is the first of its kind. It works to unify the voice of the Somali youth from the entire region to address key issues and give a recommendation on climate action that impacts their livelihoods and future. This statement was collated through a consultation process that brought together more than 100 delegates, both virtually and in-person, to provide vital input into the designated thematic areas. The delegates were selected to reflect the composition of the Federal Member States of Somalia, having representatives from each of the states. The selection committee also chose the delegates to reflect a minimum 30% inclusion for gender diversity, specifically women.

This position statement is set to be an introduction into an open dialogue between the Somali youth through the Local conference of youth (LCOY) process and the Somali government. Through both the ministry of environment and climate change and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Somalia, we plan to foster a long-term working relationship to address gaps in combating the climate crisis and putting a greater emphasis on youth participation and engagement.

Somalia is one of the countries most heavily impacted by the climate crisis. This has been further exacerbated by decades of conflict and political instability. Even as the country grapples with recurring droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events, there has been significant development in the past half-decade towards fostering positive climate actions. The potential for the Somalia people is untapped, as over 75% of the population under the age of 30. Somalia's youth represent both the most vulnerable group to the impacts of climate change and the most significant potential agents of change.

This statement outlines seven key thematic areas that were selected as key priorities for climate action in Somalia. These areas include Climate Peace and Security, Food and Agriculture, Nature and Biodiversity, Oceans & Water, Climate Health, Loss & Damage, and Energy & Renewables. Each section provides an outline of the issues at hand, followed by recommendations for policy, capacity-building, and funding. Drawing on the rich insights and lived experiences of Somali youth, this document aims to provide a roadmap for sustainable development and climate resilience in the country.



## 1. Climate Peace and Security

### Brief Outline of the Issue

Climate change and security issues in Somalia are intertwined. Climate change amplifies existing vulnerabilities and tensions in regions with limited natural resources. Recurrent droughts in the Horn of Africa result in severe water shortages, affecting agriculture and livestock. Competition for resources leads to increased conflict, violence, and displacement. These conflicts are not just localized; they have broader implications for national and regional stability. Climate-related events that displace populations also add to urbanization, putting additional strain on the already scarce resources of cities and potentially giving rise to new conflicts.

We cannot ignore the connection between climate change and extremism. Extremist groups exploit the vulnerabilities caused by climate-induced hardships, using them as recruitment tools. In regions where the government is not strongly established, these groups fill the void by offering services for allegiance, which ultimately adds to the destabilization of the region.

### Policy Recommendation

To effectively address the intersection of climate change and security, Somalia must integrate climate considerations into its national security framework.

This includes:

1. **Climate Security Strategy:** Creating inclusive Climate Security Strategies that recognize and address the threats climate change poses to peace and stability. We must tailor these strategies to specific regions, considering their distinct environmental, social, and political contexts.
2. **Climate Security Council:** Implementing Climate Security Councils hearings at the regional level. This would play a crucial role in enabling a coordinated approach to addressing conflicts caused by climate change and instability. These councils should include representatives from government, local communities, traditional leaders, civil society, and youth organizations. Their role would be to monitor climate risks, develop conflict-prevention strategies, and coordinate emergency responses and provide a platform for local youth to address concerns.
3. **Climate Resilience:** Integrating climate resilience into the national peace building agenda. Peace agreements and reconciliation processes should include provisions for managing natural resources sustainably and equitably.



## Capacity Building Recommendation

Building capacity at the community level is crucial for preventing and mitigating climate-induced conflicts.

1. **Youth Training & Engagement Programs:** Develop training programs to enhance local leaders, youth, and women in conflict resolution, resource management, and climate adaptation. These programs should be culturally sensitive and tailored to the specific needs of different communities.
2. **Peace building Empowerment Training:** An increased focus on empowering youth as peace builders through youth engagement programs that provides young people with the tools they need to actively participate in peace building efforts, including training in negotiation, leadership, and community organizing.
3. **Educational Programs and Seminars:** Educational institutions should incorporate modules on climate security into their curriculum. This would make sure that the upcoming generation of leaders is prepared to tackle the difficulties posed by a shifting climate.
4. **Climate Negotiation Training:** Train the Somali youth on Climate Negotiation Skills to enable them to take part in international climate negotiations and COP meetings.

## Funding Recommendations

To support these initiatives, substantial investment is necessary. International donors and development agencies should prioritize funding for climate security programs, particularly those that focus on conflict prevention and peace building, while also addressing climate issues.

1. **Climate Security Council Fund:** Directed funding should support the establishment of Climate Security Councils, the development of climate-related conflict early warning systems and implementing community-based adaptation projects.
2. **Rapid Response Funding:** Implementing Flexible funding mechanisms that can quickly respond to emerging climate security risks. These could include contingency funds for rapid response to climate-induced conflicts and disaster risk reduction initiatives.
3. **Private Sector Partnerships:** Collaborating with private sector partners to secure additional funding, particularly for innovative solutions that address the root causes of climate-related conflicts.



## 2. Food and Agriculture

### Brief Outline of the Issue

The agricultural sector is the backbone of Somalia's economy, with the majority of the population relying on farming and pastoralism for their livelihoods. However, this sector is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The recurrent droughts that have plagued Somalia in recent years have led to significant reductions in crop yields and the death of livestock, pushing millions into food insecurity. These climate shocks not only affect food production but also disrupt food distribution systems, leading to price volatility and making it difficult for vulnerable populations to access adequate nutrition.

The challenges are compounded by unsustainable agricultural practices, such as overgrazing, deforestation, and the over-extraction of water resources. These practices contribute to land degradation and desertification, further reducing the productive capacity of the land. Moreover, the reliance on rain-fed agriculture makes farmers particularly susceptible to changes in precipitation patterns, which are becoming increasingly erratic due to climate change.

### Policy Recommendation

To enhance the resilience of Somalia's agricultural sector, it is imperative to adopt and promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices. These practices aim to increase productivity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing resilience to climate impacts. Key policy measures should include:

1. **Promotion of Drought-Resistant Crops:** Encourage the cultivation of drought-resistant and climate-resilient crop varieties that can withstand extreme weather conditions. This can be achieved through research and development, as well as the distribution of improved seed varieties to farmers.
2. **Sustainable Water Management:** Implement policies that promote the efficient use of water resources, including the adoption of water-saving irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation. The government should also invest in the construction and rehabilitation of water harvesting infrastructure, such as dams and reservoirs, to store water during periods of excess rainfall for use during dry spells.
3. **Diversification of Livelihoods:** Encourage the diversification of income-generating activities to reduce dependence on agriculture. This could include the promotion of agroforestry, which combines agriculture with tree planting to improve soil health and provide additional sources of income, and support for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.



4. **Agricultural Cooperatives:** Strengthen and support the formation of agricultural cooperatives, which can help farmers pool resources, share knowledge, and access markets more effectively. Cooperatives can also play a crucial role in the dissemination of climate-smart practices and technologies.
5. **Secure Land Rights:** Create laws that give smallholder farmers a secure tenure on their property, as this is necessary for long-term investments in environmentally friendly farming practices. This can formalize land rights, safeguarding common areas, and formalizing land ownership through titling schemes. Involve traditional leaders, the local community, and other interested parties in the creation of land tenure policies to guarantee that they are generally accepted, culturally suitable, and successfully carried out.

### **Capacity Building Recommendation**

Capacity building in the agricultural sector should focus on equipping farmers with the skills and knowledge needed to adapt to a changing climate. This includes:

1. **Training Programs:** Develop and implement youth training programs on climate-smart agriculture, covering topics such as sustainable land management, agroforestry, water conservation, and the use of improved crop varieties.
2. **Extension Service:** Strengthen agricultural extension services to provide ongoing support and advice to farmers. This could involve the deployment of mobile extension units that can reach remote areas, as well as the use of digital platforms to disseminate information on best practices and weather forecasts.
3. **Youth Engagement:** Engage youth in agriculture by promoting agribusiness opportunities and providing them with the necessary training and resources to start their own ventures. This could include support for youth-led agricultural enterprises, as well as the integration of agricultural education into school curricula.

### **Funding Recommendations**

Investments in the agricultural sector are critical to enhancing food security and building resilience to climate change. Key funding priorities should include:

1. **Infrastructure Development:** Allocate funding for the development of agricultural infrastructure, such as irrigation canals, water catchments, sand dams especially in rain fed areas ensuring more reliable water supply for agricultural activities, storage facilities, and transportation networks. This infrastructure is essential for reducing post-harvest losses, improving market access, and ensuring the efficient distribution of food.



2. **Research and Development:** Support research and development initiatives focused on climate-smart agriculture. This includes funding for the development of drought-resistant crop varieties, sustainable farming techniques, and innovative technologies that can improve productivity and resilience.
3. **Microfinance and Credit Access:** Establish microfinance schemes and credit facilities to provide farmers with the capital needed to invest in climate-smart technologies and practices. These financial instruments should be designed to be accessible to smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth.



*Figure: Somali Youth voting on the National Youth Statement at LCOY Somalia*





### **3. Nature and Biodiversity**

#### **Brief Outline of the Issue**

Somalia's rich biodiversity is under severe threat from a combination of human activities and climate change. The country is home to a variety of ecosystems, including savannahs, woodlands, coastal zones, and marine habitats, all of which support a wide range of plant and animal species. However, deforestation, habitat destruction, overgrazing, and unsustainable land use practices are leading to the rapid degradation of these ecosystems. The loss of biodiversity has far-reaching consequences, not only for the environment but also for the communities that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

The impact of climate change on Somalia's biodiversity is particularly concerning. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events are altering habitats and putting additional stress on already vulnerable species. Coastal and marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves, are also at risk from sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and pollution. The loss of these critical habitats not only threatens biodiversity but also undermines the livelihoods of coastal communities that rely on fishing and tourism.

#### **Policy Recommendation**

To protect and restore Somalia's biodiversity, a comprehensive approach is needed that integrates conservation efforts with sustainable development. Key policy recommendations include:

- 1. Protected Areas:** Expand and strengthen the network of protected areas, including national parks, wildlife reserves, and marine protected areas. This should involve the designation of new protected areas in ecologically significant regions, as well as the effective management of existing ones. The government should also work to ensure that protected areas are adequately funded and staffed, with a focus on involving local communities in conservation efforts. This would enable the creation of the first national park of Somalia.
- 2. Sustainable Land Use:** Develop and implement land use policies that promote sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, reforestation, and sustainable grazing. These policies should aim to restore degraded lands, prevent further deforestation, and promote the conservation of natural habitats.
- 3. Wildlife Conservation:** Implement measures to protect endangered species and prevent poaching and illegal wildlife trade. This could include stricter enforcement of wildlife

protection laws, as well as community-based conservation initiatives that provide alternative livelihoods to those involved in illegal activities. This should also be accompanied by gap assessment to provide alternative solutions to livelihoods affected by the conservation effort.

4. **Marine Conservation:** Strengthen marine conservation efforts by protecting critical habitats, such as coral reefs and mangroves, and regulating fishing practices to prevent overfishing and the destruction of marine ecosystems. The government should also work with international partners to combat marine pollution and address the impacts of climate change on ocean health. This should be done in collaboration with communities dependent on the marine ecosystem in respect with their way of life.

### **Capacity Building Recommendation**

Capacity building for biodiversity conservation should focus on enhancing the skills and knowledge of both government agencies and local communities. This includes:

1. **Conservation Training:** Provide training for government officials, park rangers, and community members on biodiversity conservation techniques, including habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, and sustainable resource management. This training should be complemented by the development of educational programs that raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the threats it faces.
2. **Community Involvement:** Empower local communities to take an active role in conservation efforts by involving them in the management of protected areas and providing them with the tools and resources needed to implement sustainable practices. Community-based conservation programs should be led by community leaders in collaboration with the NGOs ensuring that there is consideration of historical and cultural context.
3. **Research and Monitoring:** Strengthen research and monitoring efforts to improve the understanding of Somalia's biodiversity and the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. This could involve partnerships with universities, research institutions, and international organizations to conduct biodiversity assessments, monitor species populations, and study the effects of climate change on habitats.



### Funding Recommendations

Securing funding for biodiversity conservation is essential for protecting Somalia’s natural heritage and ensuring the sustainability of its ecosystems. Key funding priorities include:

1. **Protected Area Management:** Allocate resources for the establishment, management, and expansion of protected areas. This includes funding for infrastructure, staffing, and community engagement programs, as well as the development of sustainable financing mechanisms, such as ecotourism and payment for ecosystem services.
2. **Restoration Projects:** Invest in large-scale restoration projects that aim to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems, such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and coral reef rehabilitation. These projects should be designed to provide long-term benefits for both biodiversity and local communities.
3. **International Support:** Seek international funding and technical assistance for biodiversity conservation initiatives. This could include accessing grants from global environmental funds, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as forming partnerships with international conservation organizations and donor agencies.
4. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Fund programs that promote sustainable livelihoods for communities living in and around protected areas. This includes support for alternative income-generating activities, such as sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, and handicrafts, which can reduce the reliance on unsustainable resource extraction.



*Figure: The National Youth Statement Consultation at Pre-LCOY event*



## 4. Oceans & Water

### Brief Outline of the Issue

Somalia's extensive coastline and marine resources are vital to the country's economy and food security. The fisheries sector provides livelihoods for thousands of coastal communities and contributes significantly to the national economy. However, these resources are under threat from overfishing, illegal fishing practices, pollution, and the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and ocean acidification. The degradation of marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves, further exacerbates these challenges, leading to a decline in fish stocks and the loss of important coastal habitats.

In addition to marine resources, freshwater resources in Somalia are also facing significant challenges. The country is prone to both droughts and floods, which are becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change. These events have a devastating impact on water availability, agriculture, and public health. The lack of reliable water infrastructure and management systems further compounds these issues, leading to water scarcity in some regions and water-related conflicts in others.

### Policy Recommendation

To ensure the sustainable management of Somalia's marine and freshwater resources, the following policy measures should be implemented:

1. **Sustainable Fisheries Management:** Develop and enforce regulations that promote sustainable fishing practices, including the establishment of fishing quotas, the protection of spawning grounds, and the regulation of fishing gear to reduce bycatch and habitat destruction. The government should also work to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is a significant threat to Somalia's fisheries.
2. **Waste Management Policy:** Create waste management policies for states to enforce to protect critical water sources and prevent further degradation of water quality. These policies would also tackle waste buildup, causing illnesses and floods that result in damage to homes, destroying the livelihoods of the people.
3. **Water Resources Management:** Implement integrated water resource management (IWRM) strategies that promote the efficient use and equitable distribution of water resources. This includes the development of water storage and distribution infrastructure, such as dams, reservoirs, and pipelines, as well as the promotion of water-saving technologies and practices in agriculture and industry.



4. **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** Invest in the development of climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of extreme weather events. This includes the construction of flood defenses, the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, and the development of early warning systems for floods and droughts.

### **Capacity Building Recommendation**

Building capacity in the management of marine and freshwater resources is essential for ensuring their sustainability. Key capacity-building initiatives include:

1. **Fisheries Management Training:** Provide training for government officials, fishers, and community leaders on sustainable fisheries management practices, including the enforcement of regulations, the monitoring of fish stocks, and the protection of marine habitats. The development of community-based fisheries management programs that involve local communities in decision-making processes should complement this training.
2. **Water Resources Management Training:** Develop and implement training programs on integrated water resource management, covering topics such as water conservation, efficient irrigation techniques, and water quality monitoring. These programs should be accessible to all stakeholders, including government agencies, farmers, and community-based organizations.
3. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate the public about the importance of conserving marine and freshwater resources and the role they play in supporting livelihoods and ecosystems. These campaigns should use a variety of media, including radio, television, and social media, to reach a wide audience.
4. **Community Education and Capacity Building:** Implement programs to educate local communities about sustainable water and marine resource management. This includes training on conservation practices, the benefits of sustainable fishing, water conservation techniques, and the importance of protecting ecosystems. Capacity building can also empower local communities to participate in decision-making processes and manage their own resources sustainably.
5. **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** Establish and enforce Marine Protected Areas to safeguard critical marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, from overfishing, pollution, and habitat destruction. These areas would allow ecosystems to regenerate and maintain biodiversity, which is essential for long-term sustainability.



## Funding Recommendations

Securing funding for the sustainable management of marine and freshwater resources is critical to ensuring their long-term viability. Key funding priorities include:

1. **Waste Management Development:** Allocate resources for the implementation of effective waste management. Including composting, recycling and biofuel. Funding should also be directed towards supporting youth-led businesses that tackle waste management while providing solutions that are beneficial to the community.
2. **Water Infrastructure Development:** Invest in the development and rehabilitation of water infrastructure, including dams, reservoirs, pipelines, and sanitation facilities. This infrastructure is essential for ensuring the reliable supply of water for agriculture, industry, and domestic use, as well as for reducing the risk of water-related conflicts. This should be done with the goal of improving Ocean Health and resilience
3. **Climate Adaptation Projects:** Support climate adaptation projects that aim to build resilience in coastal and freshwater communities. This could include funding for the development of early warning systems for floods and droughts, the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, and the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation measures, such as the restoration of wetlands and mangroves.
4. **International Partnerships:** Seek international funding and technical assistance for the sustainable management of marine and freshwater resources. This could include accessing grants from global environmental funds, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as forming partnerships with international conservation organizations and donor agencies.
5. **Research and Development:** Support university, NGOs, and thinktanks to research and provide comprehensive data on the state of the oceans and water resources of the country and develop science-based and nature-based solutions to tackle any issues.



## 5. Loss & Damage

### Brief Outline of the Issue

Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, facing recurrent droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events that have devastating effects on communities. These events cause significant loss and damage, destroying homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and leading to the displacement of thousands of people. The socio-economic impacts are profound, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women, children, and the elderly, who often lack the resources to recover from disasters. The effects of loss and damage are further exacerbated by the absence of a comprehensive national framework to address these challenges, leaving many communities without the necessary support to rebuild their lives.

### Policy Recommendation

To address the issue of loss and damage, Somalia should develop a national framework that includes mechanisms for assessing and compensating loss and damage resulting from climate-related events. This framework should be integrated into broader climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and should prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations. Specific policy measures include:

1. **Loss and Damage Assessment Framework:** Establish a comprehensive framework for assessing and documenting loss and damage, with a focus on identifying the most affected communities and sectors. This framework should be made public and based on international best practices and should involve the participation of local communities in the assessment process.
2. **Compensation Mechanisms:** Develop mechanisms for compensating individuals and communities for loss and damage, including direct financial support, access to social safety nets, and the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education, and housing. These mechanisms should be fair and accessible to all affected populations, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable.
3. **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Integration:** Integrate loss and damage considerations into existing disaster risk reduction strategies, with a focus on building resilient communities like establishing community managed disaster risk reduction committees. This includes creating a policy to have each state conduct risk assessments annually for climate stressors.



4. Extreme Weather Event Planning: Developing effective evacuation strategies during disasters like floods and cyclones to reduce the potential damage that would result in those areas.

### **Capacity Building Recommendation**

Building capacity to address loss and damage is essential for ensuring that communities are able to recover and rebuild after climate-related disasters. Key capacity-building initiatives include:

1. Training on Loss and Damage Assessment: Provide training for government officials, community leaders, Youth led-NGOs on conducting loss and damage assessments, including the use of tools and methodologies for quantifying the impacts of climate-related events. The development of guidelines and protocols should complement this training for documenting and reporting loss and damage. An emphasis
2. Community-Based Disaster Preparedness: Develop and implement community-based disaster preparedness programs that involve local communities in planning and response efforts. These programs should focus on building local capacity to respond to disasters, including the establishment of community emergency response teams and the development of local evacuation plans.
3. Strengthening Social Safety Nets: Enhance the capacity of social safety nets to provide timely and effective support to communities affected by loss and damage. This includes training social workers and community-based organizations on the delivery of services, as well as improving the coordination between different agencies and stakeholders involved in disaster response.

### **Funding Recommendations**

Funding for loss and damage initiatives is critical to ensuring that affected communities have the resources they need to recover and rebuild. Key funding priorities include:

1. Loss and Damage Compensation Fund: Establish a national fund for compensating individuals and communities for loss and damage, with contributions from the government, international donors, and private sector partners. This fund should be designed to provide timely and equitable support to affected populations, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable with a clear allocation towards youth.
2. Infrastructure Resilience: Invest in the development of climate-resilient infrastructure, including the construction of flood defenses, the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure,





and the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation measures, such as reforestation and wetland restoration.

3. **Disaster Preparedness and Response:** Allocate resources for the development and implementation of disaster preparedness and response plans, including the establishment of early warning systems, the training of community emergency response teams, and the provision of emergency supplies and equipment.
4. **International Support:** Seek international funding and technical assistance for loss and damage initiatives, including accessing grants from global climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as forming partnerships with international humanitarian organizations and donor agencies.
5. Investing in sophisticated early warning systems is an essential first step toward preparing communities for natural disasters, including those linked to climate change.



*Figure: Abdirabi – LCOY Organizer at Pre-LCOY event*



## 6. Energy & Renewables

### Brief Outline of the Issue

Somalia faces significant challenges in its energy sector, with limited access to reliable and affordable energy sources. The majority of the population relies on traditional biomass, such as wood and charcoal, for cooking and heating, contributing to deforestation and indoor air pollution. The reliance on diesel generators for electricity, particularly in urban areas, leads to high energy costs and increased greenhouse gas emissions. These challenges are compounded by the lack of infrastructure, investment, and regulatory frameworks needed to support the development of the energy sector.

However, Somalia has significant potential for renewable energy, particularly in solar and wind power. The country's vast and untapped renewable energy resources offer an opportunity to address energy poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable development. Expanding access to renewable energy is essential for improving the quality of life, supporting economic growth, and building resilience to climate change.

### Policy Recommendation

To accelerate the transition to renewable energy, Somalia should develop and implement policies that promote investment in renewable energy infrastructure, support the adoption of clean energy technologies, and ensure access to affordable and reliable energy for all. Specific policy measures include:

1. **Renewable Energy Strategy:** Develop a national renewable energy strategy that outlines clear targets and timelines for the adoption of renewable energy sources, with a focus on solar and wind power. This strategy should be integrated into the country's broader energy and climate policies and should include measures to promote private sector investment, public-private partnerships, and community-based renewable energy projects.
2. **Energy Access Programs:** Implement programs that aim to expand access to energy in rural and underserved areas, including the development of off-grid and mini-grid systems powered by renewable energy. These programs should prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations, such as women, youth and children, and should include provisions for the affordability and sustainability of energy services.
3. **Regulatory Framework:** Establish a regulatory framework that supports the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies, including incentives for investment, streamlined permitting processes, and the establishment of technical standards. The

government should also work to remove barriers to market entry for renewable energy companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

4. **Energy Efficiency:** Promote energy efficiency measures across all sectors, including the adoption of energy-efficient appliances, buildings, and industrial processes. This should be supported by public awareness campaigns and the development of energy efficiency standards and labeling programs.

### **Capacity Building Recommendation**

Building capacity in the renewable energy sector is essential for driving the transition to clean energy and ensuring the sustainability of energy systems. Key capacity-building initiatives include:

1. **Renewable Energy Training:** Provide training for government officials, energy professionals, and technicians on renewable energy technologies, project development, and energy management. This training should be complemented by the establishment of vocational training programs that equip young people with the skills needed to work in the renewable energy sector. This training should also be available to rural communities to improve energy access.
2. **Community-Based Energy Projects:** Support the development of community-based renewable energy projects that empower local communities to manage and benefit from their own energy resources. This includes providing technical assistance, capacity building, and financial support to communities for the development of solar, wind, and biomass energy projects.
3. **Research and Innovation:** Invest in research and innovation to drive the development of new renewable energy technologies and solutions tailored to the Somali context. This could include partnerships with universities, research institutions, and the private sector to conduct research on solar energy, wind energy, and energy storage technologies.

### **Funding Recommendations**

Securing funding for renewable energy initiatives is critical to ensuring the success of the energy transition in Somalia. Key funding priorities include:

1. **Renewable Energy Infrastructure:** Invest in the development of renewable energy infrastructure, including solar and wind farms, energy storage systems, and transmission networks. This infrastructure is essential for increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and improving energy access in rural and underserved areas.



2. **Energy Access Programs:** Allocate resources for the implementation of energy access programs, including the development of off-grid and mini-grid systems, as well as the provision of subsidies and financing options for renewable energy technologies. These programs should be designed to be inclusive and accessible to all segments of the population.
3. **Private Sector Investment:** Encourage private sector investment in renewable energy through the provision of incentives, such as tax breaks, grants, and low-interest loans. The government should also work to create an enabling environment for private sector participation, including the establishment of clear and transparent regulatory frameworks and the reduction of market barriers.
4. **International Partnerships:** Seek international funding and technical assistance for renewable energy initiatives, including accessing grants from global climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as well as forming partnerships with international renewable energy organizations and donor agencies.



*Figure: The Somali Youth at LCOY Somalia*



## 7. Climate Health

### Brief Outline of the Issue

Somalia, located in the arid horn of Africa, faces severe health challenges due to climate change. Frequent droughts, floods, and shifting weather patterns have increased the spread of waterborne diseases during the floods such as cholera and typhoid, exacerbated malnutrition, and led to rising respiratory issues due to dust storms.

Vulnerable populations, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), children, the elderly, and rural communities, are disproportionately affected. These groups often lack access to adequate healthcare, clean water, and sanitation, making them more susceptible to climate-related health risks.

### Policy Recommendation

1. **Improving Infrastructure:** Invest in infrastructure that enhances access to clean water and sanitation, ensuring that vulnerable communities have reliable sources of safe drinking water and reducing the chances of waterborne diseases. Develop and implement water management systems that ensure efficient use and storage of water, particularly during droughts.
2. **Strengthening Healthcare Systems:** Enhance healthcare infrastructure to improve access to essential health services. Strengthen healthcare infrastructure and capacity to address climate-related health issues. Expand mental health services to support those affected by climate-related trauma. The stress and trauma associated with displacement, loss of livelihoods, and the uncertainty caused by climate change can lead to an increase in mental health problems.
3. **Sustainable Practices:** Promote sustainable farming practices to improve food security. This includes supporting families and communities, ensuring they have the resources needed to adapt to changing conditions. Promote climate-resilient agriculture and food systems to enhance food security and nutrition.

### Capacity Building Recommendation:

1. **Capacity Building:** Focus on building the capacity of youth and community leaders to engage in health advocacy, policy influence, and the development of innovative solutions to climate-related health challenges.
2. **Awareness and Education:** Youth can lead education and awareness campaigns to inform communities about the health risks associated with climate change and how to

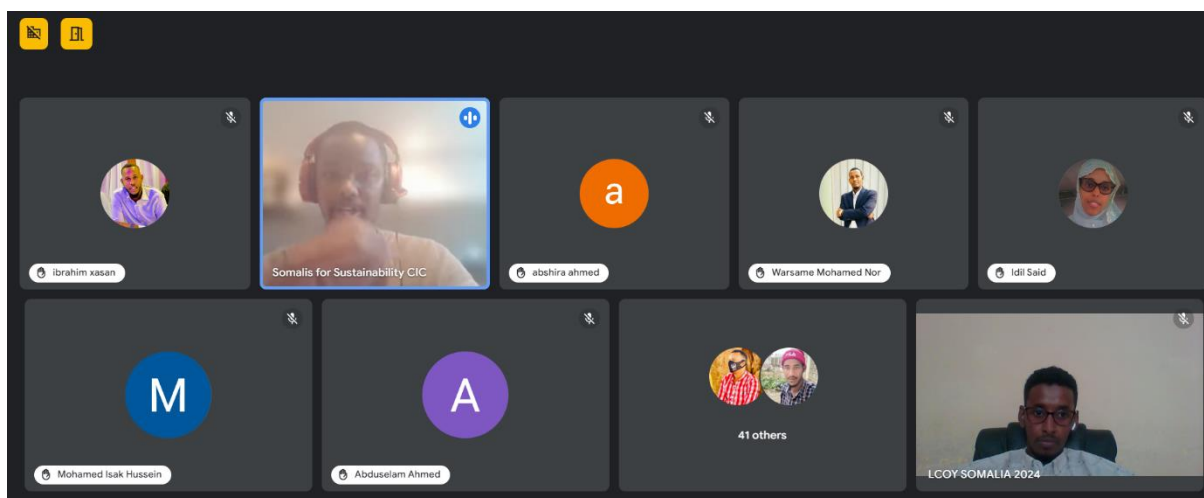


mitigate them. This can focus on diseases caused by climate-related issues like cholera, malaria, dengue, heat-related illnesses, and mental health issues.

3. **Mental Health Advocacy:** Provide support and training for mental health experts that can help tackle effects such as depression, anxiety and fear in vulnerable communities that can be attributed to harmful impacts of the climate crisis.
4. **First Aid Training:** Facilitate first aid training courses that focus on rural communities to improve access to basic medical knowledge in case of climate hazards.

### Funding Recommendations

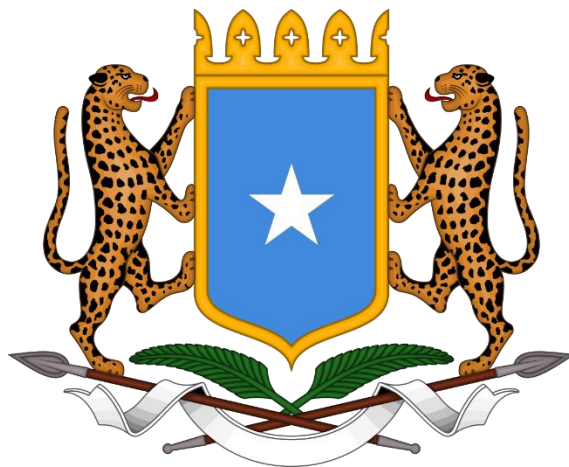
1. **International Support:** Seek international aid and humanitarian support to build resilience against climate impacts. This includes funding for healthcare improvements, emergency response, and community-based health initiatives.
2. **Funding Policy Research:** Developing more funding for youth to research and advocate for stronger health policies that address the impacts of climate change, pushing for better healthcare infrastructure, access to clean water, and resources to combat climate-related diseases.



*Figure: The National Youth Statement Consultation at Pre-LCOY Online event*



## ANNEX I: OUR KEY SPONSORS



**Save the Children**

# Beled Energy



**TakingITGlobal**  
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