

# **Rang Undang-Undang Perubahan Iklim Negara (RUUPIN)**

## **Feedback Submission from the perspective and needs of upholding Children and Youth's Rights obligations**

The Open Companies of Girl Guides, Ranger Guides and Clover Guides of Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Utama, Selangor (BPUOC) are community-based Girl Guide units registered under the Girl Guides Association Malaysia (Persatuan Pandu Puteri Malaysia, PPPM). Representing a movement of over 300,915 active members across diverse age and responsibility groups, the Girl Guides of Malaysia are poised to play a significant role in amplifying the voices of youth, girls, and women—groups often overlooked in climate discussions. Under the esteemed patronage of Her Majesty The Queen of Malaysia, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Raja Zarith Sofiah, our movement aims to be a pivotal stakeholder in advancing these critical perspectives.

**Methodology:** Supported by Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY), BPUOC led a digital consultation with 50 youth members, ranging from ages 13 to 30, with legal guardians present for participants under 18. During this session, attendees completed an anonymous survey on how climate change affects youth, providing essential data to inform policies that are inclusive of all groups. Aware that women, girls, and youth experience unique climate challenges, our movement is advocating for gender-sensitive, youth-centred policies within RUUPIN to address their specific vulnerabilities and foster their involvement in climate adaptation efforts.

These recommendations are compiled and analysed by Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY) through a virtual youth consultation. Besides Girl Guide members, the consultation also engaged representatives from:

1. Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY)
2. Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia - National Scouts Association of Malaysia (PPM)
3. Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia - Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS)
4. Students in tertiary education not attached to the youth groups above

**Overarching themes in climate  
governance and legislation**

1. Inclusion of Youths with Disabilities in Climate Policy
2. Transition to Green Youth Employment and Invest in Upskilling Programs
3. Youth Representation in National Climate Governance
4. Utilising Data to Address Climate Anxiety with a Mental Health Focus
5. Recognize Youth-led Actions in Climate Decision-Making.

**Key Considerations**

1. Integrate Climate Education into the National Curriculum with a Focus on Resilience
2. Mandate Youth Inclusion in Climate Governance and Youth-Inclusive NDC design processes
3. Institutionalised Youth Climate Councils (YCC) on Climate Change
4. Disaggregated Data Collection, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Gender Impact Assessment
5. Prevention of Gender-Based Violence
6. Disability-Inclusive Mitigation and Adaptation Plans for Malaysia
7. Gender-responsive Disaster Response
8. Implementing Prevention Measures to Recognize and Deter Threats Against Youth in the Civic Space

Key considerations	Feedback	CC: RUUPIN
<b>Overarching themes in climate governance and legislation</b>		
Mandating the recognition of Youth’s rights to a sustainable future	In Section B of the RUUPIN consultation paper, the proposed climate change legislation outlines its objectives and guiding principles for climate governance in Malaysia. While it aims to establish a comprehensive framework for climate action, focusing on stakeholder collaboration and commitments under the Paris Agreement, it notably overlooks critical aspects related to marginalised groups—particularly youth, women, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. <b>As Girl Guides, we strongly believe that these gaps must be addressed to ensure an inclusive, equitable, and effective climate policy.</b> As youth organisations, including the Girl Guides, we advocate for the explicit inclusion of youth perspectives in climate governance. It is crucial that the RUUPIN framework not only recognizes youth as essential stakeholders but also mandates their meaningful participation in climate decision-making processes.	Section B: Guiding Principles of RUUPIN
Lack of Youth Inclusion in	The consultation paper on the RUUPIN framework highlights a concerning gap in Malaysia's climate policy—namely, the lack of meaningful youth inclusion, particularly young women	Section B: Objectives and

<p>RUUPIN: A Missed Alignment with NPCC 2.0</p>	<p>and girls. This oversight runs counter to the principles outlined in the <b>National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC) 2.0</b>, which emphasises social inclusion as a central pillar of climate policy. NPCC 2.0 underscores the importance of safeguarding vulnerable communities, including youth, and engaging them in decision-making processes to build a more resilient future. It also emphasises on social inclusion, with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalised groups. RUUPIN’s stated objective of addressing climate mitigation and adaptation would be significantly more effective if it explicitly incorporated youth perspectives, ensuring that the voices of young people, especially girls, are integrated into the development and implementation of climate policies.</p> <p><b>Engaging youth not only helps align Malaysia’s climate strategies with the aspirations of NPCC 2.0 but also contributes to building a climate-resilient society, where—regardless of age, gender, or background—are empowered to take action.</b></p>	<p>Guiding Principles of RUUPIN</p>
<p>Acknowledging and Integrating Human Rights Frameworks into RUUPIN</p>	<p>RUUPIN should prioritise the protection of human rights in climate action by acknowledging the varied impacts on vulnerable groups and ensuring actions are country-driven, gender-responsive, inclusive, and transparent, in line with <b>the Paris Agreement</b>. This commitment involves aligning with international human rights frameworks, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</b> - General Comment No. 26 (2023): Focuses on children’s rights in the context of climate change, recognising children as active participants in climate solutions.</li> </ol>	<p>Section B: Objectives and Guiding Principles of RUUPIN</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. <b>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</b> – specifically General Recommendations 37 and 39, which emphasise protections for women and girls in climate contexts including indigenous women and girls.<sup>1</sup></li><li>3. <b>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</b> – Article 11 of the CRPD specifically addresses the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. This article mandates that states parties must take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and protection of persons with disabilities in such contexts.</li><li>4. <b>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</b> – During Malaysia’s UPR45 review, recommendations (55.207–55.210) stressed protecting the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities in climate strategies.<sup>2</sup></li><li>5. <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement</b> -The Paris Agreement (2016) aims to limit global warming to below 2°C, with commitments to include gender-responsive, country-driven, participatory climate strategies and intergenerational equity, giving young people a moral and legal basis to demand stronger climate action. Youth can advocate for more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and push for their inclusion in policy making processes under these frameworks.</li></ol> <p>These frameworks highlight the increased vulnerabilities of women, children, and persons with disabilities to the impacts of climate change. RUUPIN should integrate gender impact assessments, set clear accountability benchmarks, and prioritise capacity-building for</p>	
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<sup>1</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. (2024, June 6). Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Malaysia. United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/159/18/pdf/n2415918.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Universal Periodic Review of Malaysia (4th Cycle - 45th Session) - Thematic List of Recommendations. (n.d.). United Nations Human Rights Council. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/my-index>

	<p>stakeholders, ensuring a holistic, rights-based approach to climate governance.</p>	
<p>Harmonisation of laws</p>	<p>RUUPIN must align with a wide range of national legislation beyond environmental and climate policies to guarantee comprehensive rights, protections, and mechanisms for redress for women and girls, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and marginalised communities. This integration is essential to protect and uphold intersecting rights across multiple sectors. Relevant laws include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Aboriginal Peoples Act (Act 134):</b> Protects the rights of Indigenous Orang Asli youth and their communities, ensuring their land is protected, and their cultural heritage is preserved.</li> <li>2. <b>Federal Constitution Article 8(2):</b> This provision is fundamental in ensuring that all individuals in Malaysia are treated equally and fairly under the law, including young people.</li> <li>3. <b>Employment Act:</b> Provides labour protections for young workers, ensuring fair treatment and safeguarding their rights in the workplace.</li> <li>4. <b>Child Act:</b> Ensures the safety, welfare, and development of children and young people in Malaysia.</li> <li>5. <b>Persons with Disabilities Act:</b> Protects the rights of youth with disabilities, promoting their inclusion and equal opportunities.</li> <li>6. <b>Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017:</b> Shields children and young people from sexual violence and exploitation.</li> <li>7. <b>Environmental Quality Act 1974:</b> Encourages youth involvement in protecting the environment and addressing pollution.</li> <li>8. <b>Sustainable Energy Development Act 2011:</b> Encourages youth participation in advancing</li> </ol>	<p>Section B:          Objectives and Guiding Principles of RUUPIN</p>

	<p>renewable energy and sustainable practices.</p> <p>RUUPIN should incorporate youth mainstreaming and <b>Youth Impact Assessments (YIA)</b><sup>3</sup> to ensure that the perspectives and needs of young people are systematically considered in all stages of climate governance. Youth policy mainstreaming can address the unique challenges faced by youth while leveraging their innovative potential for climate solutions. <b>Implementing YIA would provide a structured framework to evaluate how policies, programs, and projects</b> impact youth, ensuring that they contribute positively to their development and participation.</p>	
<b>Key Considerations</b>		
<b>Inclusion of Youths with Disabilities in Climate Policy</b>	<p><b>1. Highlighting Disability Rights in Climate Policies</b></p> <p><b>The Paris Agreement and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</b> require that government-led climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, along with all</p>	<p><i>SECTION B</i></p> <p><i>OBJECTIVES</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Youth Impact Assessment (YIA) involves analysing the potential intended and unintended effects that proposed policies may have on youth. This type of assessment ensures that youth perspectives are integrated into the ex-ante evaluation of a new piece of legislation (Kompetenzzentrum Jugend-Check, 2022). <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/038401>

	<p>international cooperation and development programs, include youth with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Article 11 of the CRPD specifically emphasises the protection of youth with disabilities in situations of risk.</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the government should create a strong consultation framework that actively involves a broad spectrum of stakeholders, with emphasis on the meaningful participation of youth, especially young women. This should include close cooperation with the <b>Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM)</b> and the <b>Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS)</b>. Moreover, establishing specialised units within local agencies, such as the <b>National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)</b>, is essential for developing strategies that are both youth-focused and gender-sensitive, addressing the specific challenges faced by young people during crises.</p> <p><b>2. Disability-Inclusive Data in Climate Planning</b></p> <p>In particular, the BPUOC drew inspiration from the accessibility features in Brickfields, a neighbourhood wherein their Kuala Lumpur headquarters is known for its disability-friendly infrastructure. Collaborations with organisations like <b>Gabungan Anak-anak Palsi Serebrum (GAPS)</b>, the <b>Malaysian Association for the Blind and Deaf</b>, the <b>National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM)</b>, and the <b>Malaysia Parents of Disabilities Association</b> can provide vital insights into the specific resources and support needed for inclusivity. By collecting and</p>	<p><i>(iii) to ensure effective operationalisation of the Paris Agreement;</i></p> <p><i>(iv) to serve as an instrument to effectively implement climate mitigation and adaptation plans in Malaysia;</i></p> <p><i>(v) to set the direction for Malaysia's climate change agenda moving forward; and</i></p> <p><i>(vi) to increase cooperation among stakeholders and ensure responsible</i></p>
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	<p>analysing data on how climate impacts youth with disabilities—considering factors such as mobility, communication needs, and healthcare access—policymakers can create climate strategies that meet diverse needs.</p> <p><b>3. Implementing Disability-Inclusive Mitigation and Adaptation Plans for Malaysia</b></p> <p>Aligned with Malaysia’s climate agenda under the RUUPIN objectives, these recommendations call for climate planning that incorporates effective operationalisation of <b>the Paris Agreement</b>, forward-thinking goals, and enhanced stakeholder cooperation. Youths with disabilities face unique challenges in this regard, especially concerning safety from gender-based violence and socio-economic vulnerability, underscoring the need for an inclusive climate framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>The Girl Guides suggested tailored training programs to teach PWD essential skills</b> for managing climate risks, including evacuation drills designed for different disabilities. Community resilience programs, offering practical skills like gardening or rainwater harvesting, can foster independence and preparedness. Accessible communication is also crucial to keep PWD informed, safe, and involved in climate action. <b>Disaster alerts should include visual aids, text notifications, and sign language interpretation</b> for the deaf and mute communities. Audio alerts and braille signage are essential for the blind, while those with cognitive disabilities, such as autism or Down syndrome, benefit from simplified, structured information to avoid overwhelming details.</li></ul>	<p><i>entities within their jurisdiction fulfil their roles in addressing climate change issues.</i></p>
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❖ **Climate-resilient healthcare services should prioritise medical and mental health support for PWD** during extreme weather events. For instance, those with cognitive disabilities, like autism, may experience stress in emergencies, making sensory-sensitive spaces and trained responders essential as this promotes PWD’s well-being and provides ongoing support to manage climate-related stress. **Climate adaptation should feature universally designed infrastructure to ensure PWD safety** during extreme weather events. Evacuation centres and public spaces should be wheelchair-accessible, and include tactile guidance for the blind, and visual cues for the deaf. Sustainable, green infrastructure like urban parks and low-emission transport, creating resilient designs would benefit all by allowing PWD to safely participate in daily activities and seek shelter when needed.

#### **4. Prevention of Gender-Based Violence**

**Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a major part of advocacy in the Girl Guide movement**, and the government must prioritise establishing systems to safeguard and prevent GBV during climate crises. The bill should require the development of community-based GBV response plans to effectively manage and refer GBV cases during and after climate related crises. These plans should focus on raising community awareness, establishing robust support mechanisms for survivors, and ensuring accountability for GBV incidents in post-crisis contexts, such as floods or other climate events. For example, agencies and NGOs should receive training in safeguarding and data protection through initiatives like **the Girl**

	<p><b>Guides’ “Stop the Violence” campaign<sup>4</sup></b>. Gender-sensitive climate finance should also prioritise GBV prevention efforts, including the provision of safe housing for women and girls during climate-related disasters. Additionally, it should support community-based disaster preparedness and response programs that empower women as leaders in crisis situations, including <b>listening ears<sup>5</sup></b> and on-site psychosocial services.</p> <p><b>5. Enhancing Collaboration Between Governmental Bodies and Independent Agencies</b></p> <p>In pursuit of climate-resilient development centered on social justice and accessibility, it is essential to recognise and incorporate the unique contributions of youths with disabilities in adaptation and mitigation efforts. <b>The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM), Disabled Development Department (JPPWD), and Ministry of Social Welfare</b> should engage further with established councils, such as the <b>National Council for the Blind Malaysia (NCBM)</b> and the <b>Kuala Lumpur Society of the Deaf (KLSD)</b>, to ensure comprehensive support for inclusive climate action. Institutional accountability is essential for implementing these inclusive measures effectively. Both government and private sectors should be legally mandated to report on their climate adaptation efforts for persons with disabilities (PWD), with monitoring bodies in place to oversee compliance.</p>	
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<sup>4</sup> Stop The Violence: WAGGGS’ campaign against Gender-Based Violence empowers young people to prevent and address gender-based violence through education, advocacy, and community action. <https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/stop-the-violence/>

<sup>5</sup> Listening Ear: The role of a Listening Ear has evolved over the years as an integral part of Scouting's commitment to keeping children, young people and adults Safe from Harm. This framework recognises the importance of providing support during events to listen to the challenges individuals may be facing, especially in times of emotional or mental difficulty. (Europe Support Centre, 2024)

	<p>Including caregivers and advocacy groups in these efforts allows for a fuller understanding of PWD-specific needs and ensures that their perspectives are adequately represented. This action also benefits families, the elderly, young children, and others who may face barriers during emergencies or in adapting to climate challenges.</p>	
<p><b>Transition to Green Youth Employment and Invest in Upskilling Programs</b></p>	<p><b>1. Integrate Climate Education into the National Curriculum</b></p> <p>To effectively transition youth into the green economy, the Girl Guides believe that building a strong foundation in climate education is essential. Core subjects like geography, science, and social studies, should include specific modules on disaster risk reduction, climate justice, and climate change adaptation. The government and educational institutions should work together to create accessible, user-friendly materials. Visual guides, video tutorials, and hands-on learning kits, such as DIY solar kits, should be made available to students, especially in urban areas. Integrating green technologies into extracurricular programs, such as STEM programmes or sustainability-focused school projects, would help foster engagement in green tech careers. Non-formal education providers such as the Girl Guides movement should be acknowledged as a key player in climate education.</p> <p><b>2. Enhance Digital Learning and School Infrastructure to Support Remote Education</b></p> <p>Youths in urban areas have some access to information on green technologies like solar energy,</p>	<p><b>SECTION B</b></p> <p>The Guiding Principles of RUUPIN [Paragraph 10]</p> <p><i>&gt;RUUPIN provides a legal framework to advance Malaysia's contribution to international climate action under the principle of</i></p>

	<p>but this knowledge often remains out of reach due to technical jargon, language barriers, and a lack of proper guidance to navigate online resources. Additionally, youth have emphasised the urgent need for schools to become more resilient to extreme weather events. <b>In 2024 alone, severe flooding, landslides, and storms have caused significant damage to school buildings, facilities, and educational materials, particularly in vulnerable regions</b><sup>6</sup>. This highlights the critical need for equitable access to resources and infrastructure that can support both education and sustainable climate adaptation efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Schools require extensive repairs, further delaying students' return to classes, as funds must be allocated to rebuild and repair, diverting resources from other educational needs.</b> This includes retrofitting school buildings to withstand floods, storms, and other climate-related disasters, ensuring that students can continue their education even during climate events that disrupt physical schooling, thus preventing educational setbacks.</li><li>❖ To ensure education continuity during climate-related disruptions, youth participants emphasised the importance of improving digital learning infrastructure. There is <b>a critical need for funding to enhance internet access and provide devices to students</b>, especially in underserved urban and rural areas.</li><li>❖ <b>The government should partner with telecommunications companies to provide affordable internet access, while also supporting schools in acquiring necessary digital tools and resources.</b> The implementation of emergency alert systems, along with the provision</li></ul>	<p><i>Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).</i></p>
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<sup>6</sup> On the Ground Update - Disaster Risk Reduction Empowering children with knowledge to face climate disasters (Sufyan Aslam, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Consultant, 2024)

	<p>of water refill stations and other safety measures, should also be prioritised to ensure the health and safety of students during climate events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Transportation systems for students should be upgraded to ensure safe and reliable access to schools during extreme weather conditions.</b></li></ul> <p><b>3. Invest in Upskilling Programs for Green Youth Employment Pathways:</b></p> <p>As Girl Guides, we believe in the power of youths to shape a sustainable future. <b>According to a report by the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, transitioning to greener economies through sustainable practices could create 8.4 million jobs for youth by 2030<sup>7</sup>.</b> However, we are concerned that many Malaysian youths are often excluded from policies and programs that promote participation in the green economy. This exclusion not only perpetuates their marginalisation but misses an opportunity to harness the perspectives and innovative ideas they could contribute to Malaysia’s green transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Upskilling youths to meet the demands of a green economy requires specialised training programs</b> focused on key areas such as energy efficiency, sustainable land management, waste management, and circular economy practices. These skills can be further reinforced through hands-on activities, such as workshops, sustainability projects, and outdoor experiences.</li><li>❖ <b>Partnerships with businesses, NGOs, and government agencies could offer internships</b></li></ul>	
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<sup>7</sup>United Nations Children’s Fund, Skills for the Green Transition: Solutions for Youth on the Move, UNICEF, New York, 2024. © United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) January 2024

	<p>that provide youth with practical experience in environmental sustainability. Targeted initiatives in sectors like renewable energy, environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly construction can provide youth with job opportunities and empower them to contribute to the country's transition to a sustainable economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>Youth-centred programs and mentorship opportunities</b> in areas like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management are crucial for empowering young people and equipping them with the tools needed to contribute to Malaysia's green transition. To support this, financial assistance or subsidies for certifications in green technologies—such as solar panel installation, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly manufacturing.</li><li>❖ Our consultation participants also <b>recommend collaborations with universities, technical schools, and the private sector to develop curricula</b> that align with the skills needed in the green economy. Public awareness campaigns can highlight the potential of sustainability-focused careers and their importance for the country's environmental future.</li></ul> <p><b>4. Support Entrepreneurship in the Green Economy:</b></p> <p>Malaysia's green job programs must align with the principles of <b>Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)</b> and contribute to the country's unique climate objectives. By focusing on skill-building in areas where Malaysia has specific environmental needs, such as tropical biodiversity conservation and mangrove restoration, these programs can support both global climate responsibilities and local priorities. The government could offer grants, low-interest loans, or tax incentives for environmentally-focused businesses such as</p>	
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	<p>eco-tourism, waste reduction innovations, or renewable energy solutions.</p> <p>This suggestion builds on examples such as the <b>Disability Hub Europe initiative, co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF)<sup>8</sup></b>, which explored various dimensions of inclusion in the evolving world of work. One report, <b>Making the Future of Work Inclusive for People with Disabilities<sup>9</sup></b>, connected diverse perspectives within the global conversation on the future of work, examining key trends from a disability viewpoint. Monitoring and evaluating these initiatives is also essential to ensure that they effectively advance youth employment while furthering Malaysia’s commitments under CBDR.</p>	
<p><b>Youth Representation in National Climate Governance</b></p>	<p><b>1. Mandate Youth Inclusion in Climate Governance and Youth-Inclusive NDC design processes</b></p> <p>As governments prepare for the next round of <b>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)</b> updates in 2025, it is crucial to ensure that youths are not only considered but actively involved throughout the process, with their contributions valued equally to those of other stakeholders. Youth participation should be embedded within a comprehensive approach to <b>Climate Change Governance (CCG)</b>, recognizing that youth can influence multiple dimensions—policy, politics, and polity—needed for transformative change.</p>	<p><b>SECTION C:</b></p> <p><i>Part 3 and Part 7 / add on where relevant</i></p>

<sup>8</sup> The European Social Fund and Disability (European Union, 2010)

<sup>9</sup> Disability Hub Europe: Making the future of work inclusive of people with disabilities (Fundación ONCE,ILO Global Business and Disability Network 2019).



This requires mandating youth representation in the creation and evaluation of national climate action plans, with clear targets for their involvement in both the development and review phases. Formalising youth roles in national climate governance strengthens inclusive and participatory policymaking, ensuring youth have direct access to decision-makers. To support this integration, platforms should be created for youth to engage directly with policymakers, such as through events, roundtables, and forums that foster open dialogue. These platforms would enhance transparency and accountability in climate governance, giving youth a direct channel to share their concerns and recommendations with government officials and stakeholders.

## **2. Institutionalised Youth Climate Councils (YCC)**

The Girl Guides movement recognises the critical importance of youth voices in shaping Malaysia's climate governance. We propose the establishment of Youth Climate Councils at both state and federal levels, ensuring that young people, including Girl Guides and other youth representatives, have a direct and influential role in crafting climate policies.

As one of Malaysia's largest youth movements, with over 300,000 members across the country, the Girl Guides are uniquely positioned to contribute to these councils. Our members, particularly young women, bring valuable grassroots insights, lived experiences, and a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Drawing inspiration from the Danish Youth

	<p>Climate Council model, these independent, youth-led advisory councils would integrate diverse perspectives, including those from marginalised communities, to provide the government with actionable policy recommendations and innovative solutions. Incorporating a similar methodology of youth leadership as shown by the <b>Clover Guides program (female youth aged 18-30)</b><sup>10</sup> in Youth Climate Councils ensures representation of female voices, for gender-inclusive and community-centred approaches to climate action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ <b>The YCC should serve as an advisory body to provide insights and recommendations on climate policies</b>, national commitments such as the <b>NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) and LT-LEDS (Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy)</b>, as well as ongoing climate initiatives. The council's focus should be on youth-specific concerns in climate policy, adaptation, and resilience, with particular attention to issues affecting marginalised youth, including refugees, stateless individuals, Orang Asli, and the rural poor.</li><li>❖ To ensure diverse and inclusive representation, the <b>YCC should comprise youths from a variety of backgrounds</b>, such as rural and urban areas, Indigenous communities, refugees, stateless youth, and marginalised groups. <b>A transparent selection process should be implemented to ensure comprehensive representation</b> across regions, socioeconomic statuses, and genders. Additionally, the council should establish subcommittees and focus groups on priority areas like climate adaptation, mitigation, education, and policy review, allowing members to specialise and address issues in depth.</li></ul>	
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<sup>10</sup> Dasar Pertubuhan dan Undang-undang Bahagian Pandu Puteri Klover (Persatuan Pandu Puteri Malaysia, 2023)  
<https://panduputeri.org.my/storage/app/public/main/rsrc/DPU%20PP%20Klover%202023.pdf>

- ❖ **The council’s primary role would be advisory, providing actionable recommendations to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRES)** on youth-centric climate policies and initiatives. It would also **assist in monitoring and providing feedback** on the effectiveness of climate policies, offering insights on their impacts on youth and marginalised communities.
- ❖ **The operational framework for the YCC should include regular quarterly meetings with council members and biannual consultations with NRES representatives**, where youths can present their concerns, findings, and recommendations. To ensure transparency and accountability, the council should prepare an annual report summarising youth input on climate policies and their effectiveness, which should be shared with both the ministry and the public. To maintain continuity while offering fresh perspectives, a term limit of 1-2 years for council members should be established, with staggered appointments.
- ❖ **Financial support for the council’s activities is crucial**, with an annual budget allocated to cover travel, administrative expenses, and funding for youth-led research and community engagement projects. **Capacity-building initiatives, such as training sessions on climate science, policy analysis, public speaking, and advocacy**, should also be offered to equip members with the skills necessary for effective climate governance.
- ❖ To ensure accountability and transparency, the YCC’s meeting agendas, minutes, and reports should be made publicly available online. **Key performance indicators (KPIs) should be established to track the council’s impact**, such as the implementation of policy recommendations, outreach activities, and engagement metrics. **An external review of the council’s effectiveness should be conducted every two years** to assess its performance and make any necessary adjustments to improve inclusivity, structure, or processes.

	<p>❖ <b>The YCC should be directly linked to Malaysia’s climate governance structures</b>, ensuring that its recommendations are integrated into the country's climate action strategies, <b>including the NDC and LT-LEDS</b>. This would involve regular feedback on how youth input is shaping national climate policy. Collaboration between the Youth Climate Council, the Ministry of NRES, and other relevant government bodies should be facilitated to align on climate policy goals and youth initiatives.</p>	
<p><b>Utilising Data to Address Climate Anxiety with a Mental Health Focus</b></p>	<p><b>1. Addressing Data Gaps on Climate Anxiety and Youth</b></p> <p>For topics as dynamic as climate change and youth engagement, updating data every 1 to 3 years is generally recommended. Since <b>UNICEF Malaysia last conducted research on youth and climate in 2020<sup>11</sup></b>, an update around 2023 or 2024 would be ideal. To effectively address climate anxiety, governments, civil society, and communities must develop comprehensive indicators to track youth participation in mental health decision-making at national, regional, and local levels. These indicators would provide valuable insights into how well youth voices are incorporated into the creation of mental health and climate policies, ensuring that support systems are inclusive and responsive to their unique needs.</p> <p>Additionally, this approach aligns with the broader goal of fostering youth empowerment by involving them in decision-making processes that directly impact their well-being. Disaggregated data by age (e.g., 0-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-28, 28-31, 31-34) is essential for</p>	<p><b>SECTION C</b></p> <p>Part 4 [NICDR and all relevant provisions on Data, Monitoring and Accountability]</p>

<sup>11</sup> Report: Change for Climate Findings from the National Youth Climate Change Survey 2020 (UNICEF, UNDP, EcoKnights 2020).

	<p>understanding how climate anxiety manifests across different life stages. Younger children may experience fear and confusion, while older youth and young adults might face feelings of helplessness and existential dread. Such nuanced data can help policymakers and mental health professionals tailor interventions to specific age groups, making support systems more effective. Moreover, the post-COVID-19 era has reshaped youth perspectives on climate and mental health.</p> <p>The pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in mental health systems and increased environmental awareness among young people. This provides a timely opportunity to reflect on how these shifts influence climate engagement and anxiety, enabling the development of targeted strategies to address both challenges simultaneously. Efforts to close the “data gap” on youth mental health and climate anxiety are critical for building climate resilience. By integrating these insights into policy and programming, governments can ensure that mental health initiatives and climate action plans work in tandem, creating a holistic response to the intersecting crises of climate change and mental health.</p>	
<p><b>Recognising Youth-led movements in Decision and</b></p>	<p><b>1. Support Youth-Led Environmental Initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Although the NRES includes a youth cluster for engagement</b>—none of the survey participants reported any involvement with this proposed youth cluster. <b>It is worth noting</b></p>	<p>Section C: Part 8</p>

<p><b>Policy-making</b></p>	<p><b>that none of the local chapters of the global Big 6 Youth Organisations<sup>12</sup> received information or invitation to participate in the consultation.</b> This suggests that current efforts to engage youth may be insufficient, as consultation opportunities, like the RUUPIN feedback session, are not coordinated with other youth organisations with broad reach. Several strategies can be implemented to overcome the challenges youths face in participating in climate action and influencing government decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The Bill should establish funds and resources dedicated to youth-led climate initiatives,</b> helping young people create sustainable solutions for their communities. Educational initiatives, such as workshops and mentorship programs, play a vital role in empowering youth by equipping them with knowledge and skills related to political processes and civic engagement. These programs can demystify governance structures, helping young people understand how decisions are made, the channels available to influence policy, and their rights.</li> <li>❖ Consultation participants highlighted the positive impact of youth-led initiatives, such as Girl Guide programs and school-based sustainability projects. Programs like <b>the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), YUNGA<sup>13</sup> Water and Ocean Challenge</b> and <b>the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Plastic Tide Turners Challenge<sup>14</sup></b> showcase youth commitment to eco-friendly practices.</li> </ul>	
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<sup>12</sup> Big 6 Youth Organisations comprise of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Foundation, World Young Men’s Christian Association (World YMCA) and World Young Women’s Christian Association (World YWCA)

<sup>13</sup> YUNGA Challenge Badges are a series of curriculums addressing climate issues developed in collaboration between UN agencies and civil societies, including the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) <https://www.fao.org/yunga/resources/challenge-badges/en/>

<sup>14</sup> The Plastic Tide Turners Challenge was developed as part of UNEP’s Beat Plastic Pollution campaign with a focus on building the capacities of young people to tackle plastic pollution by raising awareness, fostering community engagement, and advocating for policy changes.

- ❖ **Awareness campaigns about the importance of youth involvement**, coupled with tangible examples of successful youth-led initiatives, can help validate their contributions and challenge common stereotypes about young people. Actively engage youth-led protests, organisations, delegations, and coalitions to be included as essential contributors to climate policy development.

## **2. Implementing Prevention Measures to Recognise and Deter Threats Against Youth in the Civic Space**

In Malaysia, ensuring that young people can freely exercise their rights—especially the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly—is essential. Such protection, which aligns with international human rights frameworks, means creating a safe environment where Malaysian youth can advocate for their beliefs without fear of threats or reprisals.

This focus on protection is also a central pillar of **UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2535 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS)**, which officially recognise youth’s crucial role in building and maintaining peace. This notion is further supported by **SUHAKAM’s definition of “Freedom of Assembly”**; The basic human right to freedom of peaceful assembly must be given due recognition and can only be restricted by law enacted for the purpose of preserving national security or public order. The interconnected pillars of these resolutions highlight that protecting youth in civic spaces also requires preventive measures, underscoring the importance of an integrated approach.

	<p>For Malaysian youth, applying these principles means advocating for a national commitment to safeguarding their rights, empowering them to engage actively in promoting peace, sustainable development, and climate resilience, without the fear of suppression. This includes strengthening legal frameworks and policies that protect youth from reprisals or discrimination linked to their advocacy, ensuring they have legal recourse if they face threats. By upholding these commitments, we can provide protection against discrimination, intimidation, or violence targeted at vulnerable groups.</p>	
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This submission is prepared by **Persatuan Kesedaran dan Keadilan Iklim (Klima Action Malaysia - KAMY)**, a climate justice and feminist organisation established in 2019. We advocate for Malaysia's declaration of a climate emergency and the recognition of environmental rights in the constitution through a human rights-based framework. Our work focuses on legal empowerment, amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities, including Orang Asli communities and women, and ensuring their meaningful participation in climate governance. We are committed to promoting inclusive, rights-based solutions to the climate crisis that prioritise the empowerment of marginalised groups disproportionately affected by its impacts.