

# The LCOY Working Group

Everything you need to know

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# First things first

Check out this introduction video: [https://youtu.be/n\\_FquwHwY0k](https://youtu.be/n_FquwHwY0k)

## Introduction to YOUNGO and LCOYs

This is the YOUNGO working group that deals with everything related to Local Conference of Youth (LCOY). YOUNGO was created as a global network of young people and youth organisations that want to connect to face the challenges of climate change together. Since 2009, YOUNGO is the constituency of youth and children to the UN climate processes. That means that through YOUNGO, young people have the possibility to participate in the UN climate processes and make their voices be heard in the climate negotiations. It is important to understand that every young person is allowed and encouraged to participate in YOUNGO. The network is non-hierarchically organised and decision making is based on the principle of consensus. (find more details on YOUNGO here)

Once a year, YOUNGO organises the global Conference of Youth (COY) that takes place right before the annual global climate change negotiations (COP). During the COY, youth form common positions on the issues discussed at the COP; they strategise how they can effectively impact the UN climate processes; and they empower each other through networking, training, and exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Since 2014, YOUNGO also hosts Local COYs that take place in countries and regions all over the world. LCOYs were created so that youth can more easily take part in the YOUNGO network without having to travel to the global COY. At LCOYs, youth can organise as national and regional movements; they can train and learn from each other; they can develop youth positions on national and international policy issues; and they can access the benefits of a global youth network comprised of YOUNGO members and LCOY participants.

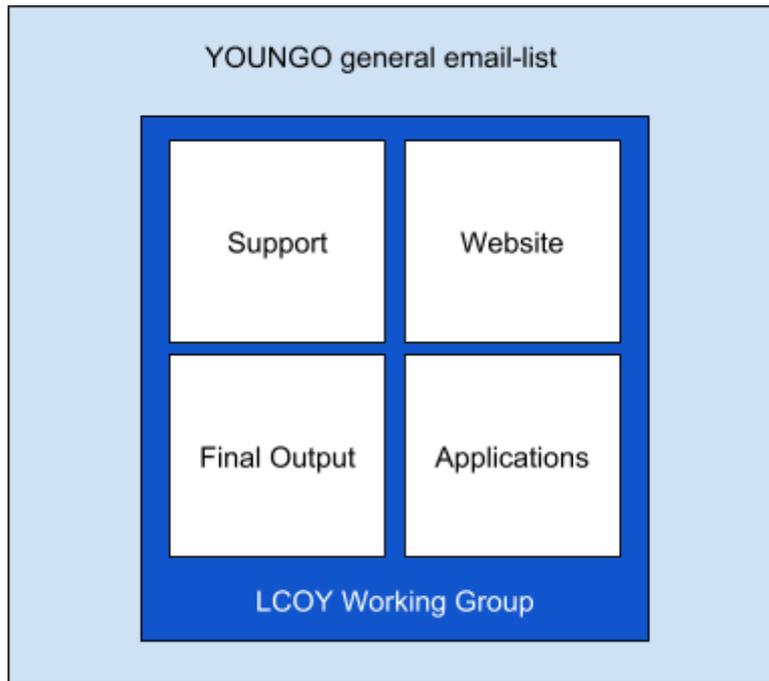
## Purpose of this working group

The LCOY working group gave itself the following tasks.

- Empower young leaders in their countries. By supporting them to organise LCOYs, they can share their energy with the youth in their countries and regions.
- Coordinate all processes related to LCOYs.
- Discuss and further define the purpose of LCOYs.
- Coordinate cooperation between LCOYs, between LCOYs and other parts of YOUNGO, and between LCOYs and the global COY.
- Review and improve its own processes on a regular basis.

## Structure of LCOY working group

This working group is divided into 4 semi-autonomous teams that deal with the topics Support, Website, Final Output, and Applications.



## *Communication*

The main channel of communication is an email-list and a google-drive folder that we use to exchange files and work on documents. There is also a [this facebook group](#) that we can use for less formal chats and to invite interested people to have a first glimpse at our work.

Each of the four teams has its own email-list and a dedicated google-drive folder where files and documents can be shared (to get access to them, check out the section “How can I get involved?”).

## *Responsibilities of the teams*

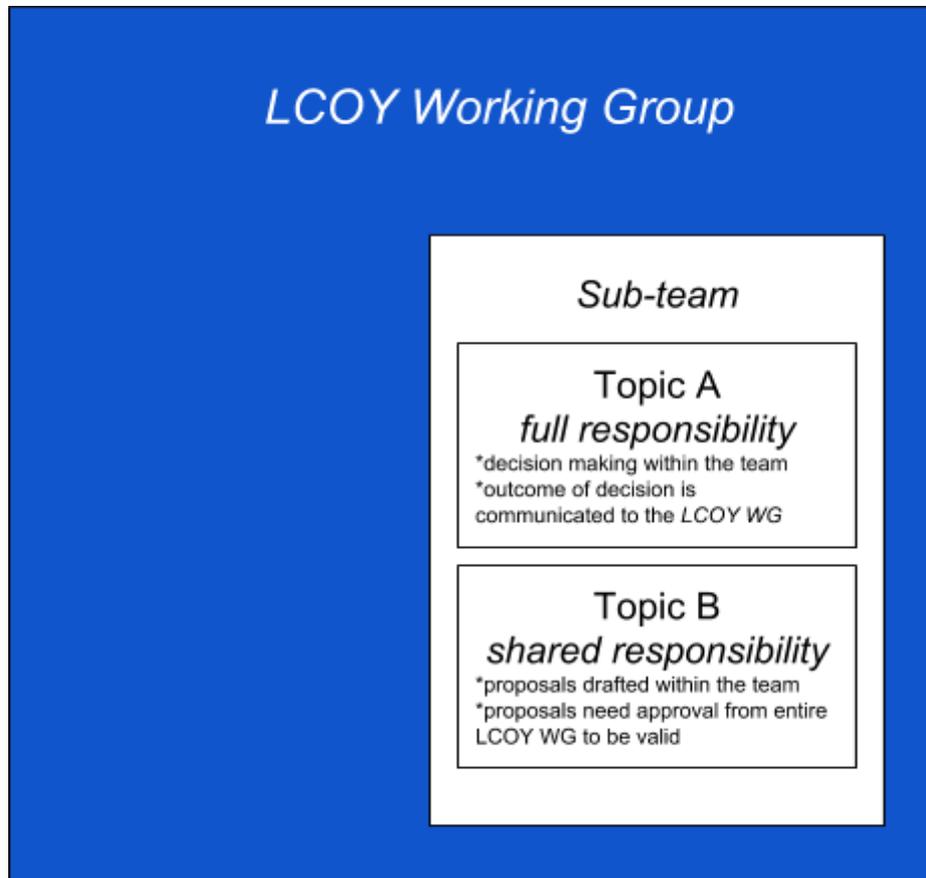
Depending on the nature of the topic that is being decided on, decision making involves

- (1) one of the 4 sub-teams,
- (2) the entire LCOY working group, or
- (3) the whole YOUNGO email-list and the YOUNGO Bottom Lining Team (BLT).

All decisions follow the principles of consent and transparency (see section “Guiding principles”)

If a team has **full responsibility** over a topic, it can make decisions autonomously while having to inform the entire LCOY working group about the outcome of that decision. If a team has **shared responsibility** for a topic, it can develop a proposal autonomously. However, this proposal needs to be approved by the LCOY Working Group and/or other groups in order to be valid. In analogy, the LCOY Working Group has full responsibility over some issues, while others need approval by the YOUNGO email-list and the BLT. Most

responsibilities can't be clearly classified and it is up to the good judgement of the team members to decide which procedure applies in what situation.



### *The sub-teams' responsibilities*

Below, you can find the names and descriptions of the sub-teams and a list of some of their full and shared responsibilities.

### **Website**

The members of this group manage the LCOY presence on [www.conference-of-youth.org](http://www.conference-of-youth.org) ("the website")

Full responsibility:

- managing the LCOY-section on the website: <https://conference-of-youth.org/en/lcoys/>
- translating relevant content into different languages

Shared responsibility:

- developing a concept how LCOYs could/should make use of the website

## Support

How can we support LCOY teams in their work? How can we empower new people to set up their own LCOYs? How can we make YOUNGO and this working group more transparent and help new members to get engaged? These are the questions this group tries to answer.

Full responsibility:

- collecting feedback from current and past LCOY organisers
- creating toolkits for knowledge exchange in the form of documents, videos, or other media forms

Shared responsibility:

Sharing stories on previous and current LCOY events on different platforms for visibility

## Applications

This group develops the application process in which local teams request to organise an LCOY in their country or region. This team also carries out this process, which entails getting in touch with the local teams, reviewing their applications, and giving recommendations on whether or not approve them.

Full responsibility:

responding to questions and queries made by applicants on the application process

Shared responsibility:

- rewriting or changing the LCOY application guidelines

## Final Output

LCOYs were created to feed youth positions into the UN climate negotiations (COP). The idea is that LCOY participants engage in COP relevant issues, develop positions on these, and deliver them to the COP. This group develops the process that is necessary to carry out such a task.

Full responsibility:

Shared responsibility:

- developing a Final Output process

## Guiding principles

This working group gave itself a set of principles that guide us in the way we work together.

## supportive

- Our main goal is to empower young people to take action on climate change, more specifically to support young people in organising powerful LCOYs. This is the overarching goal that should guide us in this working group.
- This principle needs to be balanced out with the expectations that we have as a working group towards LCOY organisers. Not everything can be an LCOY and we clearly need to communicate what defines an LCOY at its core.
- Let us also be supportive when it comes to people who join this working group as new members.

## consent

- Decisions are made by consent. This means that nothing is agreed unless everyone agrees. However, climate change is proceeding rapidly and so must we. To balance out inclusivity and fast decision making, every member of this group is asked to think carefully when they want to voice objections to a proposal.
- Sufficient time should be granted, when proposals are published for a consultation/ decision making. For important topics, people should have 2 weeks to respond to a proposal and express their support or rejection.
- Responsibilities can be delegated to smaller groups/teams that can then make autonomous decisions within the scope of their responsibility. (see “Responsibilities of the teams” for further details)

## transparency

- Transparency is empowerment. Meaningful participation is only possible if all relevant information is easily accessible, especially to people who are new to the group.
- Taking minutes during group calls and sharing them, together with concise summaries, with the rest of the group.
- Sharing the outcome of decisions with the entire LCOY Working Group and, if necessary, with the YOUNGO email-list and the BLT.

## equity

- Everyone has a shared sense of responsibility to get the work done.

- Different people have different capacities to engage; they differ in experience, available time, personality, access to technology, and other aspects. Let us keep these differences in mind and make conscious efforts to allow everyone to participate and contribute in a meaningful way.
- *Step-up step-down*: equity comes from both sides. Those who naturally inclined to take up more space should try to let other people take the floor. But also those who are less involved (for whatever reasons) are encouraged to take up responsibilities and to engage. If you don't know how, never hesitate to ask members of this group for support.

## learning

- Working in this group is a learning experience for all its members. Let us empower each other and be inclusive to allow everyone to learn from the engagement in this group.
- The processes and set-up of this working group are not perfect and have to evolve. On a regular basis (e.g. once a year at global COY) we should review how this working group functions and make improvements based on this assessment. Guidelines and policies are not set in stone, including what is written in this document.

## How can I get involved?

### Step 1

Request access to the LCOY working group email-list: <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/lcoy-wg>. This will also give you access to the google-drive folder of this working group.

### Step 2

Add your details to [the contact list](#).

### Step 3

Find out which sub working groups you want to engage in and sign up to the respective email list.

[Here](#) you can sign-up to the email list of the **Final Output** team.

[Here](#) you can sign-up to the email list of the **Applications** team.

[Here](#) you can sign-up to the email list of the **Website** team. [In this document](#) you can read what this working group has so far been working on.

[Here](#) you can sign-up to the email list of the **Support** team.

**Step 4**

Explore the [drive folder](#). Have a look at the documents and especially at the folders of the teams that you want to take part in (Website, Support, Final Output, Applications)

**Step 5**

Join the fb-group [“Friends of LCOYs”](#)

**Step 6**

Try to find into the ongoing conversations and bring in your ideas and opinions. It might be a bit difficult at the start but people are there to help if you ask for it.