

UK YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION DEMANDS TO UK GOVERNMENT AHEAD OF INTERSESSIONALS 2020

JUNE 2020



AS OFFICIAL CO-HOSTS TO THE UNFCCC PROCESS THIS YEAR, WE ARE ASKING THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT USE THEIR ROLE AS CHAIR IN THE UPCOMING SB53 NEGOTIATIONS (ALSO KNOWN AS INTERSESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS) TO THE FOLLOWING EFFECT.

WE ASK THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT:

- 1** Ensures **civil society participation and inclusion** in the intersessional negotiations to the same degree as previous sessions and strives to use online platforms to enhance public participation further. *We understand that all decisions must be made in light of the covid-19 pandemic, with safety of individuals in mind. Therefore special measures must be taken to ensure civil society can participate fully under changing circumstances.*
- 2** Ensures **transparency throughout the intersessionals process**, specifically we would like the UK Government to ensure that the majority of meetings are available to the public as both live streams and recordings and that these streams meet the requirements of all accessibility needs.
- 3** Ensures that their **role as chair dismantles barriers to participation by global south voices**. The intersessionals often grossly under-represent Global South voices both in civil society and within official delegations. We ask that the UK government does whatever work necessary to ensure mechanisms of digital and in-person participation allow these voices to be front and centre.
- 4** Ensures that their **role as chair actively discourages climate denial and delay tactics** from both stakeholders and delegates who seek to distract from productive conversations.

5

Ensures a **gender and ethnically balanced chairing panel and UK delegation**. While we cannot ask for a balance across all party delegations, we can ask the UK to lead by example, presenting a balanced group of chairs and delegates within the UK Government itself.

6

Ensures **efficient and timely discussion**. We cannot afford any more delay on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Intersessionals cannot create left-over questions for COP26, and must instead conclude discussions before the next meeting so that focus can move to implementation and action.

7

Excludes any **vested interests from the UK delegation, official side events, exhibits or panels**. While we understand the UK cannot control the actions of other parties, we ask that they show a genuine commitment to ambitious climate action by demonstrating that they do not allow those who slow climate progress into the UNFCCC space. *This includes any company which benefits from the fossil fuel industry.*

8

Holds a **meeting with youth representatives** at the intersessionals. This meeting should predominantly consist of an open space for youth groups and individuals to ask questions about the UK's presidency and the upcoming COP26. It should not be a meeting where young people are talked at.

9

Holds an **online open access, free event in advance of the intersessionals aimed at youth**, to explain their priorities in layman's terms for people to understand the significance of intersessionals and the UK's plans as hosts. This event should include outlining the main agenda items that will be discussed, a Q&A and any panel should be gender balanced and racially representative. *The format of this event should be guided by consulting with young people.*



UK Youth Climate Coalition
June 2020