

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 18 June 2026, Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), through GAYO Eco-Clubs Africa and in partnership with the Youth Climate Council Global Alliance (YCCGA), convened the Virtual Youth Consultation on Cement Decarbonization and Green Industrialization in Africa. UNIDO's Energy Systems and Industrial Decarbonization Unit served as the technical partner. The consultation was held in direct preparation for the Africa Dialogue on Cement for Green Industrialization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (6–8 July 2026).

The consultation brought together 207 registered young Africans from 22 African countries, including students, researchers, young professionals, entrepreneurs, and civil society representatives, for a structured technical and deliberative session on one of Africa's most consequential industrial challenges. Participants engaged in two UNIDO-led technical sessions on cement decarbonization and green industrialization, and in three facilitated breakout discussions on Policy and Governance, Finance and Innovation, and Education and Capacity.

The results demonstrate measurable learning outcomes, strong participant activation, and a set of twelve consolidated youth recommendations formally submitted to the Addis Ababa Dialogue. Post-survey data shows knowledge gains averaging +0.66 on a five-point scale across all eight technical topics, a session quality rating averaging 3.91 out of 5, and 100% stated intent among post-survey respondents to take action following the consultation.

Strategic Finding



Africa's industrial transition is accelerating faster than its knowledge systems. The consultation demonstrated that structured, technically grounded youth engagement, delivered at scale, can meaningfully close that gap within a single session and generate policy-relevant outputs for continental-level dialogues.



Total Participants engaged



Countries Represented



Total Participants engaged

TOP 5 COUNTRIES



UGANDA
60 Participants



BOTSWANA
17 Participants



GHANA
54 Participants



KENYA
14 Participants



NIGERIA
18 Participants

FULL COUNTRY LIST



PROGRAM INFORMATION & CONTEXT



Program Name	Virtual Youth Consultation on Cement Decarbonization and Green Industrialization in Africa
Date	June 18, 2026
Time	12:00 PM UTC 1:00 PM WAT 2:00 PM Vienna
Format	Virtual, Zoom
Organized by	Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
Supported by	GAYO Eco-Clubs Africa Youth Climate Council Global Alliance (YCCGA)
Technical partner	UNIDO, Energy Systems and Industrial Decarbonization Unit, Energy and Climate Action Division
UNIDO speakers	Philipp Werkl (Co-Lead, Energy and Climate Youth Advisory Group) Evita Moawad (Industrial Decarbonization Expert) Inés Oort Alonso (Industrial Decarbonization Researcher and Communicator)
GAYO speakers	Betty Osei Bonsu (Operations and Programs Director, GAYO) Baliqees Salaudeen-Ibrahim (Climate Director, GAYO)
Linked event	Africa Dialogue on Cement for Green Industrialization Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 6–8 July 2026
Co-organizers of linked event	UNIDO/NZP-ID GCCA UNEP CTCN EPFL Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Climate Club GMP Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative Ministry of Industry, Ethiopia

Strategic Context

Africa is entering the largest construction expansion in its history. By 2050, the continent's cement production is projected to increase by 352% compared to 2020 levels. The cement sector accounts for approximately 8% of global CO₂ emissions, with 63% of those emissions being process-based and therefore unresolvable through energy efficiency alone. Under a business-as-usual scenario, Africa's cement sector will produce 13 billion tonnes of CO₂ by 2050, locking in a carbon-intensive industrial trajectory for the next fifty years.

At the same time, ~60% of Africa's population is under 25. ILO projects 60 million potential new green jobs across Africa by 2030. Yet structural gaps in education policy and finance mean young Africans are being excluded from the knowledge systems and decision-making processes that will shape their industrial future. This consultation was designed to address that gap directly and to ensure that African youth voice was formally integrated into one of the continent's most significant industrial climate dialogues.

