

YOUTH CLIMATE DIALOGUES

GUIDING TIPS TO GET YOU ALL SET

A short guide

for teachers and project leaders



ONE EVENT: FOUR PHASES

A Youth Climate Dialogue (YCD) is an event that features a debate and a video-conference dialogue, usually via Skype, between schools in different parts of the world about how youth perceive climate change, how it affects their lives, and what actions they consider most important.

Setting up a YCD involves four phases: planning, student preparation, implementation and follow-up.

The infographic below illustrates the most important steps in the process. Read on for detailed tips on each phase.

Plan a Youth Climate Dialogue

1



Identify a partner school

2



Pick a date and a medium

3



Secure venue and connection

4



Draft and share agenda

5



Exchange materials and questions

6



Run the live climate dialogue

7



Share, tweet and film

1. PLANNING

The Youth Climate Dialogue requires significant planning and coordination to ensure that the live event runs smoothly. This includes not only working with the students and coordinating with the partner school from a different country but also securing the venue and ensuring the IT equipment and internet connection work fine.

1.

Firstly, you need to create a timeline for your YCD, planning for at least two-month preparation time.

2.

Start by identifying a partner school and a group of students to invite to the dialogue. Don't forget to take into account the age group of the partner students so as to balance it with your pupils' age.

3.

Establish a **preferred language of communication** in the initial discussions with the partner school so that any presentations, questions and material can be prepared in the same language and communication breakdowns avoided.

4.

Agree on a date and time for the dialogue keeping in mind the time difference between the two schools.

You may want to have two events:
(1) the actual dialogue of the student groups that is video-recorded and
(2) an official public event when recorded sections of the dialogue are projected to a wider audience.

Note: The dialogue that is to be recorded should happen at least two weeks before the official public event. Ideally, three weeks before to enable the video editing and further planning.



- (left) YCD communications material presented at COP 21, Paris.
- (below) Youth Climate Dialogue flyer.



5.

Identify and secure an **appropriate venue** that can accommodate the students, and has reliable **internet connection and technical equipment**.

If necessary, reach out to a local branch of a UN Agency (FAO, UNDP or other) that can offer access to such space and reliable internet connection.

6.

Identify **IT/technical experts** in your school or UN office who can support you with the IT equipment and internet connection.

It is useful to coordinate with the partner school and IT contact persons to organize a test session of the equipment and connection beforehand.

7.

Develop **communication materials** (flyer, programme, posters, etc.) and use **social networks**, such as Facebook and Twitter, to promote the dialogue and give it visibility.



▣ Pupils from Lilongwe Girls School with name tags.

8.

Use the hashtag [#youthclimatedialogues](#) on Twitter and feel free to check out the materials developed in the past: flyers, videos, pictures, Twitter header, articles on [unclearn.org](#).

9.

Carefully consider the agenda for the dialogue in advance and share it with the partner school and other parties involved.

It is important to prepare a detailed [script of the dialogue](#), limiting the duration to 1.5 hours to keep the students active and engaged.

10.

Identify and involve a professional movie-maker to record the dialogue. In case you have a public event following the dialogue itself, he/she would edit the video material.

11.

One week before the dialogue, remember to [share the following with your partner school](#):

- A picture with names and age of the students that are going to participate in the dialogue, see example above;
- The visual materials prepared by the students;
- A list of questions the students would like to ask their peers.

2. STUDENT PREPARATION

Before the dialogue, the students from each country prepare materials to share with their peers and a list of questions that they would like to ask.

12.

When engaging the students try to focus on the students' **personal experiences and understanding** of what climate change is, not so much on what can be learned from books: the dialogue shouldn't feel like an exam on climate science!

13.

Some examples for student activities to consider are: interviews to peers/relatives/parents, photo-shoots of local context, written compositions, graphics, drawings.

14.

When preparing the assignments and materials for the dialogue, keep in mind that visual materials, such as pictures, signs, posters, videos, etc. are easier to exchange online and convey a simple message.

15.

You can use one or more of the UN CC:Learn e-learning modules on climate change as one of the exercises to prepare. Access to the module is available at uncclearn.org.

Note: Communicating with the partner school which module(s) you choose to do with your students can ensure that both student groups have the same background information.

16.

Brainstorm with the students **a set of questions** they want to ask to their peers on other country circumstances and characteristics, but keep in mind that not all of them may be answered during the event.



■ Student from Niger with a question on Climate Change.



- (top) Lilongwe pupils with their thoughts on climate change.
- (above) Lilongwe girls ask their questions on climate change.
- (left) Pupils from Lugano share their thoughts on climate change.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The actual YCD is a short live exchange happening via Skype and Q&A between the students (max 1.5 hours), typically moderated by a school representative and introduced by a specialist. A wider audience and experts can be invited to the live dialogue or at an additional public event which features a screening of the dialogue.

17.

Before the start of the dialogue, run a **test check on the connection and technology** and if necessary revert to a different option (e.g. if the connection is weak, you may want to consider a conference call instead of Skype).

18.

Make sure that the environment is intimate and relaxed and that everybody can see and hear clearly.

19.

You may like to provide an opportunity for students to **ask questions on-the-spot** (e.g. you can use Twitter or a forum to collect questions live and add them to the discussion).

20.

Don't forget to **take pictures** (and tweet) during the dialogue.



■ Youth Climate Dialogue between Switzerland and Uganda.

4. FOLLOW-UP

Here are a few tips to follow after the Youth Climate Dialogue has finished.

21.

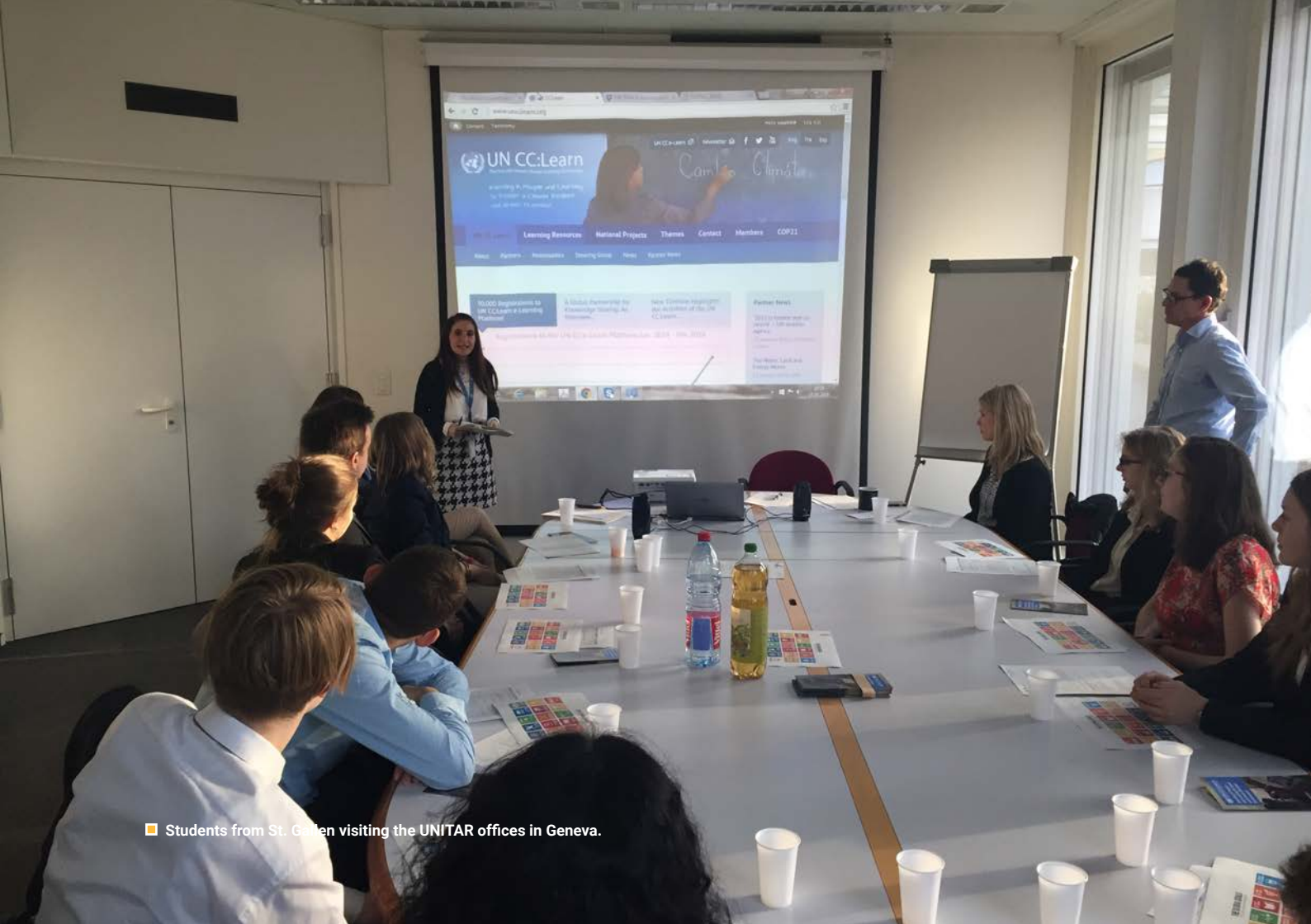
Send a **thank you note** to the partner school and students.

22.

Share your **experience** with other schools or student groups in your country.

23.

Encourage the students to **keep in touch** with their peers over social media or other channels.



■ Students from St. Gallen visiting the UNITAR offices in Geneva.

READY TO GET YOUR YOUTH CLIMATE DIALOGUE STARTED?

Ready,
Steady,
Dialogue!

We want to hear from you:

✉ gcp@unitar.org

🐦 [#YouthClimateDialogues](https://twitter.com/YouthClimateDialogues)

🔗 www.uncclearn.org