



**The support paper for Durban Youth Climate Council (DYCC),  
By Mr Khulekani Sizwe Magwaza,  
Secretary General of the South African Youth Climate Change Coalition (SAYCCC).**

18 July 2019

Dear everyone, thank you very much for this opportunity to represent the South African Youth Climate Change Coalition (SAYCCC) in this very important day and event. It is no doubt that our first democratic President would've been more joyous about today's initiative that we are launching.

Indeed we are on a fight for a greener tomorrow, and this fight is not an easy one, simply because we all know about the climate emergency but we haven't had a good political will to turn things up to save this planet. There is a lot to talk about on the subject of climate emergency, I will just structure this message with two of the 'key points' that are outlined in the concept note of this event.

- **Fighting for Climate Justice:** Climate justice has been the main and primary focus for SAYCCC, since its formation in 2011. The term climate justice, like climate change, may be complex in definition, but we've been clear about it and this is how we describe it; climate justice refer to the framing of climate change as an ethical and political issue. It links climate policies to human rights and sustainable development, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and climate policies equally and fairly. Climate justice also refers to intergenerational equity and the full, equal and meaningful participation of youth in all climate related processes, platforms and actions. It refers to striving for environmental justice and justice to nature.
- **Measures that need to be taken to become a low carbon city by 2050:** first of all, the vision of SAYCCC says, 'zero carbonized and sustainable future.' So we don't talk about low carbon or net-zero carbon, what this society needs and what this environment and our mother earth need is a completely zero carbonized environment, and that's simply refers to green, the colour green cannot be mixed with footprints, we cannot have a green environment and some carbon emissions around, at whichever grade or degree, low or high, a greener environment is an environment without carbon emissions.

The SAYCCC is delighted about this initiative, Durban Youth Climate Council, we have seen the effects of climate crisis, that has costed this province over R3.5billion this year alone. The SAYCCC will assist this council from the information we have and acquire from our climate engagements in various platforms nationally and internationally. And because we think globally and act locally, we believe that the DYCC will also give us a platform to adequately address the issue of climate change from various communities and doing various activities, as well as in creating a space or a good platform to directly engage our very local government for climate action.

Thank you.