



**Committee:** UNESCO

**Agenda Item:** Climate change education, training, and public awareness

**Country:** The Republic of South Africa

South Africa is particularly affected by the consequences of climate change. For example, the observed rate of warming has been 2°C or higher per century, more than twice the rate of global temperature rise. Addressing climate change is a matter of national concern. The role of education in tackling the challenges posed by climate change is increasingly recognized. It provides children and young people with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their individual lives and how to adapt ecological, social or economic systems to a changing environment.

Climate change poses a major threat to the future of today's youth. Globally, young people are at the forefront of climate change activism. Their ability to engage, however, depends on their level of knowledge of climate change and concern about the topic. We sought to examine levels of knowledge and concerns about climate change among youth in South Africa, and their experiences of heat exposure. Ten questions on climate change knowledge, concerns, and experiences were nested within a cross-sectional survey conducted in a cluster randomized trial among 924 secondary school learners in 14 public schools in low-income Western Cape areas. The learners' mean age was 15.8 years and they were predominately female. While 72.0% of respondents knew that climate change leads to higher temperatures, only 59.7% agreed that human activity is responsible for climate change, and 58.0% believed that climate change affects human health. Two-thirds (68.7%) said that climate change is a serious issue and 65.9% indicated action is needed for prevention. Few learners indicated climate change events had affected them, although many reported difficulties concentrating during hot weather (72.9%)

In recent years, climate change has been defined as a climate crisis for the whole world. Nature, people and animals are affected by this situation. The climate crisis affects every region in different ways. However, its impact is particularly high in the African continent. The African Union, which is one of the most important international organizations in terms of its capacity and effectiveness to mobilize African states in the African continent, has a really important role in the fight against the climate crisis in Africa. development goals of the continent In this study, the role of the African Union in the fight against the climate crisis in the African continent and how successful it is in this sense has been revealed. It has been concluded that the African Union has taken promising steps to prevent the current climate crisis in the continent, but these activities are insufficient considering the size of the climate crisis and better studies may be needed.

**Resource;**

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