What role can Universities, Academia and Youth Action do to win on negotiations at Conference of Parties (COP 27) next year ?

Let youth wake up the sleeping giants. . . . raise the voice, no voice should go unheard, stand for climate action and negotiate for a better future for all.!

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The Climate change action is a global call to everyone across the globe, but its action and involvement is not uniform everywhere. What would be the reason? Lack of uniform applicability and universities, academia, youth role in climate action at the negotiation table alongside corporate entities and other associated stakeholders. Universities are a source of seamless dissemination of knowledge, mobilization and capacity building. The educational organizations which includes the universities and other academic institutions are a bridge programme function for leveraging the learning to corporates and in turn with unified global climate action. Universities and academic institutions are where constant exchange of knowledge happens and are facilitators to build core competencies of varied stakeholders. Conference of Parties is an annual event interface that happens every year and agreements, deals and pacts are negotiated for, decision of meeting has a recalling and revoke of the proceeding COP for sealing a better deal for countries to act upon. With so much negativity around that happens every year if a consensus is not brought about, the real problem with climate action is impact education not being percolated in core curriculum. The universities and academic institutions should every year, once the COP summit gets over, conduct a assembly for bringing participatory approach of deliberations that happened. They need to prepare a questionnaire and get the information by connecting it with varied stakeholders as a mandatory workout. Based on the response, the issues be prepared and training of

multipliers be conducted and issues be addressed and a action plan and agenda be prepared for submission for negotiation as universities too deserve a equal access at COP as a integral part of decision of meetings and party to the meeting at high level segment and ministries and not as under non-observer and non-listed category. Their suggestive and action plan also needs to be incorporated, their role should not be restrictive and awareness oriented or youth actionable but an equal party to signatory. Not every sector, industry interface and communities including other associated stakeholders who are the main emission guzzlers act uniformly, and so their inactions are sleeping giants as they have not acted as per the goal or streamlined and negotiated for and take a middle path, lack transparency and governance at the board level. With so many disclosure and reporting standards – NAMAs, NDCs, NAPs, TCFD, NBS, SBIT, GRI Standards, UN Global Compact, there is no separate capacity building and academic interface disclosure or Standards. Youth Action, universities and academia role standards should be framed and reporting be done, so that they can wake up the sleeping giants who often do reporting or disclosure but do not integrate it with Universities interface. “THE VOICE BE RAISED AND NO GLOBAL CALL SHOULD GO UNHEARD”...as every voice unheard is an inaction towards global commitment...cumulative efforts at local, regional and country level be computed. They need to be added as the corporate entities do with their reporting. ie; to say universities and academia should also report or disclose their climate action and submit it to the standard board. As with corporate climate action disclosure who have resource stewardship, materiality, stakeholder mapping, impact assessment, adaptation and mitigation including risk assessment and lack of economic support for steering the action – their dependence on divestment and diversification for seeking technical, institutional and economic support – the institutional efforts of academia to capacity-building and outreach and their action taken under individual capacity be reported and brought in as a compilation of actions taken be reported as is done by the listed entities. That is to say all the universities and academia be brought under listed entities (****please be noted under institutional listed entity category not as corporate entity category). The actions and reporting disclosure should be not heard and raised as youth voice or action and mere climate action of youth per se but as an institutional action reporting or disclosure and standardization. To what level the action has been taken needs to be reported – beginner, developing and advanced and based on it support be seemed and collaborated for. If corporate entities are the living lab of issues or challenges and opportunities to negate the impacts then Universities are the mobilizers for them to act upon. Every job created in green sector i.e. ; climate change, renewables and carbon markets is an action in itself with cobenefitting attribute to both climate action and opening job avenues for professionals and practitioners in climate change and also to those as a monetary motivation, need to the youth belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized who are not trained in climate change action but do participate in the efforts. It's like incentivizing the vulnerable and marginalized, giving what they require and at the same time allows tangible solutions to the vulnerable areas and regions, say for example the small island nations and least developing nations. The advanced countries with their interface with academia do capacity building and core curriculum but do not report it either. Climate change action is a voluntary training what they conduct, has a huge success rate as they have all the support system to steer through. What they need to do now is rate the level of competencies, give a code to it, prepare a standardization and implementation action plan and liaise with the Conference of Parties, government per se for their actions and be a equal party to trade-offs,

offsets. As, is it with organization standard protocols, universities standardization of climate action is in offing. The conference of Parties (COP27) slated to be held next year shall expect a win or so to say will have a decisive win on negotiations as if we start working from now, by the time negotiations happen next year, we shall have the data of workable, extent of entities, communities and other associated stakeholders impacted and dissemination done, their portfolio set, adaptation and mitigation measures taken and targets achieved, gaps and future scaping trajectories well placed and documented and being disclosed. The future COP should have COP related standards and disclosures (COPRSD) before participating in it and only if disclosure is done, countries representative, thought leaders, policy makers and civil societies including academia institutions should be allowed to participate or so as to say attend it (not even under non-entity or non-observer category should be allowed). Only those nations and its associated representative aforesaid mentioned who submit will get the entry and non disclosing countries be banned from entry – this stringent and mandatory clause will allow stakeholders to act more, report and disclose transparently and get the negotiations win. Also COP27 should be restrictive and not open ended or open for all, as COPs conduct in itself and its organization as a summit leaves a huge carbon footprint, though at the event level abatement and emission, reduce, recycle and reuse policies are applied and are great effort on their way of conduct per se, but the attendees footprint and reach are not accounted for. An open consultation before COP happens be done – for who should attend or which representatives should be involved and how many of them should attend. Pre-COP awareness and capacity-building programme, outreach, be done in stakeholder participatory and action forum standard format and not as mere awareness and social media communication that happens with so much of pompous and hype around, but with little Pre-COP actionable accountability and submissions.

“Let’s upscale and upgrade universities and academia efforts as like corporate entities to disclosure framework and incorporate them as party to COP and lead success at negotiation table next year”.

Youth not just have power to raise voice but also have power to wake up the sleeping giants – the corporate entities and developed economies including other associated stakeholders. However, time has come for developing countries to stop seeking support from advanced economies and self empower themselves, as they need to create their own capacities, capabilities and funds for mobilization, innovation and climate change action as there is no room or scope for charity for climate change action. Self -sufficiency, self- empowerment, country specific action and self-funding for programme of activities, (PoA), Assemble for COP (A – COP).

“Learn, upgrade, upscale, upskill and outreach for climate change”