

Suedwind x WYCY

15th November 2023

WORLD'S YOUTH FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



The ICJAO is Hope

Remember when you went to the desert and got lost and then some friendly wise owls advised you on how to go back...you may ask, owls in the desert? Yes! The owls are the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion and you are lost.

Today we see leadership and hope as a group of champion countries, led by the small, vulnerable and ambitious island nation of Vanuatu, brings the world's biggest problem to the highest global court! There is no climate justice without human rights. Vanuatu is seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice to clarify the legal obligation of states to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change.

Encourage your governments to VOTE YES at the UNGA when this resolution is tabled! This will spur ambition and action for the next COP. This will be our beacon of hope for all states to live up to the meaning of the Paris Agreement.

Introduction



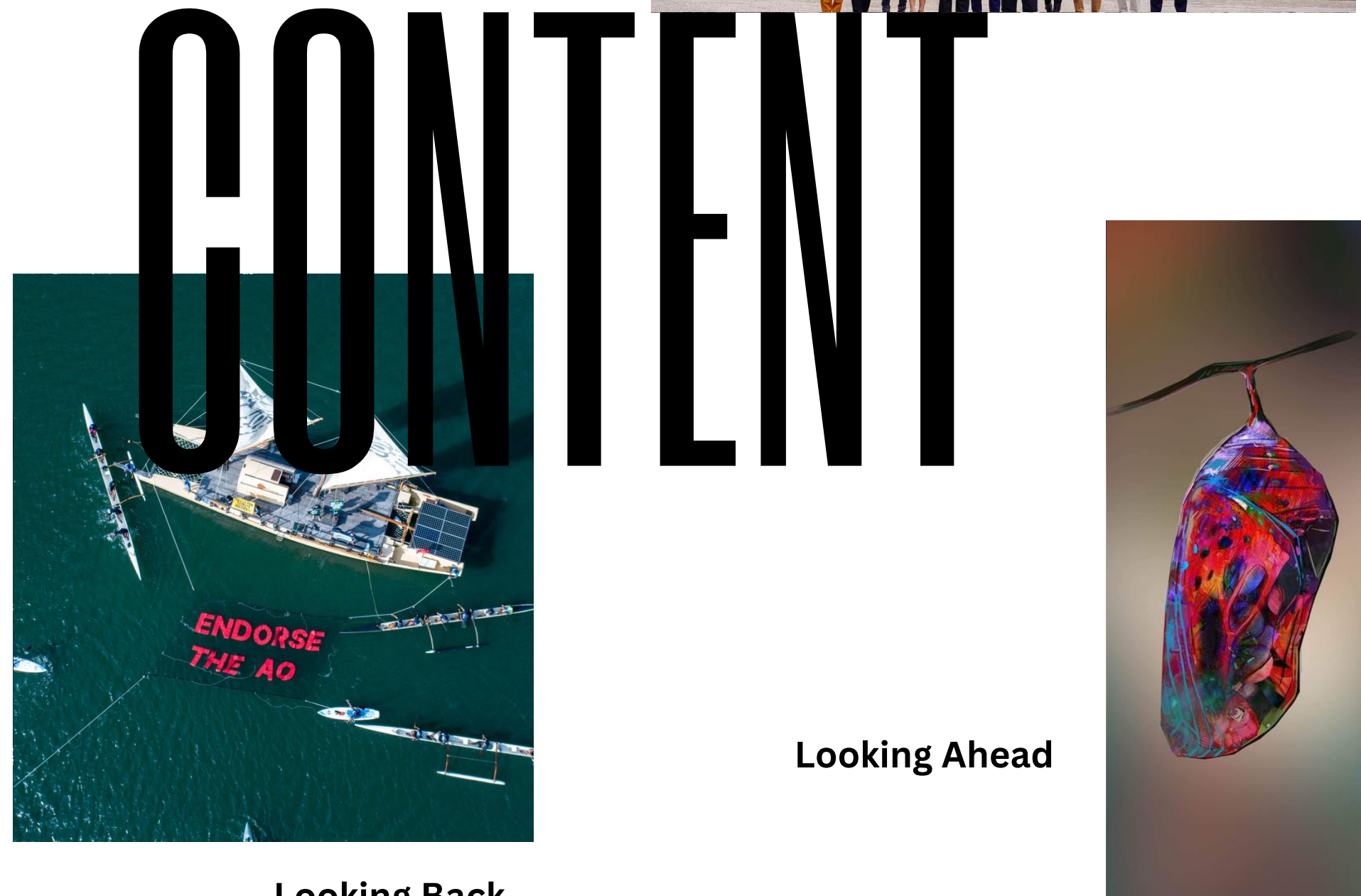
Advisory Opinion 101



Origin of the Campaign



Call for funding



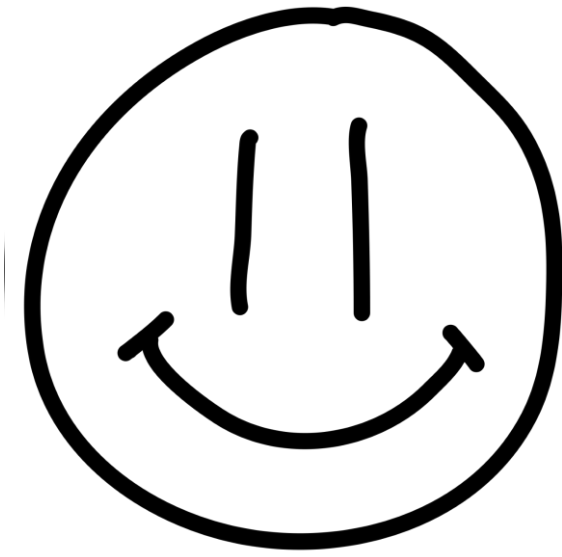
Looking Back

Looking Ahead



Q&A

THE YOUTH



“Those who have contributed the least are already experiencing climate hell... For some countries climate change is a death sentence, and indeed it is by the initiative of those countries, joined by so many others and by the efforts of **young people from all across the world that brings us together today**. And together you are making history.”



Antonio Guterres

UN Secretary
General



Amb. Jeem Lippwe

Permanent
Representative of FSM

“Climate Justice and intergenerational equity, need for urgent and ambitious action to counter existential threat of climate change, including limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees... This resolution was born from Pacific youth who called upon our leaders to use international law as a tool to further highlight the need to take action. I would also like to recognize the **World’s Youth for Climate Justice** for their passion and for bringing this important issue to their own countries.”

Our ORIGIN STORY

Began in 2019 by 27 law students at USP.

Concerned about the intensifying impacts of the climate crisis on human rights of people and the inability of the existing systems to address these threats.





Our ORIGIN STORY

WYCJ, formed in 2020, came in response to the need to globalise the youth campaign.

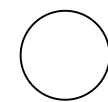
Since then the WYCJ has active fronts in **Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Pacific and Asia. Still looking for campaigners on Antarctica 😊**

AO 101

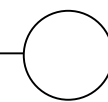
"Extremely powerful in terms of authority; that authority comes from legitimacy, and the legitimacy comes from universal state participation"

Prof. Jorge Vinuales

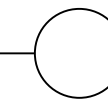
University of Cambridge



An advisory opinion is **legal advice** provided to the United Nations or a specialized agency by the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Article 96 of the UN Charter.



The **General Assembly** and the **Security Council** may request advisory opinions on "legal questions arising within the scope of their activities".



A tool for the progressive development of international law.

26 AO's on a variety of matters in international law, including **decolonization**, **nuclear weapons** and the **Wall** in Palestine



LEGAL QUESTION

ADOPTED!

Resolution 77/276 adopted on 29 March 2023 by consensus.

132 CO-SPONSORS

Cross-regional representation in the core group and widespread co-sponsorships.

ESSENTIALLY!

- State obligations in international law to ensure protection of climate system from greenhouse gas emissions for states and for present and future generations
- ! Legal consequences for states when their acts/ omissions have caused
 - significant harm to the climate system w/ respect to SIDS and present and future generations

THEMES

Intergenerational equity, role of human rights law when responding to climate change



LEGAL QUESTION

What do

young people want?

- Helpful and progressive AOs on climate ambition
- Draw attention to the rights of future generations and intergenerational equity
- Highlight climate impacts on human rights and elevate stories of climate (in)justice by youth
- Enable young people and civil society to participate in the court proceedings

POTENTIAL:

- Integrating the nexus between human rights and climate crisis
- Provide impetus and guidance for courts at all levels
- Cementing consensus on the scientific evidence of climate crisis
- Encourage more ambitious action under the Paris Agreement
- Encourage cooperation & support in mitigation, adaptation and loss & damage

WHY AMAS?

UNFCCC and Multilateral Processes

- Respond to **gaps** in ambition, accountability, and fairness through a more holistic and progressive interpretation of the Paris Agreement that is cognizant of the broader body of international law.
- Can be used as **advocacy tool** by stakeholders to enhance action on mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage.
- **Law of international state responsibility**, which we are asking to be clarified in relation to climate change provides for remedies (i.e. cessation [mitigation], compensation [L&D fund])

Climate Litigation

- The climate justice advisory opinion will **provide authoritative jurisprudence** relevant to a myriad of matters to be brought before international and domestic courts and tribunals that will in turn positively impact responses to climate change.
- Other international courts and tribunals have **recognized importance of ICJ Advisory Opinions**, such as ECtHR, IACtHR and ITLOS

WHY AMAS?

Progressive and Inclusive Development of International Law

Opportunity for **marginalised and frontline communities** to now be a part shaping the development of international law that can have wide-ranging impacts for policies, domestic legislation, multilateral negotiations and treaties etc.

Clarification of state obligations under the **whole host of international law**. Integrating human rights law with international environment law.

Inclusion of young people.

**Cement Consensus on the
science behind climate change**

**Provide baselines for state
action on mitigation,
adaptation, loss and damage
etc.**

**A tool to achieving a more
climate just world.**



BUILDING ALLIANCES



REGIONAL & GLOBAL



STATE ENGAGEMENT



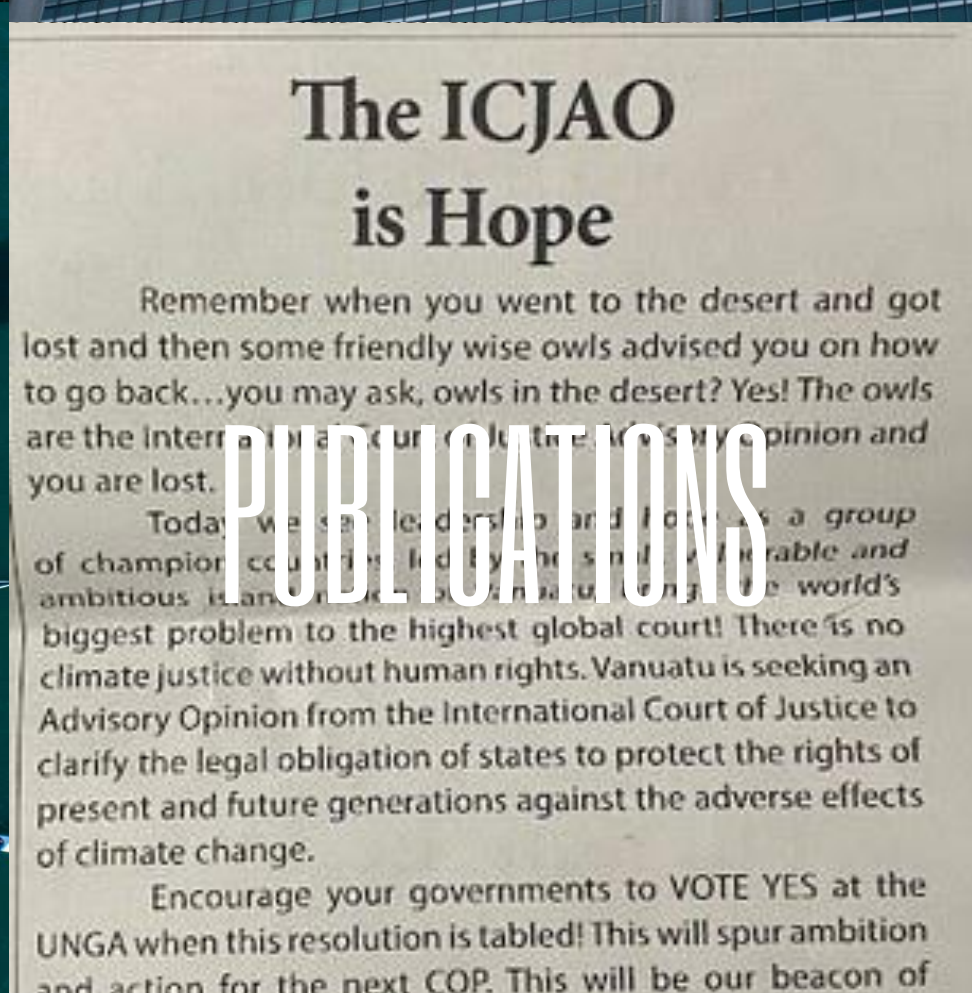
MEDIA



FRIENDS OF THE INITIATIVE



EVENT DIRECTION



PUBLICATIONS



CAPACITY BUILDING

ADOPTION

29 March 2023

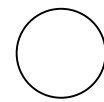


THE COURT PHASE

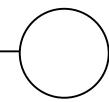




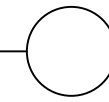
TIMELINE



End of January 2024
**Written
Submissions
Deadline**



End of April 2024
**Comments on
written submissions
deadline**



Late 2024
Oral Submissions



OBJECTIVES

STATE SUBMISSIONS

Assist state submissions through the Youth Climate Justice Handbook and youth annex to help secure a progressive and impactful advisory opinion.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

Maintain a public facing campaign to create psycho-political pressure on the formal processes.

MOMENTUM BUILDING YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Engage with stakeholders to raise awareness, encourage participation and support in phase II and increase grassroots participation and awareness in the ICJAO processes.

Strengthen youth engagement with the campaign and broadly for the fight for climate justice.

ENGAG

E WITH

STATES

CAPACI

TY

Campaign and Advocacy Work on international, national and regional level to encourage progressive state submissions.

Regional capacity building sessions for youth.

BUILDING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Continue leadership of the ACJAO
- Amicus Curiae briefs and submissions

YOUTH

ANNEX

Encourage states to annex empirical evidence from their own children and youth to their written submissions

EVENT

Participate in high-level events such as COP 28, COP 29, SB sessions, Rainbow Warrior tour, Climate Weeks etc.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Animation Video
- Art exhibitions
- Digital media campaigns
- Op-Eds and Academic blog posts

ACTIVITIES



Recent

World's Youth for Climate Justice receives Youth Carnegie Peace Prize

News item | 13-11-2023

The Hague – On 7 December 2023, the international youth organization 'World's Youth for Climate Justice' will be awarded the Youth Carnegie Peace Prize. This global youth movement will receive the prize for its dedicated efforts in fighting climate change by means of international law and for advocating climate justice.



According to Aoife Fleming, chair and co-founder of World's Youth for Climate Justice, there is a clear correlation between environmental protection and peace or, in other words, there is a link between global warming and the causes of conflict: "The climate emergency poses a global threat to our peace and security. Global warming causes food scarcity, displaces millions of people and adds tensions to already fragile contexts."



THANK YOU

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