

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA members contribute to shaping science advice at United Nations Climate Change Framework Conference (COP 28)
- GYA and 30 additional young academies issue call underlining the crucial role that basic research plays in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy in the first quarter of 2024, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#); [subscribe here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- [Learn more about the call “Reaffirming the Role of Fundamental Sciences in Achieving Sustainable Development through Enhanced and Equitable Support of Fundamental Research and Early- to Mid-Career Researchers”](#)
- [Read the GYA's outlook on scientific and social developments in 2024](#)

POLICY ADVICE: CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

GYA members focused on scientific policy advice at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Framework Conference (COP 28) in Dubai, where they were active both on-site and online. During an in-person event, a panel discussed the [role of young scientists in combating climate change through science-based innovation](#), technology and policy, and examined model projects by young associations in promoting interdisciplinary research for climate innovation. During this event, the GYA collaborated with the Royal Scientific Society (Jordan) and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Egypt.

The regional range of actors at the second event in Dubai was similarly wide: the focus here was on the role of academies in climate policy advice. The well-attended panel was initiated by a collaboration with the New Voices Program of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP).

Members of the GYA's [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) working group also organised a webinar on “Climate Change Policy: a non-specialist toolkit” in early December 2023. Mechanisms and processes of climate policy and how young scientists can get involved were discussed. The speakers shared their experiences from science-based policy advice on climate change issues and in dealing with bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the respective regular Conference of the Parties (COP). [An artist created an infographic to share the experience with the public.](#)

As part of the United Nations Secretary General's Scientific Advisory Board network, the GYA has also played an important role in discussing new scientific

and social trends in 2024. In recognition of their special global character and age cohort, the GYA was able to support the Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary General of the United Nations at the turn of the year 2023/24 with an [outlook on scientific and social developments in 2024](#).

SCIENCE POLICY: STRENGTHENING BASIC RESEARCH

Members of the GYA have been intensely involved with current science policy concerns, and have made a significant contribution to strengthening the basic sciences.

In late 2023, the GYA launched “[A Call for Action from Young Academies and Young Associations: Reaffirming the Role of Fundamental Sciences in Achieving Sustainable Development through Enhanced and Equitable Support of Fundamental Research and Early- to Mid-Career Researchers](#)” as part of the closing event of the International Year “Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD)”, at CERN, Switzerland. The GYA was recruited 30 additional young academies as supporters, underlying the crucial role that basic research plays in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Although it is generally accepted among researchers that without basic research there cannot be successful application-oriented research and innovation in the long term, investments in basic research are declining worldwide, as a recently published GYA ([Back to Basics](#)) report shows.

In response to this trend, the report proposes practical steps to link basic research with sustainable development. Suggestions include supporting interdisciplinary research aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, improving the transition from research to innovation, and addressing global inequalities in research opportunities.