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STUDENTS ORGANISING FOR SUSTAINABILITY INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT 2025

THEME

Mobilizing student leadership for environmental justice



7th – 10th May 2025



University of Ghent, Belgium

POST SUMMIT BOOKLET



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Peter Kwasi Kodjie

SOS International President
Secretary General
All-Africa Students Union



1.0 Foreword

On behalf of the All-Africa Students' Union (AASU) and SOS-International, it was a pleasure to welcome over 100 delegates at this year's SOS-International summit, hosted by Green Office Ghent. The summit has grown in recent years, and it is great to see the diversity of stakeholders that this truly global event now attracts. Following the incorporation of the Green Office Movement as a core program at SOS-International, as well as our own organization (AASU) hosting the presidency for two years, we have seen the summit evolve into a significant event on the calendar for students, educators and policymakers in the higher education for sustainability agenda.

This year's program featured contributions from 33 speakers from across the movement. From inspiring and lively panel discussions to informative and interactive workshops, the summit was bursting with energy from start to finish. We all parted ways from the closing circle with a renewed commitment and enthusiasm for change making across our local and global education communities.

I would like to thank all contributors, delegates, organizers and volunteers for coming together in Ghent and making the summit such a huge success. As we look forward to the new academic year for 2025/26 and next year's summit, we wish you well on your sustainability journey and hope to connect with you in the near future.

Peter Kwasi Kodjie
President
SOS-International

2.0 Overview

The SOS-International summit 2025 was hosted by Green Office Ghent at the University of Ghent, Belgium between the 7th and 10th May. The event provided 2 action-packed days of keynote, panel sessions, workshops, seminars and networking sessions, with 100 delegates attending from 37 student- or youth-led organizations or higher education institutions spanning 10 countries and 3 global regions. Around the periphery of the core sessions Green Office Ghent hosted informal social and networking evenings and a city tour on Saturday 10th, exploring civic and community projects promoting and driving sustainability and social justice across Ghent.

The core theme for the summit was 'mobilizing student leadership for environmental justice' with the sessions sharing practice and developing shared learning across five sub-themes or tracks:

- Sustainability on campus
- Transforming learning and education for sustainability
- Climate justice and equity in practice in higher education
- Campaigning and advocacy for climate and environmental justice
- Living well in the Anthropocene



Sessions are summarized below according to their allocated track in the summit program, but it is worth noting that many of the sessions intersect across multiple tracks, demonstrating the systemic and interdisciplinary thinking approach required to tackle climate and social justice.

We would like to thank: the Green Office Ghent for their hosting and volunteer teams; All-Africa Students' Union for their extensive efforts in supporting and developing the summit as part of their presidency of SOS-International; Flixbus, for providing delegates with discounted long-distance bus travel to the summit; the Copernicus Alliance for their generous contribution from the cooperation fund; and all speakers and delegates for their various contributions in making the summit an insightful and motivating experience for all involved. These pages illustrate the sheer quantity and depth of insight and knowledge shared by the community of practice that came together for this short time in May 2025. We hope this overview can provide further connection and inspiration for your work in the year ahead, and we look forward to working with you to further grow the movement in 2025/26 academic year and beyond.



3.0 Summary of summit sessions

3.1 Core theme: Mobilizing student leadership for environmental justice

The summit was opened and closed with plenary sessions hosted by the SOS-International, All-Africa Students' Union and Green Office Ghent teams. **Peter Kwasi Kodjie**, Secretary General of the All-Africa Students Union and President of SOS-International opened the summit with a timely reminder to all on the collective call to action and power of youth- and student-voices in advocating for a safe and just future. **Meg Briar**, SOS-International Managing Director invited delegates to reflect on progress on sustainability and climate action at their home institution and envision the role that education can play in progressing climate and environmental justice.

Femke Lootens, Green Office Ghent coordinator and **Oshin Ghiotto**, Green Office Ghent job student, volunteers, network and alumni provided an inspiring overview of the activities and achievements of the Green Office. **Riet Van de Velde**, Ghent University Head of the Environment Department – sustainability policy provided an in-depth presentation of sustainability operations, strategy and structure at Ghent University including how the university provides both a strategic and mobilizing approach to innovating sustainability practice.

3.1.1 Track 1: Sustainability on campus

This topic showcased a range of inspiring and practical case-studies from across the movement, where students, staff and faculty are making significant efforts to transform the campus environment as a blueprint for sustainability.

Emilio Garcia Padron, postgraduate student at Imperial College London and founder of RE:GEN led a session 'Grounds for Growth – why and how to start a community garden on your campus'. This followed Emilio's inspiring and enterprising story in creating a community garden and transforming green space within the center of Imperial College real estate in London.

Valérie Vandenbussche, lecturer and Green Office coordinator, Vives University of Applied Sciences along with **Nienke Blauw**, postgraduate student and **Rolf Pronk**, postgraduate student, both at the Green Office Open University (Netherlands) presented an interactive session 'A different kind of green office'. This focused on innovating the mechanisms of engagement in a virtual or hybrid learning environment.

Sarah Robinet, Project Manager UNI for Change at Green Office University of Liège spoke on 'massively mobilizing students and staff on campuses for sustainability with UNI for Change', a digital engagement tool incentivizing sustainable practice through gamification.

Gabi Brame, Sustainability Development Coordinator at University of Stirling Students' Union told the story of the Green and Blue Space, a student engagement hub with the session 'Mobilizing student leadership in sustainability at Stirling'.

3.1.2 Track 2: Transforming learning and education for sustainability

Reframing our education and learning systems with sustainability competencies and innovative pedagogies as key pillars is a critical component in transforming wider society towards a safe and just future. This track provided delegates with inspiring case studies and engaging conversations on how they can advocate for this vital agenda locally or globally.

Femke Lootens presented 'Another university is possible! Examples from Student Sustainability Movements'. This shared examples from Ghent and invited students to envisage transformed university structures where equity, community and diversity are guiding pillars.

Belinda Mensah, Member of the Environment and Climate Action Working Group at the All-Africa Students' Union and SOS-International communications coordinator, along with **Aimable Iradukunda**, African Union WiseYouth Network presented 'Fostering industry-academia collaboration in higher education institutions for climate action'. This session looked at challenges, opportunities and action recommendations to further catalyze innovative partnerships between universities and their extensive business and industry partners.

Sonya Peres, Senior Project Manager – education programs at Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK), led an insightful session 'co-creating sustainability in our institutions: students as genuine and active partners in education'. This introduced delegates to SOS-UK's 'Responsible Futures' program, a student engagement and institutional benchmarking program led by student volunteers trained by SOS-UK and invited participants to envisage how they could consolidate sustainability learning in the formal, informal and subliminal components of the university curriculum.

Lonny Gold, of Resonance Learning took delegates on a transformational pedagogical journey through a lens of sound and song. Lonny's highly interactive 'Suggestopedia – making learning sustainable' immersed participants in alternative learning styles through stimulating the potential of the unconscious mind and creating a new culture of communication.

In the first of two engaging keynote and panel discussion sessions, panel chair **Zamzam Ibrahim**, board member at SOS-International and freelance consultant and director at Somalis for Sustainability facilitated a conversation around transformative education for environmental justice. This discussion explored the critical role that education can play in a global transition towards a regenerative society with justice and equity at the core. As part of this session, Zamzam first introduced the keynote speaker:



Dr. Ebenezer Nikoi, Senior Lecturer at the department of geography and resource development, University of Ghana. Dr. Nikoi spoke on the subject of 'Empowering Student Voices: tackling climate-induced migration in west Africa.

This provided thought-provoking content a platform for an energizing discussion with;

- **Amira Campbell**, President at National Union of Students UK (NUS UK)
- **Emma de Saram**, trustee at SOS-UK and Climate Justice Activist, on the topic of transformative education for environmental justice.

The panelists focused on the need to ensure higher education decision-making spaces are open, diverse and accessible, enabling all voices and communities across the campus to be heard.

3.1.3 Track 3: Climate justice and equity in practice in higher education

This track explored how higher education can leave its colonial and hierarchical roots behind in the context of a new educational era of climate justice between global north and global south institutions and equitable opportunity for all students, staff and faculty.

Ewoud Vandepitte, sociology postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University and University of Antwerp led the interactive session 'Hope as struggle'. This illustrated active role that hope can play amidst climate (and other) crises, based on research and insights working with NGO's and climate activists across Belgium.

Patricia Fuchs, an international bachelor student at Free University of Brussels delivered the workshop 'From footprint to handprint', empowering students to transition from a classic environmental narrative of harm reduction (footprint) towards amplifying the positive impact (handprint) that positive action on the broader sustainability agendas of gender equality, education and climate action can have in driving systemic change.

The Green Office student team at Technical University of Eindhoven, led on 'Student power in sponsorship: paving the way for sustainable collaboration'. This session took a dive into the topic of corporate sponsorship in universities and student clubs or societies within the institution. The workshop invited delegates to envisage what sustainable sponsorship looks like and whether certain companies or corporations should be excluded from campus collaboration and sponsorship deals on sustainability or environmental grounds.



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Daniel Nii Korley Botchway of the National Union of Ghana Students and **Timothy Kwabla Zilevu** of the University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana, co-presented the session 'A blueprint for sustainable campus environmental initiatives: models for the Global South'. The speakers shared their unique insight on how the success of teaching, engagement and operational innovations is dependent upon active involvement of the local campus community and its diverse network of stakeholders from managers, students and faculty to external stakeholders surrounding the institution.

3.1.4 Track 4: Campaigning and advocacy for climate and environmental justice

The summit attracted a diverse global community of advocates for youth and student voice in climate and environmental justice, through education and across wider sustainability and climate spaces. We were delighted to hear this range of perspectives and associated experiences through workshops and our keynote panel session on day 2. Speakers reported from the front line of climate campaigning, as well as their experiences as youth or student delegates at high level political events such as the United Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP).

Victor Nascimento, representing Brazilian student organization Uniclima, substitute professor and PHD candidate at PUC Minas presented the session 'Global South perspectives on environmental justice'. This shared the experience of Uniclima, a student-led organization based in Brazil and Victor's personal experience as a member of the Brazilian delegation at COP28 in Dubai.

Beatrice Anomah, SOS-UK Inclusion and Climate Justice Project Manager and **Jamilah Sabur**, Founder and Director of Inclusive Futures led on the delivery of workshop session 'What? Why? And How? Exploring Climate Justice with the PACE index'. The PACE index, a cross-Europe initiative, aims to use insights from data to tell the story of the racial diversity gap in the climate sector. Participating organizations will work together to redistribute power, influence and transform the sector. The workshop brought together stakeholders from across the climate movement in higher education, to catalyze involvement at this exciting point at the launch of the PACE index project.

Peter Josephat Niboye, All-Africa Students' Union and **Edith Dede Dongoyo**, University of Professional Studies, Accra, facilitated 'Youth-led climate action: harnessing the potential of national frameworks for environmental justice'. This insightful session explored motivational case studies of youth-led action in climate advocacy and policy-setting. There was also an exploration of the challenges faced to ensuring genuine youth participation and how to build global consensus to amplify the voice of youth and ensure decision makers are held to account on youth engagement.

Helena Van Tichelen, National Director of IAAS Belgium and **Nele Van Hoyweghen**, President of the Flemish Union of Students (VVS) shared their insight in 'Youth at the table during climate negotiations: insights from COP'. Helena and Nele actively illustrated how students can transition from local advocacy roles to global platforms such as the UNFCCC climate negotiations. Both speakers have extensive experience from their local Green Office to Flanders region and as international representatives for Belgium at the global Conference of the Parties.



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Day 2 of the summit opened with an inspirational panel session, once again hosted by Zamzam Ibrahim. The topic 'global advocacy for environmental justice' demonstrated three unique case-studies for track four:

Agata Meysner, President and co-founder of Generation Climate Europe (GCE) shared insight on creating GCE, a Europe-wide network of student and youth organizations advocating for ambitious climate policy in the European parliament. Agata also provided unique insight on how the climate movement is evolving in response to recent political pressures and what needs to be done to tackle systemic inequality and misinformation.

Kelo Uchendu, net zero consultant at Mott MacDonald and SOS-International board member shared their extensive experience as a youth lead and negotiator at the UNFCCC at multiple climate COP's including a leading role on the YOUNGO, official youth constituency of the UNFCCC at COP26 and COP27. Kelo continues to engage and negotiate on the global policy platform as a UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee (TEC) representative for Nigeria, and a contributing fellow to UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO-7) report.

Nicholas Omonuk Oloit, founder of End Fossil Occupy Uganda shared insight from the front line of climate campaigning and advocacy, building grassroots, community-powered climate organization in their home country, Uganda, to advocate for the voices of pastoral tribes against the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). Nicholas represented the Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA) at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

3.1.5 Track 5: Living well in the Anthropocene

This track provided inspirational solutions to eco-anxiety and innovative case studies on projects that are leading the way in advocating for, or building a sustainable wellbeing society. The summit heard a range of voices, promoting intersectionality and inclusivity across the climate movement.

Emma de Saram presented the workshop 'neurodiversity and climate action: building inclusive movements for environmental justice'. This session engaged delegates in an interactive workshop on how to promote inclusivity for neurodivergent campaigners, organizers and employees to create stronger and more resilient climate action movements.

Oshin Ghiotto, Green Office Gent and **Jutte Dessein**, education team and project coordinator at Oxfam Gent facilitated 'eco-emotions and how to deal with them'. This session explored the emotions, feelings and moods that arise from engagement with the climate crisis. From exploring methods of empathetical listening, the workshop also encouraged delegates to recognize and communicate their boundaries, thus promoting healthy self-care pathways to avoid burnout and ultimately leading to a more balanced approach to taking positive action as a team.



4.0 Conclusions and key learnings from the 2025 summit

The summit closed with a celebratory and ceremonial session on the afternoon of Friday 9th May. With the two-year term of the All-Africa Students' Union presidency of SOS-International ending later in 2025, it was a great opportunity to celebrate the incredible connections, innovations and lasting relationships that this partnership has enabled.

AASU Secretary General and SOS-International President, **Peter Kwasi Kodjie** led on proceedings, with a note of thanks extended across the SOS-International and Green Office Gent teams. **Darren Axe**, membership and engagement manager and **Meg Briar** then closed out the summit from an SOS-International perspective, thanking all delegates and the AASU for their dedication and presenting news and next steps from SOS-International. **Femke Lootens** and **Oshin Ghiotto** then brought the afternoon to a close by inviting all delegates outside to form an interactive closing circle, where each delegate had the opportunity to enter the circle and share a commitment that they would take away from the summit. This provided a collaborative and inclusive end to the core activity.

The summit demonstrated the power of global collaboration in turbulent financial and geopolitical times for the higher education sector. There was a great sense of hope, optimism and enthusiasm across the delegation to build on existing projects and exploit new partnerships across international boundaries.



5.0 Key Takeaways

1.Student Leadership as a Catalyst for climate justice: The summit reinforced the central role of student and youth leadership in driving climate action and environmental justice, highlighting how their collective voice can influence institutional, national, and global agendas.

2.Interdisciplinary & Systemic Approaches towards climate change: Many sessions demonstrated that sustainability and climate justice cannot be confined to solo solutions but rather an interdisciplinary collaboration, breaking silos across education, policy, community action, and advocacy.

3.Diverse Global Perspectives: Contributions from 10 countries and 3 regions showcased the importance of amplifying global voices while sharing both challenges and innovations that enrich global climate justice efforts.

4.Practical Campus Innovations: Case studies revealed scalable models of sustainability on campuses with green offices; a model run by SOS-International to undertaking community driven initiatives are positioning campuses as living laboratories for sustainability.

5.Equity, Inclusivity, and Justice: A recurring theme across all tracks was the necessity to ensure higher education spaces are inclusive, decolonized, and accessible, with emphasis on equity across geography, gender, race, and neurodiversity.

6.Wellbeing in Climate Action: Sessions on eco-emotions, neurodiversity, and burnout prevention underlined that sustainable change requires resilient and healthy activists, recognizing wellbeing as integral to climate justice movements.

6.0 Key Learnings

1.Partnership is essential to achieve environmental justice: Collaboration across students, universities, industry, and civic communities unlocks more impactful and innovative sustainability solutions especially in the quest for environmental justice.

2.Education Transformation is Critical: Embedding sustainability competencies and co-creating curricula with students are vital steps toward equipping the next generation for a safe and just future.

3.Hope as a Tool for Action: Beyond technical solutions, hope and positive narratives can empower communities to move from reducing harm (footprint) to creating lasting positive impacts (handprint).

4.Youth Voices in Global Policy: Young leaders can and should play a meaningful role in shaping international climate negotiations, bridging grassroots advocacy with global decision-making.



5.Sustainability Requires Systems Change: From corporate sponsorship ethics to transforming campus governance, students are challenging entrenched systems and calling for accountability and structural change.

6.Global Solidarity Builds Strength: The summit illustrated the power of international student networks to inspire, motivate, and sustain collective action even in the face of financial and political turbulence.

7.0 Summit Delegate List

Name	Organization or Institution
Emilio Garcia Padron	Imperial College London
Emma de Saram	SOS-UK
Femke Lootens	Ghent University / GO Gent
Riet Van de Velde	Ghent University / GO Gent
Oshin Ghiotto	Ghent University / GO Gent
Ewoud Vandepitte	Ghent University / GO Gent
Valérie Vandebussche	Green Office VIVES (and Green office OU)
Agata Meysner	Generation Climate Europe
Gabi Brame	Stirling Students Union
Helena Van Tichelen	Gent Universiteit
Nele Van Hoyweghen	Gent Universiteit
Victor Nascimento	UniClima
Beatrice Anomah	SOS-UK
Jamilah Sabur	Inclusive Climate Futures
Sarah Robinet	Green Office ULiège
Sonya Peres	SOS-UK
Lonny Gold	Golden Resonance Learning
Jutte Dessen	GO Gent
Nicholas Omonuk Okoit	End Fossil Occupy Uganda



Amira Campbell	NUS UK
Belinda Mensah	SOS-International, All-Africa Students' Union
Peter Kwasi Kodjie	SOS-International, All-Africa Students' Union
Jamie Agombar	SOS-International
Rachel Drayson	SOS-International
Kelo Uchendu	SOS-International
Anselm Grahl	SOS-International
Meg Briar	SOS-International
Darren Axe	SOS-International
Zamzam Ibrahim	SOS-International, Somali for Sustainability
Mira Labs	Green Office University Konstanz
Jonas Blendl	Green Office CAU Kiel
Carla Uwents	University of Antwerp
Kerr Van Lerberghe	University of Antwerp
Oliver Diaz	University of Antwerp
Lisa De Block	University of Antwerp
Deenah Tsai	University of Antwerp
Victoria Van Slooten	University of Antwerp
Rolf Pronk	Green Office Open Universiteit
Nienke Blauw	Green Office Open Universiteit
Nils Elzinga	Rijksuniversiteit Groningen / Green Office
Maarten Ipers	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Oskar Bonte	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Patricia Fuchs	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Klara Grünewald	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Ashley Fouda	Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Marieke Lobert	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Mehrooz Mirza	Kühne Logistics University GmbH
Andela Matijevic	Artevelde Hogeschool
Apekasha Bimali	Artevelde Hogeschool
Aïsha Dauchy	Artevelde Hogeschool
Timothy Kwabla Zilevu	University of Professional Studies Accra
Katrin Meyer	Green Office CAU Kiel
Peter Josephat Niboye	All-Africa Students' Union
Charlotte Greve	Studenten voor Morgen
Rebekka Mewis	Green Office CAU Kiel
Cécile Van de Weerd	Green Office ULiège
Kateryna Naidonova	Kühne Logistics University GmbH
Julie De Vriese	UHasselt
Edith Dede Dongoyo	University of Professional Studies Accra
Elizabeth Dwamena	Ministry of Local Government Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs
Natalia Gomez Solano	Wageningen University & Research
Ariadni Diamantopoulou	Wageningen University & Research
Sem Zijta	Wageningen University & Research
Ebenezer Nikoi	University of Ghana
Tess Beking	Green Office Hogeschool Utrecht
Lot Platteel	Green Office Hogeschool Utrecht
Sakura Win	Green Office Hogeschool Utrecht
Chris van't Veld	Green Office Hogeschool Utrecht
Tobias Bartman	SOS-International
Janine Meijer	Karel de Grote Hogeschool
Enrique Zoete	Karel de Grote Hogeschool



Odin de Ridder	GO Green Office (TU/e)
Dora Marusic	GO Green Office (TU/e)
Leyna Calderon Jurado	GO Green Office (TU/e)
Marta Reinsone	GO Green Office (TU/e)
Gabriel Dinda	University of Groningen
Emma Duymelincky	GO Gent
Andrew Vanderleek	Green Office Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Laura Bonizzoni	Green Office Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Dilbar Sharipova	Green Office Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Lukas Paffrath	Green Office University Konstanz
Astrid Verstraete	Ghent University
Jasmin Gerritsma	Plant-Based Universities
Kato Vernimmen	GO Gent
Stef Vanslembrouck	GO Gent
Sara Tarragona	GO Gent
Ellen De Kimpe	GO Gent
Mariken Balk	GO Gent
Femke Feys	GO Gent
Asta Dahlqvist	Plant-Based Universities Sweden
Vaishnavi Khanagav	GO Gent
Yanthe Devos	GO Gent
Daniel Nii Korley Botchway	National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS)
Merel Janquart	U Gent GO
Aimable Iradukunda	All-Africa Students' Union
Sophie Fiesoli	GO Leuven
Margherita Bianchi	GO Leuven



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Pinelopi Katsigianni	GO Leuven
Emma Vannerom	GO Leuven
Valentina Beneit Solano	GO Leuven

