As the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement reminds us, top-down solutions alone won't save our planet. We need grassroots power—tech-enabled green skills, indigenous knowledge, and community-led innovation—to drive a just transition. Today, we link local designs with global action.

Our goal is to turn climate commitments into careers, policy into practice, and isolated efforts into ecosystems. By 2030, the green transition could create millions of jobs—but only if we remove barriers for women, youth, and marginalized communities. Let's unlock that potential together.

- **Introducing Speakers (3 minutes)**

"We're honored to host seven leaders driving change:

- Veronica Sesoko (European Young Engineers), mobilizing youth engineers for green tech;

- Sisay Lukas (SOA Ethiopia), scaling African grassroots innovation;

- Jasdev Singh Rai (Sikh Human Rights Group), uniting cultural values and climate mobilization;

- Carolina Alves (INESC Brazil), co-creating tech for local-to-global solutions;

- Dr. Ladislaus Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair), integrating indigenous knowledge into climate science;

- Prince Israel Orekha (Connected Advocacy), breaking barriers to inclusive green skills;

- Paul Chukwuma (Loss & Damage Youth Coalition), financing frontline resilience."

- **Panel Session: Guiding Questions (40–45 minutes)**

Moderation Approach:

Timekeeping: Strict 5-minute slots per speaker (Q&A included).

Flow: Group questions by theme—Local Innovation → Policy → Finance.

IEEE Lens: Weave in tech co-creation, digital tools, and equity.

- **Questions for Speakers**

(Two tailored questions per speaker; ask both but invite concise responses)

1. Veronica Sesoko (European Young Engineers):
   Q1: How can young engineers accelerate tech co-creation between Global North labs and Global South communities to avoid 'solutionism'?
   Q2: What policy levers can remove barriers for youth—especially women—in green engineering careers?

2. Sisay Lukas (SOA Ethiopia):
   Q1: Share one example where Ethiopia's local innovators used green skills to turn climate stress into circular economy opportunities.

Q2: How can global institutions redesign funding to reach hyper-local hubs like yours without bureaucracy?

3. Jasdev Singh Rai (Sikh Human Rights Group):
Q1: How do Sikh principles of 'seva' (service) and justice mobilize citizen action where government climate pledges fall short?
Q2: What metrics prove that culturally rooted green skills boost community resilience faster than top-down projects?

4. Carolina Alves (INESC Brazil):
Q1: How can we design inclusive financing and capacity-building partnerships to democratize green skills access for remote Amazonian communities, ensuring programs center community ownership and long-term relationships?
Q2: What systemic barriers prevent Brazil's community-driven climate innovations from informing global IPCC frameworks, and how can we strengthen funding and institutional pathways to scale these locally led solutions?

5. **Dr. Ladislaus Chang'a (IPCC Vice-Chair):**
Q1: How can IPCC assessment reports more effectively integrate Indigenous and Local Knowledge as co-equal, actionable science—beyond token inclusion—to inform and empower community-led implementation pathways directly?

Q2: How can successful models of community-based climate forecasting inform scalable frameworks for certifying and integrating locally led prediction skills into broader adaptation planning and IPCC science implementation globally?

6. Prince Israel Orekha (Connected Advocacy):
Q1: Where have you seen tech-complemented (not replaced) indigenous knowledge most effectively scale green skills?
Q2: What concrete policy asks must COP29 deliver to fund grassroots green skills collaboratives?

7. Paul Chukwuma (Loss & Damage Youth Coalition):
Q1: How can green skills training turn loss and damage from a trauma into youth-led entrepreneurship?
Q2: Why must direct financing bypass governments to reach local innovators—and what safeguards prevent misuse?

Transition to Dialogue:

"Each of you proves that local action isn't 'small'—it's strategic. Now, let's open the floor to amplify your insights."

- **Interactive Dialogue (15 minutes)**

"To our NGOs, governments, and youth champions: What's one barrier you've faced in localizing green skills? Let's hear:

CSOs: How can funders better trust your work?

Governments: What partnerships unlock faster skills certification?

Youth: What skills do you need most urgently?"

3–4 questions max (2 minutes each).

Redirect to relevant speakers (e.g., Veronica for youth queries; Dr. Chang'a for policy).

- **Closing Reflections & Call to Action (5 minutes)**

(Synthesize key outcomes; rally collective next steps)

"Today, we've seen that green skills are the connective issue between lab and legislation, village and COP. Our takeaways:

Tech must serve, not steer, local innovation must be allowed to thrive..

Finance must flow directly to grassroots hubs.

Indigenous knowledge is non-negotiable in climate science.

We definitely need a joint action agenda, demanding overarching actors in the fight against future securing to certify community skills, fund collaboratives, and center justice.

Finally, join the World Green Skills Collaborative—we need engineers, young people, and everyone in between. Let's turn dialogue into design and ideas into livelihoods. Thank you!"