

# **ADDRESSING THE INTERGENERATIONAL TENSION IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING CLIMATE: A CASE STUDY OF THE MENA REGION YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP (YPG) AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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# **Addressing the Intergenerational Tension in a Rapidly Changing Climate: A Case Study of the MENA Region Young Professionals Group (YPG) and Policy Recommendations**

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## Introduction

From 2018-2021, approximately 40 young professional environmentalists from across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries came together to create a unique, committed network and a new vision for their region.<sup>1</sup> Coming from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, which include environmental professionals, advocates, policy-makers, and art and cultural activists, this group worked together to promote local and cross-community programmes that confront the social, economic, environmental and political challenges that their communities and societies face in a rapidly changing and uncertain climate. The Young Professionals Group (YPG) came together from across the environmental movement with a shared sense of urgency to address environmental and climate issues collaboratively, believing in an integrated MENA region's future based on equality, freedom and social justice. The network united around the values of gender, ethnic and religious equality, critical thinking, transparency, and regional solidarity. This initiative was made possible through the auspices and funding support of an established environmental host organisation. The foresight of the host organisation recognised the importance of involving younger generations in their overarching programme, much common ground of a shared vision for a new regional environmental and political reality committed to diversity, and cross-border support for this alliance.

It may be argued that intergenerational tensions within the environmental movement are natural and to be expected. It is often claimed that these tensions have always existed, reflecting different co-

horts' experiences, perspectives and priorities (Roy & Ayalon, 2023). However, it is also evident that these tensions are detrimental to the environmental and climate programme's effectiveness and must be addressed to build a more cohesive and powerful movement. Efforts must be made to bridge the gap between different generations and meaningfully incorporate the perspectives and experiences of all movement members (Roy & Ayalon, 2022).

Generational tensions may result from differences in generational values and beliefs, communication gaps and lack of spaces for communications, generational privilege, and access to resources and power (Menziez, 2022). According to research (based on a recent study in the United Kingdom [UK]), there is no generational gap regarding the belief in the need for climate action. Older people are equally as likely as younger people to declare they are prepared to make significant sacrifices to save the environment (Duffy, 2021). There may still be a gap in the different generations' methodologies and approaches to affect change. Generations involved in the movement for a longer time may advocate for more traditional and incremental practices, such as lobbying for policy changes and working within existing systems. Longer-serving activists may have a more historical perspective, having witnessed the environmental movement evolve over several decades. Younger activists may have a more urgent and immediate view, having grown up with knowledge and awareness of the consequences of climate change. They may call for more radical and transformative action. This can lead to different expectations and goals

<sup>1</sup> All organisational and programme names have been changed to protect their anonymity.

within the movement. These issues have historically led to divisions within movements, with more senior and younger activists sometimes working at cross-purposes, even when they share a common value and desire to achieve similar change. There is a coexistence of interpersonal solidarity and tension between generations (Ayalon et al., 2022).

The lack of spaces for effective cross-generational communication and understanding can also contribute to intergenerational tensions. Older activists may need to understand the motivations and concerns of younger activists, and younger activists may feel that their ideas and perspectives should be valued and heard by older activists. This can lead to mistrust and resentment, making it difficult for the movement to work effectively.

By reviewing and evaluating the accomplishments and difficulties of the YPG network through the lens of intergenerational tension, we can observe these friction points to offer lessons for future collaborations and coalitions. This YPG case study analysis describes the perspective of some of the young professionals and how they envision themselves being effectively engaged and included in intergenerational coalitions to achieve the goals of mitigating and managing the impacts of climate change, which are felt even more acutely in conflict zones such as the MENA region. Some of the young environmental professionals are extending an invitation with this analysis. This report's analysis serves as both an invitation and a guide for future intergenerational collaboration. The positionality is provided as an invitation, not as the conclusion of a discussion, but as the start of one for additional cross-generational partnership and engagement on this crucial topic.

## The Young Professionals Group (YPG)

The YPG was initiated to bring together young environmentalist MENA professionals of diverse cultural, economic and political perspectives focused on a shared view of the need for regional collaboration on environmental and climate change issues. This network comprised young professionals with experience in the environmental, culture or peace-building sectors from across the MENA region. The initiative specifically focused on people with cross-community and cross-border expertise and networks who share a curiosity to broaden their exposure and access to diverse MENA voices.

The invitation to “come together” as younger professionals with colleagues from the region was very positively received. Despite coming from countries across historical lines of conflict, the group managed to recruit participants from Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Egypt and Jordan to join forces with both Palestinians and Israelis with the ambition to hold back national and sectarian divisions and share the courage to imagine a different political reality, actively promoting a sustainable, just and open region for all.

YPG was an inclusive group with approximately 2/3 of the members being environmentalist professionals and 1/3 working on promoting social change through culture and art. Due to the political sensitivity of shared cross-border spaces, initially, the recruitment and advertising for the group were only done through personal networks and colleagues of the participants. This methodology was later developed into a more formal recruitment and membership protocol.

Initial meetings of the YPG group focused on building a sense of community and trust

for people to share their experiences and gain from the experience of others. The network had a large amount of on-the-ground, innovative and progressive knowledge and expertise, both environmental and political, where peer learning was highly valued. In 2018 and 2019, in-person meetings were primarily held in Palestine, including mainly Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanians, while online conversations and relationship-building with broader MENA participants were ongoing. At the end of 2019, the first regional meeting was held in Jordan. This location required significant sensitivity in planning and coordination due to the political circumstances but allowed additional participants from Egypt, the Gaza Strip and Khalleij to participate in person.

In January 2020 (just before the start of the global pandemic), a second regional workshop was conducted in Cyprus, attracting participants from a broader MENA representation. For the rest of 2020, when in-person meetings were no longer possible, bi-weekly online meetings were initiated, allowing for the continuation of the discussion started at the in-person meetings and for precious cross-border and cross-cultural exchanges to occur in times of significant global and regional turmoil and uncertainty. A unique and valuable process of collaboratively defining the YPG structure and formalising the network processes, such as recruitment, coordination and decision-making, occurred in 2020. In 2021, the network continued to meet online, but less often and with fewer participants; by midyear, and with limited funds to support the project initiatives or remunerate labour commensurately, the network dissipated.

### **The YPG vision statement**

In 2020, following the in-person regional workshop in Cyprus, YPG decided to define a formally documented vision. The

process of defining a clear and shared mission statement was challenging. Some wished to focus on environmental and regional discourse, while others wanted to focus on language relating to justice for Palestinians. It was important for the YPG network to recognise the difficult position of the Palestinians and Jordanians and their serious qualms about engaging in what their societies primarily view as “normalisation activities”. Despite the diversity of positions, approaches and emphases, the facilitated open-source collaboration and inclusive process, where all participants contributed and worked on the same document in a supported methodology, enabled all members to agree on the following vision statement.

“We wish to increase interaction by creating new knowledge and idea-sharing spaces. We wish to create mutually beneficial interactions based on open discussion, open mind, respect and solidarity. Through shared and common understanding, hands-on projects and advocacy, we wish to increase our influence at the policy level and the reality on the ground. Through this involvement, we wish to become a model for a more integrated region and to form the foundations necessary for new regional structures.”

The YPG network vision recognised that regional networks and projects have more potential for impact and scale when operating across borders and with an integrated MENA approach where cross-border teams develop a shared language and practice to improve the socioeconomic situation on the ground. A clear guiding principle followed the vision statement of the equality of all people of the region, regional solidarity, and inspiring and empowering individ-



uals “to promote and engage in a vision of a safe, just, and fair region.”

Lastly, the group added a principle for relations within the group as it wishes to “communicate while keeping an open mind and curiosity. When speaking amongst each other, we aim to be honest, transparent, and respectful.” The agreed methodology of operation was to hold regular meetings focusing on network and coalition-building, advocacy, impact, governmental engagement, and public diplomacy.

YPG focused on building a new regional MENA framework that was genuine and unique for its time (before the signing of the Abraham Accords). By modelling an inclusive, cooperative region with transformative leadership structures and a shared understanding of the need for cooperation and imagination, YPG members wished to increase their influence in both realms of policy-making, local and regional, internal and external, and at the grass-roots level. This process may form the foundations to model new regional structures to address the rapidly rising climate risks.

## Specific projects envisioned through the YPG network

In addition to much knowledge-sharing and imagining different regional possibilities, the time spent together in the YPG network produced several specific environmental initiatives. Cross-border and diverse groups of YPG members developed all of these. Below is a list of the projects:

- a) **A regional environmental consultancy** working group, developed as a private sector entity led by members
- b) The **Mentoring** programme is a mentoring and training initiative targeted at individuals who have previously

of the YPG, would be an alternative cooperatively owned and managed environmental consultancy that offers direct services for regional engagement – working with civil society organizations (CSOs) and companies to provide an aware and sustainable strategy for promoting regional cooperation. The consultancy would provide solutions, strategies, focus groups and connections to private and third-sector entities looking to access partnerships, markets, investors, and influencers in the Middle East and the Gulf – regional entities looking to engage with Israel and Palestine in a politically-conscious and environmental manner. As Israel opened up to the MENA region, most commerce and collaboration may be carried out in a way that does not necessarily engage with Palestinian actors. This presents a dilemma to many stakeholders regionally looking to accept the new reality without compromising their desire to support Palestinian aspirations for rights and self-determination. As the MENA region rapidly morphs, there is a need for private sector engagement with the dynamic reality in a politically, socially and environmentally conscious way. The consultancy would designate 10% of the company proceeds back to the YPG network to sustain its activity while capitalising on the knowledge and experience of the members and providing them with employment opportunities. The consultancy model was the most developed YPG initiative financially supported by the sponsoring organisation. It allowed two YPG members to develop the initiative, initiate contacts with potential clients, and travel throughout the region for the initial engagement activities.

participated in regional environmental and dialogue cross-border programmes in the MENA region. This programme aims to provide emerging leaders with knowledge of regional cooperation, networking opportunities, and capacity-building as agents of change. The programme will match mentors with emerging leaders based on their motivations, interests and availability. At the same time, mentors would enhance their leadership, training and communication skills and benefit from new perspectives from young graduates. The programme would work towards advancing environmental health and fundamental human rights through dialogue, inclusion and promoting open discussion, respect and solidarity. By completing the programme, emerging leaders will have the skills to advance these values in their home communities and contribute to a more integrated region. They will participate in group gatherings, one-on-one mentoring, workshops, and virtual calls to transfer knowledge, skills and experience to younger professionals. The mentees will eventually form a junior group of YPG members who can organise independent activities and collaborate with the broader YPG network.

- c) The **Cross Border 'Bootcamp'** is designed as an intensive training programme focused on environmental entrepreneurship, addressing the MENA region's need to adapt to a rapidly changing climate. The programme would provide a safe and neutral space for 20 idea-stage entrepreneurs from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to ideate, develop and be mentored towards implementing successful projects. It emphasises the inclusion of entre-

preneurs from the wider region and leverages regional networks to facilitate growth, scale-up and expansion into larger markets. The programme occurs in a location that offers a junction between the Middle East and Europe and access to cutting-edge research and innovation. The goal is to train and empower rising entrepreneurs to build sustainable and scalable businesses and create a regional network of environmental and economic change-makers.

- d) Regional climate change **advocacy task force**: to actively lobby and advocate for regional approaches to climate change in a conflict zone that would organise advocacy delegations to key countries central to regional affairs, such as the United States (US), the European Union (EU) (European Commission [EC] and member states), Canada, UAE, Morocco, etc. These advocacy delegations would combine an educational component promoting the initiatives and methodology of YPG in the region and to donors and decision-makers with meetings and open events to promote specific agendas central to the YPG network.

## Operational structure

YPG operated under the umbrella of an existing programme within the host organisation. This included funding, administration support, and overarching decision-making through their model. The host organisation allocated resources for the YPG to be managed and administered with significant freedom and autonomy. The network was initiated on the foundations of a reciprocal relationship where the host organisation recognised and empowered the younger voice to act and respond. In

this relationship, the generational gap was a positive instigator for the network and a source of tension that was exacerbated over time. The young professionals appreciated the trust, resources, guidance and support to create the network. However, ultimately the barriers in the relationship needed to have allowed for the long-term sustainability of the relationship. Throughout the process, significant trust and autonomy were granted to YPG in activity design, internal discussion, content and implementation to spend the first years establishing the network and its coalition. In the formative period, YPG members used their experiences of exclusion from decision-making as an impetus to create more inclusive processes in their network. YPG actively addressed how to increase the meaningful participation of young professional leaders in existing power structures and institutions, specifically how young people can productively exert their agency and influence in highly contested formal or informal situations.

## Intergenerational collaboration

Analysing the YPG case study from the perspective of some of the YPG members requires defining the generational context in which it operated to understand the possible areas of tension and weakness of both parties. The term “generation” has been conceptualised in many ways. Generally, it is defined as “a birth cohort or group of birth cohorts who are recognised as having some common attributes and experiences by the time they were born” (Roy & Ayalon, 2023). YPG members are considered the “middle generation” (aged approximately 25-45). YPG is not defined as “youth” as they are over 18 and have the right to vote. Notably, this cohort predominantly does not yet hold senior decision-

making positions or power in the environmental and political spheres.

Mutual knowledge sharing is required where longer serving employees and movement members have industry, practical and organisational experience and continuously interact with the younger generations' new perspectives, skills and methodologies. Both the host organisation and the YPG network recognised and valued the variety of perspectives and diversity of voices a generational range can add to the environmental movement and specific programmes. The current workforce and environmental movement include five different generations, which are: Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012; Millennials or Generation Y, born 1981-1996, Generation X, born 1965-1980; Baby Boomers, born 1946-1964; and the Post-War generation, born before 1946 (Menzies, 2022).

Research shows that in addition to creating mixed generational groups, for productive collaborative outcomes, it is vital to recognise generational stereotypes and generational differences, some of which are perceived differences, and some are actual. Possible stereotypes include differences in: “experience, skill sets, approach to diversity and inclusion, communication preferences, the importance of tradition, religion, politics, language, leadership styles/management preferences, work-life balance and centrality of work to someone's life, expectations around benefits and other work practices and approach to sustainability, climate change, social justice, and the role that organisations play in these areas” (Menzies, 2022).

The challenge of working in an intergenerational context is when groups perceive themselves as different from one another and can create “us vs them” distinctions. When not addressed, these tensions can undermine trust and collaboration. Poss-

ible consequences of not proactively addressing intergenerational tensions and stereotypes are reduced collaboration, low psychological safety leading to reduced sharing of ideas and admitting mistakes, and possibly lack of trust and respect.

The gulf of generational differences dominates the intergeneration debate, and it is crucial to remember how much different generations also have in common. These similarities were acutely felt in this case study, where both generational groups are passionate and committed to similar environmental and political causes. Both generational groups shared a desire to learn and grow, and produce meaningful and purposeful work. All generational groups showed a willingness to be challenged and have opportunities to progress, a shared value of prioritising building solid relationships with work partners and colleagues, a desire for job control and autonomy, and a desire to be respected and held in high esteem (Menziez, 2022). Creativity and innovation generated from diversity were appreciated when aiming to “depart” from traditional approaches to intractable issues.

## **Intergenerational tension in environmental and climate change work**

Intergenerational environmental justice is an additional component of intergenerational tension. It is the idea that present generations have duties towards future generations. Climate change has heightened the debate on how to balance today's rights and claims against the rights and claims of future generations. Asking what “legitimate” risks and consequences people living today can impose on future generations (if any) and how natural resources should be

managed without irreversibly impacting the sustainable functioning of the planet's ecosystems (Elliot, 2022). These issues warrant part of the generational tensions and the legitimacy of how decisions should be shared between the generations.

Conceptual disagreements with the host organisation and sponsors occurred over prioritising or intersectionality of effectively addressing the region's most pressing problems and who should be included in these processes. This issue is central in the Middle East, where participatory systems are often lacking. The approach presented by YPG to sponsors, local decision-makers or hosting organisations was perceived by YPG members as undervaluing, and they often dismissed the vision of those principally in power and control of the resources as “unrealistic”. Instead of maintaining a transparent and inclusive open-source approach to all the network members, the sponsors appeared to be more comfortable and familiar with selecting only a few specific members to work or communicate with, requiring defined structured roles to be nominated. In a background of possible wariness among the different nationalities that comprised YPG and an evolving operational horizontal methodology of equal access, inclusion and voice, such ongoing requests created caveats in the relationship. Questions about funding, funders' interests and equality among the members arose. These questions increased doubts about how decisions are made and about the transparency within the group.

The YPG learnt that future intergenerational coalitions must include better-integrated processes for promoting intergenerational communication with active or facilitated methods for acknowledg-

ing and appreciating the different working methodologies between generations. Recognising that work processes may look different from different generational perspectives and that greater attention is needed to reflect on the efficacy of the relationship regularly, what is working well and what is not, and a greater appreciation for each generation's perspectives, biases and power dynamics. Internally, YPG should also invest in a better understanding of how a diversity of ideas and interpretations of the network can coexist without the sense of competition, and how the overall network value and goals are achieved within a plethora of opinions and approaches in dialogue with each other.

With time, limited funding for initiatives and only online meetings, the coalition slowly dissolved, resulting in smaller groups operating independently and maintaining contact as individuals but not as a cohesive coalition. The discrepancies with the sponsors became more apparent as the YPG network matured and became more precise in its vision and mission. As a result, the network advocated becoming a more independent entity, consequently creating more tensions with the sponsors. The decision to become more independent was not unanimous within the network and added to decreased participation. The internal YPG question of pragmatism versus criticism and how they can operate in the same network existed. How can varied opinions within a generational group and between groups exist so that diverse views and approaches live side-by-side, strengthen the coalition, and not create divides? In contrast, parallel and non-political or transparent networks began to emerge, led by some participants in the network.

In the YPG case study, several internal and external variables resulted in the dissolution of the network. Internal issues related to the network coordinators trying to

optimally navigate, build and maintain a bridge between the sponsors and the network operated very differently. The different approaches between the sponsors and the network increased the tensions among the members. A shared language and methodology could not be maintained, and inconsistencies created feelings of competition among the members. External factors such as regional politics and the Abraham Accords culminated in a new political and polarising climate that challenged earlier agreements within the coalition. The sponsors' request of preferring to work with a clear hierarchical/leadership structure instead of a whole network also caused tensions among the members about the necessity to select "representatives". At the same time, other decisions in terms of funding broke the network into smaller groups, thus harming the network itself.

## **Optimising intergenerational cooperation and policy recommendations**

Recognising that long-term intergenerational exchanges are essential for creating wide-ranging benefits and are necessary for the environmental and climate movement and that such coalitions require adequate resourcing and informed efforts, below is a list of recommendations identified through lessons learnt by the YPG network for optimising intergeneration cooperation.

### **Decision-making**

In forming intergenerational coalitions, it is vital to acknowledge power relations within and between the different generations and to promote flexibility and humbleness within the official and formal decision-making forums. A healthy curiosity from all gener-

ational lenses nurtures an understanding that the climate crisis requires a significant review of how things historically operated and that previous ways of doing things or understanding the world are not the only way forward. Multiple valid approaches for cooperatively solving a problem or achieving outcomes must exist side-by-side. Very significantly, climate change programmes address the long-term impacts of decisions and the distribution of impacts between different generations and aim to prioritise long-term sustainability over short-term gains and the potential implications for future generations. It should be recognised that addressing climate change requires considering historical inequities and ensuring that the burden of solutions and consequences is shared equitably among generations.

It should also be acknowledged that different people have different motivational drivers and a one-size-fits-all approach will not succeed in a multigenerational team. Actively addressing the challenge of meaningfully diversifying decision-making within coalitions and programmes is crucial. It requires allocating sufficient resources to include all five current generations in decision-making forums, including youth and young professionals.

### **Intergenerational equity**

Explicitly incorporating intergenerational equity principles into environmental and climate policies. It is crucial to work with the shared value that serious consideration and difficult decisions are required to ensure that present actions and inactions do not harm future generations. Furthermore, discussing and considering the impacts of these actions is essential to align with sustainable development, aiming to balance environmental, social and economic considerations. Acknowledging intergenerational equity fosters a sense of solidarity

among different age groups. It emphasises the shared responsibility of ensuring a sustainable future for all. To achieve this, we must recognise that the perspectives of all generations are necessary to adapt to and mitigate climate change, as it affects different generational groups differently (Elliot, 2022). Incorporating intergenerational equity principles promotes a long-term perspective that enables building resilience and adaptability in policies.

### **Relationship-building**

To foster relationships among coalition members by focusing on shared goals and values related to climate change. Focusing programmatic efforts and resources on relationship-building allows coalition members to be seen as individuals rather than only constituents of a larger homogenous group. Looking for similarities rather than focusing on differences (perceived or actual) and building interpersonal relationships and trust as a focus for achieving intergenerational cooperation. To achieve this, spaces for positive cross-generational interactions should be actively created, with a genuine distribution of decision-making and power. These could be working groups and projects but are most meaningfully achieved when generational representation, regardless of traditional notions of “experience”, is ensured in all formal and informal workspaces. These include conferences, co-design processes, strategic processes, fundraising, boards, etc. Emphasise the common purpose of protecting the environment and mitigating climate impacts, transcending generational differences.

### **Inclusive meetings**

Often, intergenerational tensions are about respect and feeling heard – younger members want to be valued for their fresh ideas, and experienced employees want to be valued for their



knowledge (Menzies, 2022), and promoting a decision-making process that encourages open dialogue and sharing different knowledge and ideas. Making space for all voices in meetings and ensuring everyone's contributions are considered.

In this regard, combining digital platforms with in-person meetings is necessary. Maintaining the connection within the network only in the digital platforms eventually harmed the ability of the participants to interact externally with the "formal" meetings, thus harming their ability to form and maintain trust.

### **Autonomy**

In addition to including younger generations within decision-making forums, it is imperative to provide additional spaces and forums exclusively for younger generations to create environmental networks and support each other within the cohort. The financial independence of such forums is essential, allowing them to set priorities for funding, including seed funding and funding for the experimentation of new ideas and initiatives. In this way, the younger generation participating will gain experience and have the role of impacting decision-making on a larger scale and generating agreements internally within the cohort network.

### **Transparency**

Develop shared norms for methodologies and operations to achieve the desired climate change, environmental outcome, and network goals by explicitly defining the ways of working between the generational groups. Promote participatory processes for generating and disseminating knowledge related to climate change. Articulating the difference between managing, sponsoring, mentoring and channelling is essential, as is

agreeing on the allowed access to information and forming participatory processes for generating knowledge and disseminating it to those participating in decision-making and the general public.

### **Empowerment**

Strengthening the cohesion and identification around working as "one diverse team" by stressing shared goals and interdependencies helps to disrupt subgroup categorisations, generational or hierarchical, that can threaten unity and collaboration. Increasing empathy for the concerns of different age groups and fostering cooperation to act for the common benefit of all (Roy & Ayalon, 2023).

Actively facilitate discussion to increase awareness of environmental and climate biases by consciously reflecting on how biases and stereotypes influence interactions, and promoting fair and inclusive activities.

### **Funding**

A strong emphasis should be placed on recognising the role of access to adequate funding in addressing the generational divide. Funders could mitigate some of these tensions by stipulating that there is an equitable intergenerational representation in the decision-making process of their grants. For instance, donors could demand that a generationally diverse group provide signatures on how the grant will be managed and resources allocated, which would compel traditional organisational structures to agree to incorporate younger representatives rather than giving all the funds to one generational group who then may feel as if they are "sponsoring" younger generations' activities.

## Conclusion

Intergenerational tensions in the environmental movement are an ongoing issue that reflects the diversity of perspectives and experiences within the movement. While these tensions can be challenging, they also provide growth and learning opportunities. Despite these tensions, there is also great potential for intergenerational collaboration and cooperation in the environmental movement. Younger activists can bring new energy and ideas, while older activists can provide valuable experience and historical context. By recognising and addressing these tensions, the movement can work towards a more inclusive and practical approach to addressing the environmental crisis. By working together, different generations of activists can build a more powerful and effective environmental movement that addresses the urgent issues of climate change and environmental degradation.

The YPG was the first attempt to form a coalition of young professionals from a

civil society coalition across non-traditional lines of conflict. Despite the growing movement to boycott cooperation with Israelis, this forum managed to form a framework aligned with all members. Acknowledging the urgent need to adopt a more long-term, intergenerational approach to climate action and decision-making, challenges arose not from the tensions between the different nationalities but across generational gaps and understandings. The rapidly changing climate requires a united effort where all generations can live up to their potential when all parties' efforts are invited, shared, implemented, acknowledged and appreciated. Thus, the case study of the YPG can provide essential lessons for other forums facilitated in the post-Abraham Accords and the COVID-19 reality. Such collaborations must be based on transparent processes and inclusion in decision-making, giving younger generations independence and empowering them to make decisions while voicing their views in formal regional forums. Only such principles will create the framework necessary for success.



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