

TRIP REPORT

64th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) – Bonn Climate Change Conference 2026

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Event: 64th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC (SB64)

Organiser / context: UNFCCC; attended with the European Young Engineers (EYE)

Location: UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

Dates: 10–14 June 2025

From 10 to 14 June 2025, I attended the 64th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC (SB64) at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, as a member of the European Young Engineers (EYE) delegation. As a student with a background in informatics, this was my first encounter with multilateral climate negotiations, and it gave me a view of climate action I could not have reached through technical study alone.

The culture of climate policy proved strikingly different from the fast-moving technical world I know: negotiations are deliberately slow and meticulous about the precise wording of every clause. In one informal consultation on the Nairobi Work Programme, an entire session turned on whether to “note” or “welcome” a body of work – a single verb carrying real political weight. At first the negotiation language felt almost foreign to me, but over the week I came to see this precision not as an obstacle but as the mechanism through which agreement among nearly two hundred parties becomes possible.

The sessions I followed most closely combined technical and political substance. A three-day IPCC workshop on engaging diverse knowledge systems brought together 43 participants – half IPCC insiders, half Indigenous knowledge holders and field practitioners – to design a way of incorporating knowledge that never reaches peer-reviewed journals, and produced 44 concrete recommendations. I also followed the negotiations on the global goal on adaptation, where twelve competing options for a future technical body could be mapped along two axes: the degree of Party control versus technical independence, and the size of the body. Reducing a tangled political debate to that structure was the kind of analysis I found genuinely satisfying.

Other sessions – on the linkages between the Technology and Financial Mechanisms, and on non-market approaches under Article 6.8 – made the gap between ambition and implementation concrete: developing countries’ requests for technical support far outstrip the finance actually delivered, and a great deal of energy goes into untangling over-engineered mandates. These questions of carbon accounting, technology transfer, and the practical implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions are where my quantitative background feels most relevant, and they are subjects I intend to study further.

On a personal level the week was a steep and rewarding learning curve. On the first day I was overwhelmed and, by instinct, too quick to be technical rather than to build relationships first. By the third day I was following negotiations with real comprehension and even helped co-facilitate a YOUNGO youth-coordination meeting. Throughout, I was struck by the composure and openness with which people listened and exchanged ideas, and by the generosity of experienced delegates who patiently explained how the process actually works.

The experience was formative. It clarified where my own skills might contribute and convinced me to continue a climate-policy track alongside my technical career. I am sincerely grateful to the Talent Support Council of ELTE Eötvös Loránd University for the subsidy that made my participation in SB64 possible. This conference participation was subsidised by the Talent Support Council of ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest.

Budapest, 26 June 2026

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Have a chat with Bart Van den Hurk, the IPCC WG II Co-Chair (third from the right).



YOUNGO spokes on Sat 13 Jun.



Me in the plenary chamber.