

## **Yoser Abdeldayem: When Inclusion and Climate Action Meet**

Originally from Douz, Youser Abdeldayem is one of those young women who turn their passion into commitment. A student of sign language, she has dedicated her energy since adolescence to fighting climate change and protecting the environment.

It all began at the age of 13, when she became interested in environmental issues through her involvement in civil society. She decided to create Manarat Douz FM, a regional radio station aimed at raising awareness among the inhabitants of her region about environmental challenges. Today, Manarat Douz FM is recognized as the voice of climate and youth in her community, a space where people discuss climate, local development, and a sustainable future.

Active on several fronts, Yoser is also the regional coordinator of Participatory Action Research in Kébili, where she mobilizes other young people around awareness campaigns and ecological initiatives. Her determination and eagerness to learn drive her to participate in numerous trainings on the environment and climate change, strengthening her knowledge, especially on the technical side. Yoser also dedicates a significant amount of time to personal research. She explores complex and innovative topics related to the climate crisis, constantly seeking a deeper understanding of today's challenges.

“At first, like many young people, climate change was just a technical term I often heard. But as I deepened my understanding, I realized it is a much more profound issue that concerns us all. I feel its effects in my daily life: increasingly hot days that make moving around and studying difficult, greater fatigue, excessive electricity consumption due to air conditioning, and growing anxiety about the future. These experiences made me aware of the urgency to act and strengthened my conviction that youth must be at the heart of the climate response.”

What makes Yoser's journey unique is her determination to include in this fight a community often forgotten: Deaf people. She realized that no signs existed to express words like mitigation, resilience, or carbon neutrality.

As part of her final-year project this year, Yoser began creating new signs to make these concepts accessible to deaf youth, allowing them to better understand and participate in climate discussions.

It was in this same spirit that she discovered the call for applications for the Youth 3.0 Initiative. This initiative, led by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Youth and Sports, with UNDP and UNICEF support, engages young people to co-create the third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC3.0) and climate policies by strengthening their skills, amplifying their voices, and promoting participatory governance for an inclusive and sustainable ecological transition.

Initially hesitant, she eventually submitted her application, driven by her passion and her desire to expand her impact. For her, this initiative is an opportunity to learn, share, and amplify both the voice of southern youth and the voice of inclusion.

This experience allowed her to see how young people from her region, alongside regional representatives from various sectors, are transforming climate challenges into entrepreneurial opportunities through sustainable initiatives in agriculture, recycling, and renewable energy. There, she strengthened her technical knowledge, gained a better understanding of national climate policies, and grew in confidence, all while expanding her network within the youth climate movement. “I was very happy to see representatives from different sectors sitting with us, the youth. These intersectoral and

intergenerational exchanges taught me a lot. I even discovered climate-related problems in my region that I didn't know about before.”

Today, Youser looks toward the future with a clear vision: to continue working for a more inclusive and more sustainable world. She hopes to deepen her involvement at the international level and work on the inclusion of people with disabilities in climate action. “Change begins with knowledge, but it is built through the participation of all, without exception,” she affirms with conviction.