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SUMMER SCHOOL
ON CLIMATE JUSTICE
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COHORT VI

JUNE 20 - JULY 3, 2027

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

"Leveraging African Youth Power for Sustained Momentum on Climate Justice in a Multipolar World"



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND 1
2. ABOUT NSSCJ COHORT VI (2027) 1
3. THE THEME 3
4. AN INTEGRATED HYBRID LEARNING MODEL 3
5. THEORY OF CHANGE 4
6. NSSCJ THEORY OF CHANGE 5
7. CLIMATE JUSTICE AND NSSCJ 6
8. PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH OF NSSCJ 7
9. PROBLEM ANALYSIS 7
10. THE POST-TRAINING ENGAGEMENT GAP 9
11. MILESTONES 10
12. TARGET GROUP 11
13. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE & DELIVERY 11
14. THEMATIC FOCUS 11
15. COST OF PARTICIPATION 12
16. IMPORTANT DATES 12
17. APPLY TODAY! 13

1. BACKGROUND

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) is a flagship youth capacity building and leadership incubation Initiative of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). It has grown to become one of Africa's most defining youth development programme advancing enhanced young people's pursuit of climate justice, transformative leadership, and equitable climate governance.

Since its inception in 2020, the NSSCJ has successfully conducted five cohorts — Cohort I (2021, Kenyatta University, Kenya), Cohort II (2022, Kenyatta University, Kenya), Cohort III (2023, Kenyatta University, Kenya), Cohort IV (Chuka University, Kenya, 2024) and Cohort V (2025, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia). The following is an outline of the previous Cohorts and themes:

Cohort & Date	Venue	Theme
I: 30th August – 11 September 2021	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Sustaining Momentum on Climate Action in the Pandemic Era
II: July 26 June – July 12, 2-22	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Enhancing the Capacity of Young People on Climate Justice and UNFCCC Processes for Effective Advocacy Engagement
III: July 3-15, 2023	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Connecting Ideas and Shaping Narratives for Climate Justice
IV: June 23 - July 7, 2024	Chuka University, Kenya	Igniting Youth Power for enhanced Global Solidarity on Climate Justice
V: August 25 to September 7, 2025,	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.	Aspiring a Liveable Future: Youth-Led Transformation in the Polycrisis Era

The School has trained over 2,500 young people drawn from 144 across Africa and beyond, equipping them with critical knowledge, skills and networks to confront structural climate injustices and advance equitable climate action — and creating a vibrant network of Climate Advocates, Policymakers, Researchers, Community organizers, Practitioners, and Grassroots Leaders who continue to play incredibly vital roles in driving climate action at local, national, regional, and global levels.

2. ABOUT NSSCJ COHORT VI (2027)

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the NSSCJ is to awaken, equip, and inspire a new generation of Actors in Africa - and globally - to address the question of climate justice, including intra- and intergenerational equity. The overall objective is to enhance the capacity of Africans and allies to advance climate justice perspectives through local, national, sub-national, regional, and global interventions.

The initiative aims to amplify marginalized voices and strengthen grassroots movements, benefiting both current and future generations. NSSCJ emphasizes structured pathways from capacity building to real-world engagement. The goal is to cultivate a critical mass of highly-skilled, politically-grounded, and strategically-positioned young leaders capable of qualitatively participating in international climate dialogue and intervention processes, while advancing climate justice perspectives.

As NSSCJ enters its sixth year, it stands at a critical inflection point. Following five consecutive annual cohorts, the programme took a deliberate and strategic pause in 2026 to review, reflect, and recalibrate. This decision aligns with PACJA's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and responds to the rapidly shifting geopolitical and climate governance landscape. The pause marked a transition from rapid expansion to a more intentional, agile, and impact-driven model, with future cohorts taking place biennially.

Date and Venue

The NSSCJ Cohort-VI is scheduled to take place on June 20 to July 3, 2027 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as one of the strategic youth mobilisation activity of the "Road to the Thirty-Second Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP32) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It has been strategically positioned to bridge youth leadership development with continental policy-making and global climate conversations. It also aligns with broader African climate priorities, including the aspirations of the Africa Climate Summit and the Addis Ababa Declaration on youth engagement in climate action.

As the diplomatic capital of Africa and headquarters of the African Union, Addis Ababa provides an ideal environment for exposing participants to regional governance, African climate diplomacy, and decision-making processes that shape the continent's climate agenda.



3. THE THEME

The theme for NSSCJ Cohort-VI — *"Leveraging African Youth Power for Sustained Momentum on Climate Justice in a Multipolar World"* — reflects the rapidly-evolving international interactions in which climate action is increasingly influenced by shifting geopolitical dynamics, emerging economic powers, changing development partnerships, and growing demands for equity within international governance systems.

As the world transitions towards a more multipolar order, Africa has an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen its collective voice and influence global climate governance through coordinated leadership, strategic partnerships, and locally-driven solutions.

At the centre of this opportunity are Africa's young people. With the continent possessing the world's youngest population, youth represent one of Africa's greatest strategic assets for achieving climate justice and sustainable development. Across the continent, young people are already demonstrating leadership through innovation, entrepreneurship, community organizing, research, advocacy, and policy engagement. However, realizing this potential requires sustained investment in leadership development, technical capacity, skill-set enhancement, strategic communication, and institutional support that enables young people to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

4. AN INTEGRATED HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

The NSSCJ Cohort-VI will be delivered through an integrated hybrid learning model that combines virtual pre-learning, intensive residential training, mentorship, experiential learning, collaborative problem-solving, and structured post-training engagement that offers learners exposure to real-life experience. Participants will benefit from expert-led lectures, policy dialogues, negotiation simulations, leadership development sessions, field learning, case studies, strategic communication training, and interaction with outstanding negotiators, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners.

Beyond the residential programme, participants will join an active Alumni movement through thematic working groups, mentorship programmes, collaborative research, policy brief development, advocacy initiatives, and continued engagement in national, regional, and international climate governance processes, thus giving them opportunity to network, build partnerships and expand their outreach.

Strategic COP32 Engagement

A distinctive feature of Cohort-VI will be the structured support for selected NSSCJ Alumni to attend and actively participate in UNFCCC COP32. Through a competitive and transparent selection process, a Cohort of Alumni representing diverse regions, thematic expertise, and frontline perspectives will be supported to participate COP32 as part of PACJA's broader delegation and youth engagement strategy.

The Alumni will receive preparatory briefings, negotiation strategy sessions, and mentorship prior to COP32. During the two-week training, they will engage in official negotiations (where accredited), side events, constituency meetings, policy dialogues, and coordinated advocacy actions. Thy will contribute to drafting policy briefs, daily negotiation updates, and youth position statements aligned with African priorities and climate justice principles. They will also co-organize or participate in Side Events amplifying youth and community-led solutions and innovations.

Beyond physical attendance, alumni will be expected to conduct structured knowledge dissemination and feedback sessions within the NSSCJ network and their respective countries after COP32. This approach ensures that participation is not symbolic but contributes to long-term capacity strengthening, policy influence, and movement building. By linking training directly to deployment in global governance spaces, the NSSCJ Cohort-VI strengthens the pipeline between youth capacity building and practical policy engagement.

Hosting the School in Addis Ababa makes it proximate for learners to closely interact, and possibly get first-hand experience on what such international processes are conducted.

Beyond interactions with Pan African institutions, this offers an earlier opportunity to engage with COP32 Presidency and its Secretariat on evolving COP32 landscape.

5. THEORY OF CHANGE

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice runs on an all-encompassing Theory of Change, which illustrates the transformation of a series of catalytic shifts in youth leadership and transformative climate justice outcomes across Africa and the Global South through strategic investments.

The programme is anchored in a Theory of Change that recognizes training as only the first step in climate justice leadership development. By combining high-quality education with structured Alumni engagement, mentorship, innovation support, and access to decision-making spaces, NSSCJ transforms trained youth into organized actors capable of influencing climate governance and implementing community-rooted solutions. Continuous learning and feedback loops ensure adaptation, sustainability, and long-term impact.

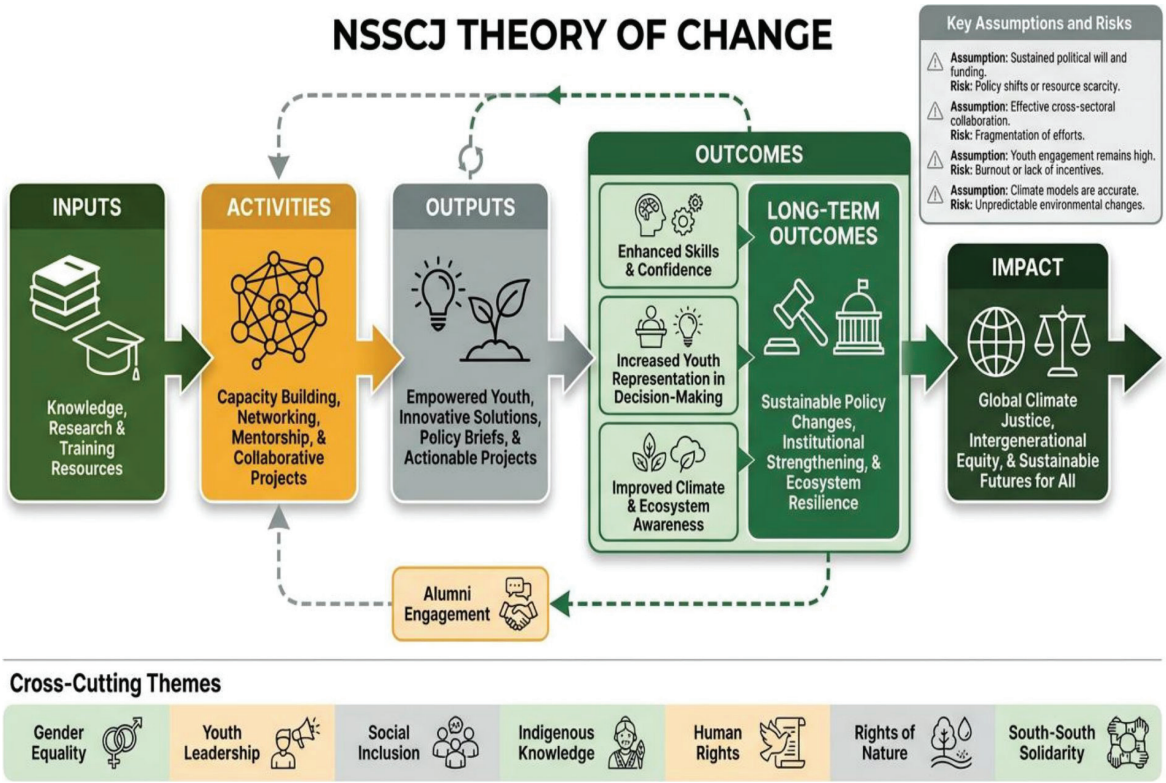
The four catalytic shifts

01	02	03	04
Individual Agency	**Collective Power**	**Systems Change**	**Climate Justice**
Robust capacity building that equips the learners with technical competence and political clarity.	Strategic networking and deep learning that convert trained individuals into organized, proactive Actors.	Principled action inside the policies, institutions and narratives that convene climate injustice.	Systemic transformations towards a more equitable and sustainable world.

This Theory of Change makes NSSCJ a strategic intervention that works towards building individual agency, generating collective power, bringing about systems change and marching towards climate justice. By combining robust capacity building, strategic networking and deep learning with principled action, we build a new generation of climate justice leaders capable transforming policies, institutions and narratives that contravene climate justice. This adaptive design anticipates contextual risk and has a degree of flexibility to respond to political, environmental and social variation — thereby demonstrating how youth-centred, justice-oriented climate action might help catalyse the systemic transformations needed for a more equitable and sustainable world.

6. NSSCJ THEORY OF CHANGE

The diagram below sets out the full pathway — from the knowledge, research and training resources invested at the outset, through capacity building, networking and mentorship, to empowered youth producing innovative solutions, policy interventions and actionable projects; and onward to sustainable policy change, institutional strengthening and ecosystem resilience. The Alumni engagement feeds back into the model at every stage, and cross-cutting themes run through the whole.



Cross-Cutting Themes

Gender Equality • Youth Leadership • Social Inclusion • Indigenous Knowledge • Human Rights • Rights of Nature • South-South Solidarity

> *The model is deliberately adaptive. It anticipates contextual risk epitomized by shifting political will, funding scarcity, fragmentation of effort, and the possibility of burnout among young leaders and retains the flexibility to respond to political, environmental and social variation. In this regard, it demonstrates how youth-centred, justice-oriented climate action can catalyse the systemic transformations needed for a more equitable and sustainable world.*

7. CLIMATE JUSTICE AND NSSCJ

Climate justice is the key philosophical and practical basis of the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice. It presents climate change not only as an environmental issue, but as a moral, political and developmental challenge, based on historical responsibility, inequality and power asymmetries. NSSCJ places emphasis on:

- **Intra- and intergenerational equity**

  Appreciating the need to realize that the present generations owe a duty to future generations. It is important to make sure that climate action will not compromise the wellbeing of current communities to benefit future generations, while mitigating needless disparities among marginalized populations in the present.

- **Human rights and the rights of the collective**

  Ensuring that climate action promotes fundamental human rights particularly indigenous peoples and local communities and ensuring effective participation in climate decisions.

- **The rights of nature and ecosystems**

  Understanding the intrinsic worth of nature beyond its use to humanity; protecting biodiversity and ecosystem integrity as the key to climate resilience; and establishing regenerative and restorative modes of development.

- **Social inclusion: gender, youth, marginalized communities and indigenous peoples**

  Making the voices and leadership of the most affected organic to climate action; resolving overlapping vulnerabilities across gender, age, ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic status; and ensuring solutions to climate change are created and fronted by affected communities.

Just transition, energy access and climate finance

Making sure the transition to low-carbon economies is not a dead end for workers and communities; encouraging access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy; securing adequate, predictable and available climate finance for developing countries; and holding polluters accountable for the harms of global warming through Loss and Damage.

8. PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH OF NSSCJ

Through its curriculum, pedagogy, and participatory model of learning, NSSCJ places young people as agents of systemic change, capable of shaping policies, mobilizing communities, generating knowledge, and crafting suitable narratives at local, national, regional, and global levels.

NSSCJ uses a transformative learning model which incorporates:

- **Academic rigour** — a research-based curriculum written by top climate experts.
- **Activist praxis** — first-hand involvement in climate movements and campaigns.
- **General knowledge** — community awareness of local knowledge systems.
- **Participatory approach** — problem-solving, co-creation and peer learning.
- **Action-based learning** — policy work and practical work within the training.

This strategy makes young people not passive consumers of knowledge but agents of systemic change, able to positively influence policy, organize communities, create knowledge, and design counter-narratives at every level of governance.

9. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Climate change is the crisis of our generation, and young people are both its most vulnerable victims and its most powerful drivers for change. Africa and the Global South are hit disproportionately by climate change even though they are least responsible for global emissions. Climate impacts cut across existing inequalities, affecting livelihoods, food systems, health, peace and security. Young people especially from marginalized and frontline communities, who make up 60 percent of the African population are most affected by these impacts must urgently contribute their fair share of stewardship in climate governance.

Africa and Global South climate crisis

The most severe and unfair effects of the climate crisis are being seen in Africa and the Global South, although they have contributed negligibly to the accumulation of Greehouse Gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. These effects are multidimensional and overlap with issues of development, inequality and lack of good governance.

Disproportionate impacts

1.5 Degrees Celsius the global rate — how much faster Africa is warming.	**20%** forecast reduction in agricultural productivity by 2050, jeopardizing food security for 1.2 billion people.
600m people without access to electricity, a severe limit on adaptive capacity and resilience.	**2–5%** of GDP lost annually to climate-related economic damage in at-risk countries, undermining development gains.
2.5m people displaced each year by climate-related disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2020.	

Compounding inequalities

Climate change increases social and economic inequalities. Unequal access to resources, land, and decision-making spaces puts women and girls at increased risk. Indigenous populations and local communities are losing their traditional livelihoods, knowledge and cultural heritage. Agricultural and natural-resource impacts have worsened youth unemployment and underemployment, with climate-related migration bringing social tensions and conflicts into the picture.

Policy and governance gaps

Though the youth make up almost 60 percent of the African population, they account for less than five percent of decisions involved in climate governance. The place of climate justice in national climate policies remains very marginal, and climate finance does not often flow down to local and community Actors. Youth participation in UNFCCC processes and regional climate platforms is low, disjointed and often symbolic.

The youth leadership gap

Although there is increased mobilization of young people in climate action, structural challenges have remained, making it difficult for the youth to translate their aspirations into actions that result in lasting systemic change.

Knowledge and skills gaps

There is still little access to high-quality, interdisciplinary climate education that incorporates science, policy and justice perspectives. Many young leaders lack practical training and capacity in negotiations, advocacy and policy analysis, and lack clear knowledge of climate finance mechanisms and resource mobilization. Capacity gaps in research, data analysis and evidence-based advocacy also remain.

Resource constraints

Youth-led initiatives continue to be plagued by financial and institutional challenges: the absence of seed funds, inadequate access to incubation and mentorship services, and lack of exposure platforms between youth innovators, investors and strategic partners. Most youth-based organizations also operate without institutional

stability.

Lack of inclusion in decision-making

The role of youth in climate governance is usually symbolic rather than substantive. There is little access to national delegations or influence over policy-making, and age restrictions in political and institutional structures disenfranchise young people further. Their knowledge, experience and innovation are often undervalued by older generations.

Fragmented networks

Youth climate action is highly disjointed, with minimal coordination between Actors operating in silos. There are limited opportunities for South–South (and even North) cooperation and peer learning, weak institutional memory, and most training programmes lack strong Alumni structures to maintain engagement between Cohorts, thus rendering many efforts for capacity building and training mere "tick-the-box" exercises.

10. THE POST-TRAINING ENGAGEMENT GAP

The key flaw with youth climate programming in Africa is the ability of capacity building to translate into sustained action. Practical experience and evidence from youth climate training programmes — including NSSCJ self-evaluations — indicate that although participants show substantial improvements in knowledge and motivation in the short-term following training, these results are less well maintained in the absence of systematic support.

Current reality	
40%-30 of trained youth remain actively involved 12 months after training without structured post-training assistance.	**75%** cite poor funding as the biggest challenge to implementing their ideas.
40% Alumni recorded success in engaging in policy spaces	**80%** state a strong wish to continue learning, be mentored, and interact with peers.

11. MILESTONES

Established in 2020 as a pioneer in its field, NSSCJ stands as Africa's most comprehensive premier youth climate justice training programme. It is defined by its pan-African leadership and a commitment to bridging the gap between grassroots activism and global policy.

Empowering Africa's climate leaders

Since its launch in 2020, NSSCJ has set the gold standard for climate advocacy training in the Global South.

Excellence

The curriculum is co-authored by world-renowned climate justice experts and has previously been hosted in reputable academic institutions: Kenyatta University (Kenya), Chuka University (Kenya) and Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia). Resource people have been drawn from dozens other institutions, both from Africa and globally.

Inclusion

Hybrid delivery in three languages — English, French and Portuguese — to ensure no advocate is left behind.

Proven outcomes

NSSCJ graduates occupy influential roles in global entities, governments, private sector and civil society, actively shaping l policies and leading youth initiatives in Africa and beyond.

Methodological innovation

By integrating human rights, gender equity, and community-based action research, and fostering South–South-North solidarity the school positions students at the cutting edge of the global climate interactions.

12. TARGET GROUP

Cohort-VI will retain the inclusive target profile established in previous editions. Participants will be young people between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) drawn from indigenous and marginalized communities, grassroots climate justice movements, youth and women's groups, trade unions, civil society organizations, smallholder and producer associations, faith-based institutions, academia, research institutions, and policy spaces.

Priority consideration will be accorded applicants from climate-vulnerable and frontline communities across Africa and the Global South. Though applications comes in tens of thousands, the Cohort is expected to accommodate 500 participants through a hybrid model combining in-person and virtual engagement to ensure accessibility and broad geographic representation.

13. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

Cohort-VI will follow the established two-week hybrid format. The programme will begin with a virtual pre-training phase designed to orient participants to the school's methodology and introduce COP32 priorities, negotiation tracks, and emerging policy debates. This preparatory phase will build foundational knowledge and align participants around key strategic issues ahead of the in-person convening.

The core of the programme will consist of an intensive twelve-day in-person training hosted by PACJA in partnership with accredited universities across Africa. The training will combine expert-led sessions, participatory discussions, case studies, negotiation simulations, policy labs, and strategic communication workshops. Participants will engage in mock negotiations reflecting UNFCCC processes and will interact directly with experienced African negotiators, COP32 Secretariat, policymakers, and technical experts. A cultural exchange day and a field visit will contextualize learning within lived realities.

The Alumni will be integrated into the South–South Youth Network on Climate Justice under the structured Alumni engagement framework. Post-training engagement will include thematic working groups, policy brief development, advocacy coordination, and preparatory sessions for COP32 participation.

14. THEMATIC FOCUS

The Cohort will maintain NSSCJ's foundational modules on climate science, climate justice, human rights and rights of nature, just transition, energy access, climate finance, gender and social inclusion, and climate justice advocacy.

Building on its pre-COP positioning, the curriculum will include an enhanced focus on the UNFCCC negotiation architecture, Africa's negotiation priorities for COP32, the implementation of previous COP decisions and Africa level declarations, positioning Africa for the next Global Stocktake process , Nationally Determined Contributions updates, adaptation and resilience financing, Loss and Damage mechanisms, climate-induced mobility, food systems transformation, and accelerating accountability pathways.

Negotiation simulations and policy labs will allow participants to translate theoretical understanding into practical skills, equipping them to engage confidently and strategically in COP32 and other governance processes.

Languages

The course will be conducted in English, French and Portuguese.

Certification

- An official certificate will be issued to participants who successfully complete the training.

Scholarship

There are limited partial and full scholarships, which will be awarded competitively.

Eligibility

- An O-level certificate or equivalent High School Matriculation.
- Between 18 and 35 years at the time of application.
- Fluency in English and/or French and Portuguese.
- A valid Passport (for Non-Ethiopian Applicants).

15. COST OF PARTICIPATION

Two weeks — in-person NSSCJ training

International participants — training, return economy air ticket, airport transfer, visa fee, accommodation, conference package, meals, tuition fees and certificate: **USD 4,500**

The cost of the ticket varies depending on the location of departure and the timing of its purchase.

Local participants — accommodation, conference package, meals and certificate: **USD 2,500**

Two weeks — virtual NSSCJ training

Virtual participants — tuition fee and certificate: **USD 300**

16. IMPORTANT DATES

November 2026	Launch call for Applications at the sidelines of COP31, Antalya, Turkey
January 2027	Deadline for the call for applications
27 February 2027	Announcement of successful applicants
April 2027	Virtual Pre-School trainings and interactions for successful Applicants
June 20 - July 3, 2027	Physical NSSCJ Cohort VI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
August - November 2027	Post-School interactions and outreach
November 2027	UNFCCC COP32, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



17. APPLY TODAY!

Become part of Africa's leading climate justice leadership training programme and join a growing network of changemakers working towards a more just, resilient, and sustainable future.

Local Applicants	International applicants
2027 Ethiopian nationals only — Cohort VI, Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1NNmmi6E7G	NSSCJ VI — International applicants only, Cohort VI, Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice forms.cloud.microsoft/r/BCnKaN1dee

For more information on how institutions can sponsor applicants, please contact us using the details provided below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: application@nsscj.org

Websites: https://nsscj.org/ | www.pacja.org

Links: linktr.ee/summer_school1 | youtube.com/@NairobiSummerSchool

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