

BE A CHAMPION FOR

CHILDREN AT COP

Dear negotiator, no group is more vulnerable to climate change than children (persons under the age of 18) and their lives and futures are at stake. Yet in more than **30 years** since the UNFCCC came into force, there has never been a decision focused on protecting children or are rarely considered in agenda items and processes. We invite you to champion child-responsive climate action in your discussions. **Members of the Children's Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI)** coalition have put together the following messages and entry points to assist you to speak for all children.

1 BILLION REASONS TO PRIORITIZE CHILDREN AT COP

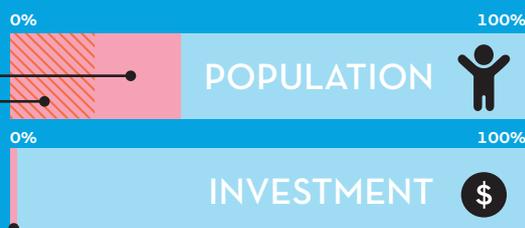
Children are rarely seen or heard at COP discussions, despite their right to be heard and the fact that decisions being made are impacting their futures.

POPULATION VERSUS INVESTMENT

Children represent **33%** OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION (≈ 2.2 billion people)

In the countries most exposed to climate impacts, especially in the Global South, children constitute more than 50% of the population

Over **1 BILLION** of children live at extremely high climate risk



Only **2.4%** of climate finance from major multilateral climate funds can be categorised as child-responsive

196 countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, committing to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of every child

Less than 50% of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) globally are child-sensitive

IMPACTS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Annually more than **1 in 4 deaths** of children under the age of 5 – more than **1.7 million deaths per year** – are attributable to unhealthy environments

88% of diseases associated with climate change are borne by children under 5

Sources: CERI, UNITED NATIONS, UNICEF, WHO.

A SAFE CLIMATE FOR CHILDREN IS A SAFE CLIMATE FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS

HOW CAN YOU EMBED PROVISIONS FOR CHILDREN IN COP28 NEGOTIATIONS?

Include Child Rights in Speaking Points and Statements: this accentuates the urgency of addressing child rights and intergenerational equity, and encourages other stakeholders to acknowledge their importance.

Children's Distinction from Youth: whenever youth are mentioned in climate negotiations, it is crucial to specifically refer to children as well in order to address specific challenges, vulnerabilities and constraints faced by children.

SPECIFIC ENTRY POINTS TO ENSURE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AT COP28 NEGOTIATIONS

COVER DECISION:

- Recognize the particular vulnerability of children and invite the SBI to convene an expert dialogue on children and climate change at SB60 (June 2024) to consider how to strengthen climate action and intergenerational equity.

GLOBAL STOCKTAKE:

- Call for the collection, use and reporting of age- and gender-disaggregated data and include a range of child-responsive measures across all ages in climate action and policies, including NDCs;
- Highlight the need for meaningful and safe participation of children in decision-making processes at all levels.

LOSS AND DAMAGE:

- Include child rights in loss and damage finance governance and decision-making processes, contributing to more equitable and effective responses.

CLIMATE FINANCE:

- STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:** call for a comprehensive review to ensure the consideration of children's rights;
- OPERATING ENTITIES OF THE UNFCCC FINANCIAL MECHANISM:** call board members to integrate child rights provisions in the Funds' work and assistance to developing countries in meeting their climate action commitments;
- NEW COLLECTIVE QUANTIFIED GOAL ON CLIMATE FINANCE:** incorporate specific funding windows dedicated to delivering child and gender-responsive outcomes at the required scale.

ADAPTATION:

- GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION (GGA):** advance on key strategies required to enhance adaptation action, including a focus on children and their rights and identification of global targets per theme.

JUST TRANSITION:

- WORK PROGRAMME ON JUST TRANSITION:** prioritize climate action that protects children's right to a healthy environment, the implementation of child- and shock-responsive social protection strategies, and the eradication of child exploitation, as well as recognize the role of caregivers in care economy.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY:

- Consider children's rights in terms of food production and consumption, nutrition as well as cultural rights, and ensure that any ocean-based climate action promotes the protection of children's rights.

PLEASE SEE FULL CERI COALITION COP28 POLICY BRIEF FOR COMPREHENSIVE POSITIONS ON WORKSTREAMS AND PROPOSED LANGUAGE: <http://bit.ly/cop28-policy-brief>

CHAMPION THE FIRST CHILD-CENTERED COP DECISION

Given the pervasive effects of climate change on all aspects of a child's life, it is evident that an elevated, transversal engagement on child rights is necessary within the UNFCCC process. Parties should consider a more comprehensive programme of actions, similar to the Gender Action Plan or the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, that could help to operationalize child rights across the UNFCCC. A group of champion countries would need to emerge to work with civil society, UN and other stakeholders to advance such a **Children's Action Plan (CAP)**.

LEARN MORE:



INITIATIVE



PARTNERS

