**Contribution of the State of Iraq and making proposals on the General Comment on**

**(Child`s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change)**

Climate change is considered to be one of the most serious threats to the life , growth and health of children , and it is directly and indirectly related to all the rights of the child , these rights are interrelated , as each right complements the other right such as the right to survival and development , the physical , psychological and mental health , education and housing especially those who depend for their livelihood on agriculture , on which the climate has a negative or positive impact such as losing water and food security , pollution of the environment and the atmosphere because of the emission of toxic gases , drought due to lack of rain , floods , hurricanes , and the spread of diseases and epidemics .

All of these reasons call for the international community to take serious steps to address the causes of climate change and finding solutions that may limit or eliminate this phenomenon.

**Below we list the most important suggestions on topics that should be included in the general comment:**

* State parties should adopt legislative, administrative and other appropriate measures to implement the rights contained in the convention by finding ways to address the causes of climate change and finding alternative solutions.
* The committee shall call upon state parties to implement public policies , programs and strategies aimed to adopt to climate change and mitigating its effects .
* It is the state`s responsibility to ensure the child`s survival , development and his physical , mental , moral , spiritual and social health . States should identify the many risks that resulted from climate change and protective measures , and obligate states to reduce child mortality due to malnutrition , the spread of diseases , epidemics , atmosphere pollution and the environmental .
* State parties should conduct regular statistics on the causes of child mortality for the purposes of prevention and accountability .
* Obligate state parties to provide adequate treatment to children suffering from health , mental ,psychological and social disorders because of poverty and hunger and to rehabilitate them .
* The committee should urge state parties to provide special protection for homeless children who have lost their homes due to floods and hurricanes or as a result of migration from the countryside to the cities . Homeless children are particularly vulnerable to violence , abuse , sexual exploitation , human trafficking , drug abuse and mental disorders .
* Urging state parties to provide safe and clean drinking water and sanitation which are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all other child rights and its responsibility to develop and implement plans for the expansion of infrastructure and maintenance of water services .
* State parties should adopt all measures to address the dangers and risks that environmental pollution poses to children`s health and growth like smoke , toxic fumes emitted by factories , industrial plants and waste . States should regulate and monitor the environmental impact of industrial activities that could violate the child`s rights to health, food security , access to safe drinking water and sanitation .
* State parties must recognize the particular challenges that threatens the survival , growth , health and education of children especially those children affected by emergencies posed by climate change such as natural or man-made disasters . All possible measures should be adopted to ensure that all children have continuous access to all services , are reunited with their families and are protected with material support such as food and clean water in addition to promoting special parenting care or other forms of psychosocial care to prevent and reduce fear and trauma.
* The committee should urge state parties to address the problem of poverty that child suffers from owing to economic instability that caused by climate change and leads to family disintegration and migration. State parties can address this problem through policies and preventive measures to reduce poverty factors .
* Urge state parties to ensure the provision of food, combat malnutrition and providing school feeding to ensure that all students get a full meal everyday . in order to enhance children`s attention to education , increase school enrolment rates and raise awareness in the fields of nutrition and health.
* States should ensure that there is an adequate and well trained work force to support the provision of nutritional, health and educational services and all other needs of children .
* Encourage state parties to accede to Paris Climate Agreement.
* NGOs should have a prominent role in this field through the implementation of their programs and services.
* Urge state parties to ensure that their obligations are not limited to ensure the implementation of the rights of the child within the limits of their national jurisdiction , but also include the implementation of these rights at the global level through international cooperation.
* State parties must commit themselves to abide by the general principles of the convention in the matter of children`s rights and climate change , which are as follows:-

**The impact of climate on the right of the child and non-discrimination (Article 2)**

It is the responsibility of the state parties to prohibit discrimination in all its legislations, policies or administrative procedures and gender equality in access to services. Article (2) of the convention includes a set of considerations for which discrimination is prohibited including the race or his or her parent`s or legal guardian`s , colour , sex , language , religion , political or other opinion , national, ethnic or social origin , therefore all children should enjoy all rights …. Without discrimination.

**The impact of climate on the rights and best interests of the child (Article 3)**

Paragraph 1 of article 3 of the convention (In all actions concerning children , whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions , courts of law , administrative authorities or legislative bodies , the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration ).Based on this paragraph member states are urged to ensure the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all decisions related to his or her health and development including the allocation of necessary resources and the development and implementation of policies and interventions that affects the underlying determinants of the child health due to climate change .

**The impact of climate on the rights of the child such as the right to life, survival and development (Article 6 of the Convention)**

in implementation of article 6 of the convention, States have obligations to ensure the child`s right to survival and development through developing policies and plans to address and prevent the implications and risks of climate change.

**The impact of climate on the right of the child to express an opinion (Article 12 and 13)**

The convention also encourages state parties to respect the right of the child to be heard , article 12 highlights the importance of the participation of the child and to hear his or her opinion , the convention also providing for children to express their views and to have such views seriously taken into account in all aspects related to the provision of services and how to provide these services and methods that are adopted to provide them in a way that guarantees the child`s right to life , survival , growth , health and education .