



UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson - 52, rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva (Switzerland)
crc@ohchr.org

SUBJECT: NGO submission – Day of General Discussion on “Children’s right and the Environment”

Geneva, 21 July 2016

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Plan International, Inc. is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1981 and in special consultative status with the ECOSOC since 2011. Founded over 75 years ago, Plan International is one of the oldest and largest rights-based children's development organisations in the world. We strive to advance children's rights and equality for all girls. Working with children, young people, our supporters and partners in more than 70 countries around the world, we tackle the root causes of inequality faced by children, especially girls.

In 2015, Plan International worked with 100.5 million children in 85'200 communities. Plan International is independent, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

We welcome the initiative of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold a Day of General Discussion on “Children’s rights and the Environment”. We are confident that this day will promote a better understanding of the relationship between children’s rights and the environment, identify what needs to be done for child rights related laws, policies and practices to take adequate account of environmental issues, and for environment-related laws, policies and practices to be child-sensitive.

In response to the call for contributions by the Committee, Plan International would like to share a number of publications that address issues specific to children’s rights and climate change, which we believe could inform the discussions of Working Group 2 covering children’s rights and the effects of environmental degradation, and in particular climate change.

Plan International works to ensure children and young people are aware of their rights and encourage them to engage with decision-makers, monitor children’s rights, and hold government and service providers to account. We work substantially with children, focusing on impact, consequences and solutions to the issue that affect their lives. Children’s rights are at the centre of Plan International's climate change work. This includes work on adaptation for children in delivering child-sensitive adaptation projects, and adaptation with children, which ensures children’s active participation in the design and implementation of adaptation projects. This participatory aspect is entrenched in all of our work and it is, we believe, a way in which children and young people’s right to be heard is effectively put in practice.



In particular, our contributions focus on child-centred climate change adaptation, including the empowerment of children to become advocates and leaders on climate change adaptation and to mitigate climate risks, as well as child-centred climate vulnerability and capacity-assessment.

Please find attached the following reports:

- 1) **Plan International, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Oaktree, [We Stand as One: Children, young people and climate change](#), October 2015.**

This report includes voices of hundreds of children and young people throughout the world. It carries their messages about how climate change affects them, the action necessary to fix it and their right to be part of the solution. Much of the report was written by children and young people based on consultations conducted by them;

- 2) **Plan International, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPS), Australia Aid, [Act to Adapt: The next generation leads the ways](#), June 2015.**

This report on child-centred climate change adaptation in Asia and the Pacific addresses issues around building awareness of children and their communities in climate change as well as the empowerment of children to be active participants in adaptation efforts;

- 3) **Children in a Changing Climate Coalition: Partnership of ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision International, [Child-Centred Adaptation: Realising children's rights in a changing climate](#), December 2015.**

This **report** on child-centred climate change adaptation includes case studies from several countries arguing that children should be a focus of the efforts to address climate change and play an active part in the decisions that shape their present and future.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne-Sophie Lois'.

Anne-Sophie Lois

UN Representative and Head of Office

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