

ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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ACCESS TO REMEDIES

Integrate the right to a healthy environment and the rights of future generations in national constitutions to empower individuals to defend themselves by providing a legal framework for holding offenders accountable.

Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes a complaints procedure for violations of children's rights.

Ensure responsible conduct and accountability of businesses including through the use of extraterritorial jurisdiction as appropriate.

POLICY COHERENCE

Ensure that children's rights considerations are integrated in climate, disaster risk reduction and development activities.

Integrate children's rights in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Use mechanisms such as the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council to promote accountability for climate and human rights commitments.



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PARTICIPATION

Facilitate the participation of children in climate-related meetings and processes.

Include children in climate decision-making processes at all levels.

Establish standing consultative committees that include children's perspectives.

Provide up-to-date, meaningful and age-appropriate information about the causes of climate change, its impacts and adaptive responses to children in an appropriate format.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

After disasters, resources should be allocated to health services and to reunite children with their families.

Allocated resources should cover psychosocial care and take into account children's distinct needs for play and safety.

Invest in training teachers, parents and children climate-resilience.

Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure.

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DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Improve the understanding of the relationship between climate change and children's rights.

Develop impact assessments with respect to children's rights

Improve disaggregated data collection.

Improve reporting on children's rights and climate change to relevant UNFCCC and human rights mechanisms.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Take more ambitious adaptation and mitigation measures to minimize the future negative impacts of climate change on children and to protect their right to grow and play in a healthy natural environment.

Establish national platforms for young people to voice their concerns and ideas about climate change.

Climate litigation is another way to safeguard the interests of future generations. A legal basis for such litigation, often grounded in international human rights law, exists in many countries.