Comment on the draft general comment on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change – by Dutch climate organization Extinction Rebellion The Netherlands and Fridays for Future The Netherlands

We, a group of concerned citizens and youths from two Dutch climate organizations, would like to add these concerns:

COMMENT ON SECTION G: The right to non-discrimination (art.2), paragraphs 50 and 51

For the first time in history, a current generation of children is facing the *largest* consequences of an upcoming global crisis, whilst having the *least* influence on its policy – since most people under 18 do not have voting rights in the EU. The current generation of children is disproportionally affected by national governments’ (lack of) climate policy in their rights, amongst others the right to live (CHR, article 6), to health and clean environments (art. 24) and food (art. 27) and proper care (art. 3) and physical safety (art. 19). If certain irreversible climate changes will be set in motion (i.e. extreme heating, polar melting, disappearance of forests), the liberty to act upon this with restorative climate policy will be very small, so political and democratic influence on climate policy will be made very difficult to impossible for future generations.

With these dangers of current climate policy disproportionately affecting the youth, the current generation of youth is undergoing a form of ‘generational discrimination’ which is in conflict with the right to equal treatment without discrimination (article 2, CHR, article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Marthe van Bronkhorst,

Extinction Rebellion The Netherlands

Comment on section B. The right to the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24), paragraph 27

Extra emphasis should be placed on the mental health of current and future generations of youth, that is thoroughly affected by the current climate crisis. These generations deal with existential fears, (climate) depression, climate ‘burn-outs’ and a lack of certainties unprecedented by those faced by any other generation in history. Fridays for Future’s Sytze notes that having a lack of clear vision of a future has led to generations growing up with a ‘no future’ mindset, with all the mental consequences spawning from it.

Sytze Fortuin, Fridays for Future The Netherlands

Marthe van Bronkhorst (female, 29, the Netherlands), for: Extinction Rebellion The Netherlands (climate organization of volunteers)

Sytze Fortuin (male, 16 years old, Netherlands) for: Fridays for Future The Netherlands (youth climate organization of volunteers)