Attention: **Committee on the Rights of the Child**

15th February 2023

## Comment on the draft general comment on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change

We, Parents For Future Global, a network movement of Parents For Future Organizations all over the globe, commend the **Draft General comment No. 26 (202x)** on **Children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change**.  
  
While we appreciate the effort and essential clarifications outlined in this comment, we would like to propose some minor changes based on a PFF Global-wide consultation.  
  
**§ 12**  
  
As we will soon face “Limits to Growth”[[1]](#footnote-1) due to the bio-physical limits to growth[[2]](#footnote-2), further biosphere decay, weakened planetary life-support systems[[3]](#footnote-3) and further stressors and cascading risks[[4]](#footnote-4), we propose to change the Heading of II. Key concepts A. from “**Sustainable development**” to “**Regenerative Development**”.  
  
Economic development, social development and environmental protection just harmonise if the planetary limits are respected, which results in a transformation of the global economic system where countries need to bring their Overshoot Day[[5]](#footnote-5) to a date in December asap, latest by 2029.

Hence we propose an extension to the last sentence of §12 “... and future generations **by reducing the country ecological footprint until 2029 to the extent that the regenerative capacity within a given year is not exceeded.**”

**§ 19**

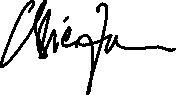
In the last sentence, we propose to change “**and detrimental mental health effects**” to “**and detrimental health and mental health effects**”. This addition would cover effects like heatstroke, malnutrition, starvation as well as climate anxiety and stress.

**§ 49**  
  
In paragraph 49 we recommend recognising indigenous children as stewards and future stewards of biodiversity and their importance, based on traditional knowledge, in the fight against biodiversity loss for the benefit of all other children worldwide. We recommend adding a sentence clarifying that Indigenous children deserve maximum protection from the world community.  
Nation-states trying to take their lands or allowing third parties to, drive them out or extract minerals or fossil fuels or plan or conduct deforestation in adjacent areas that have detrimental effects on the area where Indigenous children live, should face international sanctions by all other parties to the convention.  
  
**§ 73**  
  
We propose to add a point: “**(g) Reduce high levels of resource consumption in order to promote long-term sustainable livelihoods.**”

**§ 78**  
  
We propose to delete the last three words in the last sentence of this paragraph. Hence the last sentence should read: **“States shall not take retrogressive measures that are less protective of children.”**

We thank everyone involved in this process for their excellent work and look forward to strong and globally accepted children's rights!  
  
Our children are our future, and their future means the world to us!

Submitting this comment on behalf of Parents For Future Global  
  
  
  
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1. <https://www.clubofrome.org/ltg50/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://theses.hal.science/tel-02499463/document>, The political economy of degrowth, Timothée Parrique, Chapter 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/09/climate-change-risk-assessment-2021> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.overshootday.org/content/uploads/2023/01/Country-Overshoot-Days-2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)