



# Global Initiative on Advancing Children’s Right to a Healthy Environment

Outcome Report for the Regional Expert Consultation for East Asia and the Pacific  
Bogor, Indonesia: 22-23 October 2019



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## **Background**

The Global Initiative on Advancing Children’s Right to a Healthy Environment was launched in early 2019. The Initiative aims to build on positive progress made in connecting the fields of child rights and environmental issues to date, recognising that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is consistently overlooked in setting and implementing environment-related policies and standards. This is achieved via a series of regional consultations that seek to empower children and youth in relation to their rights, and to provide a unique forum for knowledge exchange and learning among a diverse set of key stakeholders on region-specific challenges, priorities, and promising “best practice” initiatives. Crucially, consultations seek to explore avenues for promoting tangible action at national, regional and international levels to promote recognition and implementation of children’s right to a healthy environment.

In the East Asia Pacific region, rapid economic growth, urbanization, changing lifestyles, and climate change represent important factors driving environmental challenges that undermine children’s rights, including air and water pollution, the use of chemicals and pesticides, unsustainable use of natural resources and mining, land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, urban environmental issues and waste management, and significant climate-related impacts, including rising temperatures, wildfires, increasingly severe extreme weather events and sea-level rise.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN Environment (2019), Global Environmental Outlook for Youth in Asia and the Pacific; UNICEF inputs

Countries in the East Asia Pacific region are all signatories of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) with respect to climate change, protection of the ozone, desertification and biodiversity.<sup>2</sup> The vast majority have also ratified environmental treaties concerning control of hazardous wastes and certain pollutants.<sup>3</sup> While very few of these international agreements incorporate specific provisions on children, their implementation is essential for upholding children's rights. At the regional level, the ASEAN agreement to control transboundary haze pollution and the Agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin are of particular relevance. Neither agreement mentions children.

In parallel, all countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration<sup>4</sup> specifically highlights the rights of children, affirms the rights confirmed in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and goes beyond these by explicitly recognising 'the right to safe drinking water and sanitation' (Art 28.e), 'the right to a safe, clean and sustainable environment' (Art 28.f), and the 'right to development...aimed at poverty alleviation, the creation of conditions including the protection and sustainability of the environment...' (Art. 36).<sup>5</sup> The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights has convened several workshops on human rights, environment and climate change, and is exploring a regional strategy for a rights-based approach to environmental impact assessments. In 2015, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children adopted a set of recommendations for tackling the challenges and social impact of climate change on women and children.<sup>6</sup> The Pacific region does not have a common

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<sup>2</sup> UNFCCC/Paris Agreement; Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa – Annex II, Asia; Convention on Biological Diversity respectively.

<sup>3</sup> Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

<sup>4</sup> <https://asean.org/asean-human-rights-declaration/>. Covers the ten ASEAN countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Papua New Guinea is an observer.

<sup>5</sup> It should be noted that the Declaration has been criticised by international human rights actors as not fully meeting international human rights standards.

<sup>6</sup> [https://acwc.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Doc-5\\_Social-Impact-of-Climate-Change-Conference-95222.pdf](https://acwc.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Doc-5_Social-Impact-of-Climate-Change-Conference-95222.pdf)

framework on human rights, although the Pacific Plan contains a commitment to promote and protect, *inter alia*, human rights, gender and youth in the region, and also addresses sustainable development as one of four key pillars.<sup>7</sup>

Recent developments of interest include the child-led complaint to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to protest lack of government action on the climate crisis.<sup>8</sup> The 16 child petitioners aged 8-17 include children from the Marshall Islands and Palau.

**1. Introduction to environmental rights and children’s key environmental concerns**

The Expert Consultation session opened with an intervention by David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment (UNSR). The UNSR introduced the Global Initiative on Advancing Children’s Right to a Healthy Environment and recalled the Expert Consultation for the Latin America and Caribbean region, which took place in Colombia in May 2019. In particular, the UNSR highlighted how human action negatively affects the environment, for example through the burning of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, contributing to climate change, and impacts such as sea level rise and higher temperatures. These in turn result in flooding, drought and the growing climate crisis, impacting negatively not only the environment, but also on humans.

On the other hand, the UNSR emphasised that change is possible, pointing to powerful social and human rights-based movements in the past that have contributed to a more just and equal society for all people. In the East Asia and Pacific region, countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Fiji have made inspiring progress concerning the right to healthy environment, including by signing environmental conventions, and recognizing the right through policies and legislation. Linking human rights and the environment not only helps to clarify the level and shape of the response



measures required to protect children’s rights from harm due to environmental harm, but

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<sup>7</sup> [shorturl.at/bcqD7](https://shorturl.at/bcqD7)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.hausfeld.com/news-press/16-young-people-file-un-human-rights-complaint-on-climate-change?lang\\_id=3](https://www.hausfeld.com/news-press/16-young-people-file-un-human-rights-complaint-on-climate-change?lang_id=3)

also empowers children to take action and to be part of the solution in solving these challenges, and to participate meaningfully in decision-making that is fundamental to their health and wellbeing.

***Environmental concerns identified by child and youth participants***



Child and youth participants from Thailand, Samoa and India provided insights into their environmental priorities and activism in the region. A youth representative from Thailand identified key threats within the region arising from major projects such as dams and mining, air pollution and poor waste manage-

ment. In particular, mega projects have resulted in the displacement of communities, through which children lose access to education and schooling and families experience poverty due to loss of livelihoods. Decisions negatively affect the environment, while children’s perspectives are not included. Similar observations were shared by a youth representative from Samoa. The Pacific Islands are at the forefront of climate change related threats which impact negatively on the present and future living conditions of the population. Samoans face disaster, cyclones and droughts. The participant called for urgent governmental action and more sustainable practices.

A youth representative from India drew attention to the demographic aspects of environmental issues. In most countries in Asia, children make up a large proportion of the population and are particularly affected by environmental challenges. He identified the reduction of rubbish and waste management systems as particular challenges, as well as projects that children and youth themselves are initiating to reduce plastic use by engaging with the tea production industry to sensitise shopkeepers, customers and donors on the harmful nature of plastic.



Another example of youth engagement in the region was given by a participant from Cambodia. There, children and youth are focusing on educational aspects and awareness-raising on climate change issues in schools. The youth participant also referred to risks linked to large infrastructure projects, noting that environmental activists should seek to identify the most important economic industries in their context to increase their impact.



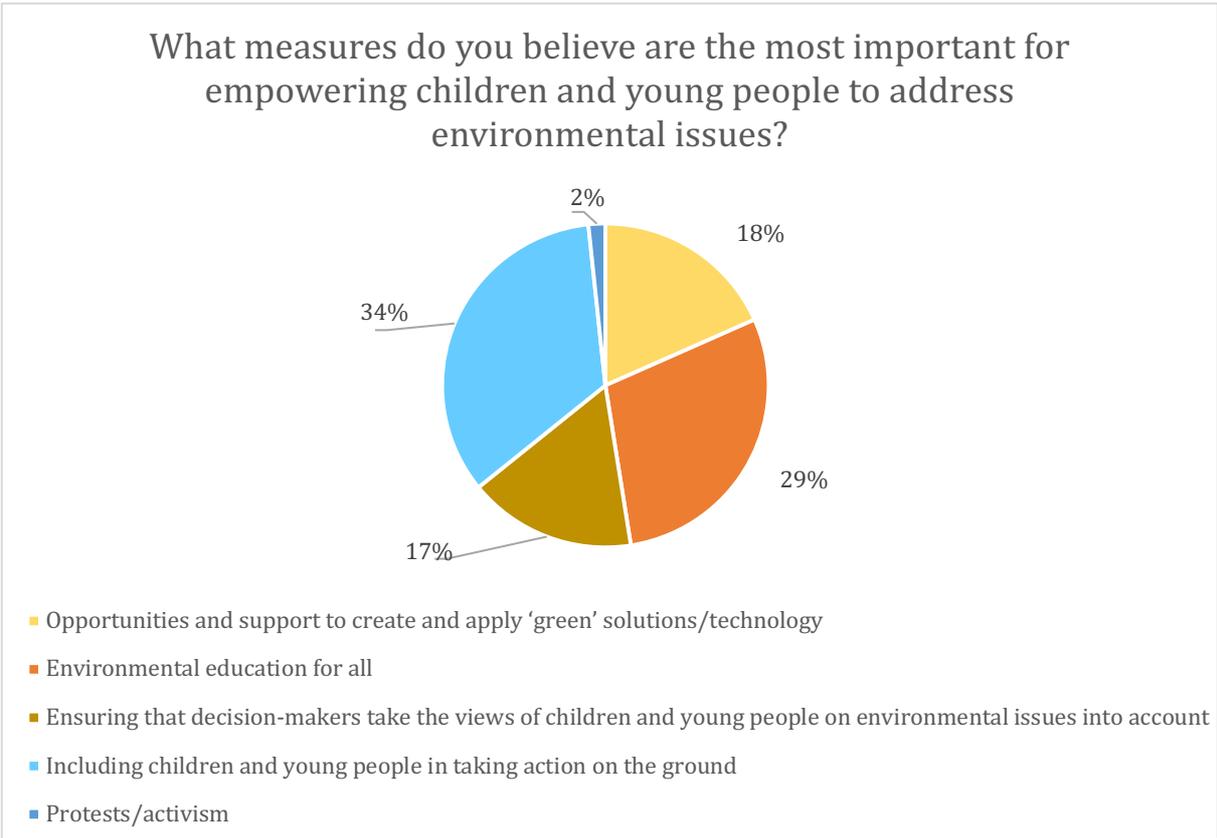
identify the most important economic industries in their context to increase their impact.

**Views received from children in the region through the online poll**

The online #MyPlanetMyRights poll, launched by the Global Initiative earlier this year provides another opportunity for children to

share their major concerns and views on environmental rights (see [www.childrenenvironment.org](http://www.childrenenvironment.org) for more information). Responses received so far from the region (in English and Bahasa Indonesian) are briefly summarized below and throughout this report.

*#MyPlanetMyRights poll Question: What do you think is the most important action to empower children and young people to overcome environmental problems?*



## **2. Challenges and opportunities for strengthening children's environmental rights in East Asia and the Pacific**

Sowmya Kadandale, UNICEF, opened the session with an overview of issues concerning child rights and environmental issues in the region based on recent research by UNICEF.<sup>9</sup> In particular, pollution and other environmental threats have serious impacts on children in terms of their physical and mental development and mental health. For example, increased flooding and storms lead to increased breeding of mosquitos which transmit diseases such as malaria. The mortality of children under the age of 5 is linked in many cases to air pollution. Environmental threats also interfere with other rights of children: over the past fifteen years, nearly 50,000 schools were destroyed or otherwise negatively affected due to natural hazards in Indonesia alone. At the same, UNICEF research in 5 countries in the region (Viet Nam, Mongolia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Fiji) has found that the number of laws relating to child rights and the environment has risen to 150. What is still missing is the effective implementation and enforcement of such laws and measures to raise awareness among decision-makers. UNICEF provided a set of recommendations (see presentation), including the need to integrate children's rights in existing environmental impact assessments, collaboration between neighbouring countries to prevent transboundary harm, and requiring businesses to comply with human rights principles.

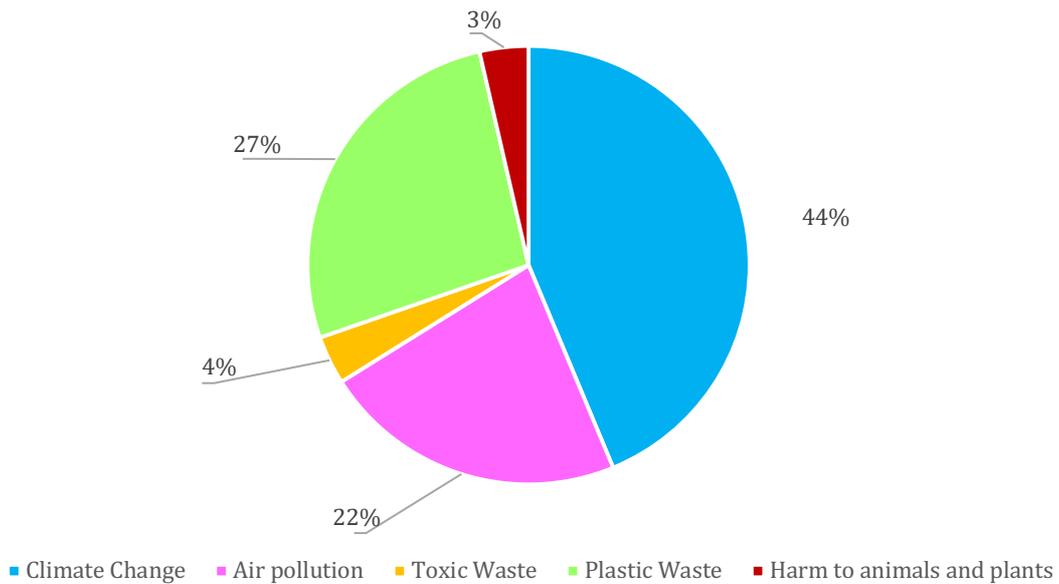
### ***Principal threats and concerns within the region in relation to children's right to a healthy and sustainable environment***

*#MyPlanetMyRights poll Question: Which environmental problems concern you the most?*

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<sup>9</sup> All consultation presentations can be found on the website: [www.childenvironment.org/reports](http://www.childenvironment.org/reports)

## Which environmental problems concern you the most?



The following key challenges were identified during the consultation:



### Environmental threats linked to private sector activities

→ Many cases of environmental threats and child rights violations relate to extractive industries and infrastructure development – e.g. mining, megaprojects (dams).

- Extractive industries such as the mining industry lead to different forms of pollution
- Plantations cause deforestation and land grabbing
- Tourism also contributes to pollution in many places – for example by producing waste

### **Environmental disasters**

- Cyclones, flooding, sea level rise, drought
- Forest fires
- Increasingly arid environment due to reduction of trees and water catchment areas



### **Pollution**

- Air and water pollution as a result of extractive industries, motor vehicles, factory waste, forest fires, waste burning and toxic chemicals.
- Lack of waste utilization; rubbish can block water flow of rivers – causing diseases
- In some areas, the impact of pollution is worse than in other areas, especially in terms of effects on health.



On a structural level, participants mentioned:

### **Challenges related to laws and policy**

- Lack of (comprehensive) environmental laws and regulations, lack of implementation of existing laws, lack of laws focusing on children
- Little access to and distribution of existing policies and information, lack of knowledge and awareness
- Bureaucratic and administrative issues
- Non-compliance with existing norms and regulations
- The absence of proper funding to implement laws and policies
- Lack of planning
- Lack of environmental laws and regulations that actively take into account topics related to children's rights, children's perspective's or children themselves
- Lack of access to information and participation in decision making
- Lack of a human rights-based approach in environmental and developmental policies



### **Challenges in Monitoring**

- Lack of data on the effects of environmental impacts on children.
- Lack of data on children in general required to adjust policies

### **Socio-political and contextual challenges**

- The relationship between urban and rural areas: technical and infrastructure issues (lack of information systems)
- Decision-makers are often far removed from communities' realities
- Poverty, inequality, demographic changes. Children living in poverty are disproportionately exposed to environmental harm and child rights violations
- Birth registration and identity politics: children from marginalized groups are not considered and often ignored
- Education: lack of opportunities for children to engage in activities outside of school, gaps in curricula
- Lack of awareness on environmental topics, lack of awareness on the relationship between environmental rights and children's rights
- "Adult-centrist" perspective, suspicion of adults towards youth participation
- Because children do not vote, they are often not considered important in decisions and politics;
- Lack of platforms in which children can make their voices heard
- Lack of ownership among people

### **Transnational aspects / Globalization**

- Environmental threats are "not solely natural", they are man-made.
- Environmental issues concern questions of equality: important to take on an intersectional perspective.
- Responsibility of larger industrialized nations – smaller countries are experiencing the most harmful effects
- Transboundary pollution, e.g. forest burning in Indonesia and effects on border countries

## ***Opportunities and actions required for the promotion of children's rights related to the environment***



### **Making use of existing resources, policies and good practices**

- Developing the increasing general interest of the population in environmental issues
- Drawing on existing civil society networks
- Using the knowledge of indigenous peoples / traditional knowledge
- Making use of and improving good policy and governance
- Taking advantage of progress to democratic transition in many countries
- Using existing policies relating to environmental issues and children's rights
- Policies to raise awareness and increase understanding of communities, including translation in local languages
- Making use of policies and laws to impede corruption, which often leads to actions that harm the environment
- Working with local government to address the climate emergency
- Promoting stronger regulations and restrictions relating to environmental threats

### **Decision-making processes and legal compliance**

- Need for a partnership between society and decision-making bodies; business, governments and civil society should work hand in hand to mitigate problems related to environmental issues and children's rights
- Need for follow up to existing global regulations, e.g. in relation to children's rights
- Strengthening a child-centred and human rights-based approach to environmental issues
- Developmental policies must be implemented with consideration for environmental sustainability
- Urgency to initiate organic farming
- Need for compliance with existing laws, and strict implementation
- Need for constitutional, legal and administrative protection specific to children's rights with respect to the environment.
- Children's rights need to be explicitly recognized in national constitutions, laws and regulations in all countries
- Law enforcement for chemical products

### **Changing mindsets**

- Strengthening access to information related to environmental issues
- Need to make policy- and decision-makers aware of specific and heightened harm caused to children by environmental damage
- Increasing awareness and reach of many initiatives that promote the development of social entrepreneurship and eco-businesses
- Increasing awareness of people and society related to sustainable choices and alternatives, and changing personal behaviours, from the individual to the collective

### **Promoting research and monitoring**

- The collection of data and monitoring to illustrate the need for individual and governmental action
- A monitoring and surveillance system for children's health related to the environment to assist with reporting outcomes
- Evidence-based models to provide information on the economic impacts of children's environmental health

### **Intergenerational support and inclusive settings**

- Need for platforms and opportunities to take into account voices of children and younger generations, providing different opportunities for children's participation to actively take place
- Need for respect and intergenerational support between adults and children
- Need for peer-to-peer exchange platforms between youth to work and learn about environment-related topics
- Need to sensitize adults and youth
- Also need to sensitize adults about proper instruments to ensure children's participation

### **The promotion of (environmental) education**

- Strengthening education in schools towards sustainability
- Raising awareness and introducing education on toxic chemicals
- Increasing implementation of environmental education in school
- Pushing forward the use of local products and resources, strengthening an individual environmental-friendly behaviour
- Enabling learning settings "out of school" as well
- Integration of disaster risk reduction curricula in schools to help children protect themselves in case of disaster
- Implementing a "Climate Change Curriculum" for medical / health sector (professionals)
- Need for technical capacity-building for communities on how to adopt a sustainable lifestyle

### **Information management, public relations and sensitization**

- Strengthening the use of social media and a multimedia approach
- Reinforcing media campaigns
- Using the internet to connect and sensitize people on the topic
- Sharing information and stories to strengthen child protection in environmental affairs
- Special campaign days for children's rights and environmental issues to raise awareness

## **3. Approaches and strategies for strengthening children's environmental rights in East Asia and the Pacific**

## ***Approaches by various stakeholders***

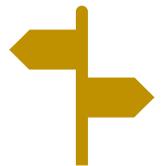
### **Civil society at the local level**



- Public and shared natural spaces where people learn and work together about the environment
- Waste reduction in all areas, abolishing single use plastic
- Promotion of recycling
- Community activities e.g. clearing spaces to overcome mosquito breeding, cleaning up the forest / ocean / city
- Campaigns
- Increasing Influence on policy-makers
- Gardening projects, especially in urban areas
- Competitions for schools
- Planting trees
- Providing positive examples on how to take care of the environment
- Awareness-raising: demonstrations and other activities
- Opportunities for children to become ambassadors for the environment
- Providing better information about disasters and disaster preparedness
- Using renewable energy and strengthening public transport
- Eco-mapping
- Using paving blocks in construction to increase disaster preparedness

### **Governments**

- Increasing regulations for green and open space and regional standards for waste management systems
- Take up green audits to promote environmental awareness
- Limiting palm oil tree plantation and monocultures in general
- Reinforcing regulations and laws, for example by setting up fines and stricter regulations:  
*“My idea is to charge a fee to the person who throws rubbish (litters). If we catch them, they have to pay money. Once we have enough money, we can try to develop our village by buying new rubbish bins, renewing our pipes, fixing the school building, etc.” (child participant, Response from questionnaire)*
- Roadmap on how to fully promote and implement children’s right to a healthy environment



- Make use of a rights-based approach to push the scientific evidence of the environmental health impacts on children towards action
- Build the argument on the economic effects of environmental harm on children's health for the country economy
- Enabling youth participation:
  - Expand best practice examples of advisory groups to take into account children's perspectives
  - in intergenerational events like this consultation
  - In children's parliaments
  - Through active advocacy: Need for adult allies to raise their voices for children
  - Working in the field and setting examples on how a participative approach can work in practice
- Education:
  - Introduce teaching on the hazardous effects of chemicals, and how to protect the environment, and recycling
  - Ensure teachers have training on environmental issues and solutions

### **The private sector**

- Some companies are helping to improve the situation – e.g. by consulting employees to adopt strategies for a healthier environment. Good practices should be collected.
- Companies should replace single use packages with reusable ones.
- Businesses need to be aware of their impact on children's rights



### ***Stakeholders – Key allies or champions, opponents, promising partnerships***

- Government policy-makers at international, regional and national levels
- Human rights bodies and institutions at national, regional and international levels, e.g. National Human Rights Institutions and Children's Ombudspersons
- Civil society groups to provide information
- UN Environment Programme, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR and other key UN agencies working on environmental and child/human rights issues
- Education sector professionals and teachers
- Parents and family



- Cultural sector
- Researchers
- Young adults that will have a heightened sense of solidarity
- The private sector, recognising the huge diversity of businesses that exist

***Relevant messages and arguments*** to strengthen the relevance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in environmental politics and environmental issues within the human rights community

- The UNCRC and Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure should be accessible and easier to understand
- Using existing references within the UNCRC in Article 24 and Article 29 as an argument in strengthening the right to a healthy environment
- Raising awareness about the UNCRC in other fields to a “general public”
- Encourage children to raise their voices

***Relevant fora, venues and processes to promote children’s environmental rights***



- Using existing civil society fora
- Including more Asian Associations of Indigenous peoples
- Bringing together environmental players in the private sector, e.g. UN Environment’s Programme for business
- Considering processes of the UN or the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to recognise and promote children’s rights and role as environmental human rights defenders
- Expanding the use of social media to raise awareness
- A new regional framework for the Pacific Islands on environmental issues
- Environmental Summits in the region
- At the national level: promoting children’s associations, youth parliaments, scouts and other environment-related groups, and links with relevant national ministries such as Ministries for Education
- Establishing complaint mechanisms
- Establishing regional children’s fora

## 4. Recommendations/Action Planning

### 1. Stakeholder groups and action plan

<i>Stakeholder group</i>	<i>Actions</i>
<i>NGOs</i>	<p>Link children’s rights to environmental issues in strategy and activities</p> <p>Mainstream environmental issues into child protection activities, particularly services to remedy harm to children</p> <p>Engage with child rights groups and environmental groups on policy development initiatives</p> <p>Promote inclusive processes to enhance focus on children’s rights and the environment</p> <p>Build capacity among children’s rights groups, environmental groups, and other NGOs to work on child rights and environmental issues</p> <p>Promote customary law in working on child rights and environmental issues</p> <p>Advocacy with corporations &amp; government to bridge the gaps among NGOs, the private sector and government authorities</p> <p>Hold corporations accountable for violations of children’s rights and damage to the environment, particularly damage to the environment that violates children’s rights</p> <p>Surveys, monitoring, and documentation of issues and activities involving child rights and the environment</p> <p>Networking with other organizations and with government</p>
<i>Community initiatives</i>	<p>Networking with other organizations and with local government</p> <p>Strengthen and broaden the narrative on child rights and the environment to engage other organizations and government authorities, including positive community-led solutions</p> <p>Create an email or other electronic list of all stakeholder participants in the consultation and use it to maintain the network</p>
<i>Research/ Academia</i>	<p>Frame the issues involved in child rights and the environment</p> <p>Disaggregate data related to child rights and the environment so that it can be used by others</p> <p>Engage children and youth in research</p> <p>Create links to disseminate research results to NGOs and other groups working on relevant issues so that they have evidence-based science for their work</p> <p>Carry out research on the economic costs of inaction on child rights and environment issues, including health impacts, and help them make the economic case for promoting children’s right to a healthy environment</p> <p>“Pracademia” – make research results available in a language and in a format that non-experts can understand and that can be used in practice</p> <p>Initiate research on the feasibility of a new Optional Protocol to address environmental harm</p>

	<p>Link regional organizations working to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child with regional organizations working on climate, environment and energy issues</p>
<i>Children's Commissioners</i>	<p>Advocate directly with governments on child rights and environmental issues</p> <p>Encourage governments to ratify the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) and also explain other options the government has to implement obligations with respect to children and the environment</p> <p>Ask the Committee on the Rights of the Child to develop a General Comment on children's rights and the environment</p> <p>Disseminate information about the environment (risks and solutions) to children and adults</p> <p>Propose an agenda item on children's rights and the environment to networks on business and human rights</p> <p>Disseminate information on how to frame complaints related to children's rights and the environment</p>
<i>Legal actors – lawyers, law professors, law-makers, environmental law organizations, others</i>	<p>Identify and compile national and sub-national laws and regulations on children's rights and on the environment and analyse and document the opportunities and gaps</p> <p>Complete and publish UNICEF study on national legal framework for child rights and the environment. in 5 countries in the region</p> <p>Advise private sector clients on children's rights and the environment in the context of their operations</p> <p>Promote customary law for children's rights and the environment</p> <p>Connect people with a cause of action to people who can do something about it</p> <p>Develop and deliver training for judges on children's right to a healthy environment</p> <p>Advocacy with the judicial system to encourage close monitoring of cases involving children and environmental issues to ensure that such cases are resolved as quickly as possible</p>
<i>Bilateral development cooperation</i>	<p>Advise development ministries about child rights and the environment and the results of the consultation</p> <p>Encourage inter-ministerial discussions on children's rights and the environment</p> <p>Mainstream children's rights in environmental work and activities</p> <p>Ensure that human rights assessments of activities take environmental impacts on children's rights into account</p> <p>Strengthen the narrative within the development cooperation community to include child rights and the environment and ensure that the narrative is positive</p> <p>Mainstream children's right to a healthy environment into planning processes at sub-national level</p>
<i>International governmental organizations</i>	<p>Include children's rights in environmental and social safeguards</p> <p>Strengthen the narrative within organizations to include children's rights and the environment</p>
<i>International NGOs</i>	<p>Form alliances with other organizations working on human rights, children's rights, and the environment</p>

	<p>Strengthen processes to bring people together to replicate this process of consultations on children’s right to a healthy environment in other regions and individual countries</p> <p>Engage children and youth in advocacy campaigns more creatively</p> <p>Strengthen children’s participation in activities</p> <p>Communicate to the media what youth organizations are doing</p> <p>Initiate the conversation on children’s rights and the environment within the organization</p> <p>Initiate discussions on children’s rights and the environment in schools</p>
<p><i>Professional organizations – bar associations, medical associations, teachers’ associations, others</i></p>	<p>Initiate peer-to-peer discussions on children’s rights and the environment</p> <p>Initiate training within the organization on children’s rights and the environment</p>

## ***2. Recommendations from children and youth***

### **Topic: a Healthy Environment**

Recommendations:

- 1) For Governments: integrate environmental education in the curriculum, cross sectoral collaboration in the government towards a healthy environment, capacity building support from the government.
- 2) For the private sector: need to be more aware of their impact on the environment and children’s rights.
- 3) For the public sector: more awareness to take measures to reduce their emissions.
- 4) Support from general public: platform to build youth movement to support each other
- 5) Regional collaboration, regional social media campaigns
- 6) Collaboration in local youth networks

### **Topic: Ecological Child Rights**

Recommendations:

- 1) Governments should provide funding for environmental and child rights programmes
- 2) Asian governments should know about injustice connected to the environment, climate change, and children’s environmental rights
- 3) Governments should organize more exchange possibilities for youth

## **Topic: Youth Initiatives**

Recommendations:

- 1) Increase awareness via social media
- 2) Support people to change their lifestyles and personal behaviors connected to environmental issues
- 3) Collaboration: opportunities for exchange, creating an action day for youth to work together on a campaign, for example Sunday's for Change (SFC)

## **Topic: Child Rights, the Environment and the Business Sector**

Recommendations:

- 1) Governments must observe and restrict companies in using natural resources
- 2) Government must regulate the production of disposable plastic products
- 3) Government must regulate dangerous goods (pesticide, mercury products)
- 4) UN should urgently issue a treaty related to child rights, the environment and corporations
- 5) Collaboration with every community around the world to make a petition regarding children's right to a healthy environment for the business sector  
-> use of #MyPlanetMyRights
- 6) Six monthly report from civil society organisations and community support

### ***3. Summary of Key messages for a Global Declaration/Resolution***

*#MyPlanetMyRights poll Question: What actions do you want world leaders to take that you would like to include in a Global Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the Environment?*

- **The right to be heard and to participate in public policy processes:** Respect children's right to be heard, provide opportunities for children to express their voices;
- **A Declaration should be inclusive and comprehensive:** A Declaration should involve and address all stakeholders (children / adolescents, parents, governments, businesses, and relevant actors/support systems etc) in overcoming this problem
- **Strengthen child protection in relation to environmental threats:** Provide stronger regulation to protect children from environmental harm

- **Education and access to information:** Provide and strengthen education, and make this accessible to everyone; support families in offering their children an education; create and support curricula focussing on the environment; Awareness-raising on why the environment itself is so important to children’s rights; increase climate awareness
- **General provision of environmental protection:** Prioritize nature conservation; strengthen regulations to protect nature and promote sustainability
- **Support youth- led or -focussed networks and organizations for the environment:** Provide more opportunities for children to work together, and inter-generationally, towards environmental protection and human rights.

## 5. Follow Up, Materials and Photos



Go to [www.childrenenvironment.org](http://www.childrenenvironment.org) to find documentation from consultations, materials, resources, videos, photos and more.



**Terre des Hommes**  
International Federation



Supported by the  
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