**UNICEF’s written submission to the study of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on climate change and the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child**

**6 January 2017**

**1. Please describe, in your view, the relationship between climate change and the enjoyment of the rights of the child, and any human rights obligations to mitigate and adapt to climate change that can be derived therefrom. Please also share any examples of how the realisation of the rights of the child can contribute to more effective climate action.**

1. **Relationship between children’s rights and climate change**

Children, particularly the most disadvantaged, face more acute risks from climate-related disasters and slow onset events than the population as a whole, due to their less developed physiology and immune systems, psychological vulnerabilities and specific needs. They are also one of the largest groups to be affected, as many of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change are those in which children account for the greatest share of the total population. Shifts in child demographics over the coming decades will further accentuate this.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has recognized climate change as “one of the biggest threats to children’s health”,[[1]](#endnote-1) as well as its adverse impact on, inter alia, the rights to education (Article 28), adequate housing (Article 27), safe drinking water and sanitation (Article 24).[[2]](#endnote-2) Yet, children’s vulnerability to climate change impacts poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to the enjoyment of many, if not all, rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and notably the right to life, survival and development (Article 6). The following information is by no means exhaustive[[3]](#endnote-3):

* Rising temperatures are lengthening the transmission season and expanding the geographic range of **vector-borne diseases** such as malaria, dengue, and meningococcal meningitis. The global burden of these diseases is already concentrated on children,[[4]](#endnote-4) and the World Health Organization (WHO) projects that climate impacts will cause an additional 60,000 deaths from malaria among children under the age of 15 by 2030.[[5]](#endnote-5)
* Drought, flooding and more irregular rainfall patterns can increase the incidence of **diarrhoeal diseases**, a major cause of mortality for children that was responsible for 530,000 deaths of children under 5 in 2015.[[6]](#endnote-6) The WHO projects that by 2030, climate impacts will result in 48,000 additional deaths from diarrhoeal disease for children under the age of 15.[[7]](#endnote-7) Drought and excessive heat compound water scarcity, and can also lead to increased concentration of harmful contaminants and microbial blooms.
* **Malnutrition** is responsible for almost half of worldwide deaths of children under the age of 5.[[8]](#endnote-8) Children are particularly vulnerable as they need to consume more food and water per unit of bodyweight than adults. For those that survive, the impacts can be lifelong. Under-nutrition during the first two years of life can lead to irreversible **stunting**, affecting both physical and cognitive development, with implications for schooling, health and livelihood.[[9]](#endnote-9) The WHO estimates that climate change will lead to nearly 95,000 additional deaths per year due to under-nutrition in children aged 5 years or less by 2030, and an additional 24 million undernourished children by 2050.[[10]](#endnote-10)
* During **heatwaves**, infants and young children are more likely than adults to die or suffer from heatstroke because they are unable or lack support to regulate their body temperature and control their surrounding environment. Extreme heat not only affects children directly, but also affects them through a variety of heat-related illnesses.[[11]](#endnote-11)
* Children are at risk of **physical and psychological trauma during and after** **severe weather events**, which are expected to increase in severity as global temperatures rise. Children are more likely than adults to die or suffer injuries, and in the aftermath, they are at heightened risk of exploitation, violence and abuse as a result of family separation, loss of family livelihoods and migration as families seek to cope with the impacts.
* Climate change is also contributing to **displacement and migration.** In 2015, 19.2 million people faced new internal displacement resulting from disasters – the majority climate-related.[[12]](#endnote-12) Children and families that are on the move due to the impacts of climate change are difficult to distinguish from other migrants in global data. However, it is indisputably the case that the adverse effects of climate change, combined with – and compounding – war, conflict and poverty, are contributing to the staggering numbers and plight of internally displaced, refugee and migrant children around the world.[[13]](#endnote-13) The distinct experiences of children do not tend to be captured in research and policy processes around climate-related mobility, including their heightened risk of family separation and exposure to exploitation, violence and abuse, loss of education, increased vulnerability to psychological trauma and physical harm, and their right to a nationality and identity.[[14]](#endnote-14)

*Specific threats faced by certain groups of children*

Climate change exacerbates inequality and affects the most disadvantaged children most. **Poor families** live in more degraded areas, have less access to essential services such as water and sanitation, and have fewer resources available to cope with the impacts of climate change than their wealthier counterparts.

Climate change poses an existential threat to **indigenous children** due to their close relationship with the environment and its resources. Indigenous children’s vulnerability is further exacerbated because they frequently live in areas characterized by highly climate-sensitive ecosystems and constitute approximately 15 per cent of the world’s poor and one third of the 900 million people living in extreme poverty in rural areas.[[15]](#endnote-15) Loss of traditional species and land and induced migration can impact children’s right to identity, including their language and culture.

**Girls** are also disproportionately affected, including increased incidence of trafficking as well as child marriage and prostitution in the wake of climate-related disasters as parents are forced to compensate for lost sources of income.[[16]](#endnote-16) In the context of drought and desertification, girls and women are forced to consume huge amounts of energy and time to find safe water, potentially exposing them to sexual violence on their journeys. This burden is also one of the main reasons why girls, especially from the poorest families, miss out on education and their right to play and leisure.[[17]](#endnote-17)

The specific challenges faced by **children with disabilities** are exacerbated and compounded by climate change, including higher exposure to climate risk, lower adaptive capacity, lack of access to information and a lack of adequate and inclusive social protection policies.

1. **States’ obligations**

Numerous human rights bodies have recognized that States have obligations to protect the enjoyment of human rights from environmental harm.[[18]](#endnote-18) These obligations encompass climate change,[[19]](#endnote-19) both in terms of States’ duties to take effective action to protect against its adverse effects, and in terms of shaping the mitigation and adaptation measures through which the protection is achieved.[[20]](#endnote-20) States’ obligations apply to children in their country, but Article 24.4 and General Comment No. 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child also place obligations on developed countries to take action on upholding child rights in developing countries, with **clear implications for transboundary environmental harm and climate action**, including the mobilization of sufficient resources to support adaptation and to constrain the impacts of their emissions across borders.

Procedural duties include:

* **Assessing the impacts of climate-related harm on children**, including the impacts of major activities on the climate, such as fossil fuel production and consumption, deforestation and land use change; this requires States to undertake appropriate monitoring and collect disaggregated information on the exposure and vulnerability of children within their territory, as well as the transboundary effects of activities;
* Ensuring **access to climate change information** that is child-friendly, up-to-date, locally-relevant and language-appropriate;
* Upholding children’s **right to participate and be heard** in climate-related decision making;
* Providing access to effective and timely **remedy** for climate-related harms.

As an important precondition for children’s ability to exercise these procedural rights, the right to education must encompass environmental issues, including climate change. This is also a prerequisite to a child’s ability to enjoy the right to *develop respect for the natural environment*, as set down in Article 29.1 (Goals of Education) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**States’ duties extend to the impact of the business sector** on the environment and children’s rights, in accordance with the CRC’s General Comment No. 16 (GC16) and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In the former, the Committee has recognized that through effects on the environment, business activity can compromise a range of children’s rights.

GC16 is equally clear that this due diligence should be mandatory and that **governments must “*require* *businesses to undertake child-rights due diligence****. This will ensure that business enterprises identify, prevent and mitigate their impact on children’s rights including across their business relationships and within global operations”*.

In addition, States’ obligation to provide effective remedies and reparations for violations of the rights of the child extends to those caused by business activities. GC16 sets out clear and immediate steps to be taken by all parties in the event that children are identified as victims of environmental pollution to prevent further damage to their health and development, and to repair damage done.[[21]](#endnote-21)

1. **How the realisation of the rights of the child can contribute to more effective climate action**

Children have a critical role to play in building their own and their communities’ resilience to climate shocks and stresses, and in promoting and adopting more sustainable low-carbon lifestyles. Realising children’s rights to education, information and participation is therefore vital to equipping them with the skills and means to advocate for and effect climate action – both now and as future decision makers, teachers and parents. For example, involving children in risk assessments, risk informed planning, and emergency preparedness strengthens both the impact and reach of interventions, as well as the quality, scope and accuracy of data.

Placing children’s rights at the centre of climate change mitigation / low carbon development strategies, as called for by the CRC,[[22]](#endnote-22) entails cutting back on fossil fuel combustion and investing in energy efficiency renewable energy, clean transport and promoting behaviour change, helping to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gases. A child rights based approach also safeguards against situations in which climate action itself violates child rights, for example in the context of forced displacement to make way for the construction of hydrodams or changes in land use.

Children’s rights need to be placed at the centre of climate change adaptation strategies as well. Children, especially the most disadvantaged, will bear the brunt of current and future climate change impacts. To date, most national climate change policies, strategies, programmes and investments pay little to no significant attention to children and future generations. Inclusion of children’s rights in climate change adaptation can not only limited the adverse impacts of climate change on children (“do no harm”), it can also positively contribute to achieving children’s rights (“do good”).

**2. Please share a summary of any relevant data as well as any related mechanisms to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of the rights of the child, especially the rights of children in particularly vulnerable situations.**

* Climate change will potentially exacerbate natural disasters by increasing their frequencies and severity. Currently, nearly **160 million** live in high or extremely high **drought severity** zones; over **half a billion** children live in extremely high **flood occurrence** zones. **(**[**Unless we act now**](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Unless_we_act_now_The_impact_of_climate_change_on_children.pdf)**)**
* Fossil fuel combustion is linked with both climate change as well as other environmental threats such as air pollution. Currently, around **300 million** children live in areas where **outdoor air pollution** exceeds international guidelines by at least six times; **2 billion** children live in areas that exceed the World Health Organization annual limit of 10 μg/m3. **(**[**Clear the Air for Children**](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_92957.html)**)**
* Increasingly variable rainfall patterns are likely to affect the **supply of fresh water**. A lack of safe water can compromise hygiene and increase the risk of diarrhoeal disease, which **kills approximately 760 000 children aged under 5, every year. (**[**WHO**](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/)**)**
* As temperatures rise, pollutantslike smog, dust, car and factory exhausted can mix with the stagnant air, creating a toxic potion for sensitive populations like **young children**, the **elderly**, and **people with asthma**. In 2012, air pollution was linked with **600,000 under-five deaths**, globally. Almost **one million** children die from **pneumonia** each year, **more than half** of which are directly **related to air pollution**. **(**[**Clear the air for children\_UNICEF Report**](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Clear_the_Air_for_Children_30_Oct_2016.pdf)**)**
* Changes in climate are likely to lengthen the transmission seasons of important vector-borne diseases and to alter their geographic range. For example, transmitted by *Anopheles* mosquitoes, **malaria kills almost 600 000 people** **every year** – **mainly children under 5** years old**. (**[**WHO**](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/)**)**
* According to [**World Bank**](http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/677331460056382875/WBG-Climate-Change-Action-Plan-public-version.pdf), approximately an additional 100 million people could be pushed into poverty by 2030 due to climate change.

**3. The best interests of the child should be taken into consideration in all matters concerning the rights of the child, including environmental decision-making. Please describe existing commitments, legislation and other measures adopted by States and other duty-bearers, such as businesses, in climate change mitigation and adaptation which are designed to protect the best interests of the child. In particular, please share information related to implementation of commitments to address climate change while simultaneously contributing to the realization of human rights and the rights of the child, the promotion of gender equality, and the protection of future generations. Please also note any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments.**

There is an urgent need for the best interests of the child to be systematically applied in shaping local, national and international responses to climate change. The Paris Agreement represents a significant advance in terms of formal recognition by States of children’s rights in the framework of global climate action,[[23]](#endnote-23) while the Sustainable Development Goals and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction also contain important provisions for the promotion and protection of child rights in relation to climate change.[[24]](#endnote-24)

At the **national level**, some examples of laws and policies include:

* Viet Nam has adopted a law on environmental protection which incorporates principles pertaining to respecting children’s best interests and gender equality in relation to green growth and climate change. The Ministry of Education has approved a curriculum for formal education that includes competencies on environmental education and climate change, promoting children as critical agents of change.[[25]](#endnote-25)
* The Zimbabwean Government’s recent National Climate Change Response Strategy provides a child‑sensitive climate change adaptation and mitigation framework.[[26]](#endnote-26)
* The Philippines’ 2016 Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act represents the first law of its kind globally, and aims to improve the specific care and protection of children affected by disasters. The legislation was developed in collaboration with children.[[27]](#endnote-27)

**Potential mechanisms to contribute to accountability for commitments include:**

* Incorporating climate change in existing monitoring and national reporting mechanisms related to the UNCRC and other international human rights law, including its impacts on child rights, and the steps they are taking to ensure that climate action does not undermine child rights.
* Incorporating child rights in reporting to the UNFCCC, including through national communications and in the context of the Global Stocktake.
* Incorporate child rights in reporting on SDG 13, including in relation to Goal 13b, through the SDG review process.
* Sendai Framework indicators[[28]](#footnote-1) that include a commitment to monitor disaggregated data on disaster losses including damage to schools and critical social services.
* Requiring enterprises bidding for large public sector contracts to disclose the steps they are taking to ensure that their activities and those in their supply chain do not negatively affect children’s rights, including in relation to their contribution to the adverse impacts of climate change and/or climate action.

**4. Please provide guidance on what further actions need to be taken to adequately integrate children's rights within climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, practices and decisions. In particular, please describe actions needed to:**

1. **Ensure the integration of children's rights, including the rights to family, health, nutrition, education, participation, gender equality, water and sanitation, among others, in climate action;**
2. **Prevent violence or conflict as it affects children and is connected with social, economic and political stressors aggravated by climate change; and**
3. **Promote intergenerational equity.**

UNICEF recommends the following to be considered at state level:

1. Incorporate children in disaster and climate vulnerability assessments that governments (and development partners) undertake.
2. In risk prone and fragile contexts promote and strengthen systems for multi-hazard risk analysis to establish possible links between disaster, climate change and social cohesion.
3. Analyze and adjust climate, disaster reduction and energy policies, priorities, programmes and budget allocations through the lens of child rights and intergenerational equity, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.
4. Ensure children are meaningfully involved in policy dialogue on climate change, disaster risk reduction and related issues.
5. Support the inclusion of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and measures to strengthen social cohesion in formal and non-formal education.
6. Strengthen the integration of climate change and sustainable energy in sectors of particular importance to children (not only water, but also health, education, protection etc)
7. Collect disaggregated data in relation to climate risks and impacts on children under 5, children under 18, and boys and girls. By monitoring the challenges that climate change pose to child rights, further research can be conducted to inform urgently needed policies in this area.
8. Incorporate climate change in existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms related to the CRC. Vice versa, incorporate child rights in reporting on climate change (e.g. to the UNFCCC)
9. Take procedural and institutional steps to increase internal capacity, awareness and collaboration between climate and human/child rights experts at the national and international level, such as those envisaged by government signatories of the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action.[[29]](#endnote-28)
10. Promote national processes and systems to foster coherence between Disaster Risk Reduction (as enshrined in the Sendai Framework) and Climate Change Adaptation (as enshrined in the Paris Agreement).

**Actions necessary to promote intergenerational equity include**[[30]](#endnote-29):

* Measures to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with recommendations set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and investment in child-centred climate change mitigation / low carbon development strategies
* Giving future generations a voice in decision making, for example through establishing a Commissioner for Future Generations, or expanding the remit of existing institutions, such as the Ministry responsible for children
* Addressing the intergenerational effects of climate change in CRC reporting
* Enshrining the right to a healthy environment and intergenerational rights in national constitutions and legislation.

**Specifically on conflict:**

1. Conduct a comprehensive risk analysis that includes interplay between various shocks and stressors to inform climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, practices and decisions across sectors. Ensure conflict analysis is a part of a comprehensive risk analysis and includes consultations with children and youth [(click here for guidance on engaging adolescents in conflict analysis).](http://www.unicefinemergencies.com/downloads/eresource/docs/Adolescents/Guidance-Note-on-Engaging-Adolescents-in-PBEA-Conflict-Analysis-En.pdf)
2. Deliver collaborative, multi-sectoral programme strategies inclusive of sectors such as health, nutrition, education, social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Ensure that delivery of social services is conflict sensitive at the minimum, and where possible contributes to horizontal and vertical social cohesion.
3. Deliver child protection strategies that continue seamlessly across the humanitarian and development cycles. This includes social protection and psychosocial support – including life skills and conflict resolution, education and other programmes to support livelihoods and community functioning, ‘safety net’ interventions to help prevent dislocation and exploitation of children, and interventions to address family and individual stress and trauma (Climate Change and Children: A human security challenge, UNICEF-Innocenti, 2008)
4. Ensure our investments in child protection systems and programs are protected from the impact of shocks or stresses.
5. Address the needs of children in local adaptation strategies: Children should play a key role in the planning process, which should be carried out in three stages. First, in each community, the potential impacts of climate change on children of all ages must be documented and supported by data whenever possible. This should be done before the development of the adaptation plans. Second, children have to be involved as vocal participants in the planning process. Their needs, concerns and ideas on what will work must be considered throughout this stage. Finally, once the plans are completed, they should be tested to ensure that they are sufficiently addressing children’s issues and not creating further negative impacts for children.

**5. Please share any commitments and best practices for effectively engaging children or youth in climate-related decision-making processes and climate action, particularly those most impacted by climate change, and with consideration for young people of different ages, gender and social backgrounds. Please share any examples of how empowering children and youth has contributed to more effective climate action.**

Below are some examples of youth engagement in climate change that UNICEF has supported / is supporting:

* In Zambia, Unite4Climate is a child-led advocacy programme that empowers 11–17-year-olds in Zambia to become climate ambassadors. More than 1,000 ambassadors have reached over 1 million community members through peer-to-peer outreach and education, and implementation of low-cost community projects on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The voices of Zambian children have been raised to the national level, through engagement with government officials, members of parliament, and traditional leaders.[[31]](#endnote-30)
* The Voices of Youth Maps initiative is a collaboration between UNICEF, youth communities and local governments which has engaged young people to document the impacts and of climate change and solutions by uploading them to a digital map.[[32]](#endnote-31) The reports serve as local and global advocacy tools for youth activists, and as a basis for discussion in their communities. Such advocacy initiatives include hosting radio programs, digital activations (Twitter Takeover), and serving as panellists at major climate conferences.
* In 2015, more than 100 children from 12 countries attended the Children’s WASH Forum in Tajikistan, mobilizing them to advocate for world leaders to take action on climate change and water security for children. Starting on United Nations’ 2016 World Water Day thousands of children from around the world submitted photos for the #ClimateChain campaign which displayed these photos at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the signing of the Paris Agreement.[[33]](#endnote-32)
* In the Philippines, schoolchildren were supported to produce a film on disaster risks in their community, and to present this to local authorities. This resulted in the planting of trees to reduce risk from landslides, and relocation of a school to minimize vulnerability to flooding.[[34]](#endnote-33)
* In Zimbabwe, youth are actively engaged in the national climate change policy process. They are also involved in action on the ground, for example through engagement in innovative renewable energy solutions.
* In Myanmar, 10 youth representatives were given the opportunity to voice their opinions and provide recommendations to the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2030) in June 10th 2016. This was facilitated by UNICEF with support from ActionAid. Prior to the event, the youth representatives were provided training and support on improving their communication skills and knowledge about climate change.

**6. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to understand efforts made and challenges confronting States and other duty-bearers in their efforts to protect the rights of the child from the impacts of climate change.**

See Annex 1 for a contribution from the UNICEF Indonesia Country Office.

**Annex 1. Contribution from UNICEF Indonesia Country Office**

*Question 3 on “existing commitments, legislation and other measures adopted by States and other duty-bearers, such as businesses, in climate change mitigation and adaption which are designed to protect the best interests of the child. In particular, please share information related to implementation of commitments to address climate change while simultaneously contributing to the realization of human rights and the rights of the child, the promotion of gender equality, and the protection of future generations. Please also note any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments.*

* Commitment of the Government of Indonesia (GoI) on Climate Change (CC) is mandated in the Environmental Act No.32/2016. The GoI has also submitted the first NDC in November 2016 and ratified the Paris Agreement through the Law No. 16/2016.
* In its First NDC, the GoI described strategic efforts for actions on climate change, including the recognition of multi-parties’ involvement, stated in the NDC (p.6) “*In line with the Paris Agreement, Indonesia respects, promotes and considers its obligation on human rights, the right to health, the right of adat communities (indigenous people), local communities, migrants,* ***children****, persons with different abilities, and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as* ***gender equality****, empowerment of* ***women******and intergenerational equity****. Engagement of non-party stakeholders, including local government, private sectors, civil society will continuously be enhanced.”*
* Indonesia’s Disaster Risk Management Status Report 2015: Towards Identifying national and local priorities for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2016) stated that ‘*A key element of the success of the RPJMN (Mid-Term Development Plan) - GoI National Indicators in line with Sustainable Development targets and indicators, SFDRR targets, the Humanitarian Core Responsibilities emanating from the World Humanitarian Summit, and* ***articles in climate change agreements****.’*
* GoI is concerned that the impact of CC may affect the success of its national development plan and the acceleration of poverty reduction as stated in the Indonesia’s Disaster Risk Management Baseline Status Report 2015 (p.17) on ‘Poverty and Disasters’: *“Livelihood groups* ***most impacted by hydro-meteorological disasters****, El Nino/La Nina and* ***climate change*** *are the poorest households such as agricultural wage laborers, food crop producers, small scale fishermen, landless, unemployed, and urban poor.”* In relation to this, as stated in the NDC (2016, p.1) *“…climate change becomes a reality, Indonesia continues to seek a balance between its current and future development and poverty reduction priorities*.”
* To coordinate all programmes related to CC, the Presidential Decree (Perpres) No.16/2015 mandated the establishment of the Directorate General of Climate Change (DG CC) under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) that acts as the focal point of climate change to the UNFCCC. Responsibilities of the newly established DG CC is presented below:

Figure 1. The mandated responsibilities of the Directorate General of Climate Change (DG-CC), Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Source: Overview DG-CC 2015-2019 (2016)



* Considering the fact that around 89% disasters in Indonesia are climate related (Source BNPB), there are a series of regulations that mention children and child rights in terms of disaster management including those issued by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB).

1) Disaster Management Law (UU) No. 24/2007 Article 55: *Prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups (including baby, children under five years, and children) during disasters in terms of rescue, evacuation, security, health care, and psychosocial support.*

2) Government Regulation (PP) No. 21/2008 Article 21 on Disaster Management: *Prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups (i.e. baby, children under five years, and children) during disasters.*

3) Regulation of the Head of National Disaster Management Agency (Perka BNPB) No. 1/2012 on Resilient Village: *One of Resilient Village principles is pro-vulnerable groups, including children.*

4) Regulation of the Head of National Disaster Management Agency (Perka BNPB) No. 4/2012 on the Implementation of Safe School

5) Minister of Environment Decree No. 19/2012: *Children’s participation is needed to support the sustainability of mitigation and adaptation efforts to climate change*

6) Minister of Environment and Forestry Decree No. 33/2016 provides guidance on developing climate change adaptation, and promotes the needs for mainstreaming climate change actions in national and sub-national development plans. Besides the above national regulation, the commitment can be seen in the submission of the NDC and the plans for submission of the Third National Communication on Climate Change in 2017.

*Quest 4 on “what further actions need to be taken to adequately integrate children's rights within climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, practices and decisions. In particular, please describe actions needed to:*

*a. Ensure the integration of children's rights, including the rights to family, health, nutrition, education, participation, gender equality, water and sanitation, among others, in climate action;*

*b. Prevent violence or conflict as it affects children and is connected with social, economic and political stressors aggravated by climate change; and*

*c. Promote intergenerational equity.*

* Commitment of the GOI on climate change supports the inclusion of children’s rights. As stated in the NDC (2016, p.4) *“…The medium-term goal of Indonesia’s climate change adaptation strategy is to reduce risks on all development sectors (agriculture, water, energy security, forestry, maritime and fisheries, health, public service, infrastructure, and urban system) by 2030 through local capacity strengthening, improved knowledge management, convergent policy on climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction, and application of adaptive technology.”* The NDC highlights the sectors and means of climate change adaptation. Although the target group of children is not specifically mentioned, the following child-focused inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration reflects the mandate of the NDC (2016, p.4) where it calls for “…*convergent policy on climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction”.*
* **Cities and municipal governance structures are considered to be a strategic entry point for disaster risk reduction (UNHABITAT world campaign 2009-2013).** As an corollary, a ‘Child Friendly Cities’ (CFC) initiative launched globally in 2011 was adopted by the GoI as a vehicle for the post-2015 development agenda and means for achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The CFC programme has the support of the President who has pledged its roll-out to all districts and cities by 2030; it is currently active in 300 of the 545 cities of Indonesia. The Deputy Minister for Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWE-CP) herself directly advocates to provincial and municipal governments to monitor key indicators of children’s vulnerabilities as it accounts for direct action towards the national development plan, SDGs, and the Sendai Framework of DRR (SF-DRR).
* The GoI targets existing programmes such as the CFC for upgrade in terms of enhancing measures of climate and disaster resilience. As a result the MoWE-CP with the support of UNICEF Indonesia has piloted the **Child-Centered Climate Risk Assessment** **(C4RA)** method, which involves preparing a composite of indicators and data sets on child-specific vulnerability, disaster risk and climate change. As a result relevant information that is otherwise owned and managed by various line ministries should become public (open) data for planning and programming purposes. The method was presented in the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) in New Delhi, India on 4 November 2016 by Deputy Minister for Child Development (MoWE-CD).
* **Child-Centered Climate Change Adaptation** (or ‘APIFA’, the Indonesian Language acronym) is the convergence of risk assessment methods and indicators and alignment of relevant programmes of various line ministries including those of the Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Environment and Forestry, National Planning Agencies, and the National Disaster Management Agency. Programmatic alignment should ensure engagement of young people in their various domains of community interaction, for example directly through Child Forums, youth engagement, the ‘Family Resilience’ and ‘Safe School’ programmes, and indirectly through the ‘Child Friendly Cities’ and ‘Resilient Villages’ programmes. Information on the APIFA initiative is still being developed and published at [www.apifa.or.id](http://www.apifa.or.id).

**References**

1. General Comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (Art. 24), paragraph 50. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. See e.g. CRC Concluding Observations on Jamaica (2015); Saint Lucia (2014); Tuvalu (2013). [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Excerpt from UNICEF written submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the 2016 Day of General Discussion: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2016/UNICEF.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2016/UNICEF.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. For example, children under 5 accounted for 78 per cent of all deaths from malaria in 2014. WHO World Malaria Report, 2014, <http://www.who.int/malaria/publications/world_malaria_report_2014/wmr-2014-key-points.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. WHO, *Quantitative Risk Assessment of the Effects of Climate Change on Selected Causes of Death, 2030s and 2050s* (2014). In addition to temperature rise, droughts increase the prevalence of malaria as people store water, providing more breeding ground for mosquitoes. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. UNICEF (2015), *Unless We Act Now: The Impact of Climate Change on Children*, <http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_86337.html>. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. WHO (2014), op. cit. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. UNICEF (2015), op. cit. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Ibid. See also Humphrey, J. H. (2009), ‘*Child undernutrition, tropical enteropathy, toilets, and handwashing*’, The Lancet, 374, 1032–1035 on links between stunting, poor sanitation and water quality. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. WHO (2014), op. cit. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. UNICEF (2015), op. cit., p. 40. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Estimates 2016 <http://www.internal-displacement.org/globalreport2016/pdf/2016-global-report-internal-displacement-IDMC.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. UNICEF (2016), ‘*Uprooted’:* [*https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted\_growing\_crisis\_for\_refugee\_and\_migrant\_children.pdf*](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted_growing_crisis_for_refugee_and_migrant_children.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. UK Committee for UNICEF (forthcoming report on Children & Climate-Induced Migration, 2017) [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. United Nations DESA (2009) (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, United Nations, New York, p. 1, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP/en/SOWIP_web.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. ODI, Plan (2012), ‘*Climate extremes and child rights in South Asia: A neglected priority*’. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. UK Committee for UNICEF (2015), ‘*Children and the Changing Climate’*: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Campaigns-documents/Unicef_2015childrenandclimatechange.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. A/HRC/25/53, March 2014. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. These rights are set out in comprehensive detail in the Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC.31.52\_AEV), February 2016. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights & the Environment to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC.31.52\_AEV), February 2016 [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. “States should provide medical and psychological assistance, legal support and measures of rehabilitation to children who are victims of abuse and violence caused or contributed to by business actors. They should also guarantee non-recurrence of abuse through, for example, reform of relevant law and policy and their application, including prosecution and sanction of the business actors concerned.” [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. General comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24), paragraph 50. In its 2016 Concluding Observations to the UK, the CRC expressed concern at the “high level of air pollution that directly affects child health in the [UK] and contributes to the negative impact of climate change affecting various rights of the child, both in the State party and in other countries.”  [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. The preamble to the Agreement states: Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and inter‑generational equity. [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. For a comprehensive mapping of references to child rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, see Children in a Changing Climate Coalition (2016), *‘A View from 2016: Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’* <http://www.childreninachangingclimate.org/uploads/6/3/1/1/63116409/a_view_from_2016_ccc.pdf>. In particular, SDG 13 b “promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, **youth** and local and marginalized communities”. Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: “Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula” (36a(ii) /p.23). [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. For more details, see *Children and the Changing Climate*, UK Committee for UNICEF (2015), op. cit. [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nama/_layouts/UN/FCCC/NAMA/Download.aspx?ListName=NAMA&Id=165&FileName=Climat%20Change%20Response%20Strategy.pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. <http://www.savethechildren.org.ph/childrens-emergency-relief-and-protection-act>. [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/open-ended-working-group/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
29. States that have taken this pledge promise to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices between climate and human rights experts at the national level, [www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=453&tipo=contenido](http://www.rree.go.cr/files/includes/files.php?id=453&tipo=contenido) [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
30. See for example, A Brighter Tomorrow: climate change, child rights and intergenerational justice, UK Committee for UNICEF (2010): <https://353ld710iigr2n4po7k4kgvv-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/intergenerationaljustice.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
31. *Children and the Changing Climate*, UK Committee for UNICEF (2015): <http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Campaigns-documents/Unicef_2015childrenandclimatechange.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
32. <http://www.voicesofyouth.org/en/posts/young-people-are-the-key-to-fighting-climate-change>. The digital map can be found here: <http://climatesummit.unicef-gis.org/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-31)
33. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53507#.V5Y-ChFVhHx>. [↑](#endnote-ref-32)
34. Children in a Changing Climate (2009), *Children and Disaster Risk Reduction: Taking stock and moving forward*.

    [↑](#endnote-ref-33)