**CALL FOR INPUT**

**OHCHR report to the Human Rights Council:**

***“Realizing children’s rights through a healthy environment”***

In resolution 40/14 the Human Rights Council decided to focus its next annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child (2020) on the theme **“Realizing children’s rights through a healthy environment”**. It further requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on that theme, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, with a view to providing information for the meeting.

The Office of the High Commissioner would be grateful to receive any relevant information for the preparation of this report in relation to the following questions:

1. **Please share any information or evidence on the impact of environmental degradation, pollution or childhood exposure to hazardous substances on children’s rights, including the right to health.**
* UNICEF 2019, An Environment Fit for Children (attached)
* UNICEF, 2016: [Report Clear the Air for Children](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_92957.html)
* UNICEF, 2017: [Report:](https://www.unicef.org/environment/files/Danger_in_the_Air.pdf) [Danger in the Air](https://www.unicef.org/environment/files/Danger_in_the_Air.pdf)
* UNICEF, 2019: [Report: Silent Suffocation in Africa](https://www.unicef.org/reports/silent-suffocation-in-africa-air-pollution-2019)
* UNICEF UK, 2018: The Toxic School Run: How Toxic Air is Putting Children's Health in Danger
* UNICEF, 2015: [Report: Unless we act now](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Unless_we_act_now_The_impact_of_climate_change_on_children.pdf)
* UNICEF, 2016: [Report: Thirsting for a Future: Water and children in a changing climate](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_95074.html)
* UNICEF Mongolia, 2018: [Mongolia’s Air Pollution Crisis: A call to action to protect children’s health](https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/Mongolia_air_pollution_crisis_ENG.pdf)
* UNICEF Bangladesh, 2019: [A gathering storm](https://unicef-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gnarasimhan_unicef_org/Documents/CEE%20team%20Shared%20Folder/A%20Gathering%20Storm)
* UNICEF South Africa, 2011: [Exploring the Impact of Climate Change on Children in South Africa](https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/SAF_resources_climatechange.pdf)
* UNICEF Office of Research (2014). ‘[The Challenges of Climate Change: Children on the front line’, Innocenti Insight, Florence.](https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ccc_final_2014.pdf)
* UNICEF, 2018: [Air Pollution: A Threat to Children’s Health in Indonesia](https://www.vitalstrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Vital-Strategies-Air-Pollution-Evidence-Brief-Indonesia.pdf). Jakarta CO and Vital Strategies.
* UNICEF, 2018: [Understanding the Impacts of Pesticides on Children](https://www.unicef.org/csr/files/Understanding_the_impact_of_pesticides_on_children-_Jan_2018.pdf)
* [The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health](http://gahp.net/the-lancet-report-2/)
* [Pollution Knows No Borders](https://www.pureearth.org/pollution-knows-no-borders/)
* UNEP, 2019: [Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions](https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/global-chemicals-outlook-ii-legacies-innovative-solutions)
* WHO, 2017: [Inheriting a Sustainable World: Atlas on Children’s Health and the Environment](https://www.who.int/ceh/publications/inheriting-a-sustainable-world/en/)
* The Lancet, 2018: [Pollution and non-communicable disease: time to end the neglect](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196%2818%2930020-2/fulltext)
* Guardian, 2019: [Poisoned by their homes: how the US is failing children exposed to lead](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/26/lead-exposure-us-childrens-blood-as-detectors)
* Amazon Fires (can share folder of detail from Indonesia office can follow up with),
* Climate Landscape Analysis for Children Reports conducted: [Guyana](https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reports/guyana-climate-landscape-analysis-children); [Kyrgyzstan](https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/reports/climate-landscape-analysis-children-kyrgyzstan); [Armenia](https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/reports/climate-landscape-analysis-children-armenia); [Philippines](https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/climate-landscape-analysis-children-philippines); [Madagascar](https://www.unicef.org/madagascar/en/reports/climate-landscape-analysis-children-madagascar); [Namibia](https://www.unicef.org/namibia/na.UNICEF_CLAC_Report_August_2018.pdf); [Kazakhstan](https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/en/reports/climate-landscape-analysis-children-kazakhstan); 5 others on our sharepoint [here](https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/Communities/ESC/SitePages/Climate%20Landscape%20Analysis%20for%20Children.aspx): Armenia, Malawi, Turkmenistan, Timor Leste, ​Macedonia (air pollution focus).
1. **Please identify noteworthy and globally significant examples of good practice towards ensuring children’s rights through a healthy environment, including good practices to mitigate childhood exposures to harmful levels of air pollution and hazardous substances, such as pesticides or other toxic chemicals.**

Pure Earth Projects affecting children

* <https://www.pureearth.org/projects/completed-projects/>. Africa: 15; China 6; Eastern Europe and Central Asia 22; Latin America/Caribbean 7; India 17; Southeast Asia 7.

UNICEF Examples:

* UNICEF mapping of environment pollution and health programming from 2018- [country mapping](https://unicef-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/g/personal/apreschitz_unicef_org/EVJ4W_-y6xJOqCE5F707ZAwB4LhvR6PZmOfj9vANe73m4w?e=yTUhYM) – 20/52 cases of environmental pollution incorporated across 15 countries. Country examples including: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Georgia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mongolia, Somalia, Uganda, Jamaica, Viet Nam, Venezuela.

UNICEF Indonesia CO examples:

* Wildfire prevention and risk reduction for children’s health and wellbeing: UNICEF and UN Environment advocacy linked to UN-REDD programme: [Part I](http://www.un-redd.org/single-post/2017/06/08/Wildfire-prevention-and-risk-reduction-for-children%E2%80%99s-health-and-wellbeing); [Part II](http://www.un-redd.org/single-post/2017/07/12/Wildfire-prevention-and-risk-reduction-for-children%E2%80%99s-health-and-wellbeing-part-2)
* Perspectives of people affected by haze from peatland and forest fires (RCA+ and UNICEF): [RCA report](http://www.reality-check-approach.com/uploads/6/0/8/2/60824721/study_11_haze_v5_rev_shareable.pdf), [study brief](http://www.reality-check-approach.com/uploads/6/0/8/2/60824721/haze_brief_final_v2.pdf).
* Global Landscapes Forum event on ‘Fires, haze and health’: [coverage](https://forestsnews.cifor.org/49926/countering-the-health-effects-of-peat-fires?fnl=en) and [digital summit](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWtrdAQBxkQ&feature=youtu.be)
* ‘Haze Hacks’ - Fires, air pollution and health protection measures for children and families (UNICEF):
* UNICEF full length [video](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ph156cNH-CWn-2vk3cb1pXo5Dz_Owfv4), with [component](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1y63NjWo_DBrlgqUSnamEtvNd6SNVeSII) parts. Ranu Welum [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTtiyRPtMxc&feature=youtu.be). Pulse Lab [blog](https://medium.com/pulse-lab-jakarta/peering-through-the-haze-e831d8731186), and UNICEF [blog](https://medium.com/%40UNICEFIndonesia/haze-hacks-in-kalimantan-423f3aad5543) (Cory Rogers)
1. **What legal and other measures are in place to ensure that the activities of companies do not damage the environment, either domestically or in other countries?**
	1. Child Rights and Business Principles – Amaya G will have more info.
	2. **What are the main gaps and challenges experienced in this regard?**
2. **Please provide information on national laws and policies to ensure that companies undertake environmental and human rights due diligence and do not contribute to abuses of children’s rights.**
	1. **What measures are in place to combat hazardous forms of child labour in which children are at particular risk of exposure to hazardous and toxic substances?**

Burkina Faso – UNICEF advocates on policy level against child labor in mining and artisanal mining (few mentions of impact of mercury, mostly focus on child protection

1. **What measures are in place to fulfil children’s right to participate and be heard in decisions affecting their rights and environment, including their right to remedy in the case of violations of their rights linked to pollution or exposures to hazardous substances?**

UNICEF encourages and supports the participation of young people in national development processes in many countries, and climate change is often a subject chosen by children themselves to highlight in these processes. In Fiji, UNICEF is providing support for a new National Youth Policy that incorporates this concept, and in Tonga, UNICEF supported a National Youth Parliament session that discussed child-sensitive issues, including climate change. Other examples include Papua New Guinea, where 3,900 students are actively engaging in developing climate disaster response plans for their schools, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where UNICEF supported the Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change. For further detail see page 82-83, [Global Annual Results Report- Goal area 4 – Every child lives in a safe and clean environment](https://www.unicef.org/media/55261/file/Global_Annual_Results_Report_2018_Goal_Area_4.pdf.pdf).). Some few examples include:

Bolivia- UNICEF Bolivia contributed to children and young people's climate resilience by ensuring the inclusion of their rights at the core of national and subnational climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and plans and by strengthening their voices in decision making for a more sustainable future.

Madagascar- "The Youth First Impact Lab aims to create opportunities for Madagascar’ s young people, foster innovation, and create young leaders. A video workshop was organized in the southern regions to give voice to young people’ s views on climate change, on issues regarding their lives and rights and on their vision as president. The latter topic coincides with presidential elections this year. "

In China, for example, a major revision of the life-skills education for in-school and out-of-school adolescents included the development of new modules on environmental protection and climate change, which were piloted in junior high and vocational schools in 28 counties across 13 provinces in 2018.

In Mexico, in partnership with the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change – UNICEF developed and piloted new teaching manuals on climate change with a children’s rights approach, designed to complement existing course material on science and technology, history, geography, civics and ethics.

1. **How are environmental risks to children being monitored and measured in your country?**

The OHCHR would be grateful to receive any information to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; fax. +41 22 917 90 08; e-mail: registry@ohchr.org) no later than **8 October 2019**. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Gina Bergh at gbergh@ohchr.org if you have any questions.

We kindly request that submissions be concise and limited to a **maximum of 4 pages,** submitted in **MS Word format.** Due to limited capacity for translation, we also request inputs to be submitted in **English**, **French** or **Spanish** where possible. Unless otherwise requested, all submissions will be made publicly available on the OHCHR website.

Thank you for your valued interest and engagement on this matter.