[The Children’s Environmental Rights Initiative (CERI)](https://www.childrenvironment.org/) welcomes the opportunity to submit written information following the UN Special Rapporteur’s call for inputs for his report regarding human rights and associated obligations related to healthy and sustainable food. This input is provided, recognising:

1. Children’s **heightened vulnerability** to the impacts of environmental harm from the global food system. According to [UNICEF](https://www.unicef.org/media/63016/file/SOWC-2019.pdf), “one third of children under age 5 are malnourished – stunted, wasted or overweight – while two thirds are at risk of malnutrition and hidden hunger because of the poor quality of their diets”.
2. The corresponding **heightened obligations of States** (and duties of businesses) to uphold children’s rights as set down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, noting its near universal ratification.
3. The consistent **oversight of** **children’s right to be heard** on environmental issues, and the additional barriers they face with respect to access to information, meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and access to remedy for harm.

CERI seeks to secure the recognition and implementation of children’s right to a healthy and sustainable environment at national, regional and international levels. In April 2019 we launched a [global poll](https://www.childrenvironment.org/online-poll) to collect and integrate children’s voices into a series of reports from each world region, a new ‘Global Charter on Child Rights and the Environment’ and relevant high-level policy processes and fora, with a view to raising awareness and children’s voices with respect to their environmental rights. The poll will remain open until the Global Charter is finalized (2022, TBC).

**This submission provides a summary of the online poll messages received from over 1,000 children (under the age of 18) from 70 plus countries regarding the global water crisis in response to “What actions do you want world leaders to take that you would like to be included in a Global Declaration on Child Rights and the Environment?”**

**Key message: Replace harmful agricultural practices with sustainable and organic agricultural practices**

“We should stop using pesticides and have sustainable agriculture (use less water).”

“...significant reduction of animal agriculture to make way for more sustainable farming practices.”

“We need...investment in permaculture instead of the quick and sometimes harmful means of agriculture.”

**...especially to reduce pollution, deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and wasteful water consumption.**

“The territory of the Amazon forest must be put into permanent preservation... limit the deforestation caused by agriculture.”

“in order to tackle greenhouse gases (which causes pollution) we should create vertical farms around the world to make plant-based food accessible to everyone.”

“In the future, we should use vertical farms and gardens: they require less water and help decrease pollution in the cities.”

“For the food we could stop using pesticides and do vertical farms that use less water and space.”

**Key message: Eat local, seasonal, organic and less meat-based food**

“... we have to change our food habits. We should eat local, seasonal, and organic food.”

“Encouraging a change in eating habits to a plant-based diet”

**...especially to reduce our carbon footprint**

“...to stop global warming, we have to reduce the carbon footprint. We should eat less meat, eat local, seasonal and organic food”

“in order to reduce our carbon footprint, we also can buy more local and seasonal food because importing food produces a lot of greenhouse gas”

“...to tackle greenhouse gases, we should eat plant-based food rather than meat-based food”

**...with action from public institutions.**

“Mandatory use of organics [food] in schools.”

“Educate where to find locally sourced food, eat seasonally enforced by the government”

“Just as products such as fruit indicate their place of origin- perhaps food products could indicate estimates for carbon emissions.”

**Key message: Stop wasting food**

“...try and make people more aware about how much food they waste.”

“stop food waste”

“We should consume less water, food, electricity and other resources…”

**...and compost it.**

“Sell bins to recycle food into compost for a cheap price, encouraging more people to buy.”

“In order to reduce our trash we should create compost to throw away our organic food. And finally in order to decline food waste we should pick only the food which we eat to avoid throwing away our still edible food.”

**Key message: Stop using harmful materials in food production, especially plastic**

“We should reduce the amount of plastic in the classroom and in food packets.”

“Encourage food producers to not use palm oil at all.”

“Make laws against plastic that is not needed in packaging and make it compulsory to use sustainable packaging...Ban plastic toys and glitter in fast food restaurants”

“stop plastic consumption in food industries, we should force them to renounce ‘over-packaging’”

“...in order to avoid pollution...reduce the use of plastic in the packaging of food or objects.”

“ ...more environmental awareness on technology and food wrapping...We don’t need so much plastic covering on our food or games, we can easily cut it down, so why don’t we?”

