

CHILDREN CLIMATE SUMMIT DECLARATION AND CALL FOR ACTION

'An Africa Fit For Children – Securing Voices of Children in the Climate Change Discourse'

Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya,
2-3 September 2023

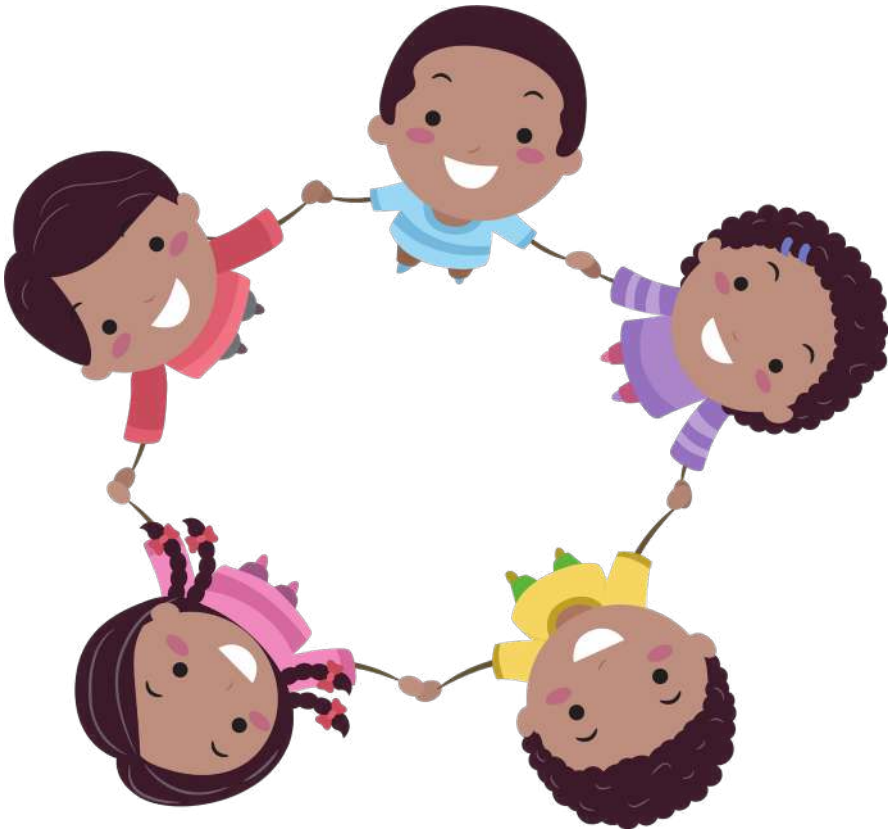




Forward

The Children Climate Summit was organized to contribute towards the formulation of child sensitive climate change policies, actions, and programmes within the African continent and beyond by securing the voices and participation of children in the continental and global climate debates, especially during the Africa Climate Summit that took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 4th-8th September 2023.

This declaration and call to action has been developed by us, children representatives from across the different regions and countries of the African continent. This was done along six thematic groups, namely; Energy Transition, renewable Energy and Green minerals and Manufacturing, Sustainable Agriculture, Land and Water/Ocean use



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Mtoto News

Preamble



The Africa Climate Action Summit comes at the backdrop of increasing impact of climate change in Africa.

For instance, the continent has recorded extreme weather patterns such as, **cyclones** and **floods** in the Southern parts of Africa, **drought** in Eastern and Horn of Africa that is threatening the lives of **4 million children.**







Climate induced migration in Western, Southern and Central Africa as families move to look for a literal green pasture leaving children behind in vulnerable situations



Even though children and young people are seriously threatened by the impact of climate change, they don't have a voice in policy formulation, debates, engagement, and decision – making processes.





Children and young people are not responsible for climate change, yet they bear the greatest burden of its impacts.



1. Energy Transition

Issues: Climate change has caused droughts, and floods. This has led to food insecurity and escalated harmful practices against children including child labor, early marriage, teenage pregnancies and led to children dropping out of school. For example, "drought in West Pokot causes problems to the communities because of lack of food to eat. In Uganda, displacements are common from the frequent landslides, and children are gravely affected.

Recommendations:



The government should promote and support communities to put in place measures to protect them against adverse effect of climate change. Such measures include **supporting communities to build gabions, plant trees** as well as put in place mechanisms to punish those who violate established rules on environmental conservation.





Decision makers should fulfil the promises they make to the electorate. An accountability mechanism should be put in place to track implementation of commitments.





Governments must **ensure that children are meaningfully engaged at all levels of decision-making processes on climate change issues** and other issues affecting them. This can be done by creating platforms for children to present their views to the leadership of their countries like the Children Climate Summit organized with the support of CSOs.





Governments must **invest in green economy** and mining to address the adverse effects of climate change.



2. Renewable Energy and Green minerals and Manufacturing

Issues: Climate change has led to droughts and famine resulting in the death of animals. For communities that depend on animals, like the Maasai of Kenya, this is a big disaster. With no property, parents will lack finances to pay for school fees of their children. In most cases they will marry-off their girls to replace the dead animals or to get finances to pay for school fees for their sons. In such circumstances, girls will be expected to undergo female genital mutilation in preparation for marriage.

Deforestation also leads to loss of habitat for animals leading to migration, death and displacement of animals.

Recommendations:



The government should **create awareness about the impact of climate change** and ways to mitigate adverse impact of climate change. This should include education on disposal of plastics and recycling.



Governments should **partner with civil society organizations, schools and children** to sensitize communities against harmful practices emanating as consequences of climate change. Such practices include child labor, child marriages, teenage pregnancies, female genital mutilation and children dropping out of school to seek a livelihood.







Corruption is a big challenge to efforts to address climate change related issues. This includes tolerating of people illegally cutting down trees.





Governments should promote, incentivize providers or investors of **renewable energy** including solar, bio-gas and hydro-power among others.



3. Sustainable Agriculture, Land and Water/Ocean use

Issues: Weather partners have changed, rivers have dried-up, and when it rains communities experience floods, the excess use of agrochemicals for farming has affected soil quality. This is partly due to deforestation and ignorance by the public and children on sustainable agriculture, land and water use.

Recommendations:



Governments should **allocate finances to support sustainable agriculture** including digging of bore holes and other necessary infrastructure such as building structures to prevent cyclones.





When disaster strikes like displacement, **the government should support children to resettle**. Such support includes medical support as well as to go back to school.





The government should **partner with CSOs to improve the knowledge levels of communities about sustainable agriculture,** land and water use.





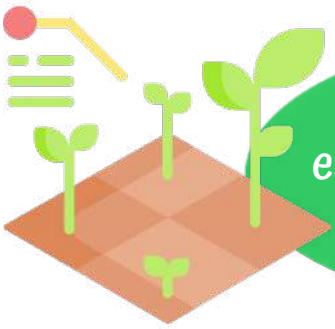
The focus should also be on **rural communities** which are disproportionately affected by climate change.





The government should **promote planting of fruit trees** as well as consumption of fruits. This way we will be promoting our health as well as promotion afforestation.





Put land back into use especially the land which was formally a mining area.



4. Sustainable Infrastructure and Urbanization

Issues: Due to climate change there is shortage of water within the families, communities and in schools because of heatwaves, storms, floods, and drought. When there is drought livestock die and our parents are unable to plough and produce food for us. Our parents sell livestock to support us pay school, so if the livestock die because of drought, they are unable to pay school fees for us. These factors has impacted on the children by causing food insecurity, increased incidences of child labour, early marriages, teenage pregnancies and high rate of school drop outs, crime, joblessness, Female Genital Mutilation.

Recommendations:



Infrastructure development that helps arrest and reverse the adverse effects like building dams.





Investment in progressive agricultural technology like irrigation and also advancement of fruit farming





Consider establishing environment tax for polluters to take responsibility for the actions causing pollution.





They should recognize **and respect children views** and ensure they provide a platform for the children to participate in climate change engagements.





Government should provide necessary resources in the northern part to **create Renewable energy.**



5. Natural capital

Issues: Climate change disrupt ecosystems which affect animals and nature conversation which lead to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, heatwaves, floods, and droughts. These events cause loss of forest, wetlands, and other natural resources in our communities. Also, this result in reduced crop productions, poor livestock productivity and make our communities and families to suffer. Famers are struggling to adapt on these changes, and this affect our environment, economy and food security.

Recommendations:



Government should **invest in nature conservation education in schools** and communities.





Government should support children to lead nature conservation awareness raising campaigns in communities and schools.





Other parts of the world have done a lot of damage to the world; our leaders must demand greater investments from those leaders to make it right.





Leader should initiate and support projects that enhance and support the mitigation of climate change challenges like building of solar panels, wind energy among others.





Leaders should implement the commitment on climate finance.





Government to add more money for companies to mitigate climate change.



6. Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Risk

Issues: The current adaptation and resilience strategies do not include the voices of children, governments and leaders make empty promises and commitments, but they do not implement their promises and commitments. Our rights as children are affected by the climate change but leaders do not think about us when make decisions.

Recommendations:



Decision makers

should **act on their commitments and ensure that the good policies that have been developed** are implemented.





Children should

be involved in decision making because they are more obedient and will always do what they are told unlike adults.





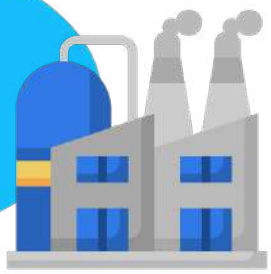
Governments need

to **guarantee children their rights to education, health, and food even during crises caused by climate change** including flooding, displacement droughts, climate related wars etc.





Companies that work with fossil fuels can still pollute the air and so the government should **build the companies away from the communities.**



7. Climate Finance and Carbon credits

Issues: People and companies that pollute the environment which affect our right to healthy and safer environment as children are not punished and they are not doing much to fix the problems they caused to the environment.

Recommendations:

The public including children should hold the government, leaders, and those most responsible for polluting the environment including companies accountable of their actions. Such companies should be denied access to finances if they are to use the funds for building industries that use fossil fuel. Ask for money to build industries that use fossil fuel. Banks should not lend to such organizations.







Governments should put

in place the Climate Finance Act, a law which will hold companies that use fossil fuel accountable for the destroying the environment. The act should penalize companies that use fossil fuel and incentivize people that are using renewable energy.



African leaders should **demand**

compensation from leaders from other parts of the world, especially those from the west because their countries have done a lot of damage to the world and are most responsible for climate change. This should be through financial investments or through investment in technology that will provide solutions to children's environmental challenges







Government to add

more resources for companies to create departments with their active role being reconcile their carbon footprint.




german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT
Implemented by
giz


AfECN
Africa Early Childhood Network


JOINING FORCES
For All Children


PLAN
INTERNATIONAL


Save the Children


Terre des Hommes
International Federation


World Vision


ChildFund
Because we need each other.


SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES


toto
NEWS


CSO Forum
Civil Society Forum on the
African Charter on the Rights
and Welfare of the Child


CRNSA
Child Rights Network for Southern Africa


EACRN
The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network


WACSOF
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CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
FOSCAO
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