



ACCS 2
AFRICA CHILDREN CLIMATE SUMMIT

Children Climate Summit Declaration and Call To Action



foreword

The Africa Children's Climate Summit 2 (ACCS 2) has given us, the children of Africa, another chance to speak. For some, it is the first time; for others who were here in 2023, it is a chance to see what has been done since.

We recognize the progress made a Climate Change Dictionary for Children, a study on how climate change affects African children, a training manual for advocacy, and more spaces for children in forums and side events.

These are important steps, and we are grateful. But listening is not enough. Our voices must be included in real decisions, policies, and actions.

In 2023, the African Children's Climate Declaration carried urgency and truth. The Nairobi Declaration gave Africa unity and a plan for green growth. But the missing thread was the child. Without child-centred action, climate policies forget the very future they are meant to protect.

This year in Addis Ababa, we want more. We want child participation written into national policies, budgets, and systems. We ask governments to look at the declarations already made by children in their own countries and honour them alongside this continental declaration.

We are almost half of Africa's population. The choices made today will shape our tomorrow. This declaration is not just a call to listen it is a demand to act with children at the centre of Africa's climate future.

Preamble



Climate change is already here.
It is disrupting childhood across
Africa.

Droughts, floods, storms, and
heatwaves are making children go
hungry, miss school, and get sick.



We, the children, did not cause this
crisis, but we are paying the highest
price.



Children make up almost half of
Africa's population, yet our voices
are rarely heard in decisions.

Preamble



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says children must be included in decisions that affect them.

We have already spoken in side events, forums, and consultations – but too often our voices carry little weight.



We want to be part of every decision, from local councils to global summits.



This declaration is our demand for urgent, inclusive climate action that protects every child in Africa

1. Child Representation and Policy Inclusion

Issue:

Children are rarely included in climate decisions, even though these decisions directly affect our lives, education, and health. When leaders make promises, they are often not followed up, and policies are written in difficult language that many children cannot understand. This exclusion leaves children powerless against problems like early marriage, child labour, and cycles of poverty that climate change makes worse.

Recommendations:



Guarantee at least 30% child and youth representation in decision-making.

Translate policies into child-friendly and local languages.





Create child and youth advisory councils linked to national climate bodies.

Recommendations

Share children's dialogues publicly, not just in closed meetings.



Track child participation using the NDC Equity Tracker.



2. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness

Issue:

Schools and hospitals are not strong enough to survive floods, droughts, or heatwaves. When disasters happen, children lose their education and health care. Communities also plant trees that die quickly because they are not local species, and families are often unprepared for emergencies.

Recommendations:



Build climate-resilient schools and hospitals with solar, water tanks, and durable materials.



Plant indigenous trees that fit our environment.



Support child- and youth-led early warning systems

3. Food Security and Nutrition

Issue:

Climate change destroys farms, reduces harvests, and leaves many children hungry at home and at school. Families lose traditional farming knowledge, and in some drought-affected areas, children suffer from malnutrition.

Recommendations:



Expand school feeding programs with nutritious, climate-smart foods.

Support Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) to restore indigenous trees.





Build school gardens
and farms for food and
learning.

Teach climate-smart
farming in schools and
youth programs.



Provide food and
clean water in
drought-hit areas.

4. Water and Sanitation

Issue:

Many children drink dirty water, which causes diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid. Poor drainage during floods spreads contamination. Girls especially are affected when schools lack safe toilets and menstrual facilities, which causes them to miss or drop out of school.

Recommendations:



Guarantee clean water access in every school and community.

Fix drainage systems in disaster-prone areas.



Build toilets and menstrual health facilities in all schools.

5. Clean Energy and Technology

Issue:

Many rural schools still have no electricity, leaving children unable to study at night or learn digital skills. Farmers are also limited by lack of clean energy, and polluting companies are not investing in renewable technologies.

Recommendations:



Install solar panels in rural schools.

Promote renewable-powered farming such as solar pumps, rainwater harvesting, and wind energy





Use energy-efficient
lighting and heating in
schools.

Require polluting
companies to fund
green innovation and
education.



Education and Child Empowerment

Issue:

Climate change is taught mostly as theory, which children struggle to connect with real life. Teachers are not trained to link climate change with child rights, and children are excluded from green job opportunities that could shape their future.

Recommendations:



Add hands-on climate projects to all school curricula.

Train teachers on climate justice and child rights.





Teach water
sustainability and
responsible usage.

Offer green job
training, internships,
and fellowships.



Use creative methods
like art, drama, and
digital campaigns to
build awareness.

7. Funding and Youth-Led Initiatives

Issue:

Children's climate projects rarely receive financial support, and most funding is too complicated for children to access or understand. Rural and underserved communities are often left out completely.

Recommendations:



Allocate national climate finance for child- and youth-led projects.

Support grassroots organizations in underserved areas.





Promote arts-based
activism and digital
campaigns to amplify
child voices.

Make funding
processes simple and
child-friendly.



8. Accessible and Inclusive Communication

Issue:

Climate policies and updates are shared in technical terms that children cannot follow. Many young people don't know about NDCs, carbon credits, or what their governments are committing to.

Recommendations:



Publish child-focused impact assessments with every NDC update.

Use radio, social media, and local languages to reach children.



Create youth-led accountability platforms to track climate progress.

9. Mental Health Support

Issue:

Children experience deep stress, trauma, and anxiety when disasters strike or when they fear for their future. But most countries do not provide counselling or safe spaces for affected children.

Recommendations:



Provide mental health counselling in schools and communities.

Provide mental health counselling in schools and communities.



Train teachers and caregivers to provide psychosocial support.

10. Focus on Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

Issue:

Children in rural areas, informal settlements, high-risk regions, and children with disabilities are often excluded from climate plans. When families are desperate, harmful coping strategies such as early marriage, FGM, child labour, and trafficking increase

Recommendations:



Prioritize services for vulnerable children and communities.

Guarantee equal access to schools, water, and opportunities.



Protect children from harmful practices during climate crises.

conclusion

We, the children of Africa, have spoken. Climate change is not waiting, and neither can we. Every drought, every flood, every disaster steals pieces of our childhood our health, our schools, and our dreams. Yet we refuse to be seen only as victims. We are leaders, thinkers, and problem-solvers.

We recognize the steps our governments and partners have already taken since the last ACCS, but we say clearly: it is not enough. The Addis Ababa Declaration must not just listen to children's voices, but incorporate them fully into decisions and actions.

We call on all African governments to look back at the declarations made by the children of their own countries, and to honour them alongside this continental voice. Together, they form one truth: children are almost half of Africa's population, and every decision made on climate affects us first, and it affects us most.

This is our demand, our hope, and our promise: Do not leave us behind. Walk with us, plan with us, and act with us. Because protecting children is protecting Africa's future.