





# 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 Chance.

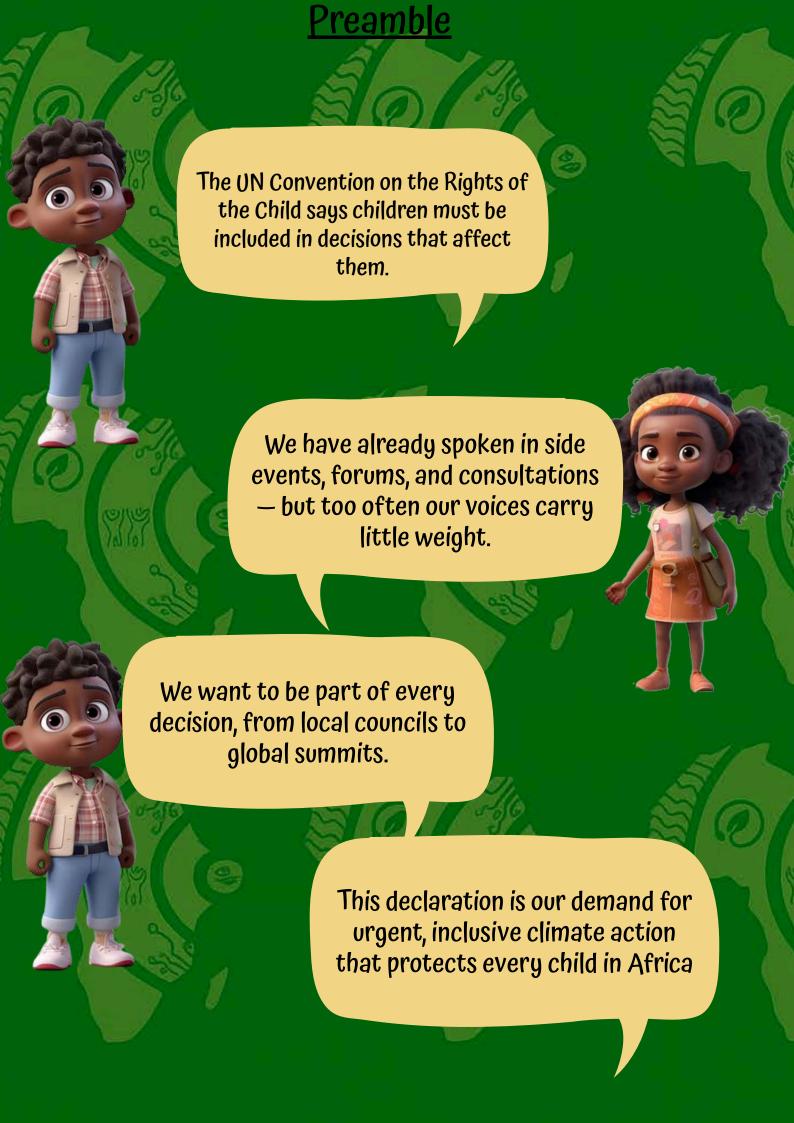
We recognize the progress made a Climate Change Dictionary for Children, a study on how climate change affects African children, a training manual for advocacy, and more spaces for children in forums and side events.

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.





# 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 childfriendly and local languages.



# 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.

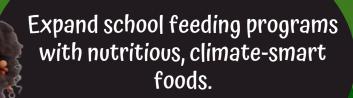
Support child- and youth-led early warning systems

# 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:**



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



# 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:**



Fix drainage systems in disaster-prone areas.



# 5. Clean Energy and Technology

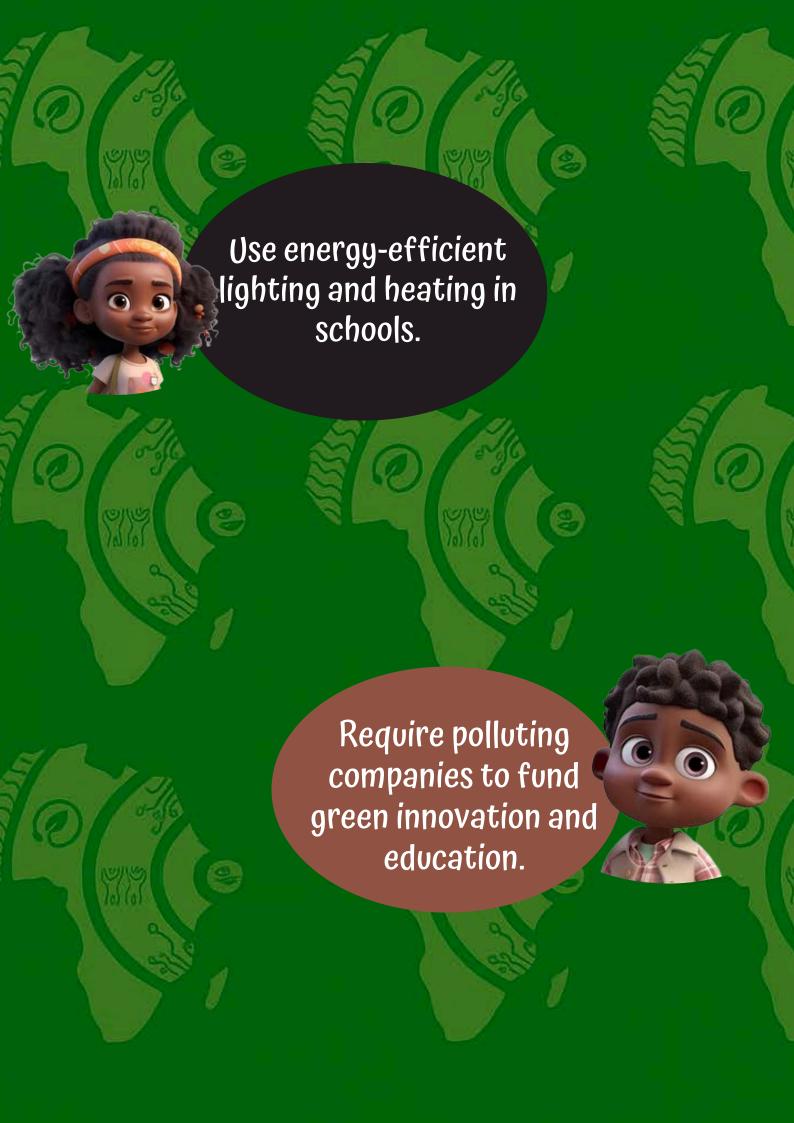
#### Issue:

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:**



Promote renewablepowered farming such as solar pumps, rainwater harvesting, and wind energy

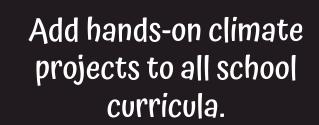


# Education and Child Empowerment

#### 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:



Train teachers on climate justice and child rights.



# 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:



Support grassroots organizations in underserved areas.



# 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.

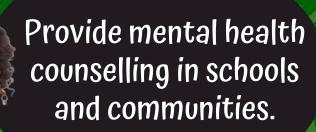


# 9. Mental Health Support

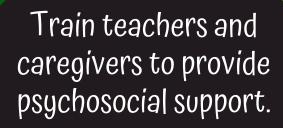
#### Issue:

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.



## 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.