



INSTITUTE OF
CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENT



Save the Children

DECLARATION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE
SYMPOSIUM ON
YOUTH AND
CHILDREN AND
CALL TO ACTION



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PREAMBLE

We, the Youth, children, climate Activist, and environmental organizations, gathered for the climate change symposium on youth and children in Mogadishu, Somalia, from 23 to 24 October 2023, in the presence of government officials, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, women, and academia, hereby:

1. **Appreciate** the Institute of climate and environment of SIMAD University and Save Children Somalia for organizing the Climate change symposium for youth and children that aims to empower the youth and children in Mogadishu.

2. **Recognize** the critical importance of the youth and children as drivers of change and the custodians of our shared future.

3. **Commend** the commitment of all interested stakeholders in Somalia to contribute addressing the urgent issues of climate change and its cascading impact of livelihood and wellbeing of the people.

4. **Express** a concern that the expected impact of El Niño which may result loss of lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable people those are exposed to the crisis.

5. **Acknowledge** that climate change poses a severe threat to our environment, economy, and social fabric, and its impacts are most acutely felt by the vulnerable, particularly the children and youth.

6. **Reaffirm** the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, namely equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and respective capabilities.

7. **Recognize** the progressive achievements of Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Federal Government of in tackling the climate crisis through institutional building, systems strengthening, policy enactment, and stakeholder engagement towards climate adaptation and realization of Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) in the spirit of #GreenerSomalia.

8. **Emphasize** the importance Somalia's participation at COP28 with considerations the voice of Somali children and youth to achieve climate adaptation, resilience building and sustainable future for current generation and generations to come.

COLLECTIVE ACTION NEEDED

1. To the Federal Government of Somalia, we urge:

- a) Accelerate the co-creation of rights-based legal framework and implementation of policies and strategies that prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a focus on youth and children.
- b) Expend the Collaboration with local communities, academia, and all other partners to effectively address climate change-related issues.

2. To the Civil society organizations (CSOs), we ask:

- A. Enhance cooperation and coordination among CSOs to maximize the impact of climate-related Actions.
- B. Advocate for increased comprehensive support to advance innovative, needs-based,

and impact-oriented initiatives and programs towards resilience building and locally led climate adaptation across Somalia.

3. To private institutions and the Somali community, we urge:

- a) To Champion the transition of sustainability and eco-friendly practices towards Net-Zero
- b) To cooperate with the academia, and youth organizations in supporting their climate initiatives through corporate social responsibility and other support systems
- c) Play active roles in mentoring and engaging youth and children in climate action, education, and awareness campaigns.

4. We acknowledge the critical importance of youth and children in climate action by:

- a) Recognizing their innovative ideas, energy,



and determination as valuable assets in the fight against climate change.

b) Emphasizing the need to provide education and support for young leaders and environmental advocates to drive change.

5. We encourage academia and research organizations to:

a) Support research and educational initiatives focusing on climate change, fostering innovation, and raising awareness.

b) Collaborate with youth and children to provide meaningful opportunities and platforms to amplify their voices and ideas to be heard and integrated into climate policies.



CALL TO ACTION

We, therefore, commit to:

- 01** Act collectively, decisively, and urgently to address the climate crisis, recognizing that the well-being and future of our youth and children depend on our actions.
- 02** Mobilize resources and expertise to support climate resilience activities and initiatives that directly involve youth and children.
- 03** Foster innovation and knowledge sharing to find sustainable solutions to climate challenges.
- 04** Advocate for green policy transition that prioritizes equity, youth and children's participation, and the protection of the most vulnerable.
- 05** Empower our youth and children as the leaders and changemakers of today and tomorrow, providing them with all the necessary tools and, resources, to safeguard the well-being of the people and the planet.

ADOPTED by Somali Youth and children at the Chimaltenango symposium for youth and children in Mogadishu on 24th October 2023 in Mogadishu-Somalia



**Save the
Children**

GET INVOLVED

Who we work with is just as important as the work we do. Collaborating with partners is critical to driving and delivering change. Through our partnerships, we develop local solutions that can work for lasting impact. *Want to contribute to our journey, Contact us.*



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