

Youth, Intergenerational Equity and Climate Justice

Nothing about us, without us



Overview:



The climate crisis will become more acute for current and future generations.



In the Pacific region, **at least half** of the population is below 23 years of age.



Climate change is also a matter of intergenerational equity and justice for the current Pacific youth and for future generations.



Current and future generations contribute the least to this climate crisis, but stand to inherit and suffer the worst consequences.

Key policy asks:

On Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE):

- Ensure that Pacific Island countries have designated an ACE Focal Point to oversee the mainstreaming of ACE - related activities into the respective national initiatives and programmes.
- Ensure that youth and children representatives are consulted and meaningfully engaged in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes for national ACE - initiatives and programmes.

On Climate Finance, Adaptation, Mitigation & Loss and Damage:

- Advocate and ensure that there are mechanisms at the national level to ensure the effective participation of children and youth in decision making on climate change.
- Advocate for youth and child-specific criteria to be mainstreamed in multilateral funds, to ensure that youth and children are not only beneficiaries but are also **active contributors** to climate-related funded initiatives and programmes.
- Actively pursue the proposal for a UN General Assembly Resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change.
- Scale-up efforts to respect, promote and consider the rights of children and young people in the implementation of the Paris Agreement at all levels, including recognition of their specific vulnerabilities.
- Adopt institutional and administrative measures, as well as partnerships, at national and international levels to actively pursue and enhance coherence and a cross-cutting focus on youth and children in climate action, including with respect to UNFCCC decision-making processes, workstreams, and implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Advocate for global recognition and fulfilment of children's inalienable right to a healthy environment, and to take steps to enshrine this right in regional treaties and frameworks, national Constitutions and/or legislation.

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Recommendations

- 1** Strengthen the capacity of youth and children by investing in and integrating climate change in school curricula across all levels (primary and secondary schools).
- 2** Scale-up and accelerate investment in child and youth-responsive adaptation and mitigation measures, supporting those who are most at - risk.
- 3** Provide reliable support for the most vulnerable countries and communities to address loss and damage on the ground and give voice and agency to youth in frontline climate - change affected communities.
- 4** Meaningfully involve young people in the formulation of national, sub-national and community climate adaptation & mitigation plans, formulation and review of policies.
- 5** Provide support by dedicating resources [technical & financial] and investing in youth-led initiatives, including in capacity development, climate-smart agriculture initiatives, innovative solutions, development of low carbon technologies, youth skill development towards green jobs, and youth empowerment.
- 6** Support and strengthen climate change capacity building for young people, and encourage youth participation in global NDC Partnership activities.

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