**2020 Annual Day on the Rights of the Child at the Human Rights Council**

Realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment

1st July

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| ***A healthy environment as a child rights concern: setting the scene***  Morning panel: 10h-12h |

**Chair:**  H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council

[**Opening statement**](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26022&LangID=E)**:**  Ms. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Today’s panel discussions give us a key opportunity to discuss realizing the rights of the child through a healthy environment – including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survival, health, well-being and development of children depends on an environment that is safe, clean, healthy and sustainable. Environmental harms severely affect the youngest children. Indigenous children and those from low-income and marginalized communities are also among those most affected. Many of the effects of environmental degradation on children and their rights are completely preventable. And today they are being compounded by COVID-19.

Over-exploitation of our environment increases the risk of infectious diseases like COVID-19 jumping from animal to human hosts. The pandemic is a very powerful example of the threat to human well-being that results from environmental damage. It intersects with other forms of environmental degradation, such as air pollution, which exacerbates people’s vulnerability to severe health outcomes when they are exposed to COVID-19. Although many children do escape the worst health outcomes from this virus, they are heavily burdened by the multiple socio-economic impacts and child protection risks the pandemic generates.

Our response to COVID-19 must focus on effective, child rights-based measures that protect and benefit those in most vulnerable situations, while advancing efforts to fulfil human rights and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

We need to build back better, and more sustainably, from this crisis. Our COVID-19 responses must be internationally coordinated, cooperative, evidence-based, child-centred – and they must integrate strong action to prevent biodiversity loss, childhood exposure to pollution and toxic wastes, and environmental harm.

It is time for global recognition of the human right to a healthy environment – recognition that can lead to stronger policies, at all levels, to protect our planet and our children.

The right to a healthy environment is grounded in measures to ensure a safe and stable climate; a toxic-free environment; clean air and water; and safe and nutritious food. It encompasses the right to an education with respect for nature; to participation; to information; and to access to justice.

Children’s specific vulnerabilities impose a heightened duty on States to make sustained efforts to protect children from harm guided by the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: non-discrimination, right to life, survival and development, best interests of the child and the right to participate.

Businesses, too, have a responsibility to protect the rights of the child, including the right to a healthy environment, in their activities and operations.

We will continue to advocate and assist governments around the world to take action to address the effects of environmental harm on the rights of the child, and ensure that no child is left behind.

We will strengthen our work to ensure that business actors adopt human rights standards, including on children's rights, throughout their operations.

And we will continue to work for a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment – one in which all children everywhere, both now and in the future, will be able to thrive and grow.

**Moderator:**  H.E. Mr. Walter Stevens, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

The thematic focus cannot be more topical, the int comm has long recognized that environmental harm has a very bad effect on our children and their rights. Children continue being exposed to negative effects of environmental degradation, climate change and different types of pollution, as other substances and toxic waste.

We need to ensure that the rights of the children are a primary concern in our response to the ecological crisis we are faced with. The CRC has specific obligations to take steps to protect the health environment. The EU has agreed to undertake specific measures to minimize adverse effects of chemicals and waste, limit global warming and also protect the environment, to robust domestic policies, and collective action and also in several multilateral agreements.

They try to do their part in the environmental action, by integration amongst others, the protection of health and safe and sustainable environment across their legislations, policies and programs. The main response to the impact of environmental harm, including children is the European green deal. This is a step change to scale up EU actions on sustainable development and to address the ongoing ecological and environmental crisis, that urgently needs our actions. It has a comprehensive approach to transform the economy of the EU so that there is no net emission of greenhouse gas by 2050. It also aims to protect conserve and enhance our \_\_\_ capital. And protect the health and well being of our citizens with environmental related risks

To address the interlinked environmental challenge, the Commission will adopt a zero pollution act in air, water and soil. It will also, present a chemical strategy, on sustainability and new measures to address pollution on high scale level of industry installations to ensure toxic free environment.

As part of the green deal, the Farm Strategy, will ensure secure food security and meet aspirations for and equitable and eco friendly food that is so important for children rights. The actions against environmental harm for children is seen in the support for development countries and humanitarian actions.

How does the CRC relate to the green deal? The principles of the convention guide the design and implementation and enforcing laws, regulations and policies and programs. The Committee has underlined that there is a need to be assessment of the level it can affect children. For the EU it also implies to hear children’s voice

EU and GRULAC will present the res on the rights of the child, in the realization in the healthy environment. There is a need for a child centered healthy environment.

**Speakers and themes:**

**Mr. Clarence Nelson, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child** - *Realizing children’s rights to a healthy environment and ensuring accountability*

(Based on his own experience and consultations that took place in Samoa)

The pacific is a vulnerable place to effects of environmental degradation, with extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels and lands drowning.

The Committee believes that there is a moral imperative for our generation for the sake of our children is to reverse the downwards spiral of environmental damage and climate change. We have seen the unforeseen positive effect of COVID-19 with a reduction of human activities, with a healing of the planet.

How can we safeguard the environment for child and hold states accountable?

The starting point is the CRC art 24- the enjoyment highest attainable standards of health + obligation of States parties to promote and encourage international cooperation with. view to achieve the full realization of this rights, with the particular need of developing countries.

Art 29: right to the education and to the development for the natural environment

GC15 (the indivisibility and interdependence of children’s rights (para 7., the realization of the right to health is indispensable for the enjoyment of the other rights.

The right to health and sustainable environment is inextricably linked to the other rights of the CRC

The work of the Committee: The Committee has given several COBs regarding environment and climate change. The Committee tries to improve its COBS to address these issues.

The last GDG was regarding environment and children rights with children participation with really good outcomes.

The Samoa Extraordinary session was another innovative approach, there was a special session with child rights defends from various pacific states on climate change and the environment hosted by the Asian Development Bank. This is an innovative action that needs to be reproduced

**Dr. Maria Neira**, Director- Environment, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization- *Children’s environmental health: the effect of environmental degradation on children*

One of every 4 children are today dying because they have been exposed to environmental risk factors. This because they have no access to water, sanitation or to basic services for a healthy environment. Basic recommendations of the WHO and human rights are not assured for many people around the world.

Children are exposed to toxic chemicals since they are used to work with them due to their small hands. Air pollution also affects children, not only by dead but also specifically their neurodevelopment, even before being born. We need to look at the causes of the causes of the diseases.

How to join forces? Sectorial policies are available and need to be used, for instance to have access to clean fuels, access to clean water and sanitation, the schools will have the minimal regulations and not exposed to toxics, proper infrastructure in hospitals, agricultural and transportation politics. There is a need to improve the environment risk factors, the best investment for the child’s future

WHO Healthy and Green Recovery Manifesto: 6 prescriptions.

* Respect of nature, better relationship with the environment- animal and human health are linked
* Providing the basic services (water and electricity, health services and houses
* Investing on renewable sources of energy, no more dependency on fossil energies
* How to build cities? Sustainable food systems in the waste management. How to promote a less polluted environment in cities

**Junior**,Child environmental human rights defender from Côte d’Ivoire(*video message*) - *Children’s environmental rights in perspective*

To facilitate the participation of children there has been capacity building regarding children rights. Considering the difficulties faced, they created the Children’s group of San Pedro. Children average age of 15 years

* Carried out awareness raising regarding children rights
* Talk to friends regarding the impact of business in children’s rights
* Plan to produce a document to raise awareness of children's rights
* 84% of children interviewed affirmed that business pollute the environment
* Following recommendations to the authorities have been made:
  + green spaces and spaces for children to play
  + Ban of parking of big trucks in roadways and children playgrounds
  + Set up a mechanism to gather complaints of the community and children regarding pollution
  + Involve community and young leaders and NGOs for environment to grant authorization to companies to set outside communities' areas

Moderator: It is important for children to take action, important to raise awareness.

**LIST of speakers:**

Estonia (behalf of Nordic and Baltic countries): Safe, clean and sustainable environment is the basis for our existence. States need to address HR in the CRC for environmental damage, if not they will fail in the implementation of the Convention. The children participation shows the urgent need for States to act regarding these issues.

It is the time to act and act together, engage stakeholders, including children. States need to protect and ensure children rights from environmental harm. Join efforts to minimize environmental damage.

Pakistan (behalf of the OIC): reaffirm their commitment to the child’s rights. The Islam teaching are based on children’s rights. They emphasize primary care givers have a fundamental role by providing a healthy environment. Steps to demonstrate their commitment by raising awareness among children and the need of their involvement in the discussion of their rights.

EU: environment degradation is a pressing HR challenge with transgenerational consequences. The CRC has explicit obligation regarding the health of children and respect for healthy environment. These are not the only rights. The harm is regarding more rights.

The EU has one of the highest standards, with specific requirements of human health and safety. Example to protect children from hazardous elements. Directives that prohibits certain elements in toys.

Need to do more for children participation and access to justice for children, regarding this issue!

Question: How can we improve access to justice in these matters? How to make access to remedies to children more effective)

Burkina Faso (African group): need to implement better rules to accelerate the access to a healthy environment. the African group is alarmed by the marked increase of certain substances in the territorial waters in our countries. Regrets the increased the env degradation caused by climate change that leads to natural disasters.

Urges for a collective collaborative coordinate approach to state and non-sate actors to attack the risk linked to environmental degradation

Bahamas (CARICOM): children can lack access to water, food, and being exposed to diseases caused by one tropical storm. Children are susceptible to certain diseases that are related to climate change and linked to children mortality. Government, national stakeholders, and members of intern community are bound to act against the environment degradation for the well-being of children. The objective is for children to be able to enjoy their rights.

Underscore for collective action and realize all the commitment to realize the children’s rights through a healthy environment

Slovenia (group Austria, and Croatia): the COVID should be a waking point regarding climate change. Reminder that healthy environment and health are linked. Welcome of the preparation of the UN policy brief on the impact on children.

Evey year we reach a new bottom regarding environmental degradation. There is an indisputable link between human rights and environment.

What is the role of judiciary mechanism to protect the right of children to a healthy environment?

Ecuador: States must rely on existing conventions and frameworks to ensure the protection of children rights and a healthy environment. Ecuador has several groups and regarding vulnerable groups. Impact of climate change on children and adolescents.

The challenges need the cooperation of all international actors. Carry out environ impact assessment, due diligence, and effective mechanism for reparations.

Qatar: priorities the rights of children, they are part of the health resources of our countries. We provide sanitizing services to children in a wide manner. WE determine air pollutants in order to protect children from their impacts. Workshops on climate change in schools, to sensitize children to these issues. Assistance to developing countries facing environmental damage, program to provide education to children.

Committed to continue their efforts to provide a safe, heathy environment to all children to be an intricate part of our national policy.

Angola: fully aligns with the African group statement. States need to be creative to tackle these issues, if their main objective is the integral development of a children. Wherever the children are the government needs to protect and promote all rights of the CRC.

In 2018 launch a national campaign Born Free to Shine to reduce the HIV transmission between mother and children, promoting a healthy upbringing. Recently call center SOS Crianza to fight violence against children, so the State can respond in a prompt and effective way to stop abuses against children.

Concrete actions to implement services for children, with temporary spaces for children for quarantine spaces

At the time of all kind of restrictions, how can we reconcile this situation with the realization of children HR?

China: a healthy development needs to be fostered for children’s rights. China continues to improve the health plan to address the different needs of different groups including children, without discrimination.

Improve nutrition and health plan in poor sections. Mother health express implement for water access and healt access in poor areas. Principles and frameworks of global response to climate change based on the Tokyo and Paris Agreement. Create a sound and safe environment for children’s rights.

Japan: Need of actions to address the impact of the pandemic to vulnerable groups, like children. Japan will also express their commitment to promote and protect children rights. Actions to have a healthy environment child.

CRC (Agnes speech)

Makes mother matter: key role of the parents, mainly the mother. A healthy environment is key during the early years. Above all, the mother exposure in the pregnancy and breast feeding can have life consequences on the child. They are also in the best place to mitigate the exposure of children. Need to recognize mothers as key actors to ensure a healthy environment.

International Planned Parenthood Federation: in the aftermath of environmental crisis girls are more at risk to have their rights affected. For climate change, for instance shelters are not ready for girl's needs, affecting their empowerment, sexual helth and equality.

States needs to protect and ensure their sexual rights. No environment where children’s right is violated can be considered healthy.

Saudi Arabia: committed to protect children from exploitation. Law on protection of the rights of the child. Huge strikes in the field of protection the environment, enshrined of art 32 of the constitution. the government is responsible for the protection of the environment. Importance of the protection of the rights of the child and giving them an enabling environment.

Protect children from any env. Hazards, international initiative to protect children in the cyber space. Protection from cyber hazards and cyber-crimes.

Russia: We cannot agree with the argument that participation of children of different ages, this approach is against t art 5 of the CRC. It can0t be imposed unilateral acts to states, like GC. Cooperation with States can only be through fruitful dialogue. The cooperation between mechanism for protection of children need to be in strict compliance with the mandates and not overlapping.

Pakistan: these impacts are reversible, but we need to mitigate with polices backed by science, policies and the international actors. Global response can help to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment. Children caught in armed conflicts are deprived of their rights

Int. Comm need to assure to provide a healthy environment for children, encourage the panelist the consequence of violence against children

Senegal: children are included between the priorities of national social security policies. Disparities between law and politics. What measures do your respond to implement better public policies to ensure the healthy environment for children?

Armenia: HR based approach with vulnerable groups will lead actions nationally and internationally. Gov opted for more sustainable and green solutions. Work with the private sector might reduce the env damage in several areas. Env education is vital for children from early stages. Three-year project with UNICEF.

Ask: views on the issue to access to green technologies to developing countries?

Tunisia: it is important to provide an enabling env to all children without any discrimination. The country has stressed the importance to enable all children asway from any discrimination to defend their rights and to prove them with a sound growth and raise their awareness of their rights. Important to reframe from any reprisals or restrictions against the civils society and HR defenders. Need to revise the environmental policies to integrate policies in the strategies to provide the societies with sound environment to protect the children rights.

Venezuela: children are full subject of rights protected by specialized tribunals and legislation. the right to a heathy environment is in the constitution. Children have individual and collective right to have a healthy environment. All children and adolescent have the right to a healthy and balanced environment. Works to attain a clean environment in all communities, so children and adolescent can exercise their rights.

Regarding the plan for 2025 efforts of environmental agenda, regarding monitoring systems, geo satellites systems that will feed into environmental policies for the enjoyment of their children.

India: efforts to protect and improve the environment. Constitutional amendment to environment protection. Judiciary has environmental jurisprudence, progressive rights. The SC has said that the right to a healthy environment is part of the right to health. Participation of all stakeholders including children.

How to promote children participation in policy adoption?

Namibia: close interlinkage exists between inequalities and discrimination of children in certain groups. These includes pollutions. Urge to hear the voice of innocent children. Golden opportunity to change policies. Need to prioritize that children live in a healthy and sustainable environment.

Question: Business responsibilities on a healthy environment.

Syria: need more light on the responsibilities of the int. Community, more when the policies of some states against other (unilateral coercive measures that hinder Sates to provide services). Also, what happens with the challenges regarding embargoes, terrorism, and the unilateral coercive measures, how have they affected to ensure the rights of children. Regarding life, education and health.

Iran: agree that children specific vulnerability and social status impose the need for states to protect children for env harm. This need to be by prioritizing the BIC with a child-based approach.

Depleted uranium is one of the examples, actors that sell these elements needs to be punished also. The unilateral sectoral actions have prevented Dates to import necessary materials to prevent environmental harm and pollution

Spain: circular strategy to ensure a transition for a healthy environment is inevitable that children are the beneficiaries of these policies the participation of children in designing and evaluating these measures is quite difficult. They want to know experiences and the view of the panel how children can have their voice heard.

Philippines: it has strengthened with laws ensuring their participation. In accountability in 1993 there was a ruling that inspired environmental cases around the world. Collaboration between civil society, private sector and government managed to have a lead-free painting in the Philippines.

International Youth and student movement: ensure that global warming is below 1.5 degrees, this is the most important action we can take to ensure a healthy environment for children. Measures for the pandemic should be going backwards and should allow children participation.

Institut pour le droit et le développement. Need to think of children in Yemen, where children have been deprived of home, schools and health facilities.

**Concluding remarks:**

**Moderator**: this is an issue of great concern that needs our urgent attention with a multisectoral approach. what more can we do?

**Mr. Nelson**: one theme that is common in the comments and question: what measures can be to better implement the right to a healthy environment. Children are not shy to talk regarding environmental issues. One suggestion is that we should ask them. Design mechanism that allow them to participate and give impact in any measure or policy that might impact on the environment. They have simple wisdom that children can give.

Another option, children rights impact reports that are implemented in some States, can be thought for other States to be implemented.

International judiciary and how to protect the rights: many environmental cases before national courts in Asia or India, NZ has a specialized court in this matter, other have a sharing information exercise to mitigate delays to bring the matters to the court. International cooperation between jurisdictions of government is needed.

**Dr. Neira**: need for impact of children rights assessment. Need to look for opportunities provided by legislation. Court in the UK is having an approach of maybe recognizing air pollution for the cause of death of a child with asthma.

Enforcement of the legislation that already exist, like removing lead form gasoline or paint. Need for accelerated enforcement.

Regarding partnerships: the movements of youth demonstrating for a better environment, need to capitalize on that and consult with them.

Look for the COP 26, global consultation on climate change and health.

**Junior**: the way of the approach adapted with children is helpful. Need to put a framework for consultations in communities and with children is needed. Access to children’s groups and NGOs to have access to recommendations about environmental degradation is needed.

**Moderator:** Need to be done more in a multidimensional approach. Need to raise awareness, education, information gathering, impact assessment, research, but also to listen to children themselves. Also, aspects of legislation. Possibility of accountability, judicial aspects that need to be considered. Aspect that links to the humanitarian and development issue, how to provide basic services to children. How to invest in clean energy. And need for a collective approach of the international community, and the private sector. The CRC needs to be the guide for our action.

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| ***Ensuring children’s rights through a healthy environment: a call to action***  Afternoon Panel: 15h-17h |

**Chair:**  **H.E. Ms. Socorro Flores Liera**, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council

Guaranteeing children’s rights through a healthy environment.

**Moderator:**  **H.E. Mr. Ricardo González Arenas**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

We should not forget that children found themselves in a vulnerable position in the face of climate change and environment harms. They also represent our own future and will receive the heritage of environmental problems for the time being we haven’t found solutions to these problems.

We have seen a raise in the awareness of young people in the protection of the environment. We need to listen to them to have this reflected in decisions of politicians that have the obligation to protect and guarantee children’s rights, as to listen to their inputs. empowering children should be part of States that exercise the rule of law.

We need to have a special chapter in all norms regarding environment and children’s views.

**Speakers and themes:**

**Mr. David R. Boyd,**Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment    
(*video message*) - *The time for action is now: recognizing children's right to live in a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment*

We are not treating our home with the respect it deserves, the last illustration is the COVID pandemic. Hundreds of millions of children missed school, being with friends and enjoy nature.

Many people don’t understand that governments ignore scientist warning about coronavirus, regarding environmental issues that created a perfect scenario for the spill of animal diseases to human. As governments ignore this, they continue ignoring about the gravity about the environmental crisis. Children rights are threatening and violated by this matter. States had also ignored scientists’ warnings about the gravity of the global climate crisis. Young people were key actors on this issue,

One thing in common of this young people, they love this planet, but they fear for their future. they want their right to a ssafe, clean healthy and sustainable environment  and for states to implement this right. We need to respond for their call of actions, need to pass a resolution that everyone has the right, specifically children, for a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment . More than 500 good practices in my States, but is not enough, need to replace fossil fuel, stop deforestation, prevent pollution. We can and we must full our commit to child’s rights.

The world must respond to children’s calls to action, and the Council must pass a resolution to recognize that everyone, especially children, has the right to a safe and clean environment. States needed to scale up in replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, preventing pollution by shifting towards a circular economy.

The right to safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment  can be one of the most important HR for the 21St century if we implement it.

**Mr. Sanjay Wijesekera**, Director of Programmes, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (*video message*)

Globally more than 1. 7million children under 5 lose their lives because of avoidable environmental impacts, also it causes disease, and disabilities. The environmental crisis is a children’s crisis.

Children's access to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment  is essential to its physical, mental psychological development and necessary to the realization of their rights. UNICEF fully support of the global recognition of the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment.

We want to highlight the role of children's as agent of change, youth participation at the national level and global level is already happening and is expected to increase as they continue gaining spaces to influence the political agenda. These spaces provide great momentum to participate in decision making and call for increase commitment and urgent action of States.

Children have the right to share their view concerning them and to be hears, as well as to peaceful assembly. UNICEF helps to enjoy these rights, through providing information, elevating their voice in the climate discourse by promoting their involvement and by including children and young people in climate negotiation and platforms, such as the Conference of Parties.

The way the world responded to the COVID-19 crisis could be an opportunity to reimagine a greener, more sustainable future.

Calls on all state to hear children and uphold their responsibility to provide a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment to this generation and the ones to come. This is a precondition for the enjoyment of the rights and a necessity of dignified life on Earth for all.

**Carmen Juliana**,Child environmental human rights defender from Colombia    
(*video message*) - *Children’s views and concerns on their rights and the environment - The Children's Environmental Rights Initiative*

Juliana Torres Marín, i’m 15 years old, i am a middle school student. I live in the Támesis mountains, heart of the Antioquia southwest, in Colombia. I represent the struggles, resistances and discontent of Latin American childhood and youth. Represent their dreams and hopes for a better world.

Demands the compliance with our environmental rights, which historically have been unknown and violated. This situation is intensified even more in the current environmental crisis, product of the bad decisions of world leaders, who, in many times, have prioritized a predatory idea of nature over the good living of Latin American peoples.

The environmental conflicts in my Territory are mainly generated by extractive projects of the mining, energy and agro-industrial sectors; which affect the peasant tradition, indigenous culture and our water bodies.

To understand the problems that affect us, you, representatives of the UN, must understand that, although we have similar conflicts to the rest of the world, we have very different contexts and we are a diverse people, coming from different cultures, realities and regions.

We have identified some of the problems that affect us the most: the violation of children's rights by the actions of companies and governments, unbridled consumerism, the idea that we own nature, the imposition of adult ideas, the lack of critical education, corruption in all its forms and expressions, and the unawareness of the importance of biodiversity.

We demand that our ancestral ideas, knowledge and practices (indigenous, peasant and afro) be the basis for creating a new healthy and harmonious environment, in relation to nature for present generations, of now, since, although the problems we are experiencing have a complete impact on the future, they are real and cannot go on holding back.

**List of speakers:**

EU: today’s discussion has indicated that these are indivisible and interrelated. Open consultations on their children strategies that mainstream children rights will be open to hear their points of view. Children across the world start showing leadership and demining their voices to be heard. This should be celebrated.

The EU response to conserve and safeguard the environment is the EU green deal, a transformative approach. We want to lead the world to a green world through example.

How can we strengthen intergenerational dialogue and accountability?

Iceland (Nordic and Baltic States): the impact is clear, and it has been highlighted. Importance of acting and acting together, including children and young people. A concrete measure to action was adopted in 1998 in the Oslo convention that still carries a valuable message, the right of everyone to receive information of decisions on environmental matters that affect hem and the right to participate.

They have included children and young people on conversation of environment and climate change. Recognize they need to do more

Question: how do we best communicate effectively to children and young people on climate change and how can we ensure their meaningful participation?

Monaco: young people are suffering while we face the situation. Need to the broader understanding of the right of children to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment. Since 2017 they have been devoted to recognizing that everyone has the right to live in a healthy environment. It has worked ensure the realization of the rights of the child. In 2019 they signed a declaration on children and climate action, commitment to support them and find vulnerabilities.

The gov has provided financial assistance to the SR to fulfil the rights of everyone

How can we ensure a more significant involvement of young people to find solution to environmental issues?

Fiji: the protection of the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment is constitutionally guaranteed. The CRC leads the environmental policy. Despite strong constitution and legal declarations there is a long way to go. An issue that is prevalent Is marked in the SR report to the mission to Fiji, he ensured that there were consultations with children. In this context, a girl put an example of their psychological consequences due to the climate change.

What are the best practices to address the negative impact on children’s health?

Sierra Leone: several achievements on local legislation and policies with children. Children Rights act 2007 with wide range of measure like establishing the national commission for children. It supports and engages with further guidelines of children rights and the environment. supports the call to the formal recognition of the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment. Need to international cooperation and evidenced base approach to avoid harm due to environmental pollution.

Japan: sustainability is one of the most important actors to protect children.

Colombia: children are social engines and have interest, capacities and special vulnerabilities and the need to be protect and oriented to ensure their rights. Need to focus in the transversally nature of the CRC. Needs to strict compliance with international standards regarding environmental issues and children rights. Important to ensure the integrity and preservation of the environment, same as the planning of the sustainable use of the environment.

How can the current health crisis affect the call for action and what strategies can you propose?

Panama: environmental degradation resulting from climate change is a highly urgent issue that does not allow children to enjoy their rights, exacerbating vulnerabilities. the left waste after armed conflicts affect child

How can the HRC look into this issue? We all are witness to the call of action shared by young activists and we need to protect their right to a healthy environment and ensure their access to justice and remedies in situations of env degradation. Also, important to establish educational programmes to respond to current challenges.

Protecting the rights through a focus that looks to all issues is fundamental to ensure the rights of everyone.

Cuba: national action plan adopted that covers all the aspect of the CRC and protocol. All children and adolescent in Cuba have access sot free health and education. In their integral education we need a healthy and a safe environment that we need to use for the future. Development of special activities with healthy recreation for children. Even if they have an economic crisis due to the embargo they have worked hardly for children’s rights.

Germany: aligns EU statement, safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment is essential to the realization of children's rights. Climate change aggravates conflict, causes fled and migration, children are often disproportionate affected. No doubt that we need to do more for climate protection and adaptation to climate adaptation. We need everyone's commitment.

FAO: children working in agricultural sectors is considered child labour. 71% of the global total is in agricultural sector. Child labours perpetuate a circle of poverty for children, families and communities. Address the root causes of child labour as poverty and lack of social protection.

Terres des Hommes: joint declaration with Child Rights Connect.

Consejo Indigenista: environment is necessary to fulfil children’s rights. Children in brazil live in danger, risk of mental and physical risk. Need to protect indigenous children rights.

South Africa: aligned with Burkina Faso. The more important environmental threats are in home at schools mainly in rural areas and high poverty.

Iraq: we shared the concerns and praised the participation of children. Children in Iraq have found themselves in a polluted environment due to terrorist actions. We have worked with CSO to have a clean environment

Are there any initiatives that can help the children in Iraq?

Covid has deprived children to access of education, how to assure it without exposition. Telecommunications are not available in all the world.

Morocco: how can we guarantee that children will be able to enjoy the rights we enjoyed in the past? No hesitation to work in the area for a clean environment that is enshrined in the Constitution.

North Macedonia: needs to prioritize children’s rights shown by the pandemic. Further normative and guidance on children and environment is needed. Support that the CRC provides this guidance through a GC.

How can we better promote the right at the regional level and how can the HRC help the SR mandate?

Nepal: environmental harm does not allow children to enjoy the right of access to and adequate standard of life. it is necessary to understand how children are affected and what steps need to be taken.

Slovenia: shows how crucial is a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment for the development of children. Slovenia supports actions regarding children and environment.

UNEP: env rights are human rights, the interdependence cannot be emphasised enough. Support good environmental governance. Childrens rights is high priority to UEP, collaborating with UN agencies and other actors to advance chid rights.

Children are not only victims but agents of change, they demand actions. UNEP will enhance their environmental rights work

Myanmar: children are entitled to fulfil their rights. To fully understand Myanmar has includes their rights in education curricula. Ensures water and sanitation in all schools.

Belarus: welcomes the topic dedicated to children. This issue became of bigger importance with the pandemic with children that could not access to schools and were restricted in other ways. We actively cooperate with UNICEF and other actors to implement child friendly cities. It is promoting key initiatives to protect children rights.

Poland: supports EU. The climate crisis presents to a threat to children’s rights. Contribute to improve sanitating services in public schools in partners countries.

The voice of the young generation needs to be heard; they need to be treated like partners.

Kenya: effects of the environment in children rights need a multisectoral approach. Which are the broad and specific proposals to ensure that children are involved?

Indonesia: what the council can do to monitor international obligations, int cooperation and assistance to help countries to achieve a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment?

Health and Environment programme: to implement the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment for children is a main goal of the Programme. Children are the more vulnerable to short- and long-term effects of the pollution of the environment.

**Concluding Remarks**

**Moderator:** agreements that environmental degradation has a high impact on the enjoyment of rights and the need to ensure the participation of children in decision making processes.

**Mr. Boyd**: we are not adequately responding to the environmental crisis and we are not ensuring children’s rights

2 question for States:

* does your state recognize the right to a healthy environment in constitution and environmental law?
* Has your State ratified the OPIC? That provides accountability

Children rights have to be incorporated into legislation, so children participation is not an option. The HRC needs to pass a resolution recognizing the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment for children

**Ms. Henriette Ahrens, Deputy Director of  Programmes, UNICEF** *(concluding remarks)* - *Empowering children to realize their rights through a healthy environment*

The climate and environment crisis are a children crisis caused by vulnerabilities and discrimination. Is our obligation to ensure their rights, not favors.

Children in poverty, indigenous children, children with disabilities and otherwise vulnerable children faced intersecting risks. They had the right to speak up, and adults had the obligation to listen and act accordingly. Adults did not have the right to impose destructive practices on children - it was their world, too.

Call Member States to act and undertake actions to stop the raise of the temperature, take children at the heart of programs and policies.

Recognize the right to a safe, clean healthy and sustainable environment for all.

Protect children and environmental human rights defenders.

**Carmen Juliana:** Need to ensure our env rights that have been violated throughout history.

As Human Rights defender of Latin American children’s environmental rights, I reject these types of aggression and need to be rejected by the whole world (rape of a girl by the military, the body is our first territory)

What is happening to our rivers, what will happen to our biodiversity, we need to manage the effects of climate change and breathe clean air and we demand that you world leaders realize that if we continue to destroy nature then we will not have a future. Count on us as political actors, we need to be involved in decision making and to listen to all voices, despite origin or ethnicity. We are not the generation of destruction.

**Moderator:**  we are facing a call to actions; discussion is needed but we are facing a direct call to action. And all of us are quite used for international appeals, maybe too many of them, but we should establish deadlines. The time to act is now.