

## Children's Advisory Team Background and Role

### You will find below:

- Who are the Committee on the Rights of the Child and terre des hommes?
  - What is happening?
  - What does being a child advisor involve?
  - Why apply?
  - What commitment is expected?
  - What is a supporting organisation?
  - Who can apply and what is the selection process?
  - How to apply?
  - 9 guidelines for child participation
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### **Who are the Committee on the Rights of the Child and terre des hommes?**

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is a group of 18 independent experts, responsible for ensuring that States who have committed to do so - all countries of the world except one - implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention is a global treaty outlining the human rights of the child. You can read more [here](#).

[Terre des hommes](#) is a non-government organization working for the rights of the child worldwide and a strong advocate of children's environmental rights. Terre des hommes is also the official partner of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the development of a new General Comment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child addressing the environmental and the climate crisis.

### **What is happening?**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child wants to set up a global Children's Advisory Team to support the creation of a new guidance – "General Comment"- to the Convention on the Rights of the Child that describes in detail how children's rights are impacted as a result of environmental harm and spells out what States must do to uphold and defend these rights. The Committee on the Rights of the Child develops General Comments to guide States in relation to a specific area of interest to children's rights, for example the environment.

To make sure the document is of a high quality and includes the perspectives, knowledge and experience of a broad range of groups, including governments, children and youth, researchers, UN organizations (e.g. UNICEF) and non-government organizations, the Committee on the Rights of the Child offers different opportunities to provide feedback on their ideas for the General Comment: [online questionnaires, thematic and regional meetings](#) and so on. The Children's Advisory Team – a group of 12 child advisors across different regions – will support the efforts of the Committee, alongside Terre des hommes.

## **What will be the key tasks if you are a child advisor?**

You will have a central role in informing the development, consultation process and follow-up to the General Comment and leading on specific tasks.

Overall, the tasks of the advisory team will fit within these key goals, to:

- make sure all children have proper opportunities to contribute to the development of the new General Comment on children's rights, the environment and climate change. This can include the development of child-friendly online questionnaires, educational material, guidance on the right types and formats for communication, exchanges and events etc.
- provide guidance on the content of the General Comment based on the feedback received from children through online questionnaires and other opportunities to send information.
- provide input and guidance on the development of a child-friendly version of the General Comment.
- help make sure the child-friendly version of the General Comment reaches many children across the world, including sharing it with children in your own networks.

Each child advisor will be asked to apply with a supporting organisation. They will have the responsibility to help and guide child advisors with all their tasks. More details on the supporting organisations are below!

Our [Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure](#) will be applied and at the core of all our activities to make sure all children involved in the Team and its activities are safe from harm. The [safeguards and procedures](#) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child are taken into account, too.

## **Why apply?**

- You will be involved in an exciting process: the development of new standards for children's rights and the environment;
- You will be able to connect and exchange closely with other children on a global scale to develop knowledge and understanding of different challenges and good practices on children's rights, the environment and climate change;
- You will have the opportunity to bring new and creative ideas to the Team and build projects and activities;
- You will have the chance to take any existing activities and campaigns that you might be involved in at the local or national level to an international stage, representing your peers!

## **What commitment is expected?**

We communicate with child advisors using an online platform and it is expected that everyone would check this platform weekly, to check on any updates and news. If you do not have regular access to the internet, your supporting organisation could help you with this. Terre des hommes along with the supporting organization will make sure that costs resulting from participation in the Children's Advisory Team will be covered.

We will have **online group calls around once or twice per month** which would be for one hour (we will decide as a Team when we want to have these calls!) and sometimes there might be more calls if some of the Team are busy with a certain activity! We hope for an occasion to arrange a longer (online) meeting with the Committee towards spring 2022 to discuss the first draft of the General Comment and the child-friendly version of it.

We expect that on average, the different activities might take around **5 hours per month** in total. This will be flexible and change depending on the different tasks where some might require more time.

It is likely that in-between our calls, there will be some activities as the Team agrees, such as discussing with other children in your local or national groups.

There will never be pressure to take part in activities if you wish not to or you are busy with other commitments and school. The team will start to meet in late January or early February of 2022 and then meet on a monthly basis to discuss important steps related to the General Comment. The process will end with the publication of the General Comment and its child-friendly version in February or March 2023. We would like you to stay on board for the entire period (ideally), however, we understand that there could be reasons for you to leave the team earlier than 2023. That's okay!

## **What is the supporting organisation?**

The supporting organisation is a member or a partner organisation of Child Rights Connect or terre des hommes and can also be a child-led organisation. We will also consider organizations that are not members or partners if they are empowering children on the themes of the General Comment. They must commit to giving support and guidance to a child advisor in fulfilling their role.

This can include having regular calls or meetings to help with activities, translating documents if needed, supporting consultations with other children in your country and being in regular contact with terre des hommes with child safeguarding as a priority.

It is essential that each child advisor has a supporting organisation because they will be the main contact in your country to help you in your role and to make sure all the activities are safe and meaningful. In the case you do not already have a supporting organization you may be matched to one.

We have developed a separate Terms of Reference for the supporting organisations, so they can learn more about this role and what is required. It can be found [here](#).

## **Who can apply and what is the selection process?**

- Children who will **not** turn 18 years old before the end of 2022.

- Children who can commit to being part of the Team from January/February 2022 to March 2023.
- Children that are already part of a local or national group of children with whom they can gain support and learn from each other.
- Children interested in how environmental matters relate to children's human rights and to be involved in activities in local, national and international environments.

On the basis of the strict requirements above, we welcome applications from children across all countries of the world and speaking any language! We also encourage you to take forward a selection process with your peers at national level if it's possible, to decide who might be your representative on the Team.

The selection process for the 12 child advisors will be based on making sure the Team is as inclusive as possible. For example, representation across each world region, children of different ages, a gender balance, diversity in capacities, children with additional support or communication needs and children from diverse social and minority backgrounds.

Not all applications will be successful and there is no guarantee we will be able to select you as a child advisor. However, we will respond to all applications making the selection process transparent, and make sure that, if you are interested, we keep you updated on the activities of the Team and let you know of any other similar upcoming opportunities! 😊

## How to apply?

You can apply by completing [this survey](#), alongside your supporting organisation, by the **deadline of 16 January 2022**. It will ask for some basic information and, on your profile, and interests!

## The 9 requirements for child participation that we will follow:

1. Being able to **access information** all about the Team and its activities and about your rights.
2. It is your **choice to participate** and you can decide not to take part at any point.
3. Your views and ideas to be **respected** by adults.
4. The activities will be **interesting and familiar** to your life, and there will be space for you to put forward any issues that are important to you.
5. There will be preparations so that all children will feel happy to participate in the activities, within **comfortable and friendly spaces**.
6. The activities should be **open equally to all children** to take part from all communities and backgrounds, including children with disabilities.
7. **Adults will be prepared** for the different activities so that all children are comfortable and feel supported and listened to.
8. Adults will make sure that children are **safe** and know who to talk to if they feel unsafe.
9. You will get **feedback** on how your views have been acted on by adults, and the chance to give your opinion on the results of this project and the activities you took part in.