

General Comment

Child rights, environment and climate change

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a magnifying glass over a globe. The hand is brown with a red bracelet and is positioned at the bottom center. The magnifying glass is held over the center of the globe, which is depicted with green landmasses and blue oceans. The text 'First Draft', 'General Comment No. 26', and 'Child Friendly Version' is overlaid on the globe, with the magnifying glass focusing on the word 'Comment'.

First Draft General Comment No. 26 Child Friendly Version



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Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights. The Convention explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

1989

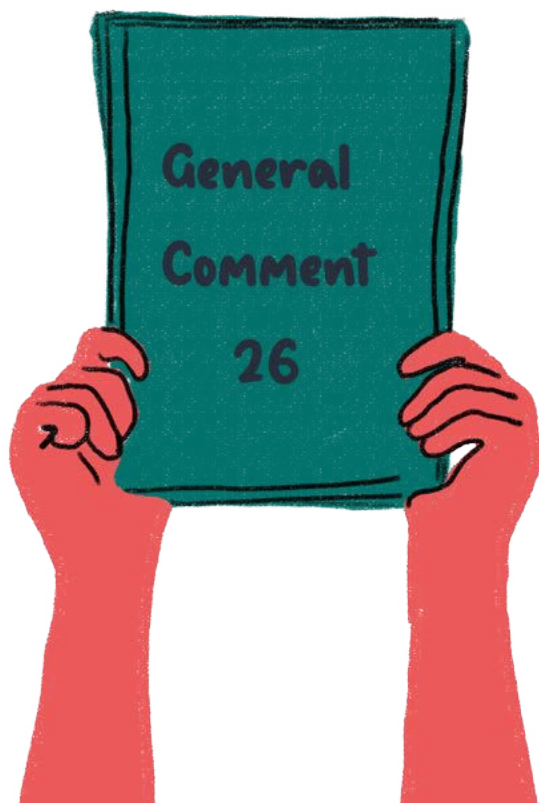



The Convention was created in 1989. Since then, we have seen how environmental harm and climate change are threatening children's rights globally. Children are demanding urgent action, and for their rights to be protected.

Illustration of child holding sign saying "We Demand Action"

2023

In 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child launched official guidance for governments called General Comment No.26 which explains how children's rights are related to the environment and climate change, and what governments must do to protect them.





To create this General Comment, children and adults across the world were invited to share their views on what should be included. 16,331 contributions from children across over 100 countries were

received! Turn over to find out more about the journey to create General Comment No.26.

Illustration of globe with the words "16,331 contributions, 100 countries"

Our Planet, Our Rights, Our Voices is a window into the key messages, stories, and calls to action children have shared as part of this global process.

It has been created by terre des hommes and the Child Rights Environment Initiative (CERI) together with members of the General Comment No.26 Children's Advisory Team. As far as possible, we have used children's own words to illustrate their visions for a clean, healthy and sustainable world.

terre des hommes
Help for Children in Need

Children's
Environmental
Rights Initiative

Meet the Team! The Committee, with support from terre des hommes, created a global Children's Advisory Team for the development of General Comment No. 26. We are between 10 and 17 years of age, from different regions and backgrounds.

Illustration of three kids with speech bubbles saying "Our Planet, Our Rights, Our Voices"

Meet the Team



Meet the Team



Introdu 18 Vietnam

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Introdu 18 Colombia

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Intro 18 Kosovo

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The Journey Here

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United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion in 2016



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Regional Consultations

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General Comment No.26 Consultations

 31 March - 30 June 2022

Children were invited to share their views on their rights, the environment and climate change in a questionnaire. 7416 children participated!

 15 November 2022 - 15 February 2023

The Committee published the first draft of General Comment No.26, including a child-friendly version. The Committee was specifically interested in understanding how children make sense of their right to a healthy environment, their right to information and education, and their right to participation. 8915 children shared their views from 76 countries:

- **4146** completed a questionnaire
- **4769** children participated in 165 group, creative workshops led by children, young people, schools and organisations using a participation toolkit.

