**South Korea Children’s Opinion**

**on Draft General Comment No. 26**

(Children’s Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change)

I believe climate change affects children’s rights thoroughly, including their rights to life, protection, development, and participation. As children, we all have the right to safety, learning, and playing, but climate change stands in the way of enjoying all these. First, it makes farming more and more difficult, threatening food security which is crucial to the healthy and safe growth of children. Extreme weather also makes it difficult and even impossible to go to school and deprive us of the leisure we need to rest and learn. Insofar as children do not feel protected against the negative effects of climate change, I think they have a right to express their opinion and participate actively in policymaking on climate change.

Students do not participate or pay attention in these sessions because they take place as part of extracurricular activities rather than as part of the regular curriculum. I believe all education about climate change should involve active student participation. It should also be featuredas part of all regular subjects so that students can recognize its seriousness. Local governments and communities should also organize environmental education and campaigns for the general public. Learning about climate change should be interactive and geared toward building a strong consensus based on communication.

As governments worldwide have pledged to achieve carbon neutrality, corporations ought to minimize their carbon footprints, by outfitting their factories with new and renewable energy facilities, such as photovoltaic power generators and solar panels, and also introducing technologies that maximize energy efficiency, such as heat recovery for assembly line cleaning. Corporations should lead the effort to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels by adopting more and more renewable energy, reducing their carbon emissions and providing low-carbon products to consumers.

Governments should support environmental projects and businesses. They should provide more climate education and reinforce laws and policies, including those that require recyclable labeling, extra charges on disposable containers, and promote carbon neutrality. States ought to regulate corporations’efforts for development, and ensure that the interests of the general public, including children, are reflected on their laws and policies. Governments ought to aim at sustainable development, commission research on environmental issues and their severity, and publish findings with transparency. Korea and other countries should organize opportunities where children nationwide can speak up about their concerns for the environment and share and raise awareness. Nations, corporations, societies, and individuals should all work together toward such an end.

When discussing policies on responding to the climate crisis, children should have an essential and regular place to participate, and any child should be able to speak out about the climate crisis without restrictions or discrimination.

February 14, 2023

**Good Motion of Good Neighbors[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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1. Good Neighbors is a global NGO specializing in children’s rights in Korea, and Good Motion is a child-participating organization that explores rights violations in daily life and suggests policies. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)