Committee on the Rights of the Child

Draft General comment No. 26 (202x)

Children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change

##### Statement of the Central Union for Child Welfare (CUCW) to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the draft general comment no. 26

##### The Central Union for Child Welfare thanks the committee for the opportunity to comment on the draft general comment no. 26. CUCW considers the comment necessary and comprehensive.

##### Background

##### In June 2021, the Committee decided to draft a general comment on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change. The purpose of the general comment is to provide guidance to the states and also to other actors, so that their measures regarding the rights of the child are consistent with the obligations of the convention.

##### Statement by the Central Union for Child Welfare

* The Central Union for Child Welfare considers it important to emphasize the rights of the child and the child's best interests and to take them into special consideration in environmental and climate measures. CUCW sees the general comment as an important way to put children and their rights to their rightful place in the climate discussion and decision-making.
	+ When decisions related to the environment and climate are made, the best interests of the child must be the primary consideration in accordance with article 3. CUCW emphasizes that children are the group of people who will live with decisions related to the environment and the climate and their consequences significantly longer than the people making the decisions now. Hence it is important that the comment comprehensively highlights the child's right to be heard. CUCW considers that the child's right to be heard is currently not realized sufficiently in environmental and climate issues, especially considering that the right also includes giving appropriate weight to children's views.
* CUCW sees that child rights impact assessments should be done systematically in all climate and environmental decision-making. This requires that child rights impact assessments are carried out in general and that environmental and climate issues are identified as children's rights issues.
* CUCW also sees the emphasis on social justice and intergenerational justice as central.
* Finally, CUCW sees that the responsibility of rich countries to also support the climate measures of developing countries and to bear financial responsibility for the consequences of climate change is important. Corporate responsibility is also essential.

##### For more information

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