Dear members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

We welcome the revision of General Comment #26 and appreciate that the current draft references *Early Childhood Development (ECD)* via inclusion of terminologies, including ‘young children’, ‘under-five mortality’, and ‘parents’.

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. It affects young children disproportionately given their unique vulnerabilities.

We are sharing the following suggestions to draw out clearer linkages between ECD and climate change that could be further enhanced in the document:

* **Overall terminology**: Suggest inclusion of key terms such as early childhood development, ECD, early childhood, the first 1,000 days.
* **Key references**: Suggest inclusion of key documents articulating the ECD-climate change linkages:
	+ A scoping study from a joint initiative between ARNEC, UNICEF EAPRO, Save the Children - [‘Most Vulnerable to Most Valuable: A scoping study to put young children at the heart of climate actions and environmental protection’](https://arnec.net/resources/arnec-resources/most-vulnerable-most-valuable-scoping-study-put-young-children-heart-0).
	+ [ECD-Climate Advocacy Brief](https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/12801/file/UNICEF%20EAPRO%20ECD%20and%20Climate%20Change%20Advocacy%20Brief%20doc.pdf) by UNICEF EAPRO
* **II. Key concepts – A. Sustainable Development and B. Intergenerational equity and future generations**
	+ Suggest inclusion along the lines of: Holistic ECD has a multiplier effect and is a key building block to achieving sustainable development goals as they increase resilience and adaptation capacities of young children
	+ ECD builds the foundation of child and is a powerful equalizer to inequities. Prevention/ protection early in life from climate and environmental risks is much more effective than having to react to the harms from climate/ environmental pollution and toxic stress later in life.
* **III. Specific rights to the Convention as they relate to the environment – A. The right to life, survival and development**
	+ Suggest inclusion of 1 paragraph referencing [General Comment #7](https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/GeneralComment7Rev1.pdf) Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood given the unique vulnerability of young children to risks oas their brains and bodies undergo tremendous period of growth and development.
* **71. The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**
	+ Suggest inclusion of [General Comment #7](https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/GeneralComment7Rev1.pdf) Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood
* **Freedom of expression; right to play:** Suggest clearer inclusion of the voices and agency of young children in these areas, as well as the role of parents and caregivers in facilitating children as agents of change.
* **Climate finance:**
	+ Suggest inclusion of Loss and Damage Funds given the relevance to the most vulnerable populations, including young children.
	+ Suggest inclusion of young child-sensitive climate financing. As of now, climate financing that is child-sensitive remains a gap; much more so for young children who has the clearest needs and potential in resilience building.

We look forward to receiving the final version of the revised document.

UNICEF EAPRO ECD Team