**Lithuania’s Comments on the Advanced version of the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s draft General Comment No. 26 on Children’s Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change**

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania appreciates the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s draft General Comment No. 26 on Children’s Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change. Lithuania welcomes the Committee for its thoughtful work in making important linkages between children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on global climate change problem, which requires the extreme urgency to strengthen the global response to address the climate emergency due to its direct and existential threat to humanity, especially to the most vulnerable groups of people as children, ecosystems and biodiversity. The ambitious global climate actions, ensuring a just transition towards sustainable, climate neutral and resilient economies and societies, would bring for the people, including children, better standards of living, health, sustainable food systems, and affordable energy prices.

This advanced version of draft General Comment No. 26 is particularly timely and valuable as many States urgently develop policies, both domestically and internationally, to address critical climate change and environmental issues.

Lithuania provides the following comments on the draft General Comment No. 26:

1. In the I. Introduction Chapter Section B “The evolution of international human rights law and the environment” and other relevant parts of the draft **the reference to the UN sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be provided.**
2. Taking into account that urbanization is growing (cities are home to 55% of the global population and is expected to grow to 68% by 2050), **it is essential to underline sustainable, climate resilient urban development**, as well as to emphasise the importance of green infrastructure, strong social and environmental safeguards, including nature-based solutions and **multi-level governance engaging local and regional governments**.

Lithuania proposes to amend the wording of the following provisions:

3. In para 94 the last sentence should be amended by taking into account historical and current green-house gas emissions and requiring all countries according to their capacity to scale up technical and financial assistance from all sources to support primarily the most vulnerable and the least developed countries:

“*In the climate context such responsibilities are appropriately tailored to take into account of the historical and* ***current*** *emissions of green-house gas and respective capabilities and challenges* *of States while requiring* ***all countries to scale up*** *technical and financial assistance from ~~high-income States to developing States~~* ***all sources to support the most vulnerable and the least developed countries****.”*

1. In para 95 the first sentence should be amended taking into account not only Art 9(1) of the Paris Agreement, but also Art 9(2):

“*In particular ~~high-income States~~* ***developed******countries and other donors*** *should support adaptation and mitigation efforts in ~~developing~~* ***the most vulnerable and the least developed*** *counties by facilitating of green technologies <…>*”.

1. In para 107 to add additional (middle) sentence related to the UNFCCC decisions 1/CP.27 and 1/CMA.4:

*“****In this regard the implementation the “Early Warnings for All” initiative launched by the UN Secretary General with the objective to cover everyone on Earth with early warning systems within next 5 years and the G7 Leaders’ commitment to work towards a Global Shield against Climate Risks for poor and vulnerable countries and people, building on the InsuResilience Global Partnership and other initiatives are essential.”***

1. Para 108 should be amended in line with the para 19 of decisions 1/CP.27 and 1/CMA.4 by urging Parties that have not yet communicated new or updated nationally determined contributions, as per decision 1/CMA3, paragraph 28 to do so as soon as possible and in advance of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (November 2023):

“*The Committee calls for the collective accelerated actions,* ***by urging States that have not yet communicated new or updated nationally determined contributions to do so as soon as possible and in advance before the COP28****, to use the narrow temporal <…>”.*

1. In para 111 the last sentence of the sub-para (b) shall be worded fully in line with Art 4(4) of the Paris Agreement:

“*Developed States should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing States should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts,* ***and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets*** *in the light of different national circumstances <…>”*.

1. In para 113 the first sentence shall be amended fully in line with Art 13(9) of the Paris Agreement:

“*Developed States* ***and other States that provide support should*** *assist to developing countries,* ***in particular to the least developed and the most vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change*** *<…>”.*

1. In para 117 the sustainable investment and application of innovative financial instruments should be emphasised:

In the first sentence *“States should incentivize* ***sustainable*** *investments in and use <…>*.

In the last sentence *“States can also encourage public-private partnerships* ***applying innovative financial instruments*** *that increase access and affordability of renewable technology <..>.*

In conclusion, Lithuania reiterates its appreciation of the opportunity to provide comments and proposals to the Draft General Comment No. 26, and more generally its support for the work of the Committee. Lithuania expresses to the Committee the assurances of its highest consideration.