



# 2019 Asian Children's Summit

## Children's Recommendations and Questions on Upholding the Right to a Healthy Environment

Child delegates brought up the relationship between mental health and the right to a healthy environment. People affected by disasters need help to deal with trauma and anxiety, so children's mental health and psychosocial well-being should be included in discussion on environment. Furthermore, they identified four key issues that require a multi-dimensional approach: poor sanitation and waste management that lead to low hygiene, water pollution, diseases and destruction of aquatic habitats; release of toxins, particulate matters, smoke, and emissions that lead to air pollution, diseases and corrosion of monuments; extreme temperature and glaciers melt that lead to rising of sea level and natural disasters; and removal of forest and vegetation that lead to destruction of biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystems. They also discussed the people or groups who are responsible for the degradation of the environment; those who can act or help; and the need for protection of people who are defending the protection of the environment, especially in Asia wherein the defenders are being put in danger.

### Children's recommendations on upholding the right to a healthy environment

- For the Industries: International organizations should set standards and restrictions on multi-national corporations, all the emissions they produce and the resources that they use when they are manufacturing in different countries, impose heavy taxes on non-renewable resources so that this will raise the prices and disincentivize people from using non-renewable resources. Doing so, the money from these taxes can be put into a national fund to fund research and development towards greater eco-friendly technology. Provide subsidies on the installation and price of clean energy sources that will incentivize people to use these renewable energy sources.
- On Education and Awareness Programs: Develop curriculums towards resilience-building, survival, and safety skills especially in disaster-stricken areas. Where children and youth carry out real-life projects that can beneficially impact the environment. Encourage campaigns and competitions to promote awareness of environmental issues. Organize youth forums on the environment.

- On Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Compulsory trained trauma care teams should be deployed with every rescue team and children who are displaced due to disasters should be given psychosocial rehabilitation. Governments should include child therapists to follow up on children victims.
- On Transportation: The Government should encourage the citizens to cut down the usage of cars using fossil fuels. Reduce the amount of carbon footprints by introducing the use of electric/environment-friendly cars.
- On child participation: Create and support a platform for children to speak at all levels.
- On Alternative Energy: Levy taxes on pollutant sources. Increase the availability of alternative sources. Use solar panels and wind turbines in order to save our economy and our environment.
- On garbage and waste management: Use and apply the 3Rs – Reuse, Reduce, Recycle.
- For the Government and the Law: Be strict! Make sure that the law is being implemented well. Governments should have a strong mechanism and specific program management for the environment.
- For the Forest and the Trees: plant more trees in order to save the environment and implement a law about the protection of the trees.
- All goals should be done not only with the government's help, but also with the help of the society and the community.

## Children's Questions:

- How do we bring about cross-country collaborations while holding governments, especially developed countries, accountable for their actions and failure to uphold their promises? (e.g. collaborations between developed and underdeveloped countries for decreasing carbon emission)
- While most countries have some sort of legislation to address climate change, we aren't seeing any effects. How do we assure enforcement of such laws?
- When actions towards climate change collide with religious and cultural practices of the people, how do we find common ground?
- When many economies and livelihood depend on fossil fuels, how do we balance economic and environmental priorities?