

Suggested language on Children for the new Gender Action Plan

Children are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, especially those already marginalized by gender, geography, and socioeconomic status. From increased risk of malnutrition, loss of education, and a higher burden of disease to displacement and increasing risk of early and child marriages and gender-based violence, children face compounding vulnerabilities that demand urgent, targeted responses. Yet, current gender policies - *including the Informal Note on the new Gender Action Plan (GAP)* - overlook how the climate crisis intersects with the life course of children and adolescents¹².

The disproportionate impacts of climate change on children have already been recognised in past decisions, such as [Decision 1/CMA.5](#), para. 182 (outcome of the first Global Stocktake) which requested an expert dialogue on the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions, which took place during [SB60 in June 2024](#). Based on this, the following general provisions are recommended jointly by UNICEF, UNFPA and YOUNGO for the new Gender Action Plan.

General Provisions

- Ensure children are consistently integrated across the GAP according to the 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB) core principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Enhance a focus on girls and adolescents in all their diversity, including a call for climate policies, action and finance to ensure the intersectional approaches, including addressing the differentiated impact of climate as a result of multiple forms of discrimination including that related to gender, age, disability, indigeneity, race, displacement status and to amplify perspectives and solutions from feminist, women's rights and girls-led organizations;
- Address critical data gaps in and increase research on the impacts of climate change on children, for example, under the current D.5. This could involve promoting the use of FAIR³ data disaggregated by age, gender and disability among other sociodemographic characteristics;
- Ensure safe, inclusive, and meaningful engagement of children and adolescents in climate-related decision-making by creating enabling spaces and addressing language and access barriers. This should be done coherently under Priority Area A and B;
- Ensure that climate action never compromises children's and girls' wellbeing, respecting the 'Do no harm' principle;

¹ UNFPA <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/One%20pager%20on%20youth%20demographics%20GF.pdf>

² UNICEF <https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/overview/>

³ FAIR = Findable (data should be easy to find for humans and machines with proper metadata and identifiers), Accessible (data should be retrievable using standardized, open and secure protocols), Interoperable (data should be usable across different platforms and systems with standardized vocabulary), Reusable (data should be well-documented and licensed so it can be reused for future research or policymaking).

- Ensure that expert dialogues, workshops and similar deliverables of the GAP entail a child rights perspective and child and youth engagement, where appropriate and safe;
- Scale up equitable investment in climate-resilient essential services and infrastructure, and ensure that means of implementation promote the inclusion and extension of benefits as well as the minimization of risks (health, SRHR, GBV etc.) to girls, children, youth and other vulnerable communities and groups.

Specific wording suggestions for the new GAP

Based on the [Informal Note from SB62](#), the following suggestions are made to enhance child inclusion in the new GAP. For direct text referrals, new text suggestions are highlighted in bold while the original text is showcased in cursive.

A.3

- Activity: Suggest to select the option of “age- and gender-disaggregated data” to effectively target the impacts of climate change on children and young people in addition to adults. This granularity will be critical to drive effective policies meeting the needs of vulnerable children, including girls.

Deliverables:

- Education campaigns specifically for children and young people.
- Mandated technical dialogue on emerging issues, including but not limited to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), and unpaid care work, addresses the disproportional effects on children.
- Request submissions from Parties and stakeholders on interlinkages of climate change, SRHR, GBV, care work and response measures, while addressing all age categories.

A.4 - Deliverables

- Studies should analyse the impacts on children, young girls and women in all their diversities and emphasise how climate disasters disproportionately affect children considering the intersectionality of their vulnerability.

A.5 - Activity

- Emphasise the need to remove the bracket around children and enhance the current text to say: “*..Indigenous women and girls, conflict-affected women and girls, persons with disability looking at the diversity of the constituents..*”.

A.6

- Activity: Add children to read: “*..especially women, children, youth, Indigenous women and girls, conflict-affected women and girls, persons with disability looking at the diversity of the constituents and other marginalized groups..*”
- We strongly welcome the inclusion of education within the activity.
- Deliverables: Include children in awareness, capacity building and literacy efforts, e.g. here: “*media campaigns, websites, toolkits which are tailored to reach girls, boys, women, men and marginalized groups.*”

A.7

- Mandated technical dialogue on SRHR, GBV and unpaid care work at the 64th and 66th Sessions of the Subsidiary Body Meeting (SB64 and SB66), with a review at the Global Stocktake in 2028;
- Call for submissions from Parties and stakeholders on the impact of climate change on SRHR and GBV response measures and identified gaps, ahead of the technical dialogue.

B.1

- Include children and girls, especially in regard to education in the Activity: *“Promote initiatives for **education and capacity-building in leadership, negotiation and facilitation of negotiation for the elimination of barriers for and the promotion of the full, meaningful, effective and equal participation of [all] women delegates, including young women, Indigenous women and girls, women and girls from local communities, migrant women and girls, women environmental and human rights defenders, women smallholder farmers across the UNFCCC process and in the development of national climate policies, plans and programmes.**”*
- Promote intergenerational exchanges and child-friendly exchanges under the deliverables, e.g. by saying “women and girls in all their diversities and of all ages”.

B.2 & B.3

- Mention girls and/or children and young people in addition to women.

B.4 & B.6

- We welcome the inclusion of girls and Indigenous girls when focusing on enhancement of their participation and leadership, as well as the strengthening of support and safety mechanisms.

D.3 - Deliverables

- We welcome the call for an expert dialogue on emerging issues in gender-disaggregated data and gender analysis. This could be strengthened by including age-disaggregated data either as an additional topic of the dialogue or as a separate technical workshop. Within the context of the Global Goal on Adaptation and the implementation of the indicator framework, effectively collecting age-, disability and gender-disaggregated data will be crucial for monitoring the impacts of climate change on children and across genders.

D.5

- Ensure FAIR age-disaggregated data collection and use for gender analysis to better address gendered, age-related and other intersectional impacts of climate change on girls, adolescent girls, and young women.

Jointly, UNICEF, UNFPA and YOUNGO call on Parties to guarantee that child-focused measures are included and streamlined throughout all Priority Areas of the new GAP.
