

Statement on behalf of 70 Members of the Group of Friends of Children and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ at the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 30)

At COP30, we stand united in continuing to reaffirm that the climate crisis is also a child rights crisis. Today, more than one billion children live in areas facing extremely high climate and environmental risks. For children, the decisions taken in Belém will determine not only their futures but the future of our shared planet. Children bear no responsibility for this crisis, yet they will face its worst impacts.

Therefore, children's needs cannot be an afterthought in climate action. The climate crisis is undermining their health, education, safety and development. Effective implementation of climate policies must place children and the essential systems they depend on, such as schools, health care, food, water and protection, at its center.

Climate finance must also deliver for children. Today, however, less than three per cent of global climate finance directly benefits our youngest citizens. Financing adaptation and essential social services that takes into consideration our children, is an investment in human potential, in sustainable development and in our common future.

Resilient communities are the foundation of resilient economies. When children and families are protected, societies and businesses thrive. Investments in adaptation, mitigation and circular economies offer opportunities to foster innovation, reduce risks and open new markets, while advancing a fairer, greener and more sustainable future for all.

We have a shared responsibility to create the enabling conditions for this transformation. Strong regulatory frameworks, credible data and well-designed incentives are essential to mobilizing both public and private capital for adaptation and mitigation that reaches the most vulnerable, including children.

Children and young people must be included as agents of change and key stakeholders in climate decision-making processes, where appropriate. They bring innovation, leadership and lived experience that can help shape effective and inclusive solutions. Their voices and rights must be fully integrated into national and global climate strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions, adaptation plans and just transition pathways.

As members of the Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, we call on all Parties and partners to ensure that the outcomes of COP30 fully recognize children's distinct vulnerabilities and their essential role as

¹ Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union (observer), Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay

agents of change. Protecting children and advancing their well-being is not only a moral imperative, but also a cornerstone of sustainable, inclusive and peaceful societies.

Let us act together, with urgency, ambition and determination, to deliver a safe, healthy and sustainable planet for every child.
