



Declaration of Children and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean

On April 24, 2023, in the city of Santiago, Chile, the Forum of Children and Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean 2030 - 2023 edition was held, a preparatory activity for the VI Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Youth Forum. This meeting was one of the highlights of a long process of involvement in the review and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, promoted by the Children, Adolescents and Youth Group of the Mechanism for Civil Society Participation in the Sustainable Development Agenda, which involved more than 500 children, adolescents and young people between 7 and 35 years of age, from more than 20 countries in the region, from various groups and communities.

Based on the contributions gathered during the process, we present the following demands and recommendations:

- Recognize our right to participation as a fundamental element to exercise our human right to development.
- Address the challenges in access to water, sanitation, and wastewater treatment; as well as mobilize the necessary resources to ensure integrated water management, including local communities and children and youth in water governance, considering the worldview of indigenous peoples and strengthening community organization. Declare water bodies as subjects of rights and mobilize the necessary resources to establish mechanisms to control and regulate their use, as well as guarantee the implementation of existing policies in this area, such as infrastructure development and prevention in the face of the water crisis and its impacts. "For every dollar invested in clean water and sanitation, 8 dollars are saved in consequences of contaminated water use."
- Ensure the protection of environmental defenders by ensuring the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement. We urge States to ratify the agreement: No more criminalization and death, against the defenders in our region!
- Mobilize the necessary resources to implement quality educational processes related to science, technology and innovation; with an intercultural, decentralized and gender focus, allowing the integration of the region into the digital world.
- Generate regional standards to ensure technological and quality progress; implementing transparency and traceability mechanisms regarding the carbon footprint for the development of technologies.
- Address regional and gender inequalities that limit access to technology, innovation and infrastructure.
- Promote long-term policies and programs that mitigate the negative effects of technological progress on the productive matrix and the labor market.
- Ensure access to affordable and sustainable energy for the entire population, regardless of their location or socioeconomic level, through integrated and territorialized public policies, with goals that measure the impact of the implementation of renewable sources from a socio-environmental, cultural and access point of view; and guarantee the segregation of data on access to renewable energy from the point of view of reliability and price.



- Reduce investment in polluting energies, such as fossil fuels and fracking; and encourage the use of renewable energies, through local enterprises and companies and public-private partnerships, taking into account the communities where new infrastructures are implemented. In addition, the development of local technology should be promoted to reduce technical imports.
- Ensure a just and popular energy transition with energy security that guarantees not only a change of energy sources, but also the fight against poverty and inequality. Likewise, to promote policies that encourage energy generation from homes.
- Ensure a regional response to the energy transition, in order to avoid generating energy dependence or energy-neocolonialism.
- We urge not to fall into the extractivist rhetoric of lithium to cover unsustainable energy demands such as electric car parks in other regions, which only leave social and environmental costs in our region.
- Ensure investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a universal approach, providing accessibility to all people, and not leaving rural areas behind.
- Mobilize political will and the necessary resources to strengthen the technology transfer process and promote the development of artificial intelligence, robotics and information and communication technology. This should include the regulation of technology through codes of ethics.
- In the case of artificial intelligence, ensure that advances in this area are in line with advances in other agendas and frameworks for the protection of rights, such as the Global Commission on the Future of Work and ILO Convention no. 169, labor rights, among others.
- Protect the tangible and intangible heritage of cities, and ensure the right to decent housing through housing programs, counteracting processes of gentrification and real estate speculation, including local and municipal governments.
- Strengthen the integration of urban, peri-urban and rural areas as closely related elements for the achievement of SDG 11.
- Develop concrete actions to address corruption as a condition for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, through transparency, accountability and oversight mechanisms, such as citizen oversight mechanisms, friendly and accessible to children and the entire population. Integrate children and youth in a significant way in participatory budgeting processes.
- States must ensure data transparency, as well as the creation and operation of systems for monitoring and evaluating progress on the 2030 Agenda, ensuring independence and participation of civil society, children, youth, academia, the private sector, the public sector, among others.
- Ensure that the way forward, such as the High Level Political Forum, the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future and the creation of the UN Youth Office, have a regional perspective and include children, adolescents and youth.
- To formalize the Forum of Children and Youth as part of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, transforming this space into one with an intergenerational perspective. Likewise, we urge the mobilization of the necessary resources to ensure the participation of children and youth in this space.
- We ask that the demands and recommendations presented here be taken into account by the States, United Nations agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, in order to include and guarantee the perspective of



Grupo de Niñas, Niños,
Adolescentes y
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Major Group for
Children and Youth

children, adolescents and youth in the region, moving away from adultcentrism, tokenism and avoiding "youth washing".

We are at a crucial moment for the 2030 Agenda: we have reached the mid-term of its implementation and we know that we are far from meeting the proposed goals. In this context, children, adolescents and youth have a fundamental role to play, and we must be seen as great allies for the achievement of the Goals. We invite you to join us in an alliance which is intergenerational, multicultural, sustainable and respectful of diversity.

Organisations:

