

Webinar: Child-responsive National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDC 3.0

UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa (RCC WACA)
UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Webinar for West and Central Africa

Date and time: Tuesday 16th July 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:40 AM (GMT + 00)

Background

Children – comprising one-third of the global population, and more than half of the population in most West and Central African countries – are often overlooked in countries’ responses to climate change, and in deliberations and guidance emanating from the intergovernmental UNFCCC process. Less than half of NDCs is child- or youth-sensitive, and just 2.4 per cent of key global climate funds can be classified as supporting programs specifically targeting children.

The world is at a critical time where the next round of NDCs (NDC 3.0) is due in 2025. [Global Stocktake \(GST\) outcomes](#) underscored at COP28 that despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals, and encouraged Parties to come forward with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with the 1.5°C limit in their next round of NDCs.

The CMA recognizes the important role of indigenous peoples, local communities, cities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change (Decision 1/CMA.4, para 83). It also recognizes the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change and encourages Parties to include children and youth in their processes for designing and implementing climate policy and action (Decision 1/CMA.4, para 87). In this context, under the outcome of the GST, Parties requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to hold an **expert dialogue on children and climate change at its 60th session to discuss the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children and relevant policy solutions in this regard**, engaging relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in this effort (Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 182). The dialogue, held on June 4th, 2024, was attended by more than 60 Parties, representing all negotiation groups, demonstrating that attention to the protection of children cuts across Party lines.

In addition, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) explicitly affirmed children’s right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in [General Comment No. 26 on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change](#), which specifies that States are responsible not only for protecting children’s rights from immediate harm, but also for foreseeable violations of their rights in the future due to States’ acts—or failure to act—today.

On adaptation, the UNCRC argued that *“since climate change-related impacts on children’s rights are intensifying, a sharp and urgent increase in the design and implementation of child-sensitive, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive adaptation measures and associated resources is necessary”*.

On mitigation, the UNCRC stated that *“the Mitigation objectives and measures should also clearly indicate how they respect, protect and fulfil children’s rights under the Convention. States should*



transparently and explicitly focus on children’s rights when preparing, communicating and updating Nationally Determined Contributions”.

The latest science from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced by 60% by 2035, compared to 2019 levels, and that adaptation and mitigation must be pursued with equal force and urgency to advance sustainable development for all, including children and youths.

The GST invited the UN Climate Change Secretariat, including their Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) and organizations in a position to do so, to provide capacity-building support for the preparation and communication of the next NDCs.

For NAPs and NDC 3.0 to be more inclusive and rights-based for children and young people and ensure child-critical social services are climate and disaster resilient, it is essential to contribute to building countries’ capacities to come up with NAPs and NDCs that are child-sensitive in the light of their national circumstances.

Objectives

The aims of the webinar, organized jointly by UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa and the UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa (RCC WACA), are to:

- Provide guidance to UNFCCC Parties on **why** and **how** to formulate child-responsive climate policies and strategies, including NAP and NDCs 3.0.
- Learn from the experiences of Parties

Agenda

Time	Session	Moderator/ Speaker
4’	Introduction	Walters Tubua , UNFCCC Regional Lead, RCC WACA
4’	Opening remarks	Jonathan Lewis , UNICEF WCARO Deputy Regional Director
8’	Youth reflections #1	Smeralda Kessy , Youth Representative from Gabon
5’	Insights on the SB 60’s Children Dialogue	Stuart Best , Adaptation Division, UNFCCC
7’	Introduction to NDCs	Philippe Missi Missi , NDC and LT-LEDS Expert, RCC WACA
10’	Child-responsive NAP and NDC 3.0: guidance for West and Central African countries	David Knaute , Climate Specialist, UNICEF WCARO



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10'	Q&A	M'koumfa Bagbohouna , Senior Climate Change Specialist, RCC WACA
10'	Examples of youth journeys on NDC engagement	Sean Storr , Climate Policy Specialist, UNICEF headquarters
10'	Lessons learnt and best practices from West and Central Africa	Teddy Penneku Taylor , Government of Liberia
10'	Q&A	Philippe Missi Missi , NDC and LT-LEDS Expert, RCC WACA
8'	Youth reflections #2	Fatou Jeng , Youth Representative from The Gambia
4'	Next steps and Closing Remarks	UNICEF