



ACERWC
African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child

11 August, 2025

GUIDING NOTE ON PRIORITIZING CHILD-RIGHTS BASED CLIMATE ACTION AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2025



As we commemorate the **35th Anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)**, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) extends its sincere appreciation for your continued commitment to the protection and promotion of children's rights across the continent.

In view of the upcoming **Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)**, scheduled to take place in *Addis Ababa from 8–10 September 2025*, the ACERWC is pleased to share this Guidance Note.

Africa is home to over 490 million children, most of them living in countries highly vulnerable to climate and environmental hazards. Climate-induced shocks such as

droughts, floods, and heatwaves are disrupting education, health, and protection systems. As the most vulnerable group, children face severe threats to their rights to survival and development, health, education, and a clean, sustainable environment. States have an obligation to act urgently, recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on children's rights.

We wish to recall and emphasize **Resolution No. 18/2022**, adopted during the ACERWC's 39th Ordinary Session, which provides a comprehensive framework for integrating a child rights-based approach to climate change. The resolution outlines twelve key commitments for State Parties, including:

- Incorporating child-specific risks into climate policies and programs;
- Upholding the best interests of the child in all climate-related actions;
- Mobilizing adequate resources and adopting child-sensitive budgeting;
- Ensuring meaningful participation of children in climate decision-making;
- Establishing robust monitoring, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms;
- Aligning national strategies with the AU Green Recovery Action Plan (2021–2027).

The Africa Climate Summit presents a critical opportunity for Member States to act on these commitments. We therefore strongly encourage:

- Consulting children in the development of national climate positions;
- Including child representatives in national delegations to ACS2, in collaboration with child-focused civil society organizations and other partners;
- Championing child-led and child-responsive climate solutions during the Summit and in national interventions.
- Advocating for a meaningful inclusion of the plights and voices of African children in the outcome statement of the ACS2.

Furthermore, the ACERWC calls on Member States to institutionalize child participation in climate governance at local, national and regional levels, prioritize child-sensitive climate action in policy and funding frameworks and ensure that children's rights are fully integrated into climate-related policies, programs, and financing mechanisms.

The ACERWC stands ready to support Member States in implementing these recommendations and advancing a child rights-based approach to climate action across Africa.