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**“Beyond the horizon:
a new era for the
rights of the child”**



Plataforma de Infancia

Plataforma de Infancia is a network founded in 1997 that represents 75 child rights associations in Spain with the mission of protecting, promoting and defending the rights of children and adolescents in accordance with the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Its vision is to achieve full compliance with the rights of children and adolescents, integrating the efforts of children's organisations and all social agents.

→ How Plataforma de Infancia works



ADVOCACY

Analyses the current problems that affect children to then develop political and legislative proposals in relevant political forums with the aim to ensure the inclusion of the perspective of child-rights



PARTICIPATION

Promotes children's participation in order to raise the voice of boys and girls and ensure that their demands reach those responsible for the design and execution of policies that affect children, through the Children's Opinion strategy.



NETWORKING

Articulates actions through the working groups made up of the 75 members of the Platform



Children rights and climate action

How national legal and policy frameworks should address climate change and environmental protection from a child-rights approach.

-The Spanish case -



Challenges children are facing as a result of climate change and environmental degradation



*Showing spanish version. English version will soon be available.



The consultation process



This process has involved:

- Children's organizations
- Environmental organizations
- Experts
- Group of girls and boys

A **focus group of 27 girls and boys**, between 11 and 17 years old, from member entities of the Plataforma de Infancia, involved in environmental projects and with an interest in the subject, have participated in work sessions, convened specifically to address the impact of climate change on children's rights. The group process has been self-managed by ourselves.

Children have worked around 3 objectives:

- Analysis of situations in which children find themselves that affect the degradation of the environment.
- What consequences have on girls and boys.
- What proposals do they make to the authorities and society to improve the care of the environment.



The main concerns of children



- Lots of car use.
- The existence of large amounts of garbage on the street.
- The use of the sea as a garbage container.
- Sustainable products have a high cost, well above the rest (both in food and in resources and energy).
- Deforestation and massive felling of trees.
- The excessive use of plastic and silver paper.
- The amount of polluting smoke from factories.
- Disposable masks, which are everywhere.
- Excessive use of greenhouses.
- The excess of electronic purchases.
- The waste of resources such as water and electricity.
- Little awareness of the importance of recycling.



The Impact of climate change on children



Health rights



Right to participation



Right of Education



**Right to
non discrimination**



Right to Play



**Right to life
without violence**



**Right to housing
in decent conditions**

National legal and policy framework to address climate change





Declaration of Climate and Environmental Emergency Jan 2020

- **Calls for urgent actions** to safeguard the environment, health and safety of citizens as well as to protect biodiversity and natural resources
- A clear message to all sectors of the economy about the need to act



Law 7/2021 on climate change and energy transition

The objectives of the Law:

- Ensure compliance, by Spain, with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- Facilitate the decarbonization of the Spanish economy and its transition to a circular model, so as to guarantee the rational and supportive use of resources.
- Promote adaptation to the impacts of climate change and the implementation of a sustainable development model that generates decent employment and contributes to reducing inequalities.

Strategic Framework for Energy and Climate for the implementation of Law 7/2021

National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	energy efficiency as a fundamental strategy to reduce CO2 emissions
The National Strategy against Energy Poverty	<i>With short- and long-term measures</i>
Descarbonization Strategy to 2050	<i>a roadmap to advance towards climate neutrality in the 2050 horizon</i>
National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change	<i>reducing or avoiding the risks to public health associated with climate change</i>
Just Transition Strategy	<i>optimize the benefits and minimize the risks that the energetic and ecological transition will have for employment.</i>
Strategic Health and Environment Plan	<i>generating healthy environments and acting on the determinants of health</i>
Action Plan for Environmental Education for Sustainability	<i>to be developed between 2021 and 2025</i>



Do these instruments have a child-rights approach?

- **Law 7/2021** includes the principle of “protection of vulnerable groups, with **special consideration for children**” and establishes in its articles a series of commitments that are directly linked to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The **National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) 2021-2030** refers to the **responsibility towards future generations**





Declaration on children, young people and climate action

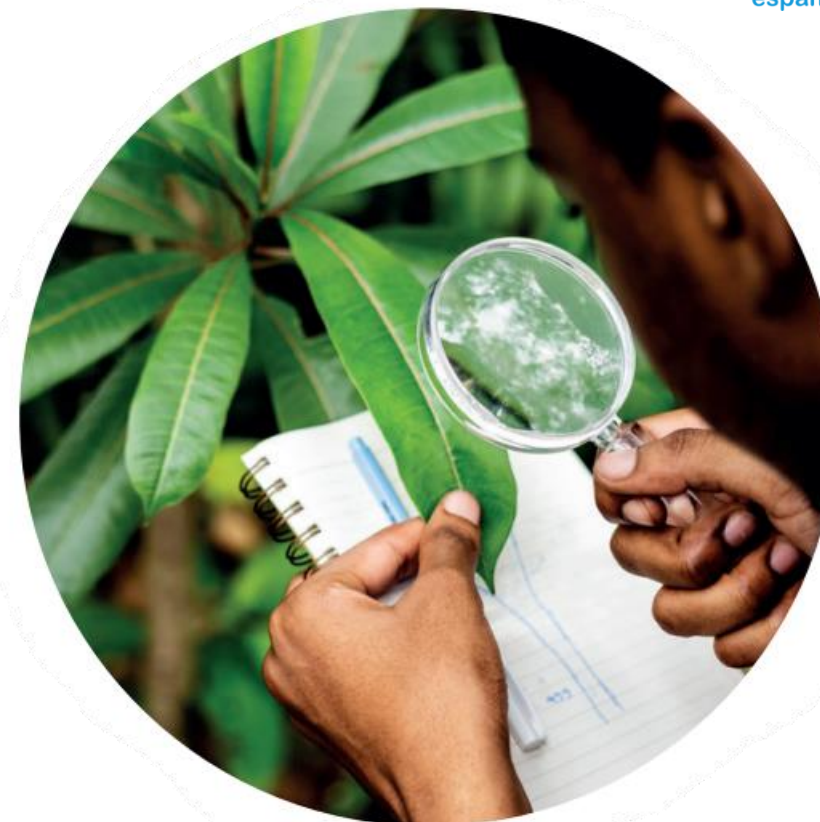
In 2019, Spain signed the **Declaration on children, young people and climate action**, in which they committed to accelerating and guaranteeing the inclusion of children and young people in climate policies and action, including the need for them to be part of the **decision-making process**.

- **Advocating for global recognition and fulfilment of children's inalienable right to a healthy environment**, and to take steps to enshrine this right where appropriate into national, regional and global frameworks and/or national policies and legislation;
- **Enhancing efforts to respect, promote and consider the rights of children and young people** in implementation of the Paris Agreement at all levels, including recognition of their specific vulnerabilities, as well as their status as key stakeholders and implementers, in countries' national climate adaptation and mitigation measures, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and long-term greenhouse gas emissions development strategies, including consideration of the particular role and responsibilities of the private sector;
- **Scaling up and accelerating investment in child- and youth-responsive adaptation, disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures**, cognizant of an urgent need to focus on reaching children most at risk, and advocate for child-sensitive criteria to be mainstreamed in multilateral funds;
- **Strengthening the capacity of children and young people on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts** by establishing and investing in climate change and environmental education, and equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills required to protect themselves and contribute to a safe and sustainable future, ensuring that such efforts reach marginalized children and youth;
- **Enhancing the meaningful participation of children and youth in climate change processes**, including through the Action for Climate Empowerment dialogue, by participating in the Youth Delegate Programme in the UNFCCC, and examining opportunities to meaningfully support YOUNGO priorities and the participation of young people, with a focus on the Global South;
- **Exploring measures to establish an international Commission for Children and Future Generations**, as well as new or existing mechanisms at the national level to ensure the effective participation of children and youth in decision making on climate change;
- **Adopting institutional and administrative measures, as well as partnerships, at national and international levels to actively pursue the above objectives**, and to enhance coherence and a cross-cutting focus on children and youth in climate action, including with respect to UNFCCC decision-making processes and workstreams, and implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

➔ **Main challenges Spain should address regarding climate change from a child-rights approach**



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The main challenges Spain should address regarding climate change from a child-rights approach?

1. The visibility of the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on children	2. Effective greenhouse gas emission reduction measures
3. The child-rights approach of the different environmental policies	4. Children's participation in decision-making and governance mechanisms
5. The school and its environment as sustainable and safe spaces for children	6. Ecosocial education
7. Mobility policies with children at the center (Low emission zones and public transport)	8. Sustainable food system
9. Promotion of green areas in cities	10. Energy poverty



Proposals suggested by Plataforma de Infancia



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Proposals suggested by Plataforma de Infancia (1/4)

The following, we show Plataforma de Infancia proposals, highlighting especially some of the proposals made by the girls and boys.

1. Prioritize **compliance with the Declaration on children, youth** and climate action on the political agenda and establish compliance control mechanisms.
2. **Ensure the participation of children** in the governance and decision-making mechanisms of the environmental agenda, seeking stable participation spaces.
3. **Improve knowledge about the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on children.**



- Campaigns to raise awareness of the need to buy and consume less.
- Create more initiatives, etc. in shopping centres to encourage recycling, such as bins that exchange your waste for money to spend in those shops.
- Ensure that 20% of advertisements in the media are aimed at promoting a positive environmental impact of different companies and green initiatives.



Proposals suggested by Plataforma de Infancia (2/4)

4. **Review the current commitment to reduce emissions (23% by 2030 compared to 1990) to 55%** to proportionally contribute to avoiding global warming of 1.5°C (target of the Paris Agreement).
5. **Implement effective measures to mitigate climate change, at all administrative levels**, such as the promotion of renewable energy, prevention of waste production and its management, sustainable agricultural production methods...
6. **Incorporate the child-rights approach in all legislation and policies derived from Law 7/2021 on Climate Change and Energy Transition and others that affect the rights of boys and girls**, placing special emphasis on policies that are particularly sensitive to the childhood.



- Create a regulation in which new streets in municipalities and cities in Spain leave considerable space on pavements for planting trees to reduce CO2 emissions from cars.
- Establish green housing with underground car parks (with electric charges adapted for this kind of vehicles) with an for this kind of vehicles) with a roof garden area (compulsory as of regulations).
- Promote reforestation with species native to our country and the establishment (through legislation and laws) of legislation and laws) of green structures based on trees (with bird nests and respecting the local ecosystem).



Proposals suggested by Plataforma de Infancia (3/4)

7. **Guarantee the focus on children in the new urban planning plans**, paying special attention to the creation and maintenance of green spaces and areas, which take into account the rights of boys and girls and improving and ensuring infrastructures that help reduce impact of heat (blue zones).
8. Ensure that **schools and their environments become safe and healthy areas** for children in accordance with the Manifiesto for the conversion of school environments into healthier areas for children.
9. Measures on **eco-social education**.



- Establish a compulsory subject in the education system related to raising awareness of the climate crisis among children and young people. To this end, we propose to establish hives between international associations and institutions in order to promote interculturality and the transmission of ideas and the difficulties of the Climate Crisis.
- Promote activities in schools to collect waste and care for local flora and fauna.
- Propose subjects related to recycling and care for the environment.



Proposals suggested by Plataforma de Infancia (4/4)

10. **Promote and encourage the use of public transport**, guaranteeing the child-rights approach.
11. Promote a **sustainable and healthy diet for all children and adolescents**. (especially in school centers)
12. **Support developing countries through mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation of impacts** especially in areas that mostly affect children lives.



- Improve public transport and lower its price so that it becomes the most used option, as well as alternative transport options such as cycling and skateboarding.
- Encourage children and young people (with awareness-raising campaigns and publicity on social networks) to consume local and seasonal products.
- Investigate the areas of the world that are most affected by the lack of safe drinking water and water shortages, and based on this, create projects and campaigns in those areas projects and campaigns in those areas to help the population.



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