



Children's Assembly

Children's Charter

We, the children and adolescents representing different countries from around the world, are happy to attend the Children's Assembly at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in Quito, Ecuador. To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, the New Urban Agenda must listen and recognise our voices, rights and opinions.

We shared the realities of our neighbourhoods, towns, and cities and analysed the issues of our environment. We call upon the world's leaders and citizens to meet our demands for inclusive and smart cities that respect and empower the rights of children and adolescents.

We deserve to have Inclusive and Smart Cities where:

- Community and recreational spaces are adapted to our ages, appropriate to our diverse needs and uphold our right to recreation. We want to be allowed to play freely, which is affected by adults preventing us to do so. We want public spaces to be protected from private interests, which is maintained by both authorities and citizens. "I would like to play games that develop our skills. To avoid problems, we can generate agreement and avoid conflicts" - Daniela 10 years. "I want the parks to be looked after to encourage civic responsibility", "The authorities lack accountability." - Sofia
- Cities value the voices of children and adolescents. We do not want to listen to statements. We want to be taken into serious consideration and our voices be heard in multiple participatory spaces, which contribute to shaping new models of cities with opportunities for all and equitable development. We do not accept inequities and exclusion. We have the capacity to organize ourselves, so we want to build our own spaces of participation. "Committees, which include children, adolescents and young girls, must be established in each city" Karina Chillanes. "There must be a child and adolescent representative in each municipal council with a voice and vote" - Mary Bethlehem Chavez. "Children have the capacity and knowledge to express their own ideas, values and rights" - Daniela Vergara.
- We demand that our opinions must be taken into consideration in decisions that affect our lives, such as education. We do not want large schools that are far from our homes and exposes us to danger. "My right to education is violated when my local school is closed down and replaced by a larger school far from my home that forces me to pass through dangerous places" - Nexari. "Why don't all schools have internet access? All teachers should teach according to their qualification, which meets our needs." "Why is our culture not respected in some places, or looked differently because of our skin colour, or the way we dress, or the way we think?"
- "We demand quality education for all in schools and colleges; high class education with innovative methods." - Mary José Pullas. "It is our right to go to school well fed. We do not want to see others falling asleep in class because they have not eaten breakfast" - Milagros. "Many educational institutions do not have safe infrastructure for us. There are communities without any colleges to ensure our required educational development, this limits our access to education." "They never consult with us about the schools we want or the education model that we want to receive. Sometimes we are afraid to refuse to participate in an activity because we will be graded zero." Daniel and Wilson. "Schools must cultivate values".
- We have the right to grow and develop in pollution-free cities, where there are green spaces and the ecology is respected, where there is no longer indiscriminate logging and fires that destroy the forest - our main sources of oxygen. "We want a pollution-free city, where we can go cycling, enjoy the countryside, hear the birds singing, see flying colourful butterflies" - Daniela. "Why did the mine destroy my home and my school?" - Matthew. "When I asked my mother why the water was yellow, she told me it was because of the mining, which pollutes the water. I say, why don't they think about the future of people?" - Daniela Vergara.
- We have the right to access health services, but how can we be efficiently served and prioritised, as guaranteed by our rights, if there are few specialised hospitals for children and adolescents? In some communities, they only have health sub-centres without sufficient staff to offer the quality care and warmth that we need. "We need better hospitals near our homes" - Wendy. "They should dedicate themselves to illness prevention and not only to immediate responses" - Daniel.
- We demand cities free from violence, abuse and violations of our rights where there are no gangs and borders, and where work opportunities are equal, and locals and foreigners are welcome. We want accessible cities for people and vehicles. "We want a world where there are no borders, because we all have the same sun, moon and live in the same land" - Daniela Palma. "Why do the areas in which we live do not have streetlights and the streets are poorly built and deteriorate quickly? Yet, there are other cities with beautiful streets and wide avenues," Milton. "They should worry not only about big cities. By the way, are we not all part of the same country?" - Eduardo. "We are all part of the same country" - Lucia.
- We demand that there is justice and equality for both men and women, children and adolescents. We should not experience discrimination or be treated badly because of our gender, social or ethnic background, social class, or simply by the way we dress or look to others. We do not accept that ideologies or behaviours that infringe our rights. We should not be abused or violated by our families, schools and society. "We need to be trusted to speak up, the adults do not listen to children and adolescents. They do not believe in us, and for this we are silenced. By doing this, we let them mistreat us." "We want a city without violence within the home or on the streets. We want a simple, colourful and modern city" - Nicole Viteri.
- We want cities where children and adolescents do not work. They are never hungry, cold, using drugs or alone without a family. They should not live without access to basic services, and face the total loss of their rights. We want cities where children are cared for by their families and can access basic services. We must have better employment opportunities for our parents. We do not want to see families dissolve because of migration or orphans because their parents died from searching for better life opportunities. "Until when will we see how they are violating our rights? Due to migration and families moving, we children and adolescents are more vulnerable to alcohol, drugs and antisocial behaviour." Jorge Dominguez.
- We want to have safe means of transport, which respects our needs, and the drivers treat us well and respect us. We want to have sufficient and friendly transport so we do not have to wait for hours to travel to school or other places. "We need sustainable cities - an inclusive and friendly city must have means of transport between urban and rural areas." Daniela.

These are some of the problems we discussed today. If you build the spaces that we need to continue expressing our voices, be sure that trusting in our capacities, and who we are, we will be the builders of inclusive and smart cities that are a better future for all.

The Children and Adolescents of the World

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The Children's Assembly was led by World Vision.