REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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27TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FORUM DECLARATION

NOVEMBER 2026, ANTALYA

DECLARATION OF THE 27th INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FORUM



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND
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27TH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FORUM DECLARATION

Dear Esteemed Adults and Dear Friends,

In a world where climate change is increasingly affecting our lives every day, protecting and promoting children's rights has become more important than ever.

We believe that the future should be one in which every child can breathe clean air, access clean water and grow up in a healthy environment; a future in which the decisions made today also safeguard the rights of generations to come.

As members of the **Children's Rights Committees** in all 81 provinces of Türkiye, we have jointly reflected, engaged in discussions and developed recommendations through our nationwide activities under the main theme of the **27th International Children's Forum**, "**Climate Change and Children's Rights**".

As part of COP31, we have gathered in Antalya with our peers from different countries around the world to raise our voices and highlight that the climate crisis is a child rights crisis.

As children around the world gathered at COP31, we call for our rights to be protected and our views to be taken into account in every decision made in response to the climate crisis. Children are not only the voice of the future; we have a voice today, as well. We believe that, with the opportunities and support provided to us, we can play an active role in shaping our country's climate future and make meaningful contributions.

As COP31 is being held in Türkiye this year, we,hereby present this declaration to make our voices heard and to help make our world a more liveable place for us and for generations to come.

We call for:

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1. Climate-focused work to be carried out within bodies and mechanisms that ensure children's participation, with such initiatives supported especially by public institutions and organizations, international organizations and civil society.

2. Children's views to be sought when developing climate policies that affect them, particularly the views of children living in disaster-prone areas and rural communities, as well as children with disabilities. The rights of future generations must also be considered in every decision.

3. Children's perspectives to be incorporated into initiatives and reports developed by local and central authorities on climate change, and for these initiatives and reports to be communicated and prepared in child-friendly language.

4. Local authorities to establish a secure digital map, with appropriate safeguards for our personal information, through which we can report environmental problems in our neighbourhoods.

5. Every school to develop an annual climate action plan prepared by students, with measurable targets for energy, water and waste management, and to share the results at the end of each year.

6. Climate and environmental literacy to be integrated into the curriculum at every grade level through practical learning, and every student to have the opportunity to participate in at least one outdoor, hands-on climate activity each year.

7. Air quality to be regularly monitored and the results made publicly available around areas frequently used by children, particularly those located near construction, demolition and industrial sites, and dust-filtering green barriers to be established around these areas.

8. Starting with flood-prone areas, schoolyards and parks to be equipped with systems that allow rainwater to infiltrate into the soil or be collected in storage facilities, and rainwater drainage grates along school routes to be cleaned annually before the rainy season.

9. To ensure that education is not disrupted during disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and wildfires, and to ensure the safety of children with disabilities and children without adult guardians, each province should have pre-established plans in place; regular psychosocial support should be provided to children affected by disasters; and disaster drills should be conducted in schools every year;

10. Recognizing that low-income families are disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change on food security, every child to be supported in accessing healthy and nutritious food regularly, and local producers' products to be given greater prominence in school canteens.

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11. To address drought, particularly in public buildings to monitor their water consumption and set annual reduction targets, while also collecting rainwater for use in watering gardens.

12. Food and bread waste in school cafeterias and canteens to be measured, every school to establish waste-reduction targets, and children to participate as volunteer ambassadors in the "**Save Your Food**" campaign.

13. "**Give and Reuse**" points to be established in schools, municipalities and youth centres where books, clothes, toys and sports equipment can be shared, and zero-waste plans to be required as a condition for granting permits for major concerts, festivals and sporting events.

14. Recognizing that thousands of stored photographs, videos left running and frequently replaced devices also place a burden on the environment, initiatives to help us calculate and reduce our digital carbon footprint every year to be developed, and electronic waste collection points to be expanded.

15. Every school, in cooperation with its municipality, to adopt and take responsibility for maintaining a green space, ensuring that newly planted saplings survive, and to report annually on the development of the area.

16. To enable us to document how the natural environment in our neighbourhoods has changed over the past 50 years through interviews with older generations, and to map endemic species and wetlands together with children.

17. Children in coastal provinces to be given opportunities to participate in ghost net removal activities; the amount of nets removed and annual microplastic monitoring results in our seas to be shared in child-friendly formats; and research into the effects of microplastics on our health to be supported.

18. A national children's climate archive to be established, bringing together documentaries, podcasts and photographs through which children share the climate crisis from their own perspectives, alongside workshops established with university support where we can develop solutions to environmental challenges.

19. Children from different countries to organize joint activities on International **Day of Zero Waste** and the **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss** and Waste, sharing with the world the **Zero Waste** approach championed by Türkiye.

20. Children's participation, initiated at COP31, to be sustained through international cooperation so that the voices of children in countries most affected by the climate crisis can also be heard, and for Türkiye to serve as a role model for children around the world in this regard.

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Esteemed Adults and Dear Friends,

We are willing and determined to do our part to ensure that our rights are protected and strengthened and that our voices are heard in the face of the climate crisis. We commit to organizing zero-waste activities in our schools and Children's Rights Committees, providing peer-to-peer education to our friends, and following up on the demands set out in this declaration.

We call for these processes to be carried out with full respect for children's rights and in a manner that genuinely reflects our voices. We want children to be meaningfully involved at every stage of climate policymaking. Only in this way can the decisions made truly safeguard the right of both present and future generations to live in a healthy environment.

For us, this declaration is not a final letter; it is our first word.

Trust us. Give us the opportunity.

Together, let us make our world a cleaner, fairer and more liveable place for the children of today and tomorrow.