



The South African Durban Youth and Children's Protocol

Negotiated and Agreed upon

**At the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change, Durban, South Africa**

November 2011

We the youth and children of South Africa,

In pursuit of finding workable solutions to the challenges of climate change,

*Being guided by the principles set aside by the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),*

Article 1:

We the youth and children have decided the following regarding Africa to the global community

1. Alarmed by the number of people displaced or harmed by climate change but not given proper aid or treatment because climate change isn't recognised as justifying such response.
2. Recommend that people displaced or harmed by climate change are given proper refugee status and are subsequently treated with those rights.
3. Encourage Governments and international organisations to further discuss and potentially implement the "green fund" (as discussed in Cancun) to equip vulnerable states against the dangers posed by climate change.
4. Reaffirms that the involvement of smaller states/local governments to uphold the principal of transparency in terms of their interactions on an international platform.
5. Encourage technological innovation and development within industry sectors as a response to our dependence on fossil fuels.
6. Recommend a focus on more efficient allocation and use of resources, in order to avoid the detrimental impact that is created by inefficiencies within industries.

Article 2:

By communicating with the fellow African youth and children, we have agreed as follows;

1. Acknowledging that some sectors/states have not been adequately recognised in the past; we therefore encourage smaller sectors or regions to integrate and form a “one voice” approach allowing for collective bargaining, influence and greater cooperation by uniting sectors that include, but are not limited to, community organisers, the fishing industry, faith-based organisations and aid organisations,
2. Proposes that developing African countries need to balance economic aspirations and environmental protection.
3. Call upon local government officials to engage with their community to establish
 - a) education on how to operate sustainably and
 - b) deploying volunteers in high-risk areas.
4. Propose policies on education and information on alleviating the problems of over population to reduce the strain on limited resources and uphold standards of health.
5. Call upon local governments to provide platforms that allow for communication and interactions between all people, especially in a school context.

Article 3:

As the South African youth and children speaking to their national government;

1. Encourage programmes and partnerships with commercial farmers and other stakeholders to equip subsistence farmers with the knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges that they face.
2. Remind that the basic needs of an individual in a community must be fulfilled in order to optimise their “buy in” into climate protection programmes, to better understand the effects of climate change on their community through all means available.
3. Encourage national government to harness the efforts of non-governmental organisations and local community organisations in other priority areas, such as in education and health; thus allowing government to redistribute resources towards the local challenges of climate change.
4. Encourage investment in technology such as alternative energy sources and meteorological equipment for early response to imposing disasters.
5. Call for the investment in academic research and development within Africa to produce environmentally conscious alternatives that could provide solutions suitable to African climate change challenges.
6. Provide incentives for researchers and professionals to remain in Africa to optimise academic output on climate change and maximise the return of investing in education.

7. Promote youth enterprises that would encourage the proper disposal of recyclable waste in return for goods or other benefits to incentivise environmental awareness amongst the youth and children in rural areas.

Article 4:

As the youth and children speaking to our peers we commit to do the following in our communities;

1. Support local municipalities to improve local facilities and properly inform their communities of the threats of climate change in order to engage all members of society.
 2. Implement recycling programmes in schools, offices and governmental agencies.
 3. Promote walking, cycling and use of public transport as an attractive substitute, and request government to improve safety and security for pedestrians, cyclists and commuters.
 4. Advocate for “green” jobs, products and activities to gain popular support for environmental protection especially amongst the youth.
 5. Popularise the environmental agenda by using social media platforms and so change perceptions and generate interest of the seriousness of environmental protection.
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The South African Durban Youth and Children’s Protocol was handed to the Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Minister Lulu Xingwana, on 29 November 2011 at a special UNFCCC side event at COP 17 in Durban.

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