

A 10-POINT PLAN FOR CHANGE

BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE

We, children and young people in all our diversity, are an asset now – not just in the future. In many countries, we're the majority and disproportionately impacted by crises, violence and poverty – so how can we continue to be overlooked? Only if you make us the architects of our own future can policies, decisions, and actions meet our needs now – and not hurt generations tomorrow. We are an investment, not an expense – with dividends that last a lifetime.

Leaders and adults need to recognise our evolving capacities: we are not a problem to be solved or passive beneficiaries – we are rightful partners whose expertise is essential to any solution. That's why intergenerational decision-making must become the default; we need to be at the table from the first to last day, co-owning decisions, not renegotiating our right to be involved.

Please be open. Be intentional. Act on what you hear.

Rights are not abstract, responses are not isolated; funding, power, and partnerships need to reflect our lived realities.

**WE
WANT**

- * **Power, not only participation**
- * **Investment, not inspiration**
- * **Protection, not praise**
- * **Action, not apathy**
- * **Trust, not silence**

This Ten Point Plan was created through a three-phase process: 1) drawing on existing survey and consultation data related to each of these top issues with millions of children and young people globally, including UReport; 2) a validation survey with 115 respondents; 3) in-person and online consultations April–May 2026, including with over 300 young people at Women Deliver, focus groups with 132 young people (ages 18–35) across India, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe by Restless Development, and online consultations with the Youth Conference Group.

Based on the views of children and young people across the globe, our top ten asks for action related to the Global Partnerships Conference themes are:

1 PARTNERSHIP

We have the initiative to make change happen, but we need the mandate to execute it. Forget tokenism – move from consultation to trusted, shared ownership. Design change with us, not about us; we're your partners in a common future!

2 POWER

Listening without shared partnership isn't power. Start deciding with us, stop resourcing around us, and be accountable alongside us. Be willing to cede control where we're not just present but influential. If you're comfortable, power isn't truly shifting...

3 FINANCING

What matters to us most is still funded least. Resource us to lead – shift from gatekeeping to flexible, long term partnerships, invest in local youth led responses, and remove structural barriers. Adopt a catalytic approach: 'nothing for us, without core funding to us.'

4 EDUCATION + GROWTH

Education without skills, and skills without opportunity, will not deliver growth. Make a minimum of twelve years of quality, free education that is future focused and disability inclusive. Then stop training us fast and hiring us least; sustainable growth starts with us.

5 HUMANITARIAN

Childhood cannot wait for safety. It depends on it. Prioritise our protection, participation and dignity before, during and after crises, including for those displaced and unseen. These things are not optional – they're life saving.

6 HEALTH

Health information and services must be accessible, trustworthy, child friendly and co-created with us – leaving no one behind. The invisible is often the most harmful: mental health, trauma, chronic illness, hidden disabilities, malnutrition and SRHR all deserve the same urgency as "visible" health issues.

7 CLIMATE

We are the most impacted, the least prepared, and already living the consequences of conflict, displacement, and scarce resources. This is not tomorrow's problem. Give us the skills, jobs and voice to shape a just transition with home grown climate solutions. We didn't create this generational crisis. Include us in solving it.

8 TECHNOLOGY

Technology is shaping our lives, but we had no say in how it was built. Close the digital divide and involve us – especially girls and women – in AI governance, digital safety laws, and decisions about automation. Our futures are inside these systems; we should be in the rooms building them.

9 EQUALITY + VIOLENCE

Don't ask us to overcome barriers – remove them. Design systems to be gender and disability inclusive from the start, so we don't have to fight to access what is ours. Stop putting the burden on survivors; believe us when we try to claim protection. Real equality begins when systems change, not when we are forced to endure.

10 RADICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Points 1 to 9 mean nothing without the will to act, the investment to deliver, and the transparency to prove it. Accountability to young people not just about us means co-ownership of decisions, measurable goals that are funded and tracked, action plans to achieve youth leadership, and commitments that come true. No child or young person should be left behind by a system that was never designed to see them.

We're not a tick-box, or a 'photo-opp', or 'less than' – give weight to our expertise, ideas and initiatives – and support us with all your hearts.