



UN Major Group for  
**Children and Youth**  
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

**Official Statement**  
**United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth**  
**6th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland**  
**15 May 2019**

Thank you for giving us the floor. My name is Nhilce Esquivel from Mexico, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.

We, the Children and Youth Stakeholder Group, are here to demand the *Resilience Dividend be shared equitably*.

Repeatedly, we have proven how imperative our participation is for the meaningful implementation, monitoring, and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework. Now is the time that the collective involvement of young people should advance from participation to partnership. As we stated in Sendai: “children and youth are not just vulnerable; we are part of the solution.”

Through the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth, young people were an active constituent in Global, Regional and National Meetings, Platforms, Summits and Forums, feeding into a more inclusive and representative implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the greater 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Just days ago, the Secretary General encouraged us to be “as noisy as possible,” to “put governments under pressure,” and that is what we are here to do. We are not here to tell you things that you already know, we are here to tell you that these things are so obvious that even we know them, and your inaction on climate change is unacceptable.

The SG also asked us to “name and shame,” and while we won’t use this platform to do so, we encourage all countries affected by the pollution and lack of mitigation strategies of other countries to fight back. Do not be bullied. Our collective action is stronger than any one single nation.

We need UNDRR and UNFCCC to work together to increase climate finance and bridge the ambition gap of member states regarding the Paris Agreement;

We need collective action between member states and stakeholders to stop illicit financial flows which prevent financing for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development;

We need an enhanced scope that recognizes DRR as a cross-cutting issue and includes biological, technological, slow-onset as well as all human-induced disasters in the framework;

We need to bridge the gap between technical and high-level plans for DRR and local action by including, sensitizing and mobilizing local at-risk communities in data-gathering and the implementation of evidence-based measures; human-centered, gender-sensitive, and age-responsive.

In Sendai, we called on you, to call on us. But we can't afford to wait. We're going forward either way.

You will only realize how inexpensive it is to save the climate when you witness the cost of its destruction.

Thank you.