

# Harare children's Call to action

## Introduction

We, a group of eighteen children from Africa and Middle East, came together in Harare, Zimbabwe to discuss issues affecting working children in our region. From our discussions, we agreed that poverty and climate change are our top priority issues that need to be addressed by our regional body, the African Union.

Our key messages are:

### **Address poverty, provide decent jobs for our parents and ensure basic needs are met.**

- Poverty and exploitation are causes of each other, and therefore must be eradicated from society. This will ensure that our families have sufficient resources to meet children's basic needs for food, clothes, healthcare, clean drinking water, sanitation, and education in urban and rural areas.
- Social protection should be provided for adults and children, and all families should have access to quality health services, vaccines, and a healthy environment.
- Parents and caregivers should have access to adequate and stable work, as well as vocational skill training, in all settings, including rural, remote, camp, and urban settings.
- Governments must guarantee rights, provide decent housing, and land rights for families. Plus, we need more spaces for play, leisure, and recreation to support children's development.

### **Actively engage and empower children to be part of the climate change solution and ensure that existing policies are implemented effectively.**

- Implement stronger policies that protect child space and environmental rights (General Comment 26).
- Education, home initiatives, school involvement, and tree planting are effective ways to engage in the fight against climate change.
- Safeguard the ecosystem, reduce carbon emissions, and transition to renewable energy.