



G20 SOCIAL
SOUTH
AFRICA 2025



Children20

Children20 Declaration G20 2025 – Our Future, Our Voice

We, the children of the Children20, are speaking together from different countries, languages and backgrounds. We ask G20 leaders to hear us. The choices you make today will shape our lives tomorrow. We want to help build the world we will grow up in. We are not too young to understand. We are not too young to lead. And we are not too young to be included.

1. Digital Inclusion and Equitable Transformation

A digital world that is safe, fair and open to every child

Technology helps us learn, talk to others and explore the world, but many children are still left out. Children with special needs, children in rural areas and children without devices or data face the biggest barriers.

We want safe online spaces and rules that protect us from harmful content, scammers and cybercrime, along with free or affordable internet in all areas including rural and low-income communities. We want digital lessons in school from the early grades, and child-friendly apps and websites designed for children with special needs. We want parents and teachers who understand technology and can guide us, and we want South Africa and other countries to build their own technology so we are not always dependent on foreign companies. We want technology imports that support learning without causing addiction or isolation. Technology should help children grow, not put us in danger.

2. Trade, Resilience and Inclusive Value Chains

Trade should help families, not harm children

Trade affects our food, families, communities and environment. Sometimes trade brings good things. Sometimes it brings harm.

We have seen child labour in dangerous industries, mines that pollute water and air, illegal trading that exposes children to drugs and unsafe products, and parents working long hours with little time for their children. We want trade rules that protect children's rights, safer markets and communities, lessons in school about how trade works, and clear, transparent value chains that do not harm people or the planet. Trade must support children, not exploit them.



3. Inclusive Climate Justice, Just Transition and Energy Democracy

We are growing up in a climate crisis we did not create

Climate change affects every part of our lives including food, water, health, schooling, safety and mental wellbeing. Many families live in unsafe areas and are hit hardest by floods, heatwaves and droughts. Children in rural and poor communities are most affected.

We want clean water, clean air and safe communities, along with climate lessons in schools so we know how to protect our planet. We want recycling and environmental programmes in every community, support for families after disasters and renewable energy that creates green jobs. We want children included in climate meetings and decisions, especially children with special needs and those in poorer communities. Climate change is causing mental health challenges, especially in remote areas, so access to mental health care must improve. We want STEM learners to learn about the energy sector, stronger links between health and climate change, more doctors trained in climate-related issues and energy democracy that prevents the brain drain by developing African knowledge and skills. Climate justice must be fair and include everyone.

4. A Just and Sustainable Finance and International Financial Architectures

Money decisions should help children, not harm them

Children are asked about international finance, but we are not taught this in school. We want financial education in the curriculum so we can understand national budgets and global systems.

We want child-friendly national budget reports that show how much money is spent on children and where improvements are needed, less funding for programmes that do not work and more funding for children's services, schools, clinics and safety.

We want stronger public and private partnerships to help renovate schools and clinics and support families, as well as better systems to stop fraud, corruption and waste. We want buildings, clinics, schools and services that include children with special needs, sign language and braille taught in all schools and entrepreneurship education co-designed with CEOs, children and curriculum advisors.

We want improved water and sanitation everywhere to avoid cholera, more schools so classes are not overcrowded and stronger eco-friendly buildings that can withstand disasters and climate change, with child-friendly progress reports. We want clean water systems, especially in rural areas where children get sick from dirty water, and investment in innovations for rural water infrastructure. We want more psychosocial support centres,



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communication tools and technology in schools for children with special needs and trained teachers, nurses, social workers and police who understand these needs. We want child-centred, eco-friendly infrastructure and investment in sustainable practices for persons with special needs. We also want government to focus on balancing the budget, sustainable infrastructure and psychosocial healthcare facilities.

We ask the IMF and World Bank to lower interest rates for developing countries so they can invest in education, healthcare and child services that create safe environments and strong infrastructure. Children deserve countries that are strong, not struggling under debt.

5. Build Momentum for the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

We want a world where the SDGs are real in our lives

The Social Development Goals are goals to make the world fairer, safer and healthier by 2030, but most children don't know about them because they are not taught in all schools. We see rural areas being left behind, hunger and poverty, children with special needs excluded, short-term solutions instead of long-term change, symbolic child participation in spaces like the National Children's Parliament, Children in Portfolio Committees and the Office of the President, and social grants being misused, which is why strong systems are needed to ensure children benefit.

We also see progress including school meals, food parcels, the first Children20 Pre-Summit and student leadership at national level.

We want SDG lessons in classrooms, real spaces for child participation and more eco-friendly behaviour in communities. We want menstrual health programmes, sexual and reproductive health programmes, improvements in mental health and mass participation programmes that strengthen child-centred dialogue. We want fair systems that stop corruption, strong partnerships between government, families and children and SDG curricula and learning methods beyond traditional approaches. We want financing to teach schools and communities about the SDGs, South Africa collaborating to strengthen global partnerships and share technology, policy changes that affect us directly and government to build hospitals. Nothing about us without us.

Important Issues Children Agree with from the Brazil G20 Policy Pack

Children need counsellors, trained teachers and safe places to talk. No child should go hungry, so school meals must expand. Schools must be safe, inclusive and properly funded. We must stop gender-based violence and support all children especially the girl child. Every child deserves clean water, sanitation and good healthcare. Children must be free to speak, organise and be involved in decisions that affect their lives.



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Our Cross-Cutting Principles

Real child participation, strong safeguarding and honest accountability.

Our Call to G20 Leaders

We don't want symbolic participation.
We want real power to shape our world.

Listen to us.
Work with us.
Build the future with us.

Our future is our voice. Our voice is now.

Bibliography

UNICEF. (n.d.). *CAF Child Lens Investing Fund for Latin America (LATAM)*. UNICEF.