

Proposals for the new NDCs of Ecuador made by children and youth

Below, we present the aspects that children, adolescents, and youth consider important to include in the formulation of the Second NDCs that Ecuador will promote in the following sectors:

1. Education Sector

Children, adolescents, and young people in Ecuador consider that this should be a strategic and priority sector in climate change adaptation. Environmental education/climate change education should be promoted at all educational levels, according to the local context and from the perspective of human rights, intergenerational responsibility, and gender perspective. We believe it is important to restructure the curricula of formal education from elementary school to high school levels to include environmental, conservation, and climate change topics.

Also, we need teachers to be trained in these topics (environment, conservation, and climate change) so that they can acquire updated knowledge in line with current reality. Strategically, academia, experts in climate change, conservation, and the environment could be involved in the processes of restructuring the educational curriculum.

As for the society, we believe it is necessary to adapt messages to the audience through a change of narrative and dynamization of communication. It is important to raise awareness among civil society with accessible and scientifically proven information about climate change. Within other productive or strategic sectors of the government, the environmental component should be integrated through the strengthening of capacities of those responsible in other portfolios: oil industry, agriculture, fishing, livestock, and others.

2. Energy Sector

In this area, measures are requested to implement and promote the generation of renewable energies, investing in clean technologies to reduce environmental impact. In addition, we need to improve transport systems that are low in CO₂ emissions and in rural sectors, we request the implementation of solar energy projects and other renewables that are not linked to the use of fossil fuels.

3. Health Sector

In terms of health, we believe it is essential to guarantee access to water in quality and quantity for all communities, whether rural or urban, in order to prevent the development of diseases linked to this resource. Similarly, appropriate health areas should be increased in rural and vulnerable areas in an ecological and sustainable way. It is important to give greater importance to both physical and mental health, especially for us children, adolescents, and young people, and make greater efforts in the research of vector-borne diseases and others such as chronic malnutrition that could increase with climate change.

4. Water Sector - Water Heritage

Within the water heritage sector, we believe that resources should be allocated for the management and care of water sources such as moorlands and wetlands. Similarly, promoting reforestation and maintaining watercourse banks is essential. We suggest incorporating regulations in the new NDCs for controlling the release of pollutants into rivers and advocating for actions to protect water bodies from mining and oil activities to ensure access to clean water for communities.

In addition, we believe it is necessary to control through environmental regulations the maintenance processes of the infrastructure of oil pipelines, allowing access to drinking water in correct health conditions. Finally, we request that actions be considered to guarantee access to quality basic services in rural communities, seeking to increase the well-being of children, adolescents, and young people

5. Security and Food Sovereignty Sector

On this aspect, it is important to promote cleaner production mechanisms, decreasing the use of agrochemicals and motivating the use of organic inputs. Similarly, implementing training for farmers on agroecological practices is crucial. On the other hand, we believe it is important to modernize livestock so that there is a low level of methane; and, finally, establish programs/policies/actions to diversify food, promote local, conscious, sustainable and responsible consumption.

6. Conservation of Natural Heritage Sector

In this area, we believe it is important to promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems to recover their functionality, including that of vegetation, fauna and the rest of the living organisms that make up the ecosystem. It is important to implement restoration systems in places affected by climate change or by activities derived from the extractive industry to guarantee a safe environment for communities. On the other hand, we believe that the creation of biological corridors and prioritizing vulnerable ecosystems and species, (including potential areas to capture GHGs, such as wetlands) is important to include in the new commitments that the country undertakes. We consider it necessary to establish a national moratorium for deep-sea mining for at least 10 years. Increase controls over large and small-scale mining activities. Apply free, prior and informed consultation in communities associated with extractive processes. Prohibit extractive projects such as oil and mining in protected areas and human communities.

Finally, we believe that conservation areas should be increased in places that have not been intervened by human activity and include actions to protect and conserve the oceans and marine species with defined goals and deadlines.

7. Support for Local Governments

We believe that efforts should be increased in public and private investment to generate environmental, conservation, education, and climate change projects, including the execution of the NDCs.

In addition, we consider that all local governments should be trained in climate action proposals, so they can access climate funds and engage as key actors in the implementation of NDCs.

8. Youth and Citizen Participation in NDC Monitoring

As children, adolescents and youth, we request to include our voices within public policy and the national climate agenda through effective and real participation. We believe it is important to achieve the inclusion of citizens in projects and execution of the NDCs, generating spaces for dialogues where young people and children are heard. Similarly, we consider it important to inclusively involve the indigenous peoples and nationalities of Ecuador, on the other hand, to inform about human rights to communities far from rural areas.

We also believe it is necessary to strengthen transparency processes in the implementation of adaptation measures and mitigation actions, improve monitoring systems for NDC commitments, and promote strategic partnerships to address the most vulnerable populations. To achieve this, we suggest establishing an international and intergenerational committee comprising private sector, public sector, intergovernmental organizations such as the UN, NGOs, and various members of civil society to act independently under a legal structure, allowing for proper oversight and monitoring of NDC implementation.

Finally, we believe it is important to improve strategies to communicate the commitments outlined in the NDCs and the progress of these commitments to society in general.