

Children's Climate Forum Copenhagen 2009

General Key Messages

- The Children's Climate Forum Copenhagen 2009 (CCFC-09) is an opportunity created by UNICEF for children from around the world – including Canada - to challenge world leaders to build a more sustainable world for future generations. This will involve securing the rights of children in a world affected by climate change.
- The CCFC-09 will take place in Denmark, Copenhagen from 28 November to 4 December 2009 as an official event of the UN Conference of the Parties No. 15 (COP15).
- More than 160 youth (aged 14-17) from 40 countries will attend the CCFC and create a communiqué to the world leaders gathering at the climate change conference.
- Following the CCFC-09, world leaders will meet at the UN Conference of the Parties No. 15 (COP15) in Denmark, Copenhagen. There leaders will discuss climate change and try to reach an agreement on how to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. This will be the most important meeting on climate change yet.
- The decisions made by the leaders at the COP15 climate change conference will affect children and young people's lives today and shape their world tomorrow. For this reason, UNICEF and the City of Copenhagen have taken action to give children and young people of the world a chance to be heard by organizing the CCFC-09 the week prior to the COP15.
- Delegates to the CCFC-09 will communicate with one another prior to the Forum through the online community Unite for Climate – www.uniteforclimate.org. The Web site offers an opportunity to discuss, collaborate, share videos, pictures and information and network with youth NGO's and young people around the world active on climate change. Other young people and classes interested in climate change can communicate through this portal as well.

Climate Change Key Messages

- Through environmental disasters, desertification, water shortages and other impacts of climate change, children face threats to their health, safety and future. Climate change threatens development gains and goals, deepening child poverty and increasing children's vulnerability to abuse, exploitation and displacement.
-
- In the next decade, up to 175 million children are likely to be affected every year by natural disasters brought about by climate change. By 2010, 50 million people will be environmentally displaced, most of whom will be women and children.
- Children must have a say and be part of the climate change solution – the Children's Climate Forum Copenhagen 2009 is one important platform to strengthen their voice and support their actions.