Submission to SB60 for the Expert Dialogue on Children and Climate Change

Matter of Immediacy

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The Climate Emergency Institute welcomes the expert dialogue on children and climate change.

WHO has declared climate change the single biggest health threat facing humanity

Children are most vulnerable to all climate change impacts. In particular this applies to the largest cause of child death-malaria which is projected increase with climate change (IPCC AR6, 7.3.1.3)
Nearly every minute, a child under five dies of malaria (UNICEF 2024).

To avoid secure a liveable future (IPCC AR6 term) for the world's children, global emissions have to decline rapidly on an immediate basis (IPCC AR6)

"Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future for all". (IPCC Chair key messages IPCC AR6 WG2)
This applies the most to all the world's children.

"Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, we will not meet the goals of the Paris Agreement". Remarks by IPCC Chair during the Opening ceremony COP28

The Children need a IPCC special children under climate change fast tracked
Today's children and all future children need immediate action (IPCC AR6) so we need to ask the IPCC to proceed with a special report on children right away, without waiting for the results of expert dialogue. Immediate action cannot be delayed by waiting for the IPCC report.

There are many reasons for this.

Emissions
Immediate global emissions decline
Without immediate global emissions decline our children face an unliveable future (IPCC above)

Starting with the 2007 4th Assessment, the IPCC deadline for global emissions decline, to limit warming to 2°C has been 2020. This (2020) has been repeated by innumerable reports and media articles.

The IPPC for the past 5 years, by formal statements at the UN climate conferences (COPs), have called for the immediate rapid decline of global emissions, as most recently in the 2022 6th IPCC Assessment. Without the immediate global emissions decline 2°C as well as 1.5°C with be exceeded.

Keynote address **by the IPCC** Chair Hoesung Lee at the opening of COP26 Glasgow (31 October 2021)
"Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during this century unless immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, especially of carbon dioxide and methane, occur in the nearest future".

Remarks by IPCC Chair during the Opening ceremony COP28
(30 Nov. 2023 by the new IPCC Chair, Jim Skea)

"Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, we will not meet the goals of the Paris Agreement".

The IPCC 6th Assessment has global emissions peak for both 2°C and 1.5°C at 2020-2025 (IPCC AR6 WG3, Table SPM.2). This is approved by all governments as well as the scientists, so immediate global emissions decline is a must to possibly avoid an unliveable future for our children.

This what the science says, not withstanding feasibility.

State of the Climate
The other reason for immediacy is that all climate change indicators are record high increasing at record rates WMO has issued a red alert on climate regarding its State of the climate in 2023 report

Fossil Fuel Subsidies
Global emissions decline and fossil fuel phase-out cannot happen, let alone start with immediate action, without immediate, total, unconditional termination of fossil fuel subsidies (which are being increased)
All agencies have supported this for years and was promised by the G20 in 2009 at the Pittsburgh Summit

Temperature Increase
1.5 no longer alive

1.5°C is globally disastrous while 2°C is global and planet catastrophe (IPCC 2018 1.5°C Report)
(See below IPCC 1.5°C, 5.1 chart of impacts at 1.5°C and 2°C)

The current NDCs are of relatively little relevance compared to committed warming (2.4°C by Hansen et al, November 2023), current policies (3.2°C) and the imperative of immediate emissions decline.

Current Policies lead to 3.2°C this century (IPCC AR6), by which all crop yields in all regions are projected to be in decline (IPCC AR6) and feedbacks accelerate warming to Hothouse Earth. That's no future.

The Baku COP29 is based on the delaying delusion that warming can still be limited to1.5°C.

(Our fixed priority is delivering deep, rapid and sustained emission reductions now to keep temperatures under control and stay below 1.5°C, while leaving no one behind. (Baku COP29 website)

With respect to global disastrous impacts, particularly on the world's children, the policy relevant science is that 1.5°C of warming will be at or soon after 2030 (IPCC AR6)

In the same manner without immediate emissions decline globally catastrophic 2°C will be by 2050 (IPCC AR6), so for policy 2°C will be by 2050. All large planetary amplifying feedback sources are triggered by 2°C (2018, Trajectory of the Anthropocene, Will Steffen et al)

The dangerous delaying claim that 1.5°C has to be a decadal average under the Paris Agreement is not true.

2015, Paris Agreement, Article 2 1. "This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by: (a) **Holding the increase** in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change"

Adaptation

From the above it is clear that adaptation for the future survival of today's children and generation, has to be concerted, massive and immediate, directed at globally disastrous 1.5°C warming within only 10 years. This can be done.

However adaptation can only be effectively sustained, under declining global emissions.

For further science and references see <Childrensclimateemegency.org>

Enormous increases in deadly impacts at 1.5°C and by orders of magnitude at 2°C

Impacts on **children**, the most vulnerable, will be devastating

IPCC, 2018, 1.5°C Report

Table 5.1 | Sustainable development implications of avoided impacts between 1.5°C and 2°C global warming.

Impacts	1.5°C	2°C
Water scarcity	4% more people exposed to water stress	8% more people exposed to water stress,
Ecosystems	Around 7% of land area experiences biome shifts	Around 13% (range 8–20%) of land area experiences biome shifts
	70–90% of coral reefs at risk from bleaching	99% of coral reefs at risk from bleaching
Coastal cities	31–69 million people exposed to coastal flooding (more people)	32–79 million exposed to coastal flooding (more people)
	Fewer cities and coasts exposed to sea level rise and extreme events	More people and cities exposed to flooding
Food systems	Significant declines in crop yields avoided, some yields may increase	Average crop yields decline
	32–36 million people exposed to lower yields	10X 330–396 million people exposed to lower yields
Health	Lower risk of temperature-related morbidity and smaller mosquito range	Higher risks of temperature-related morbidity and mortality and larger geographic range of mosquitoes
more	3546–4508 million people exposed to heat waves	5417–6710 million people exposed to heat waves

And at least 50% of the world's population — around **4 billion people** — live under highly water-stressed conditions for at least one month of the year (WRI)

Flood risk already affects **1.81 billion people** (World Bank)

At 2°C 10X reduced crop yields as 1.5°C

World Agricultural Output Growth Continues to Slow, Reaching Lowest Rate in Six Decades (USDA, Dec. 2022)

The 2023 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2023) estimated 258 million affected by acute food insecurity up from 193 million in 2021

Globally in 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases and **608 000 malaria deaths** in 85 countries (WHO)

Exposure to deadly urban heat has tripled since the 1980s now affecting **1.7 billion** (C. Tuholke et al, Oct. 2021

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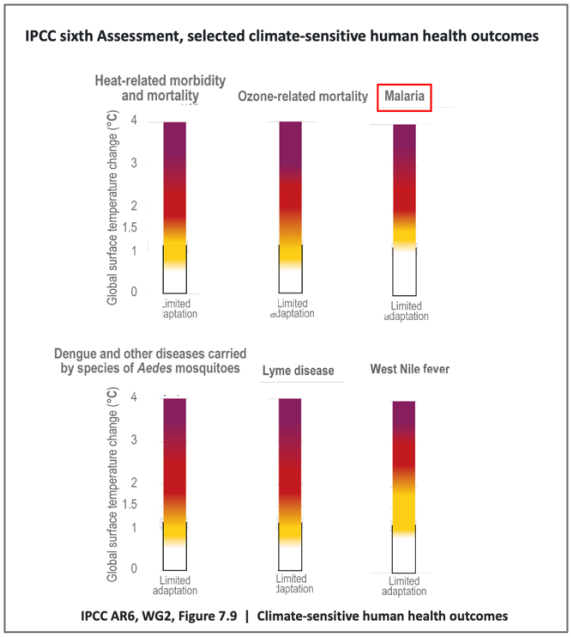

IPCC AR6 Malaria Evidence has increased since AR5 that the vectorial capacity has increased for dengue fever, malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases and that higher global average temperatures are making wider geographic areas more suitable for transmission (very high confidence) There is a high likelihood that climate change will contribute to increased distributional range and vectorial capacity of malaria vectors in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and South America (high confidence)