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# The Cologne Child Friendly Cities Mayors' Declaration

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Cities and communities are increasingly taking centre stage in advancing child rights and are crucial drivers in building the sustainable, child-friendly cities of tomorrow.

We, mayors and city leaders from around the globe, gathered at the first Child Friendly Cities Summit in Cologne, Germany, on 17–18 October 2019 to [celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and the growing commitment to improving the lives, opportunities and well-being of every child through the Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

[We welcome the Child Friendly Cities Manifesto](#), presented by child and youth representatives from child-friendly cities and beyond at the Summit.

[We recognize that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) go hand in hand](#) and that children's rights cannot be realized without the successful implementation of the SDGs and vice versa.

[We declare our commitment to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) for every child together with all relevant stakeholders within our cities and communities to ensure comprehensive solutions and fulfilment of the Convention.

[We commit to implementing the Child Friendly Cities Initiative](#) and ensuring that every child and young person enjoys their full potential through equal realization of their rights within their cities and communities, by reaching the following goals:

1. Every child and young person is valued, respected and treated fairly within their communities and by local authorities;
2. Every child and young person has their voice, needs and priorities heard and considered in public laws, policies, budgets and decisions affecting them;
3. Every child and young person has access to quality essential services (including health care, education, nutrition support, early childhood development, justice and family support);
4. Every child and young person lives in a safe, healthy and clean environment;
5. Every child and young person has opportunities to enjoy family life, play and leisure.

To realize these goals, we are particularly committed to:

- Demonstrating concrete, sustainable and measurable results for children;
- Advancing meaningful and inclusive child participation;
- Eliminating discrimination against children and young people in policies and actions.

We call on national and sub-national authorities to support cities and communities in their commitment to becoming child-friendly by ensuring that every child and young person reaches their full potential through equal realization of their rights within their cities and communities.

We call on all stakeholders that directly and indirectly have an impact on the lives of children and young people, including the United Nations family, the private sector, civil society organizations, unions, academia and the media, to respect and support the rights and well-being of children in fulfilling their respective roles and mandates.

*Adopted unanimously on 18 October 2019 in Cologne, Germany, and declared by the Mayor of Cologne, Henriette Reker, and mayors and leaders of the following cities and communities:*

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Henriette Reker, [Mayor of Cologne](#)

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Child  
Friendly  
Cities  
Initiative

unicef   
for every child