

Putting Children At The Center: The Call For An Economy Charter

written by Hamna Seyyed | June 27, 2023



In a world focused on economic growth and development, it is crucial not to overlook the well-being and future of our children. Recognizing this imperative, a growing movement is advocating for an Economy Charter that places children at the center of economic policies and decision-making. By prioritizing the needs and rights of children, this charter aims to create a more equitable and sustainable future for generations to come. The traditional approach to economic development often neglects the long-term consequences for children and fails to address the systemic issues that hinder their well-being. Poverty, inequality, inadequate access to education and healthcare, and environmental degradation all have a profound impact on children's lives and their future opportunities. By centering children in economic policies, we can ensure that their rights are protected, and their needs are met. This approach recognizes that investing in children today will yield significant benefits in the long run, leading to a healthier, more educated, and more productive population. It is an investment in human capital that can drive sustainable economic growth and social progress.

Key Principles of the Economy Charter:

- **Child-Centered Development:** The Economy Charter emphasizes that economic policies should prioritize the best interests of children. It calls for investments in early childhood development, quality education, healthcare, nutrition, and social protection programs to ensure that all children have equal opportunities to thrive.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** The charter advocates for policies that address the root causes of inequality and discrimination. It emphasizes the need to eliminate barriers that prevent marginalized children from accessing essential services and opportunities. This includes tackling issues of gender inequality, discrimination based on race or ethnicity, and socio-economic disparities.
- **Sustainable and Resilient Future:** The Economy Charter recognizes the intergenerational impact of environmental degradation and climate change. It calls for a transition to sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic practices that ensure a livable planet for future generations. This includes promoting renewable energy, reducing carbon emissions, and protecting natural resources.



Children are not passive recipients of policies; they are active participants and agents of change. The Economy Charter highlights the importance of involving children in decision-making processes that affect their lives. It recognizes their right to be heard, to express their opinions, and to participate in shaping their communities and societies. Implementing the Economy Charter requires collaboration among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. It necessitates policy reforms, increased investments, and the reallocation of resources to prioritize children's well-being. It also calls for monitoring mechanisms to track progress, ensure accountability, and make adjustments when needed.

As we strive for economic progress, it is crucial to remember that our ultimate goal should be to create a better future for all, particularly for children. The Economy Charter provides a framework to center children in economic policies, ensuring that their rights are protected, their voices are heard, and their needs are met. By investing in children and addressing the systemic issues that affect their well-being, we can build a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous world for generations to come.