

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child

Theme: The rights of the child and the Sustainable Development Goals

Joint Oral Statement

This statement is delivered on behalf of a group of NGOs¹.

COVID-19 has unleashed an unprecedented crisis threatening to undermine decades of progress on children's rights and on the SDGs. Without urgent action, we risk seeing these hard-won gains lost or even reversed.

The impact of the pandemic has pushed millions of children into poverty that undermines the future of all our societies. An entire generation of children are seeing their education disrupted and almost 10 million children are at risk of never returning to school. The crisis has widened inequalities and exposed children to increased harm, including gender-based violence, pushing the most deprived children further behind, including the poorest, children with disabilities, girls, children on the move, children in street situations or children living in conflict settings.

Protecting, investing in and empowering children is the most guaranteed way to accelerate global development. World leaders have an opportunity to put in place bold and transformative solutions to build back a more resilient, greener, sustainable and equitable recovery rooted in inter-generational justice and accountability to present and future generations.

We call on the UN Member States to:

- **Firmly ground SDGs implementation in international children's rights law and standards**, using both the 2030 Agenda and HR frameworks in synergy to reinforce their mutual implementation
- **Promote a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda that leaves no one behind**, by addressing the full spectrum of children's rights, civil, political, economic, environmental, social and cultural rights, and prioritising the most marginalised children
- **Ensure an enabling civic space for children by** strengthening the frameworks and creating safe online and off-line spaces for children's participation in decision-making
- **Accelerate progress and investment in education and social protection schemes for children, as critical enablers for achieving other SDGs.**
- **Support the formal recognition of the right to a safe, clean and healthy environment**

Thank you for your attention.

¹ List of NGOs signing on the statement: Save the Children, Child Rights Connect, Terre des Hommes International, Franciscans International, Child Rights International Network, Make Mother Matter, Plan International, Consortium for Street Children, World Vision International and Humanium.

Logos:

Terre des Hommes
International Federation

