

NMUN•NY 2016



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27 – 31 MARCH 2016

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Courage  
for **peace**



Compassion  
in **action**

CONFERENCE B

# United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Ashley Boyer
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Jakob Landwehr
<b>Chair/ Rapporteur</b>	Ana Willett

## Agenda

- I. Ending Child Marriage
- II. Advancing Children's Rights in the Digital Age
- III. Realizing the Rights of Indigenous Children

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
UNICEF/RES/1/1	Ending Child Marriage	21 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
UNICEF/RES/1/2	Ending Child Marriage	25 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions
UNICEF/RES/1/3	Ending Child Marriage	26 votes in favor, 1 votes against, 0 abstentions
UNICEF/RES/1/4	Ending Child Marriage	18 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 1 abstentions
UNICEF/RES/1/5	Ending Child Marriage	21 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 6 abstentions
UNICEF/RES/1/6	Ending Child Marriage	21 votes in favor, 1 votes against, 5 abstentions

## **Summary Report**

The United Nations Children's Fund held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Advancing Children's Rights in the Digital Age
- II. Realizing the Rights of Indigenous Children
- III. Ending Child Marriage

The session was attended by representatives of 28 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Ending Child Marriage." By Tuesday, the Dais had received a total of six working papers covering a wide range of sub-topics, including education, health, legal services, and information and communications technology. During formal session, many speeches reflected that education is an integral component in the eradication of child marriage. The working papers reflected diverse approaches as to how to best end the practice of child marriage. By Tuesday morning, six working papers had been submitted. The first round of edits was sent back by noon. Delegates then began to revise their drafts.

On Wednesday, six draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including education, health, microloans, and support programs for child brides. There were three amendments, of which two were friendly and one was unfriendly. The committee adopted six resolutions following voting procedure. The body's progress throughout the week reflected comity and collaboration in the true spirit of the United Nations.



**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/1

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*

2  
3 *Recalling further the Convention on the Rights of the Child,* especially Article 2 stating that all children have equal  
4 legal rights under international law,

5  
6 *Reaffirming* the Project on a Mechanism to Address Laws that Discriminate Against Women commissioned by the  
7 Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, advising a comprehensive plan to address discriminatory laws  
8 against women and create mechanisms to alter them,

9  
10 *Gravely concerned by* the fact that women are often excluded within legal frameworks and are therefore stripped of  
11 those rights guaranteed by the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*, particularly the right  
12 to self-determination as outlined in Article 1,

13  
14 *Acknowledging* the call for legal advising and assistance in General Assembly resolution 67/187,

15  
16 *Recognizing* the principles of the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, especially Section 27, which calls  
17 upon the international community to ensure that all institutions responsible for administering justice have the  
18 necessary financial and technical support,

19  
20 *Appreciating* the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Country Programmes, such as the Central African  
21 Republic Country Programme, which assists the government in developing policies that protect children, such as  
22 amending labor codes and conducting surveys to strengthen monitoring systems,

23  
24 *Bearing in mind* the African Union's "Campaign to End Child Marriage: A Call to Action," especially Section 2.3  
25 calling for increased mobilization of financial resources in the fight against child marriage,

26  
27 *Expressing appreciation for* the work of regional bodies, such as the African Union's proposed Course on Ending  
28 Child Marriage and Harmful Traditional Practices in Africa, that seek to train officials in best practices for ending  
29 child marriage as part of its Agenda 2063,

30  
31 *Emphasizing* the guidelines of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* that advocates funding for programs  
32 related to the girl child,

33  
34 *Encouraged by* the development of funds such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International  
35 Conference on Financing for Development fund that include financial support for programs empowering women,

36  
37 1. *Urges* Member States to examine and revise legislation and government practices that disproportionately affect  
38 women and girls by:

39  
40 a. Ensuring that existing laws are consistent with the ICCPR and are a means to guarantee the security of  
41 women and the protection of their rights;

42  
43 b. Reexamining legislation such as paternal obedience laws, which require unquestioning obedience of  
44 children to fathers and give fathers preference in legal decisions;

45  
46 c. Identifying and promoting existing legal services that are available and affordable to ensure access to  
47 representation for women and girls;

- 48 d. Identifying gaps in the legal system in which women are underrepresented or that specifically  
49 discriminate against women and girls, referring to research conducted by bodies such as UN-Women;  
50
- 51 2. *Encourages* increased North-South cooperation, with a specific aim toward enforcing minimum marrying age  
52 laws and other legislation against child marriage, to include:  
53
- 54 a. Legal experts from states with significant success in combating child marriage who will assist least  
55 developed countries with high rates of child marriage to develop the necessary enforcement agencies  
56 and legal frameworks to enforce existing legislation such as minimum age laws;  
57
- 58 b. Creation of legal advocacy programs that promote legislation such as Iran’s Law on the Protection of  
59 Children and Adolescents and its Securing Unattended Women and Children, which help to provide  
60 for women and children who are otherwise unprotected and ensure their basic rights;  
61
- 62 3. *Encourages* Member States in regions with high rates of child marriage, such as West and Central Africa and  
63 South and Southeast Asia, to collaborate with other states in their region to:  
64
- 65 a. Identify gaps in regional policies against child marriage, referring to research done by non-  
66 governmental organizations such as Girls Not Brides and Plan International;  
67
- 68 b. Create and share best practices to enforce laws prohibiting child marriage through means similar to the  
69 African Union’s proposed Course on Ending Child Marriage and Harmful Traditional Practices in  
70 Africa;  
71
- 72 c. Provide financial and technical support to nearby Member States struggling to fight child marriage due  
73 to a lack of financial resources and legal knowledge by:  
74
- 75 i. Establishing a meeting for policymakers to discuss strengths and weaknesses of their  
76 respective governments’ policies;  
77
- 78 ii. Utilizing development funds to establish regional projects to finance the elimination of child  
79 marriage;
- 80 4. *Recommends* that the Sustainable Development Goal Fund expand to include a project focusing on the legal  
81 empowerment of children through means such as financing the provision of legal services for children who are  
82 otherwise without recourse in their justice system.  
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**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/2

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming* Articles 3, 12, 19, 28, and 34 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which guarantee children  
4 education, protection from violence and sexual exploitation, and the right to have their voices heard and best  
5 interests considered,

6  
7 *Deeply appreciative* of the actions taken by a native Malawian chief in the Dedza district of Malawi to annul 330  
8 child marriages in favor of the brides' and grooms' education, proving the said district to be a place where leaders  
9 are receptive to policies aimed at eliminating child marriage,

10  
11 *Noting with satisfaction* the work of Girls Not Brides, a global partnership of civil society, which is dedicated to  
12 ending child marriage,

13  
14 *Noting further* the success of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support skills training workshops  
15 that integrate former child soldiers into society and provide them with vocational training for jobs such as  
16 electricians, plumbers, and car mechanics, thus allowing them to earn money,

17  
18 *Emphasizing* the principles of the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women*,  
19 specifically Article 8, to further the participation and representation of women,

20  
21 *Recognizing* the principles of the *Convention Against Discrimination in Education*, specifically Articles 1 and 3,  
22 which ensure the right of education to all,

23  
24 *Affirming*, as highlighted at the Forum on the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that could Lead to  
25 Atrocity Crimes, organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect  
26 together with other organizations, the vital importance of religious leaders in preventing human rights abuses such  
27 as child marriage,

28  
29 *Approving* the work of grassroots organizations in India, such as Men Against Violence and Abuse (MAVA) and the  
30 Equal Community Foundation (ECF), that are pioneering the work of programs to challenge men and boys'  
31 perception of women in societies in which gender discrimination and violence is rampant,

32  
33 1. *Encourages* the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF to implement a pilot after-school  
34 program for school-aged children in the Dedza district of Malawi, which will:

- 35  
36 a. Be implemented in partnership with Girls Not Brides, a global partnership of civil society  
37 organizations already working to end child marriage in the region, by utilizing their expertise and  
38 already established relationships with leaders in the local community;
- 39  
40 b. Be named The CCC program: Causation, Collaboration, Co-Education;
- 41  
42 c. Be held weekly at a school or community center selected by the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional  
43 Office of UNICEF;
- 44  
45 d. Be taught by local members of the community, who will receive a stipend for their time and  
46 transportation costs and be approved by the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF;
- 47  
48 e. Involve both boys and girls of school age in addressing cultural perspectives on the rights of women in  
49 society and learning of girls' rights to health, safety, and education and the benefits thereof;

- 50 f. Adapt the UNICEF vocational skills program for child soldiers to a co-ed vocational skills class for the  
51 pilot program in Malawi taught by local members of the targeted community who possess those  
52 vocational skills, including but not limited to electricians, plumbers, seamstresses, and mechanics,  
53 which class will:  
54
- 55 i. Provide an incentive for children to attend the program, as they will gain skills that will  
56 enable them to make money on a long-term basis, thus promoting self-sustainability;
  - 57 ii. Transform girls into economically contributing members of their families;
  - 58 iii. Change boys' perceptions of the capabilities and roles of women;
  - 59
- 60 2. *Urges* the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF to try to include women in the CCC  
61 program by:  
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- 63 a. Encouraging women to apply as teachers for the pilot program;
  - 64
  - 65 b. Encouraging former child brides to speak in the selected community in Malawi about their experience  
66 of being a victim of child marriage;
  - 67
  - 68 c. Inviting local women to work alongside tribal and religious leaders;
  - 69
- 70 3. *Requests* the generosity of a variety of funding sources, including but not limited to:  
71
- 72 a. UNICEF regional offices to fund and coordinate regional meetings with community and religious  
73 leaders, and the implementation of after-school programs for boys and girls;
  - 74
  - 75 b. United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Population Fund as part of its Adolescent and Youth  
76 Strategy, which addresses child marriage;
  - 77
- 78 4. *Invites* Member States to develop programs that ensure the rights of the girl child by implementing programs  
79 similar to Iran's Education for All that provides equal access to education and Saba-ye Mehr that provides free  
80 education to disadvantaged girls in deprived regions in order to encourage girls to receive education;  
81
- 82 5. *Calls upon* the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF to work towards the inclusion of tribal  
83 and religious leaders by:  
84
- 85 a. Including training sessions specifically aimed at educating leaders identified by the Eastern and  
86 Southern Africa Regional Office of UNICEF as willing partners on the economic, social, and personal  
87 devastation caused by child marriage as part of The CCC program;
  - 88
  - 89 b. Including representatives of the target community in deliberation over the form and substance of  
90 educational programs in order to ensure culturally sensitive approaches;
  - 91
  - 92 c. Allowing these leaders to set specific goals for The CCC program;
  - 93
- 94 6. *Encourages* the Eastern and Southern Africa Office of UNICEF to coordinate its activities with its civil society  
95 partners such as Girls Not Brides and Plan International in order to locate local leaders who are willing to  
96 cooperate with these educational programs;  
97
- 98 7. *Further recommends* Member States to support UNICEF's Innocenti Research Center's effort to understand the  
99 framework of programs targeting men and boys by:  
100
- 101 a. Sending a small group of researches to India for a month with the purpose of learning from MAVA  
102 and the ECF, two India-based pioneering organizations in changing men's perceptions of women;
  - 103
  - 104 b. Shadowing these groups for one week to learn how to outline and construct programs aimed at  
105 reaching men and boys;

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- c. Developing a theory based on what they observe in India on creating programs that will appeal to and engage boys;
  - d. Bringing that theory to the Research Center in Italy to create the region-specific aforementioned programs that speak to the needs of each region as reported by UNICEF’s regional offices;
8. *Establishes* an evaluation of The CCC program to occur under the supervision of a team selected by the Executive Board of UNICEF to prepare a report on the possible extension of the program to further Member States by 2020.





**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/3

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*  
2  
3 *Taking into consideration* Article 16 in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which acknowledges the right  
4 of every individual to equality in marriage and the requirement of the free and full consent of the intending spouses,  
5 without distinction to sex, race, religion, or nationality,  
6  
7 *Reaffirming* the 1990 *Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC)* and that upholds the age of majority at age 18 and  
8 calls for the protection of every child's right to development, education, and security,  
9  
10 *Emphasizing* the 1995 *Beijing Platform for Action*, calling for gender equality and the empowerment of women to  
11 reduce sexual abuse and exploitation,  
12  
13 *Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 54/263, optional protocols to the CRC on the involvement of  
14 children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in 2000, which calls  
15 on Member States to invest in education and legislative measures to promote children's development in  
16 environments free from discrimination and violence,  
17  
18 *Calling attention to* the 2005 *Maputo Protocol*, which establishes a woman's economic independence in marriage to  
19 combat cultural norms that prevent women's self-determination and full involvement in society,  
20  
21 *Affirming* General Assembly resolution 69/148, Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula, of 2014 that  
22 emphasizes the importance of addressing the health effects of child marriage, particularly obstetric fistulas,  
23  
24 *Appreciating* the 2014 Kathmandu Call of Action to End Child Marriage in South East Asia and their efforts in  
25 ending all forms of violence against children by child marriage prevention and prohibition laws,  
26  
27 *Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates, abuses and impairs human  
28 rights and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations, such as hindering educational  
29 opportunities for young people that disproportionately impacts women and girls as stated in the 2014 General  
30 Assembly resolution 69/156 on "Child, Early and Forced Marriage,"  
31  
32 *Gravely concerned with* the abuse against women and girls and the perpetuation of child marriage by poverty, as  
33 outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from 2015, specifically Sustainable Development Goals  
34 (SDGs) 1 and 5 concerned with eliminating all forms of poverty, achieving gender equality, and empowering all  
35 women and girls by eliminating discrimination and violence against them as well as ensuring all men and women  
36 access to basic services and equal rights to economic opportunities,  
37  
38 *Recognizing* Human Rights Council 28/1 (2015) on "Composition of the State of Office of the United Nations High  
39 Commissioner for Human Rights," on the importance of birth registration systems and their critical role in  
40 establishing a child's legal existence preventing and ending child marriage,  
41  
42 *Deeply convinced* the existing legal framework needs to be amended and implemented to ensure of the protection of  
43 children's rights as established in General Assembly resolution 70/137 on the "Rights of a Child," of 2015  
44 particularly regarding the right for girls to be able to express themselves without any limitations,  
45  
46 *Recognizing* General Assembly resolution 70/132 (2015) on "Improvement of the situation of women and girls in  
47 rural areas," and General Assembly resolution 70/138 (2015) on "The girl child," which promote the improvement  
48 of the socioeconomic situation of women and girls in rural areas, the elimination of gender discrimination, and the  
49 recognition of their right to education,

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*Realizing* Human Rights Council resolution 29/8 (2015) on “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate Child, Early and Forced Marriage,” which states that child, early and forced marriages pose a serious threat to the physical and psychological health of women and girls,

*Acknowledging* efforts made by Member States to eradicate child marriage, particularly the 2016 Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, which focuses on strengthening and enforcing laws establishing the minimum age of marriage at eighteen, educating communities on the dangers of child marriage, and increasing economic support to families, access to education and health services, and research informing policies related to adolescent girls,

1. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that every citizen is registered directly after birth, with programs, such as the National Database Registration Authority Ordinance, which implores governments to register every citizen no later than one month after birth;
2. *Urges* Member States and encourages international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Plan International, Care, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, and ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), to strengthen state education systems through out-of-school initiatives so as to improve quality education for girls and vulnerable children, including but not limited to the following measures:
  - a. Establishing programs, such as the School Seeks the Child, to identify children who are at risk of dropping out or are already out of school and, via counseling and assistance from social workers in local offices, encourage them to continue their education;
  - b. Focusing on the rehabilitation of children affected by child marriage in rural communities, as identified by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) regional offices, and their reintegration into the educational system and social, economic and political life;
3. *Recommends* offering programs similar to New School, which work around the schedules of rural and indigenous populations, such as when children’s assistance is needed during times of harvest, as well as promoting ethno-education via multilingual instructions and cultural links to modern science and literature subjects to combat discrimination, increase school attendance and enable youth, especially girls in communities that do not highly value education, to improve their awareness against child marriage and increase their participation in the dominant society;
4. *Suggests* vocational training in fields, such as business and the sciences, to empower women and children and promote innovation and entrepreneurship by offering programs, similar to China’s Youth Business, which provides free courses and training to children in rural and poverty-stricken areas in conducting business as it would contribute to a state’s socio-economic growth;
5. *Recommends* Member States to establish programs such as the School Seeks the Child, to identify children who are at risk of dropping out or are already out of school, recognized by their teachers and parents, and encourage this risk group to continue their education with counseling and social work help;
6. *Suggests* focusing on the rehabilitation of children affected by child marriage on the ground in rural communities as well as their reintegration into the educational system and into social, economic and political life through social support and reintegration programs such as the Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South East Asia;
7. *Encourages* Member States to improve educational attainments in rural areas local dialects to enable effective communication in affected areas for the promotion of gender equality for individuals, families and excluded groups so as to raise awareness of the severity and risks of child marriage, such as by:
  - a. Identifying areas in dire need and communicating in local dialects using the collective data of world development indicators, national surveys, and local records;

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- b. Utilizing established NGOs or UNICEF country offices to collaborate with democratically-elected local, religious, and traditional leaders or train volunteer community members to raise awareness on the consequences of child marriage and reduce inequality and social exclusion;
  - c. Establishing peer and support groups comprised of victims of child marriage and potential child brides in states where children are most vulnerable to the practice of child marriage, with at-risk children and communities being identified by UNICEF regional workers on the ground;
  - d. Developing active campaigns through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help increasing access to and awareness of sexual and reproductive health care, especially in communities within remote areas and influenced by cultural backgrounds that sustain child marriage;
  - e. Providing trainings to local educators and doctors to educate communities of the negative impacts of child marriage, including sexually transmitted infections as well as early pregnancy and delivery complications, with these professionals only being endorsed after a rigorous background check and training carried out by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) offices in the region;
8. *Recommends* Member States to implement initiatives such as an International Child Marriage Awareness Day, including events such as but not limited to:
- a. Speeches from victims of child marriage to allow people to see its effects firsthand by:
    - i. Inviting the victims and surrounded people affected to share their stories with the United Nations General Assembly;
    - ii. Organizing conferences at least twice a year each time taking place in different Member States, focusing on regions highly affected by child marriage, such as Asia and Africa, which would discuss how to address and prevent child marriage;
  - b. Documentary screenings on child marriage;
9. *Further recommends* the implementation of the 4Ps framework to Prevent, Protect, Prosecute, and work in Partnership with local, national, and international organizations to effectively implement legislation and programs for the protection of all children and the prevention of child marriage;
10. *Further invites* Member States to partner with carefully selected international organizations, the international community and other UN bodies, such as WHO, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Human Rights Council, to increase the accessibility of health services for children by:
- a. Increasing the availability of contraceptive measures and providing other reproductive health programs, such as free counseling, within rural and poverty-stricken areas, similar to Iran's Health House and Family Planning program, which helped boost female employment and ensured that the majority of people living in rural areas have access to healthcare facilities, that ensure the reproductive rights of the girl child and prevent early pregnancy and birth complications;
  - b. Ensuring sexual and reproductive health programs for disadvantaged children in rural and poverty-stricken areas, such as the Rural Health Care Network and Health House programs, that ensure the reproductive rights of the girl child and prevent early pregnancy and birth complications;
11. *Suggests* the international community to adopt legislative frameworks aimed at preventing and ending child marriage, such as the Sindh Marriage Restraint Act, which illegalized child marriage and punishes those harmonizing child marriage with fines and imprisonment up to 3 years;

- 160 12. *Encourages* Member States to follow the guidelines of the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in  
161 South East Asia Children and organize multilateral workshops for regional law enforcement officials to  
162 coordinate their roles in prevention and investigation of child marriage;  
163
- 164 13. *Recommends* the development of strategies by Member States for the effective utilization of donor funding for  
165 the eradication of early child marriage and streamlining local, national, and global partnerships such as Girls  
166 Not Brides;  
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- 168 14. *Encourages* Member States to follow the Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia and  
169 provide psycho-social counseling and institutional support for children married under the age of 18;  
170
- 171 15. *Encourages* developed Member States, to provide sponsorship grants and to achieve the internationally agreed  
172 0.7 % target of Official Development Assistance, to support global partnerships like Girls Not Brides.



**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/4

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*

2  
3 *Taking into consideration* the outcome document of the 27<sup>th</sup> special session of the General Assembly on children,  
4 entitled "A world fit for children", which outlines outcomes regarding the best possible life for children, while  
5 emphasizing increased access to primary education and the ability for youth to improve their individual capacities  
6 free from all violence including child marriage,

7  
8 *Emphasizing* the importance of fully implementing the World Summit for Social Development in order to achieve  
9 Target 3 Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which proposes the elimination of all harmful  
10 practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations by the year 2030,

11  
12 *Guided by* Articles 13, 19, and 28 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, which states that all children  
13 have the right to maintain access to free primary education and that youth should be encouraged to reach the highest  
14 attainable level of education,

15  
16 *Bearing in mind* Article 3 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*,  
17 which encourages Member States to enact measures which respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all  
18 women,

19  
20 *Further recalling* General Assembly resolution 68/198, which stresses the need to address the necessity of new and  
21 safe technologies to children for education specifically access to information communication technologies (ICT's),  
22

23 *Emphasizing* Article 16 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states that marriage shall be entered  
24 into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses,  
25

26 *Keeping in mind* the importance of birth registration systems and their role in the tracking of population to eliminate  
27 child marriage such as the Count Every Child Program, which works to register over 40 million children yearly,  
28

29 *Observing* the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which address root causes of child  
30 marriage, such as poverty and illiteracy, by promoting people-centered sustainable development through the  
31 provision of basic and lifelong education, literacy, and primary health care for girls and women,  
32

33 *Recognizing* General Assembly resolution 28/13 and the importance of increased awareness of the negative impacts  
34 of child marriage, such as lack of opportunity, maternal and sexual health risks, and higher rates of illiteracy and  
35 poverty,  
36

37 *Further recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 29/8, which stresses that child marriage is a barrier to  
38 sustainable development and perpetuates a cycle of poverty, as girls from poor families are twice as likely to marry  
39 before the age of 18 than girls from wealthier families,  
40

41 *Guided by* Article 19 of the CRC, which stipulates that Member States shall take appropriate actions in providing  
42 children educational mechanisms to ensure the protection and advancement of children,  
43

44 *Fully aware of* the Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia and the Campaign to End Child  
45 Marriage in Africa, which provide guidelines for the elimination of child marriages,  
46

47 *Affirming* our commitment to addressing the needs of all children and women affected by child marriage,  
48

- 49 1. *Establishes* a United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) -sponsored documentary in audio and video format  
50 modeled after UN-Women’s honor killings video campaign and Plan International’s “Stop the Wedding”  
51 campaign, with the purpose of increasing global awareness on the damaging effects of child marriage alongside  
52 UNICEF’s ongoing collaboration with Girls Not Brides:  
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- 54 a. Media campaigns for UNICEF’s cooperative initiative with Girls Not Brides will be created by  
55 UNICEF similar to the radio ad created for UN-Women’s campaign to advance women’s rights that  
56 took place in collaboration with the World Association of Community Broadcasters, which consists of  
57 4,500 members in 150 countries;  
58
  - 59 b. UNICEF will work in collaboration with non-governmental organizations such as Plan International,  
60 which works primarily with social media to raise awareness across the world on the impact of child  
61 marriage;  
62
  - 63 c. This documentary will be part of a global campaign called Engagement to Empowerment directed  
64 toward educating adult audiences on the harmful effects of child marriage through the stories of  
65 women and children which reaffirm the harmful effects of child marriage;  
66
  - 67 d. Women and children who want to share their experience under child marriage can do so through the  
68 social media hashtag #MyLifeAt15, which is currently managed by Girls Not Brides ongoing social  
69 media campaign;  
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- 71 2. *Encourages* increased access to ICTs in developing countries to facilitate Engagement to Empowerment by:  
72
- 73 a. Training teachers and members of the local community to utilize ICTs through programs such as the  
74 United Nation’s Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders - A Modular Training  
75 Programme;  
76
  - 77 b. Ensuring equal access to ICT resources and training through working with non-governmental  
78 organization (NGOs) such as Cooperazione Internazionale to raise of awareness of these opportunities  
79 in marginalized and indigenous populations;  
80
- 81 3. *Calls upon* Member States to provide incentives to enable families to keep their children in educational  
82 institutions in order to eliminate the generational cycle of child marriage by:  
83
- 84 a. Seeking multi-sectoral help by incorporating private sector organizations, NGOs, and national  
85 governments into the process of creating domestic programs that will provide financial scholarships to  
86 ensure that families can accommodate their own needs without forcing their daughters into marriage  
87 similar to Berhane Hewan, which provides food and sustenance incentives for girls who stay in school  
88 and remain unmarried, and has led to a two-thirds reduction in girls aged 15-17 entering marriage;  
89 awareness of existing educational opportunities through the use of ICTs and digital education  
90 programs;  
91
  - 92 b. Spreading awareness of existing educational opportunities and requirements to marginalized and  
93 indigenous groups by cooperating with local NGOs already working with such groups, such as  
94 Cooperazione Internazionale;  
95
- 96 4. *Further invites* Member States to work with UNICEF to encourage community and local leaders to be involved  
97 in creating and implementing forums with the cooperation of local NGO’s that would respect the local cultural  
98 distinctions and needs of each community by:  
99
- 100 a. Providing local communities and their leaders through the UNICEF regional offices with training  
101 packets created by UNICEF for the purpose of facilitating the forums, including instructional manuals  
102 and video lectures from women’s and children’s rights experts;  
103

- 104 b. Discussing the negative impacts of child marriage including oppressive treatment of women, lack of  
105 opportunities for women, greater risk of sexually transmitted diseases, and childbirth complications;  
106
- 107 c. Cooperating with NGOs such as Girls Not Brides and women’s rights activists to discuss the issue and  
108 repercussions of child marriage;  
109
- 110 d. Ensuring that any child marriage prevention mechanisms and strategies respect cultural and local  
111 norms and traditions and religious practices;  
112
- 113 5. *Recommends* developing Member States establish educational programs patterned after Egypt’s Ishraq program,  
114 which reintroduces previously enrolled children, especially married underage girls, into formal education  
115 systems:  
116
- 117 a. Through forums and classes which are aimed at improving literacy and life skills among girls for the  
118 purpose of facilitating greater mobility by building solidarity among girls who have been socially  
119 isolated so that they are prepared to re-enroll in formal schooling;  
120
- 121 b. By forging partnerships between international and local NGOs alongside governmental institutions;  
122
- 123 c. Which create ownership at the community level so that each local community is involved in the  
124 process of re-integrating their girls into formal schooling;  
125
- 126 6. *Further recommends* that all specific regions implement regional action plans sensitive to the specific needs and  
127 concerns of each region such as South Asia Initiative to End Child Marriage and The African Union’s  
128 Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.



**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/5

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*

2  
3 *Convinced* that all Member States acknowledge that children who are effected by child marriage should have access  
4 to all necessary services that provide support to their emotional and physical state,

5  
6 *Recognizing* the United Nations Population Fund, assisting children who may potentially fall victim to child  
7 marriage by empowering girls on human rights and develop programs to prevent child marriage,

8  
9 *Fully aware* of the psychological effects increasing the rate of mental illness victims of child marriage during and  
10 after their marriage as mentioned in 2006 report by the Center for Disease Control,

11  
12 *Considering* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 3 and Goal 5, which include the  
13 eliminate of forced child marriage and improving the health of young woman in an effort to end HIV/AIDS, and  
14 provide universal access to reproductive health-services,

15  
16 *Acknowledging* that both boys and girls are not able to legitimately consent to marriage until they reach the age of  
17 18 as stated in Article 1 and Article 37 in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,

18  
19 *Further recalling* the efforts made by the United Nations Human Rights Council (HCR) in report 24/L.34 in the  
20 efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriages,

21  
22 *Expresses its concern* that 14.2 million children are forced into marriage worldwide every year, with the number  
23 expected to grow to 15 million by 2030 due to population growth in the developing world as states in the report  
24 "About Child Marriage" published by Girls Not Brides,

25  
26 1. *Calls upon* Member states to adopt a national HELP CALL INITIATIVE (HCI) system, which are a 24-hour  
27 confidential call centers administered by local United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional offices in  
28 order to provide:

29  
30 a. Knowledge transfer on health to girls and boys who are affected by child marriage in order to;

- 31  
32 i. Decrease infant and maternal mortality;  
33 ii. Knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention;

34  
35 b. Consultation on emotional support and psychotherapy in order to help women or men who have  
36 suffered from child marriage;

37  
38 c. Communication with the local authorities when domestic violence or sexual assault is reported;

39  
40 2. *Supports* the provision of communication technology to children and communities to enable children to report  
41 psychological and legal needs to the HCI network by:

42  
43 a. Encouraging Member States to expand and modernize their telecommunications infrastructure to allow  
44 their citizens to be able to use HCI;

45  
46 b. Providing cell phones to community leaders in affected areas with high rates of child marriage through  
47 programs such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Financial Services for the Poor program;

48  
49



- 50 3. *Encourages* the call centers established by UNICEF regional offices following the model established in the  
51 Internally Displaced People Information Centre that sets up quick access to information for people in crisis  
52 especially in high-risk area of child marriage by:  
53
- 54 a. Ensuring community leaders are made aware of this program and of the appropriate ways to contact  
55 the call center;
  - 56
  - 57 b. Allowing regional offices to be located in regions of high rates of child marriages, specifically in  
58 African and South Asia;
  - 59
- 60 4. *Calls upon* the HCI to work with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help to advocate and provide  
61 legal aid by:  
62
- 63 a. Knowledge transfer with the respective national justice system such as Direct of Public Prosecution in  
64 Malawi to ensure all marriages are consensual and legitimate;
  - 65
  - 66 b. Supporting national justice systems in enforcing age requirements for marriage;
  - 67
  - 68 c. Providing advocacy for those at risk of child marriage;
  - 69
  - 70 d. Collaborating with:  
71
    - 72 i. Lawyers Without Borders, which can provide legal advising to victims of child marriage who  
73 wished to seek divorce or other forms of action against their spouse(s);
    - 74 ii. Zonta International, which collaborates to empower women through advocacy for women's  
75 rights with local, national, and international governments;
    - 76
- 77 5. *Calls upon* Member-States to welcome the expansion of the Justice Rapid Response (JRR), to provide:  
78
- 79 a. Consultation for victims of child marriage seeking transitional help;
  - 80
  - 81 b. Assistance to communities to combat child marriage practices;
  - 82
  - 83 c. Counseling for families affected by child marriage or spousal violence;
  - 84
  - 85
- 86 6. *Appeals* to Member States to work with regional NGOs who can provide assistance to victims of child marriage  
87 such as;  
88
- 89 a. Doctors Without Borders, an NGO mainly providing health care in war-torn countries and developing  
90 countries to those who need it the most, which can provide prenatal and postnatal care to girls;
  - 91
  - 92 b. Save the Children, an NGO that promotes children's rights and supports children in developing  
93 countries, for example by organizing programs to teach children about sexual and reproductive health;
  - 94
  - 95 c. Arigatou, an NGO dedicated to provide an international and inter-religious platform in order empower  
96 children from around the world to raise awareness of deleterious effects of child marriage;
  - 97
  - 98 d. Medical Brigades, an NGO working with student volunteers interested in medicine to provide mobile  
99 clinics, shadowing of medical personnel and bi-yearly visits to establish continued access to healthcare  
100 which can provide prenatal and postnatal care to girls;
  - 101
- 102 7. *Further recommends* Member States to improve public health services for children as children affected by child  
103 marriage often lack of sufficient health care included but not limited to:  
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- 105 a. Annual health check-ups for children to reduce child mortality rates;

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- b. Reproductive health care services to offer monthly check-ups to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality;
  - c. Collaborating with the World Health Organization and Mothers2Mothers to raise awareness of the deleterious effects that come with child marriage through health fairs and educational campaigns;
  - d. Considering possible partnerships to collaborate with and strengthen already existing health professionals and medical schools, independent medical programs and nonprofit organization such as Medecins Sans Frontiers to give women and children better access to medical professionals;
8. *Recognizes* the role of financial and development institutions to support the said initiative and related development approaches including but not limited to:
- a. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Girls Not Brides Partnerships, the International Center for Research on Women, the World Bank, United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) or UNICEF;
  - b. Donations from Member States willing to cooperate in the efforts to fight child marriage.



**Code:** UNICEF/RES/1/6

**Committee:** United Nations Children's Fund

**Topic:** Ending Child Marriage

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1 *The United Nations Children's Fund,*

2  
3 *Reaffirming every child's right to education, as stated in Article 28, section 1 on the Convention on the Rights of the*  
4 *Child (CRC) (1989),*

5  
6 *Acknowledging that the dominant cause of child marriage relates back to poverty, as stated in the Beijing*  
7 *Declaration and Platform of Action,*

8  
9 *Recognizing the importance of microfinance program efforts to prevent child marriage, such as those sponsored by*  
10 *the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Syria that*  
11 *provided 30% of all microfinance lending in the country within nine years, ultimately leading to the first program to*  
12 *reach full operational self-sufficiency,*

13  
14 *Bearing in mind the importance of strictly adhering to the enforced standards as those similar to the International*  
15 *Monetary Fund support for low-income countries,*

16  
17 *Bearing in mind the strong psychological effects on these young girls, who have to be provided with advice and*  
18 *assistance through the resources provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other non-*  
19 *governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Girls Not Brides that monitor, mentor, and counsel young girls to help*  
20 *them overcome the obstacles that come with being a child bride,*

21  
22 *Believing in the success of NGOs granting scholarships in impoverished regions such as Akili Dada Organization,*  
23 *the American Assistance for Cambodia and the NGO group designated for the CRC,*

24  
25 1. *Resolves to collaborate with governments who are working to revise their Child Marriage Restraint Act to better*  
26 *educate child brides by requiring schooling until the age of 18 or until a valid diploma is received;*

27  
28 2. *Recommends Member States to consider the creation of windows of opportunity, which is defined as a micro-*  
29 *loan program focusing on community based projects that promote education and skill building for girls under*  
30 *the age of 18, and will operate as follows;*

31  
32 a. *The loan is paid back over time at a low interest rate set by windows of opportunity;*

33  
34 b. *The loan by windows of opportunity supports a young girl at high risk of entering a child marriage due*  
35 *to financial instability;*

36  
37 c. *The contract requires interviews at random by a representative from windows of opportunity to ensure*  
38 *that the loan is being properly utilized for educational purposes recognized by UNICEF;*

39  
40 d. *Within the project of windows of opportunity girls are provided with the immediate and personal*  
41 *support within the designated Member State with a reliable mentor such as a guidance counselor, with*  
42 *similar standards as those of Girls Not Brides by:*

43  
44 i. *Ensuring that these mentors will consist of women who were married off as children and have*  
45 *experienced the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of child marriage;*

46  
47 ii. *Ensuring that these will be women who are experts at working with children who live in areas*  
48 *of constant instability;*

49  
50 iii. *Providing training for the counselors through simulations that address some of the most*  
*common circumstances applied to child brides;*

- 51 e. As proof of attendance the program participants are required to provide official documents such as  
52 diplomas, attendance records, school identification, report cards proven by educational institutions  
53 such as schools, universities or community colleges;  
54  
55 f. Outstanding participants will receive a reduction on their debts up to 80% of the micro-loan.