

14-18 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Children's
Fund



Conference B

United Nations Children’s Fund

Committee Staff

Director	Jasym Mireles
Chair	Ryan Saunders

Agenda

- I. Eliminating Violence against Children and Youth
- II. Protection and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities
- III. The Rights of the Child in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
1/1	Eliminating Violence against Children and Youth	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report for the United Nations Children’s Fund

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

- I. Eliminating Violence against Children and Youth
- II. Protection and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities
- III. The Rights of the Child in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The session was attended by representatives of 31 Member States. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, II, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Eliminating Violence against Children and Youth.”

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including the improvement of existing reporting mechanisms relating to violence against children, establishing guidelines within schools to provide physical and psychological safe spaces for children, and enhancing media awareness of violence against youth. Further analysis stimulated discussion on expanding ongoing relationships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in local communities. The atmosphere was harmonious in nature and, by the end of the Tuesday evening session, the four proposals had converged to two main proposals.

On Wednesday, the two proposals turned into one draft resolution, which was approved by the Dais. The committee adopted the resolution following voting procedure, receiving unanimous support by the body. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including strengthening existing relationships with NGOs, increasing transparency and awareness about all forms of violence against children, and implementing numerous educational strategies to allow teachers, parents, and legal guardians to respond appropriately to instances of violence against children and youth. Efficiency, partnership, and compassion were the principles championed by the body in their approach to committee sessions. The body’s commitment to reducing violence against children and youth was illuminated through their hard work and eagerness for consensus on the topic.



Code: UNICEF/1/1

Committee: United Nations Children’s Fund

Topic: Eliminating Violence against Children and Youth

1 *The United Nations Children’s Fund,*
2
3 *Concerned by* all types of violence towards children and youth, which include physical, sexual, emotional,
4 psychological violence and negligence,
5
6 *Recalling* the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which proclaims that children and youth are
7 entitled to special care and assistance and provides that all children shall enjoy the same social
8 protection,
9
10 *Mindful of* the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* of 1989, which guarantees inalienable human rights
11 for all children, aims to defend their right to education at all stages of life, and ensures youth do not suffer
12 from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,
13
14 *Recognizing* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, target 4.5, which is to eliminate gender disparities
15 in education and ensure equal access to education for vulnerable populations, especially children
16 susceptible to violence,
17
18 *Further recognizing* SDG 16, target 16.2, which aims to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms
19 of violence and torture against children,
20
21 *Acknowledging* Article 10 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
22 (ICESCR) (1966), which delineates steps that must be taken “on behalf of all children and young persons”
23 to secure their well-being and protect them from economic and/or social exploitation,
24
25 *Recognizing* the 2015 UN General Assembly Human Rights Council Report 28-72, which highlights that
26 unilateral sanctions are negatively affecting several Member States’ economies and their ability to
27 economically support civilian programs that would enhance children’s lives and reduce violence against
28 them,
29
30 *Recalling* that the 2018 General Assembly resolution 72/181 on the “National Institutions for the
31 Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” encourages Member States to work together to promote
32 juvenile institutions and social services that can aid children to successfully navigate through the legal
33 process, without further harming children’s physical and psychological well-being,
34
35 *Recalling* the seven strategies outlined in the *INSPIRE: Ending Violence Against Children Report*
36 developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, which includes: Implementation and
37 enforcement of laws, norms and values, safe environments, parent and caregiver support, income and
38 economic strengthening, response and support services, education and life skills,
39
40 *Keeping in mind* the 2014 UNICEF report *A Familiar Face*, which states that lack of data exacerbates
41 violence against children,
42
43 *Recalling* the United Nations Popular Fund – UNICEF Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital
44 Mutilation, which reported that over 200 million girls and women alive today have fallen victim to this
45 practice,
46
47 *Acknowledging* the vital role that local and religious communities play in their respective governments for
48 the collection of data regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child Early and Forced Marriage
49 (CEFM),

50
51 *Recalling* the WHO report, *Changing Cultural and Social Norms that Support Violence* (2009), which
52 reveals the danger of cultural traditions that facilitate sexual violence against children,
53

54 *Acknowledging* the 2009 *Handbook on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution*
55 *and Child Pornography* that reports the sexual abuse of children on online platforms,
56

57 *Emphasizing* the influence educators have on their students regarding social norms, the interaction
58 between relatives and children, between children themselves, and between children and other authorities,
59

60 *Deeply concerned* by the fact that certain forms of parenting include physically and emotionally violent
61 forms of disciplines, such as injuring, verbal abuse, and other methods that lead to self-deprecation,
62 which are still being practiced despite being forbidden by law in most Member States,
63

64 *Considering* the impact of NGOs, such as People in Need or UN programs, and the need to use these
65 NGOs to raise awareness about human rights violations and violence against children and youth,
66

67 *Appreciating* the cooperation between UN bodies and the private sector in supporting children to achieve
68 their full potential in knowing their rights,
69

70 *Deeply concerned* by the stigma surrounding therapy that discourages children from seeking help after
71 suffering abuse, potentially perpetuating a cycle of abuse,
72

73 *Considering* children in financially stressed families and communities are more likely to leave primary
74 education early to enter the workforce, resulting in early child labor and most importantly illegal and
75 forced labor, directly representing a form of physical and psychological violence for children and youth,
76

77 *Understanding* that accessible reporting mechanisms that address violence against children, such as
78 mobile and online reporting options, should be available for all children regardless of their location,
79

80 *Deeply concerned* with insufficient government reporting which prohibits accurate analysis of efforts on
81 eliminating violence against children, as proven through the *UN Secretary General's Study on Violence*
82 *against Children* (2006),
83

84 *Further deploring* the lack of reporting mechanisms in responding to children that report a violent
85 situation, especially given that between 70% and 85% of children know and trust their abuser, as set forth
86 by the Children's House of Iceland,
87

- 88 1. *Calls for* Member States to work in collaboration with NGOs to establish safe, simple, and reliable
89 reporting mechanisms to encourage children who are victims of violence to feel empowered to
90 share their experiences;
91
- 92 2. *Recommends* Member States to strengthen awareness initiatives on the impact of violence on
93 the development of the child by adopting programs, such as the Child Rights International
94 Network, that focus on the protection of the rights of the child;
95
- 96 3. *Recommends* the implementation of a mentorship program with already existing local NGO
97 education entities to create a strong relationship between young adults and children by:
98
 - 99 a. Creating a safe space for children in which they feel comfortable to report any incidents
100 of bullying or violence;
101
 - 102 b. Promoting interactions with young adults who have experienced some form of violence in
103 the past and can give advice to the child on how to seek assistance and respond
104 appropriately;
105

- 106 4. *Proposes* the creation of a manual titled: “The Rights of the Child Awareness Guide,” that:
107
108 a. Can be created by an independent commission made of international UN experts,
109 doctors, teachers, and NGO experts;
110
111 b. Explains and defines the different types of sexual violence a child can face based on the
112 *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and*
113 *Sexual Abuse* (2016), which were set forth by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Sexual
114 Exploitation on Children;
115
116 c. Will aim to educate teachers regarding the different warning signs of sexual violence
117 faced by youth and the correct ways of reporting these crimes to the authorities;
118
- 119 5. *Suggests* implementing programs within Member States, such as One World in Schools, which
120 provides documentaries to schools to educate children on important social topics, such as the
121 impact of abuse and how to notice it;
122
- 123 6. *Proposes* the implementation of Universal Youth Development Centers, to promote the well-being
124 of children in order to eliminate violence against them, by:
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126 a. Providing an infrastructure of physical facilities to enable the interaction between local
127 educators and children and adolescents to build trusting relationships;
128
129 b. Providing after school programs and training at the workplace, in which volunteer-trained
130 counselors will educate the child’s legal guardians on the rights of the child and teach
131 them sustainable and non-violent methods of parenting;
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133 c. Offering training for teachers regarding prevention methods for sexual violence to
134 prepare these teachers to respond in ways appropriate to eliminate violence against
135 children;
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137 d. Offering training for teachers to enable the identification of symptoms of physical child
138 abuse, by establishing and administering periodic courses on this topic for all
139 approaching and currently employed educators;
140
141 e. Hosting face-to-face meetings in schools and communities for abused children and their
142 parents moderated by trained professionals;
143
144 f. Informing communities with the help of the “Rights of the Child Awareness Guide,”
145 highlighted in operative clause 4, to educate them on the surrounding cultural and legal
146 conditions and efficient prevention measures;
147
- 148 7. *Encourages* the use of private public partnerships with companies such as LEGO, whose
149 initiative provides children with educational toys and safe spaces to occupy their free time, thus
150 preventing children’s involvement in illegal and violent actions;
151
- 152 8. *Recommends* Members States to work with NGOs such as Save the Children, which provide free
153 therapy to children in elementary and secondary schools and allow children to:
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155 a. begin to recognize therapy as beneficial and normal;
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157 b. have an accessible resource to assist them in coping with abuse they have suffered;
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159 c. develop mentally and emotionally in a healthy way so that they do not continue to be
160 susceptible to a cycle of violence a cycle of violence;
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9. *Suggests* incentives such as financial support or free counseling through NGOs such as Global Kids, for families of children who attend public schools throughout the year in communities where the undergraduate dropout rate is high, so that children and youth will be encouraged to remain in undergraduate education and not participate in violent or illegal activities;
 10. *Further invites* Member States to invest in hotlines to local service providers, which will be used to report acts of violence against children and youth, and which will establish mechanisms through which data on instances of violence can be reasonably traced and reported;
 11. *Strongly advises* that in order to prevent sexual abuse and online sexual exploitation against children, Member States may consider:
 - a. Creating awareness among parents to better monitor viewership of online content to protect children from accessing disturbing content that could have long-lasting psychological impact;
 - b. Using the #EndViolence campaign online at schools and in psychological support centers, including the #WeProtect Global Alliance of End Child Sexual Exploitation Online, and promoting the platform to report child sexual abuse online, such as child pornography;
 - c. Spreading the word through the social media campaign #BetterTeachersForABetterFuture, including posters pointing out the Child Helpline International, which supports the prioritization of the child's voice before proceeding further into investigation;
 12. *Recommends* that Member States strengthen NGO engagements in society in a manner that draws attention to sexual violence against children and youth by:
 - a. Deconstructing stereotypes regarding the misconception that sexual violence only affects girls by training caregivers on the impact and effects of sexual violence on both boys and girls;
 - b. Implementing youth programs based on the UPSHIFT UNICEF model that seeks to empower youth on their rights;
 13. *Strongly recommends* that measures against sexual violence be adapted to the cultural environment they are introduced to, by:
 - a. Providing representatives or successful role models from the addressed society or social group who would function as representatives in raising awareness for potentially harmful practices that are often justified by cultural tradition;
 - b. Providing locally relevant support services to aid women and young parents who are responsible for raising the next generation and can prevent passing on harmful practices;
 14. *Emphasizes* social and educational services for all genders, specifically young girls who are subjected to violence such as genital mutilation and child marriages, through:
 - a. The implementation of educational protocols, programs and policies that promote sexual health, awareness, and knowledge;
 - b. Providing tools and strategies to adolescents to communicate with guardians, health care providers and professionals regarding their sexual encounters, abuses, and puberty;

- 217 c. Creating school clubs that allow children to express concerns they may have regarding
218 their sexual experiences and to ask for help if facing sexual violence, thanks to both
219 presentations from experts and use of games created by specialized NGOs on the field of
220 sexual violence;
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- 222 d. Training local facilitators to detect signs of sexual abuse and violence, while fully
223 understanding the child's culture and traditions through trainings made by Member States
224 and facilitated by the "Rights of the Child Awareness Guide;"
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- 226 15. *Recommends* the creation of a public-private body to act similarly to that of the Council of Europe
227 agency 'Children's House' in coordinating social welfare investigations in the aftermath of a child
228 reporting an incident of violence which would:
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- 230 a. Consist of trained professionals, lawyers, doctors, and psychiatrists, who would be sent
231 to the location of the child who makes the call to report abuse in order to ensure a child
232 being subjected to receive the relevant support, counseling, and medical attention;
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- 234 b. Encourage the police force and local community to accurately report and log instances of
235 child violence;
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- 237 16. *Further suggests* the collaboration between Member States and child-focused NGOs to work
238 alongside the Office of Research Innocenti to collect data about violence committed against
239 children and youth;
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- 241 17. *Suggests* that relevant stakeholders work together to ensure that the next End Violence Summit
242 considers:
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- 244 a. Violence against children and youth for children in rural areas in areas that are more at
245 risk of domestic, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse;
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- 247 b. Violence against children regarding the regional, religious, and spiritual traditions on the
248 basis of Traditional Leaders Meeting, to prevent and fight against sexual violence of
249 children by gaining aid from NGOs regarding the issues in these regions;
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- 251 c. The reevaluation and development of a systematic data collection to provide data
252 reporting to the Innocenti Research Center for the United Nations about violence against
253 children in areas where children are more at risk;
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- 255 18. *Calls upon* Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) level cooperation to encourage fair dialogues
256 among all Member States, to ensure that legitimate actions are taken under the frame of
257 international law, and to implement initiatives that provide safe spaces and build protection for
258 children and youth against all forms of violence;
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- 260 19. *Recommends* Member States to further raise awareness on the dangers of traditional practices
261 such as FGM or CEFM for the health of children by collaborating with civil society such as NGOs
262 and local representatives, including tribal and religious leaders in order to address local traditional
263 practices that compromise the well-being of girls;
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- 265 20. *Further suggests* Member States to continue working alongside NGOs in efforts to promote
266 information sharing between Member States to identify the most effective programs that eliminate
267 violence against children and youth.