



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 43rd SESSION #OnePageFromUN

Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming

Theme: *Thirty years of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: challenges and opportunities*

24 February 2020, 16h00-18h00

H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council

50 states answered to the call of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to renew their commitment to the Convention. 250 pledges received on 24 Articles of the Convention.

Opening Statements: **H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**, President of the 74th session of the GA

UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty ([A/74/136](#)) by the independent expert Manfred Nowak released last November. Ending poverty in all forms – particularly through addressing the children trapped in poverty – is one the key themes of the GA's 74th session. Need to ensure the right to education through social protection policies and development of infrastructure.

Opening Statements: **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Commends the work of the CRC, and the establishment of offices of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, and of SR on violence on children. Children rights are included in mandate of all peaceful operations of the Security Council. The national mechanisms should address the 6 grave children's rights violations. Violence against children is particularly widespread in Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, OPT. **4 main principles** to be upheld: non-discrimination, best interest of the child, right to life, survival and development, right to be heard.

Moderator: **Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur**, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Need for mainstreaming children's rights in all sectors and a more comprehensive approach to a child well-being that advances but also **looks beyond health, nutrition and education**. Commending Uruguay and EU who drove the children's rights resolution ([A/HRC/RES/40/15](#)) in the Council.

Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

UN Peacebuilding Fund supports child-based approach in **4 areas**: 1) creating space for inclusive participation in political and peace-building processes; 2) having children's voices counted during the disengagement and reintegration processes; 3) creating a critical foundation for sustainable peace; 4) transformative role of education for the culture of respect, human rights and inclusion.

Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)

Recently launched of "[A future for the world's children?](#)" report: health and future of children and adolescents worldwide is under immediate threat from ecological degradation, climate change and exploitative marketing practices that push heavily processed fast food, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco at children. Joint Initiatives of the WHO with OHCHR, UNICEF, World Bank. The need to prioritize child and adolescent health to meet the SDGs.

Ms. Afshan Khan, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia of the UNICEF

We must do more, despite the range of barriers: climate change, migration, natural disasters, outbreaks like Ebola and COVID-19, and conflicts. Syria, Yemen, South Sudan – dire situation. Need to ensure the inalienable rights: access to health, nutrition, water and protection. **2 other areas of need**: 1) nutrition, and 2) climate change. UNICEF supports OHCHR's call to recognize healthy environment as a human right.

States members participation: Belgium, Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, European Union, Portugal (on behalf of the Portuguese-speaking countries), Qatar (o/b the Arab group), Uruguay (o/b the group of Latin American States), Malta (o/b 26 countries), Barbados (o/b CARICOM), Burkina Faso (o/b the African Group), Pakistan (o/b the OIC), Lithuania (o/b the Nordic states), Vietnam (on behalf of ASEAN), Greece, Indonesia, Tunisia, Lesotho, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Angola. **Civil society participation** Child Right's Connect, Save the Children International, Plan International, World Vision International, iuventum e.V., Aid Organization.

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