

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
28TH SESSION, 12TH MARCH 2015
ANNUAL FULL-DAY MEETING ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

ON BEHALF OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Thank you Mr. President.

This statement is delivered on behalf of Save the Children, the Latin-American and Caribbean Network for Children (Redlamyc)ⁱ, the Latin-American and Caribbean Movement for Children and Adolescentsⁱⁱ and 8 NGOs¹.

We welcome this opportunity to acknowledge various Latin American and Caribbean initiatives to improve public spending for children and to highlight some remaining challenges in ensuring equitable investment in children, including adolescents.

In 2012, 69 million of the nearly 174 million children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean were affected by child poverty, 27 million by extreme povertyⁱⁱⁱ. That means that more than half of girls and boys under 18 experience violations of their rights to health, education, information, nutrition, water, sanitation, participation and housing.

Our region is also characterized by increasing inequality and discrimination. The benefits of economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean are not reaching deprived children, especially those in rural areas or from indigenous populations.

To address these challenges, we recommend States to:

1. Ensure comprehensive budget planning, allocation and spending processes that prioritize investments benefiting children and their families, in all their forms and diversity, with the lowest income.
2. Prioritize public spending on comprehensive and effective child-sensitive social protection systems to ensure that every child enjoys its right to social security.
3. Mobilize domestic revenues, especially from tax as the most significant and sustainable source of revenue for governments to finance public spending on children by establishing equitable, effective and progressive tax systems where the highest burden

¹ African Child Policy Forum, ATD Fourth World, Child Rights Coalition Asia, Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, Defence for Children Costa Rica, Eurochild, International Baby Food Action Network, Plan International.

of taxation is placed on those most able to pay and not on those with the least resources.

4. Provide equal opportunities for children to participate in budgeting. As mentioned by children in Latin America and the Caribbean consulted on their views and recommendations on investment in children *“It is impossible for governments to invest in us if they do not ask us what to invest in”*.

Even though these recommendations are drawn from the Latin American and Caribbean experience, we believe that the principle of equitable development, taking into account the needs and rights of the most vulnerable groups of children, should serve as a guiding principle for other countries as well as in international cooperation.

Thank you.

ⁱ Redlamyc, The Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defense on the Rights of Children and Adolescents is a regional network that links 30 national NGO networks in 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and connects more than 2500 NGOs from the region including child lead organizations. www.redlamyc.info

ⁱⁱ The Global Movement for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean (MMI-LAC) is a strategic alliance of organizations working for advocacy, protection and defense of human rights of children and adolescents in the region. Currently the Movement is composed of the Christian SOS International, Child Helpline International, ChildFund Alliance, Defence for Children and Children International (DCI), ECPAT, the IIN, Girls Youth Association (ACJ / YMCA) and (IIN) of the OAS, Plan International, Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defense of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDLAMYC), ANDI Network International, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision, as permanent members and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI); ICMEC and Viva, Together for Children, as observers.

ⁱⁱⁱ The 2013 ECLAC (Economic Commission of Latin-American and the Caribbean) Social Panorama for multidimensional child poverty figures. Reference provided by UNICEF which is updated.