



## Children's Advisory Team for Day of General Discussion (DGD) 2018 on "Protecting and Empowering Children Human Rights Defenders"

### Terms of Reference

#### **Purpose:**

The Children's Advisory Team will be established to empower children to take part in the preparations, implementation and follow-up to the 2018 DGD. It will ensure that children's views are central to the decisions being taken by Child Rights Connect and its membership on all aspects of the DGD. The Team will also lead on the development of certain child-friendly outputs.

#### **Composition:**

The Children's Advisory Team will be composed of approximately 12 children, or Child Advisors, in total, within which there will be 3 sub-groups based on language: English, French and Spanish.

#### **Selection criteria for Child Advisors:**

The Child Advisors will be selected based on attaining a regional, age and gender balance within the Team, and special attention will be paid to inclusion of different social and minority backgrounds and on children with disabilities.

The Child Advisors will be selected using an online selection process, which will require candidates to fulfil the following criteria:

- Be able and willing to join the Children's Advisory Team from February 2018 to February 2019.
- Be between the ages of 10-17 (i.e. cannot turn 18 before February 2019).
- Be able to speak English, French or Spanish.
- They should be engaged already with a member organisation of Child Rights Connect, that can act as a 'supporting organisation' (see terms below).
- They should have an interest in children's rights and in protecting and promoting theirs and their peer's rights to act as and become human rights defenders, to advance their local efforts and priorities.
- They should be willing to work with Child Rights Connect in the planning and preparation of the DGD which includes drafting publications, have access to the internet and possibly attend face-to-face meetings.

#### **Role of the Child Advisors:**

The Child Advisors have the role to inform the preparations, implementation and follow-up of the DGD 2018 and to lead on specific tasks. The role will include undertaking the following tasks:

- To review/amend this Terms of Reference.
- Communicate and work with the other DGD coordination groups.
- Take forward meetings with peers to help develop a child-friendly version of the DGD concept note. Children have not been involved in the methodology development for these meetings due to the short deadlines that Child Rights Connect is working to, in order to draft a concept note by January.
- Take forward meetings with peers to offer proposals and ideas for a DGD exhibition

- Help to prepare, plan for and support consultations in their countries and in collaboration with other Child Advisors to inform the background paper of the DGD.
- Be in regular contact with the Child Rights Connect Secretariat through online communications (detailed below).
- The Child Advisors will define a selection process if there are opportunities for children to attend face-to-face meetings.
- To help to disseminate information on the DGD and publications widely at national level and mobilise peers to be engaged

To have a better idea of the timeline of some of these tasks and other key milestones of the DGD check the [flowchart](#).

#### **Role of a Supporting Organisation:**

- A supporting organisation must be a member of Child Rights Connect and by endorsing an application, agree to offer support to the Child Advisor in fulfilling his/her role and commit to maintaining contact with Child Rights Connect, throughout the mandate of the children, if selected.
- The supporting organisation must have an adequate and functioning Child Protection Policy and must ensure support and protection of the children throughout the project.
- The supporting organisation must offer assistance where needed for the child to do consultations with their peers on local level, and other support with tasks as needed.
- Supporting travel arrangements and organising an accompanying adult to travel with the child when needed.
- To follow-up with all the children involved after the DGD.
- Translating documents and facilitate interpretation.

#### **Mode of coordination and communication:**

The Child Rights Connect Secretariat will manage the coordination and communication with and between the Child Advisors, primarily via email and using an online communication platform (to be determined at the establishment of the Children's Advisory Team).

The Children's Advisory Team sub-groups (based on the three languages) will meet online at times defined by the children, to touch base and update on the work done, to take key decisions, and to suggest ideas to update/adapt the timelines and activities based on their work-pace and ongoing developments.

The whole Team will meet online approximately every two months, led by the Child Rights Connect Secretariat and using an online platform which can automatically translate text through a chat facility.

#### **Child Protection Policy:**

Child Rights Connect Secretariat will adhere to its Child Protection Policy.

As stated above, the supporting organisation of each Child Advisor must have a Child Protection Policy