



UN Human Rights Council resolution on the rights of the child

“Protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development”

Key principles to take into account and be reflected in a Human Rights Council resolution on this issue

- **A text firmly grounded on international children’s rights law and standards:** it is crucial to emphasise in a resolution of the HRC that by fulfilling their obligations under international human rights law, including international children’s rights standards, States will contribute to a large extent to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, for children and for all.

In turn, it is essential that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is in compliance with, promotes, protects, fulfils and strengthens the realization of the rights of the child. This means that any implementation measure of the 2030 Agenda must integrate a children’s rights based approach, respecting and promoting all children’s rights. Using both frameworks in synergy will reinforce their mutual implementation and lead to the realisation of children’s rights.

- **A holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda:** UNICEF has clearly demonstrated in its mapping of children’s rights and the 2030 Agenda¹ that all Goals are relevant to children’s rights and not only the goals explicitly mentioning children. It is essential that the 2030 Agenda is considered in the text in a holistic manner.

Limiting the attention to/selecting some thematic issues, goals and targets would implicitly exclude all others and would narrow the scope of the 2030 Agenda for children to the only issues mentioned, thus limiting the realization of children’s rights in all their aspects.

- **An emphasis on the pledge of leaving no one behind,** as one of the main cross-cutting pledge at the center of Agenda 2030, and one of its specific added value, clearly grounding any implementation on the principle of non-discrimination (article 2 UN CRC).
- **Strong language on monitoring, follow-up and accountability mechanisms,** as the 2030 Agenda and realisation of children’s rights can only be achieved if strong, robust, inclusive and effective accountability mechanisms, integrating a children’s rights perspective, are in place. The 2030 Agenda accountability mechanisms should link up to and reinforce human rights accountability mechanisms at national, regional and international level.
- Inclusion of **agreed language on civil society space,** by mentioning the need for States to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society, as this is the key condition for civil society to participate to and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- An **inclusive and participatory** implementation of the 2030 Agenda, **including the key participation of civil society and children** as their role is fundamental in the monitoring, follow-up, implementation and accountability processes. UN human rights mechanisms should hear children’s views on the respect of their rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Inclusion of **agreed language on investment in children,** as the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without equitable and efficient investment and budgeting for children’s rights (based on HRC resolution 28/19 and UNCRC General Comment No. 19).

¹ http://www.unicef.org/agenda2030/files/SDG-CRC_mapping_FINAL.pdf