

United Nations Human Rights Council

31st Session, 29 February 2016

Annual high-level panel on human rights mainstreaming

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development”

The 2030 Agenda and children’s rights: leave no child behind

Mr President,

This statement is made on behalf of Save the Children and 16 NGOs¹.

We welcome the 2030 Agenda’s ambitious plan of action for “people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership” and the firm commitment from all States to “leave no one behind” by ensuring that those furthest behind will be reached first and by meeting goals and targets for all nations, peoples and segments of society.

The ambition to tackle inequalities provides the international community with a key opportunity to advance human rights, including children’s rights, and to establish more inclusive and equitable societies.

We call on States to step up to the challenge and implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets in a holistic and integrated manner, with a particular focus on realizing the rights and meeting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people first. This includes introducing national interim equity or ‘stepping stone’ targets² that specify the progress that disadvantaged groups must make in order to be on track to achieve 2030 targets and to catch up with more advantaged groups.

In particular, we call on States to put an end to extreme poverty in all its forms, by raising incomes, providing universal social protection systems and ensuring equitable access to quality essential public services, such as health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation and child protection, by removing key discriminatory and financial barriers that stop children from surviving, thriving and learning.

In addition, we recall HRC resolution 28/19 on ‘Towards better investment in the rights of the child’ and the financing commitments to development in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We remind States that equitable and efficient resource mobilization and public spending is the most sustainable way through which services to children can be delivered and their rights realized.

Finally, we call on Member States to adopt a robust system of accountability for the 2030 Agenda spanning from local through to national and international levels based on principles of universality, equality, transparency and participation and building upon existing

¹ ACWW, Arigatou International, ATD Fourth World, BICE, Child Rights Connect, Consortium for Street Children, DCI, Eurochild, FMSI, ICJW, IFSW, MMM, ILGA, Plan International, Terre des Hommes, WCC

² Education 2030 – Framework for Action (p.8) -

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/ED_new/pdf/FFA-ENG-27Oct15.pdf.

international human rights obligations and mechanisms. It must be people-centred and allow for effective engagement by citizens, including children, in regular accountability processes at all levels.

Improving the lives and realizing the rights of the most deprived children today will create a better future for all children tomorrow.

Thank you.

