

TPs - Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid

She intends to speak mostly off-the-cuff depending on what is presented, but as requested yesterday in order to aid the interpreters, we are sharing below some of the key points she hopes to convey during the session.

- Recent reports show that the pandemic has increased the risks of violence against children, both at home and online, as well as gender-based violence.
- Although an initial rise in interpersonal violence is generally observed during the acute phase of a crisis, these surges are often sustained for years during the recovery period.
- The pandemic has impacted children's mental health and wellbeing; it has exacerbated inequalities, among the poorest and most marginalized: poverty and inequalities are drivers of violence and exploitation of children.
- Children and young people have shown remarkable activism and agency for positive change during the pandemic.
- Across the world, progress in the protection of children's rights has been slowed or even reversed by the pandemic, undermining the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- We cannot hope to end violence against children if the SDGs related to poverty, hunger, health, education, justice, gender, social inclusion, decent work, equality, migration, climate change and building peaceful societies are not met. Equally, progress toward these SDGs will be impeded if we do not end violence against children.
- We need a paradigm shift to see spending on services for children's wellbeing as an investment for an inclusive and sustainable recovery; this should be reflected in national development plans and socio-economic recovery plans, maximising coverage and impact for all children, leaving no one behind.
- Integrated services for children, such as health, including mental health, child protection and welfare, education, and justice that are also built on a solid foundation of social protection, including universal health coverage, cash transfers, child grants, decent work, unemployment compensation and income support to the most vulnerable.
- Post-pandemic recovery is an opportunity to build a new social contract, that is not only adult-centered but also child-centered, and that paves the way for more sustainable resilient economies and human capital development.