

Committee on the Rights of the Child
Contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in response to a call for
inputs by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
16 March 2020

1. Introduction

The President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) invited functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) to provide a focused input to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme *“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”* The Committee hereby provides its input with a view to:

- Highlight the views on how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for children;
- Focus on the area of responsibility of the Committee but also reflect the interrelations with other SDGs and targets;
- Highlight how the Committee is contributing to accelerating SDGs progress; and
- Identify action points for possible use in the HLPF declaration.

2. The views on how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways

The Committee welcomes the political declaration, which pledges to make the next decade one of action and delivery by committing to coming together in durable partnerships between governments at all levels, and with all relevant stakeholders. We share the sense of urgency to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

To accelerate action, it is important to strengthen synergies between the national process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda by each State and the implementation of the international human rights treaties as a State party by way of including legislative measures, policies, programmes, data collection, monitoring, and awareness raising activities. Based on this view, the Committee takes a child-rights based approach, which integrates the 2030 Agenda into its reporting procedure as described below. It is also critical to involve children as a key partner in decision-making processes and activities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways. The child-rights based approach requires that child

participation, which will empower children as active agents of change to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways, be made at the center of decision-making and implementation.

3. The area of responsibility of the Committee and its interrelations with other SDGs and targets

The Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols- on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography as well as on children and armed conflict, which provide a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children, by 196 States parties to the Convention. The States parties have a legal obligation to respect and ensure those rights to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, by taking all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures such as collecting and analyzing disaggregated data on children for the implementation of these rights.

The Committee acknowledges the inextricable linkage between inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and the realization of children's rights. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals and many targets and indicators are relevant to the realization of children's rights under the Convention and its two Optional Protocols.

4. The Committee's contribution to accelerating SDG progress

Recognizing the importance of synthesizing the national process of implementing SDGs and the reporting procedure under the Convention and its two Optional Protocols and the value of the legally binding nature and the normative framework of these instruments, the Committee has integrated the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into its reporting procedures by:

- Requesting that the States parties provide the information on how the formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes and projects for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals integrate a child rights-based approach, including on child participation and data collection, and contribute to the realization of children's rights under the Convention and its two Optional Protocols in its reply to the list of issues in preparation for the constructive dialogues with the States parties;
- Using the reports of the voluntary national reviews the States parties submitted to the HLPF as the source of information for the constructive dialogues with the States parties;
- Recommending in its concluding observations to all the States parties that they ensure the realization of children's rights in accordance with the provisions of the Convention throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and

urging the State party to ensure the meaningful participation of children in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Goals; and

- Referring to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and/or targets as well as indicators when making recommendations to the States parties in the concluding observations based on the consideration of the States parties' periodic reports.

5. Action points that the HLPF could address in its ministerial declaration

The Committee suggests the following action points:

- Recognize the critical role of children and the right to participation of children in the national process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and urge States to integrate the child-rights based approach including child participation into the national process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Invest in data and statistics for the SDGs and strengthening statistical capacities to address gaps in data which should include an acknowledgement of the fact that the relationship between child-related indicators to official SDG indicators could be complex as there are a number of SDG indicators that have a much broader scope (for example on “ending poverty” as compared to “ending child poverty”) or other indicators that are composite in nature- and therefore ensure that the 35 child-related global SDG indicators can be further disaggregated to highlight the children’s rights issues as covered in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols;
- Recognize that, at the center of accelerating action to achieve the SDGs should be an enhanced investment on children (including on early childhood development, health, child protection systems and tools) which has the potential for a wider benefits to individuals and societies at large, and thereby reconfirms the link between a more sustainable future on the one hand, and those that will carry such a future forward (namely children) on the other; and
- Invite States to share good examples of integrating the child-rights based approach including child participation into the national process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews.

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