

ChildFund Alliance's response to the zero draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

ChildFund Alliance is a worldwide alliance of children's development organizations, working in 58 countries to improve the lives of vulnerable and excluded children, help them overcome poverty and achieve their rights.

We welcome the release of the zero draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which will take place in New York, from 25 to 27 September 2015, and highly commend the efforts of the co-facilitators, H.E. Mr David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations.

We welcome Member States' reaffirmation of the post-2015 development agenda being a "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom" (para. 7), and bring attention to the central role that ending violence against children will play in the attainment of the latter. We wholeheartedly endorse Member States' pledge to leave no one behind, and to ensure that no goal or target will be met until it is met for all economic and social groupings (para. 4).

We further endorse the language under *A call for action to change our world* (paras. 40-44), including the acknowledgement of the fundamental role that younger generations play in achieving sustainable development. We urge Member States to build upon the inspirational effect of this section, and incorporate it in the preamble to the Outcome Document for the Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

2015 presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure that children's right to protection from all forms of violence and exploitation is fully realized in all settings. Unless the protection of children from violence is clearly prioritized not only through a standalone target, but also throughout the entire post-2015 development agenda, the committed and immediate action that is needed will not come to fruition; development gains of the past fifteen years will be lost; and other emerging priorities will not be addressed.

Aware of this, and of the fact that "vulnerable sections of the population whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets include children" (para. 21), we would suggest the following changes to further strengthen the document:

Our world today

Para. 12: ... Spiraling conflict, violence and extremism, **including violence against women and children**, humanitarian crises and a growing migration challenge threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. ...

Our vision

Para. 15: ... A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies have been removed, **and every child grows free from violence and exploitation.** ...

The new Agenda

Para. 22: ... All people irrespective of gender, race or ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to **safe and non-violent learning environments and to** learning that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society.

Para. 24: ... We will work to build dynamic, sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment in particular and decent work for all, **and bringing child labour, particularly in its worst forms, to an end.** ...

Para. 28: ... We must redouble our efforts to **end all forms of abuse, exploitation, and violence against children, as well as to** resolve or prevent conflict and to support countries emerging from conflict situations so as to lay the foundations for sustainable development. ...

Implementation

Para. 30: ... Business, the private sector, **civil society** and philanthropic organizations will feature prominently in relation to resource mobilization and implementation of the Agenda.

Follow-up and review

Para. 39: We also commit to **promote participatory processes that allow citizens and civil society to engage in follow-up and review of this Agenda, and to** scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress.

Follow-up and review

Para. 1: A robust, effective, inclusive, **participatory** and transparent follow-up and review framework, operating at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability **with and to** our citizens.

Para. 3.c: They will be open and inclusive, supported by an enabling environment for the participation of all people and stakeholders, **including children, young people, and other marginalized and vulnerable populations.** ...

We would also suggest the insertion of an additional paragraph immediately following paragraph 18, under *The new Agenda*:

Every child deserves quality education and healthcare, as well as growing up in an enabling and safe environment. The protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education, is the foundation of stable societies and a critical element for future sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

And following paragraph 35, under *Implementation*:

The post-2015 development agenda must be implemented through all-of-society engagement and partnerships, facilitating modes of participation that are accessible, empowering, inclusive, and non-discriminatory, with a special focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including children, women, and youth.

ChildFund Alliance calls upon Governments to build upon the level of ambition of the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on SDGs, and ensure that the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and abuse is prioritized along with their survival and development throughout the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.