



For every child, every right

In the 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the lives of millions of children have been improved through its implementation and the progressive realization of children's rights as enshrined within the Convention and its Optional Protocols. It is a moment for bold action to ensure we leave no child behind, and to support every child to reach their full potential.

Children across the world have been recognized as individual rights-holders of those rights inherent to the human dignity of all people. Children have equally been recognized as having the right to special protections and safeguards from those that constitute the duty-bearers in their lives and communities.

The year 2019 is an important one as we celebrate this momentous anniversary and the great progress that has been made in the advancement of children's rights to date. It is also a critical year for accelerating the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, when Heads of State and Government will meet at the UN High-Level Political Forum convened during the opening of the 74th General Assembly to discuss progress and challenges in our efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national, regional and global levels.

The CRC and SDGs go hand in hand. While the CRC highlights the timeless and indispensable international standards for ensuring the realisation of the rights of every child, the SDGs articulate a contemporary vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental progress that can be achieved when all people, including children, work together for our peaceful, prosperous and secure future. In sum, children's rights cannot be realized without the successful implementation of the SDGs and vice versa and therefore, the Convention has never been more relevant than it is today in reaching those children who are so often disadvantaged, excluded, and marginalised.

We recognize that the 21st century has brought forth new challenges in the form of, *inter alia*, climate change, rapid urbanization, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, protracted conflict and humanitarian crises, forced displacement, digitalisation and mass connectivity and multi-dimensional and inter-generational poverty with a profound impact on children's rights and well-being. It also brings new opportunities, including through the advancement of science, technology and innovation, for our renewed collective and concerted action with, and for, the 21st century child.

Children are our greatest assets for a peaceful, just, inclusive and prosperous world, today and tomorrow, and recognizing the pressing need and urgency to accelerate progress and intensify action, and in recognition of the growing adolescent cohort:

We hereby reaffirm our steadfast commitment to upholding and protecting the rights and principles enshrined within the Convention, and to identifying and taking concrete, actionable and time-bound steps towards its full implementation, including within the context of our national implementation of the SDGs and through policies, laws and budgets in our respective national contexts. We note the importance of including genuine children's perspectives in the development and assessment of strategies and programmes that are designed to realise their rights and meet their specific and evolving needs.

We pledge our full respect for the guiding principles of the Convention: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children; the child's inherent right to life, survival and development; and the child's right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting the child, with those views being given due weight.

In furthering full implementation of the Convention we stand determined to implement meaningful child-centred policies, to further good governance, enhance investments and allocate the necessary resources for the

advancement of children's rights, and to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society, for this purpose.

We emphasise the importance of Member States working collectively through reinforced partnership and coordination, and together with children themselves, at all ages and including adolescents, as agents of positive change in the promotion, protection and monitoring of their own rights for current and future generations, including in peace and reconciliation processes. We pledge to further reach and build the capacity of children in this regard, particularly those in the most vulnerable situations, including those affected by humanitarian crises, those from the most deprived and marginalized communities, and in pursuit of sustained gender equality.

We note that we cannot advance the protection and promotion of children's rights in a void of knowledge. To this end we stress the need for improved and coordinated, timely, reliable and disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data and information collection and analysis, and the importance of evidence-based and data-driven decision-making and innovation in progressing the rights of children. We also note the importance of investing in systems and tools to better track progress and provide comparable data on the well-being of children.

Finally, in recognizing a renewed opportunity in 2019 to increase action and results for children through local, national and global action, we make this pledge directly to children themselves all around the world: for every child, every right, and our collective action today to reach this goal.