

Joining forces to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs for children

Background

We, the leadership of the six child-focused INGOs, believe that we must join forces in some areas of our work to have greater impact on improving the lives of children worldwide. We met with success when we teamed up to influence the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the benefit of children, and the time is upon us now to accelerate progress towards the achievement of those goals. To that end, we, including most CEOs, gathered from June 19 – 23, 2017 to identify the actions we intend to implement together to realise faster progress.

We committed to stretch beyond our respective comfort zones of collaboration to put the child at the centre of our work. We challenged each other from a place of mutual trust and a desire to learn, knowing that we could only achieve a breakthrough from our silos if we left our 'egos and logos' outside the meeting room.

We see it as our moral obligation to join forces, leaving no stone unturned, on our mission to increase our global impact for children. By doing so, we invite and encourage all our staff members and external partners to join in this spirit in our work.

Through comprehensive preparatory work in advance of the meeting, we analysed our strategies and extracted the joint activities most likely to deliver high impact, innovation and scale.

Our thought partnership and deliberations yielded an inspiring joint commitment to the following actions:

Signature Initiative

We will work together over the next five years to substantially reduce violence against children by:

- Supporting the development of national platforms to end violence and link them to global processes with intergovernmental organisations and CSOs
- Identifying major gaps in child safeguarding and empowerment frameworks and contribute to strategies to resolve them
- Creating safe spaces where children can voice issues and are included in developing innovative solutions
- Finding a common approach in capturing and scaling child-led solutions as well as to measure progress
- Contributing to the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children

Supporting Initiative

We will ensure that the implementation of the SDGs achieves a step change in realising children's rights by:

- Championing children's rights through the SDG agenda
- Jointly supporting and strengthening SDG implementation, with a focus on Leave No One Behind
- Leveraging commitments to the Child Rights Convention, with the 30th anniversary in 2019 being a focal point at both the UN and national level

For Further Exploration

Education is one of the key drivers to sustainably anchor progress in the SDGs. Leveraging the opportunities of digital learning, we want to surface and incubate solutions that we could jointly implement at scale.

Next Steps

Together, we outlined key elements of a multi-year implementation plan for the first two initiatives. We have a shared understanding that we will hold each other accountable for implementation in accordance with mutually agreed indicators.

Moving forward, we plan to engage with key stakeholders to join us on this journey. We anticipate that this new approach to working together will magnify impact and leverage new funding opportunities.

We are excited about the breakthrough in our collaboration, but know that the real test will be successful implementation. We have never cooperated before at such a comprehensive and large scale, and are fully committed to make it work at every level.

We are pushing our organisational cultures to embrace significantly more collaboration, and invite you to join and support us.

Ultimately, we are accountable to the children. We are taking the bold step of joining forces because it is our duty to do the utmost we can for children with the resources entrusted to us. We want to see our collaboration delivering positive change for a large number of children which otherwise would likely not be reached at all.

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