

ChildFund Alliance's response to the final draft of 'Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for global action' from July 8th, 2015

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 final 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' recognition of children as stakeholders in the realization of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as a vulnerable population in need special protection (para. 22). We particularly bring attention to paragraph 46, where young people's "infinite capacities for activism into the creation of a better world" are highlighted. We further welcome Member States' inclusion of age as a factor for non-discrimination in paragraphs 18 and 23.

We wholeheartedly endorse Member States' commitment to combat "all forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against children, both boys and girls" (para. 19), and urge Member States to consider the following minor but fundamental amendments to further strengthen the document:

Our world today

Para. 11: ... 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. ...

The new Agenda

Para. 23: ... We will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, including through supportive families, **safe and non-violent schools and learning environments**, and stronger communities.

Para. 25: ... 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. ...

Para. 37: ... We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and **dignity** of migrants, refugees and displaced persons, **including children.**

Para. 38: We recognize the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development, one measure of success of the new Agenda will be its ability to strengthen **families and protect all children.**

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.

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 a sustainable future and inclusive economic growth.

The post-2015 development agenda 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.