

ChildFund Alliance's Statement on the OAS General Assembly's Declaration on Violence against and Exploitation of Children

9 June 2014

ChildFund Alliance, a leading global child development organisation, welcomes the declaration of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on violence against and exploitation of children.

In addition, we fully support the OAS General Assembly's vision of eliminating all forms of violence against children as a way to achieve sustainable development.

At its forty-fourth regular session, under the central theme of "Development with Social Inclusion," the OAS General Assembly issued an official declaration highlighting the importance for sustainable development of effectively preventing and responding to violence against and exploitation of children.

Gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the OAS recognized that violence against children "takes place in all environments in which children live, grow, develop, and interact" and that "preventing and responding to violence and exploitation is essential to ensuring children's rights to survival, development, and well-being."

As Governments are coming together at the United Nations to agree on the new set of global priorities for when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) conclude in 2015, the declaration of the 35 Member States of the OAS on eliminating all forms of violence against children constitutes a major breakthrough for children and families around the world.

ChildFund Alliance supports the OAS General Assembly's declaration that "it is vital that the post-2015 development agenda addresses the issue of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children."

We also welcome their call to Governments "to ensure that the issue of violence and exploitation perpetrated against children has clear and measurable sex-disaggregated targets and indicators to guarantee that children are free from violence and exploitation."

ChildFund Alliance's global campaign 'free from violence and exploitation' (www.freefromviolence.org) was set up to advocate for the inclusion of the prevention of violence against and exploitation of children as one of the new set of global priorities, and to raise awareness at all levels about these important issues.

We hope that Governments throughout the world will continue to build on the momentum generated by this and other statements of support, so that preventing and responding to violence and exploitation against children becomes a priority for the next development agenda.

Editor's note

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.

