

40th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child: Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education: 4th March 2019

Thank you Mr President.

Children with disabilities experience what the Committee on the Rights of the Child has referred to as ‘double denial’, suffering discrimination and exclusion due to their age and disability. They face barriers to accessing information, to civil society space, are much more likely to grow up in alternative care and face heightened risk of violence.

Calling for a child rights-based approach, we urge Member States and the UN to:

Ensure and promote the right of children with disabilities to be heard and their opinions taken into account - in accordance with their evolving capacities - which is of utmost importance for their empowerment and inclusion.

Whilst responding to the vulnerability of children with disabilities by ensuring special protection measures, ensure that additional barriers and obstacles are not created to their empowerment, as equal rights holders, for the enjoyment of their human rights.

Take forward an inter-sectoral approach and take into account a broad and inclusive definition of disability to fight the high levels of discrimination facing children with disabilities.

Promote the best interest of the child principle - in accordance with children’s evolving capacities - in all aspects of the life of children with disabilities and in relation to the enjoyment of all the rights provided for in the CRC.

Systematically identify and adequately respond to the many risks and practices that affect the right to life and development of children with disabilities.

In line with the CRPD, CRC and SGD Goal 4, adopt all of the appropriate measures to ensure that all children with disabilities receive an inclusive, equitable and quality education.

Ensure access to information and adapted tools for children with disabilities: Access to information enables children with disabilities to live independently, to express their views freely and to enjoy the participation principle.

Ensure the availability of training tools for parents and professionals working with children with disabilities that allow the empowerment of children with disabilities in decisions affecting their lives.

Collate qualitative and quantitative data on children with disabilities, to better understand and respond to their various situations in order to ensure the enjoyment of their human rights.

Thank you.

### **Co-signatories**

- Child Rights Connect
- ATD Fourth World
- International Council of Women
- Terre des Hommes International Federation
- Edmund Rice International
- SOS Children's Villages International
- International Catholic Child Bureau
- Children of One World
- Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
- Children of Prisoners Europe
- Consortium for Street Children
- International Child Rights Center (InCRC)
- Ekama Development Foundation
- Save the Children International
- Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
- Make Mothers Matter
- Child Rights Information Centre (CRIC), Moldova
- Hope and Homes for Children
- Eurochild

