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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

19 October 2021

Dear Ms. Herczog,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2021, as well as the position paper on child rights mainstreaming developed in response to the report of the Secretary-General “Our Common Agenda”.

We took note of the valuable analysis and solutions provided in the position paper, which was shared with the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and Children and Armed Conflict respectively.

We agree with your analysis that a holistic child rights perspective must be reinforced across the United Nations system at global, regional and local levels. This is in line with a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). We also recognize the importance of the comprehensive and explicit consideration of children, in addition to youth, across all priorities identified within system-wide initiatives, policies and procedures, including both Our Common Agenda and the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights (C2A). This is relevant for today’s children, as well as the children of future generations.

As noted in the position paper, a number of initiatives relating to child rights have been developed as part of the C2A. The C2A is a collective, system-wide initiative precisely to meet the challenge you have identified – that a patchwork approach to rights in general can leave gaps.

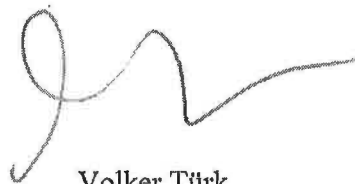
Ms. Maria Herczog
President
Child Rights Connect
Geneva

On the issue of child rights in particular, we plan to develop a Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming through an inter-agency process. This will provide colleagues across the system with a tool to support the inclusion of child rights.

Let me thank you again for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

With warm regards,



Volker Türk
Assistant Secretary-General
for Strategic Coordinations