



## Child Rights Connect statement

### Opening of the 82<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

9 September 2019

Distinguished members of the Committee, dear OHCHR colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the Committee at the opening of the 82<sup>nd</sup> session on behalf of The Child Rights Connect secretariat and its members.

At the opening of the last session in May, we had expressed our deep concern that this September session was in jeopardy due to the delays in the payments of UN membership contributions by Member States. We are glad to see all the Committee members here today, ready to carry out their mandated activities, as well as celebrations for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention. However, we remain alarmed that the present shortfall in resources is likely to be further perpetuated if Member States do not revisit their 2017 decision and start increasing Treaty Bodies' resources in line with the formula in resolution 68/268 (2014) of the UN General Assembly.

In the year of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC, States are responding to the Committee's global call for pledges with some very positive and concrete commitments for action. These efforts, together with the ones undertaken on a daily basis by different stakeholders at the national level to implement the Convention, would be meaningless if the Committee was not able to carry out its functions as the main accountability mechanism for child rights. As the largest global network of child rights organizations cooperating with the CRC Committee and the Treaty Body system, we seize this opportunity to **urge all stakeholders to reaffirm their support for resolution 68/268** and ensure that it is fully implemented in the coming years.

On a more positive note, we draw your attention to different initiatives:

1. We have recently published a comprehensive **study on the global status of CRC reporting** which outlines trends, gaps and challenges in relation to the engagement of States parties, civil society and children in the CRC reporting cycle. It also provides an overview of the evolution of the Committee's working methods and we hope it can serve as institutional memory for the Committee. This study constitutes a baseline that is meant to be progressively supplemented by follow-up analyses and we encourage the Committee to share its suggestions with us.
2. Today, we are publishing the outcome document of the follow-up meeting to the 2018 DGD on protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders. The document is a **roadmap for follow-up action and commitments to support implementation of the DGD recommendations** at the local, national, regional and international levels. The roadmap is intended to be a living document that will be collectively used to monitor and encourage follow-up to the DGD.

3. Next week, on 16 September and coinciding with the Committee's celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention, we will launch a **website that is dedicated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> optional protocol (OPIC)**. The website centralizes all existing information and resources on the OPIC to make them accessible to a wide audience, including children. The website will also include a **database of Treaty Bodies' jurisprudence concerning children** and it will be launched on 20 November.
4. Finally, jointly with the Special Representative on Violence Against Children, we are about to **call for States to ratify the OPIC** in the framework of the upcoming UN Treaty Event in New York and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations there. We hope that the Committee can join this call and sign our joint letter to States.

Child Rights Connect looks forward to discussing these and other issues more in-depth with the Committee during the session and we thank you for your kind attention.