

CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2029

WHO ARE WE?

Child Rights Connect (CRCnct) is an independent, non-profit organisation founded in 1983 as the Group of NGOs that were involved in the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Today CRCnct is one of the largest international child rights networks with more than 100 member and observer organisations. Thanks to this, it has a worldwide reach with members from all regions reaching millions of children in more than 190 countries.

WHAT IS OUR VISION?

We want to see a world in which all children have their human rights respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled, as it is set in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?



CRCnct advocates for and supports the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols for the realisation of children’s rights worldwide. This means that we invite, engage and cooperate with civil society and other important people and organisations. We also empower them as well as children, so they can meaningfully participate in advocacy for children’s rights at different levels.



WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IN?

We believe in using child rights-based approach in our work with and for children. We also think that the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation and accountability are important. We always look for ways of working together that are collaborative, sustainable, fair, harmless, inclusive, multipliers of knowledge, respectful, environmentally friendly and sensitive to difference and diversity.

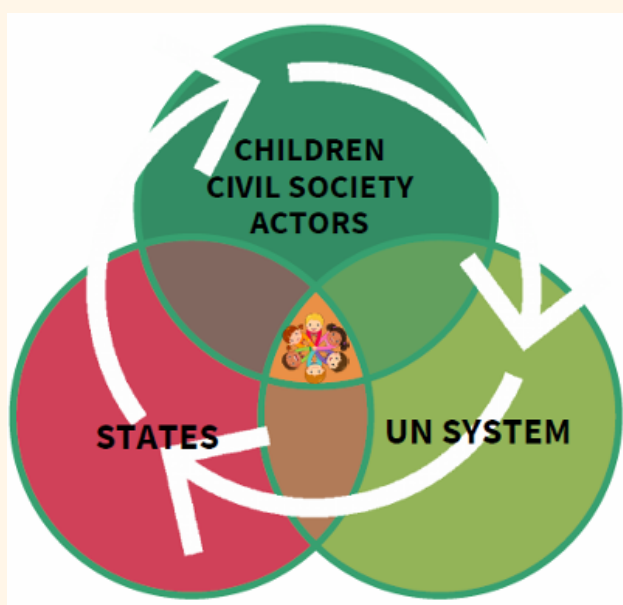
WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGIC PLAN?



From time to time, we need to sit down and think about how we want to work for the world we imagined in our vision. This means that we talk about and agree on with our members what our goals and most important activities are - called strategic priorities - for the next few years. For each strategy priority, we also think about what will happen if we reach them and what kind of change we will see in the world. This way we can keep track of the change we bring to the world.

HOW WILL THIS STRATEGIC PLAN BRING CHANGE?

Children and civil society will be empowered to come up with better advocacy strategies, participate more effectively in human rights mechanisms at all levels and have a say on the international agenda.



The states will be better at implementing children’s rights, so besides making laws that better promote and protect children’s rights, they will give space for children and involve them in the making of laws, strategies and programmes. If children share their opinion, the states will make even better laws and regulations.

UN system will be better at using children’s rights approach and more ready to answer to children when they monitor the human rights situation in the countries. This means they will make stronger recommendations for states and better new standards related to children’s rights.

In practice this means that we will be working to change:



THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025-2029

What is our Strategic Priority No. 1 for the years of 2025-2029?

Our Strategic Priority 1 is to advance child participation and the rights, empowerment and protection of child human rights defenders (CHRDs) at global, national and institutional levels.

What will happen if we reach this goal?

More children participate meaningfully in decision-making of international organisations and governments, while child human rights defenders enjoy more their rights, they feel more empowered and protected.

What kind of change will we see exactly?

- The United Nations human rights mechanisms offer and ensure safe, equitable, empowering and sustained child participation more systematically
- Children more systematically inform the development, and engage in the implementation of, Child Rights Connect programmes and projects
- Global and national legal and policy frameworks on the rights, empowerment and protection of CHRDs are stronger
- More CHRDs are empowered to engage in safe and sustainable action as human rights defenders at global and/or national levels



What is our Strategic Priority No. 2 for the years of 2025-2029?

Our Strategic Priority No. 2 is to advance accountability to children at global and national levels.

What will happen if we reach this goal?

Everyone, at global and national level, who is responsible to ensure that children can enjoy their rights will be better at answering to children.

What kind of change will we see exactly?

- Members and other organisations engage more and better with the CRC Committee and other human rights committees of the UN
- More members engage more and better on countering the push back against child rights, including with respect to the shrinking space for civil society
- There are more campaigns for ratification of the OPIC (Optional Protocol to the UN CRC on communications) led by members
- The UN improves implementation of the child rights approach in line with the UN Secretary-General's Guidance Note on child rights mainstreaming
- The UN makes better standards and practices that provide accountability to children



What is our Strategic Priority No. 3 for the years of 2025-2029?

Our Strategic Priority No. 3 is to make Child Rights Connect more stable financially.

What will happen if we reach this goal?

CRCnct will have enough money to cover the costs of having staff and running projects and we will even put some money aside for emergency situations.

What kind of change will we see exactly?

- Child Rights Connect is more visible and known amongst the organisations who give money for good causes (called donors)
- The funding will come from more different donors
- If there is an unexpected cost or we lose a donor suddenly, the organisation can still manage to pay the bills.



What is our Strategic Priority No. 4 for the years of 2025-2029?

Our Strategic Priority No. 4 is to make it better how Child Rights Connect's work as an organisation.

What will happen if we reach this goal?

We will be better at organising ourselves and our daily tasks.



What kind of change will we see exactly?

- The Secretariat works better, we send information regularly to our members about new events, tools and platforms
- More members participate at the yearly General Assembly and take important decisions there
- The Executive Committee makes important decisions quickly and keep an eye on the management of the organisation
- The Working Groups are better at mobilising and using the expertise and knowledge of their members
- More child rights organisations join CRCnct from different countries and with different focus and the current members stay with us



IS THERE A ROLE FOR CHILDREN? YES!

Children can:

- learn about the Strategic Plan and talk about it to their peers, their family and the adults they are around them
- get engaged with the different activities of Child Rights Connect and help us to implement the Strategic Plan
- check on us regularly how it goes with the Strategic Plan.

