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Agenda item 66

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Firas Hassan **Jabbar** (Iraq)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled:

“Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

“(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

“(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 11th to 15th meetings, from 8 to 11 October 2019, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 47th and 49th meetings, on 15 and 18 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 66 (a)

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([A/74/231](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the girl child ([A/74/246](#))

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict ([A/74/249](#))

¹ [A/C.3/74/SR.11](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.12](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.13](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.14](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.15](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.47](#) and [A/C.3/74/SR.49](#).



Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children ([A/74/259](#))

Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Independent Expert leading the global study on children deprived of liberty ([A/74/136](#))

Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material ([A/74/162](#))

Item 66 (b)

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children ([A/74/240](#))

4. At its 11th meeting, on 8 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Spain, Morocco, Belgium, Canada, the European Union, South Africa, Slovenia, Germany, Mali, Argentina, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Switzerland, Guatemala, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, France, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

5. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Japan, Algeria, Morocco, Spain, Mexico, the European Union, Portugal, Slovenia, Brazil, South Africa and Qatar.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships, of the United Nations Children's Fund made an introductory statement.

7. At its 12th meeting, on 8 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, the European Union, Germany, Spain, the Russian Federation, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain, Ireland, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert leading the global study on children deprived of liberty made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Belgium, the Russian Federation, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Mexico, the European Union, Colombia, Austria, Qatar and Morocco and the observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

10. At the 44th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.²

² See [A/C.3/74/SR.44](#).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#) and amendment contained in document [A/C.3/74/L.64](#)

11. At its 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Rights of the child” ([A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland made a statement on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and orally revised the twenty-fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 16, 35, 39 and 41.³

13. Subsequently, Andorra, Australia, Cabo Verde, Canada, Equatorial Guinea, Iceland, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, San Marino, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/74/L.64](#)

14. At the 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#) submitted by the United States of America ([A/C.3/74/L.64](#)).

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement on the amendment.

16. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that Eritrea had joined in sponsoring the draft amendment.

17. Also at its 49th meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 100 to 31, with 29 abstentions. The voting was as follows:⁴

In favour:

Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Nauru, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

³ See [A/C.3/74/SR.49](#).

⁴ The delegation of Bangladesh subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Grenada, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.

18. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay (on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Turkey (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Netherlands and Sweden (on behalf of the Baltic and Nordic countries).

19. After the vote, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Argentina.

Action on operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#), as orally revised

20. At the 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to a request for a recorded vote on operative paragraph 13 of draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#), as orally revised.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee voted to retain operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 131 to 10, with 16 abstentions. The voting was as follows:⁵

⁵ The delegation of Kuwait subsequently indicated that it had intended not to participate in the vote. The delegation of Bangladesh subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain. The delegation of Ethiopia subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour. The delegation of Qatar subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote against.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Against:

Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Kuwait, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, Yemen.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Libya, Pakistan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Arab Emirates.

22. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Finland (on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States).

Action on draft resolution as a whole

23. At the 49th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

24. Also at the 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.21/Rev.1](#), as a whole, as orally revised (see para. 31, draft resolution I).

25. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Singapore and the observer for the Holy See.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.23](#)

26. At its 47th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "The girl child" ([A/C.3/74/L.23](#)), submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community). Subsequently, Algeria, Armenia, Bahamas, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua,

Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Mozambique made a statement on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

28. Also at the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of Finland (on behalf of the European Union).

29. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.23](#) (see para. 31, draft resolution II).

30. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and Guatemala, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

31. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Rights of the child**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ which constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and welcoming the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary in 2019 of its adoption,

Reaffirming also that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention² and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which was resolution 73/155 of 17 December 2018, and recalling also all other relevant resolutions on this matter, including resolution 73/154 of 17 December 2018 on protecting children from bullying and resolution 73/327 of 25 July 2019, by which it declared 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,⁶ the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees⁷ and the 1967 Protocol thereto,⁸ the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹⁰ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹¹ and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,¹² as well as both the Minimum Age Convention, 1973

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

² *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

(No. 138),¹³ and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),¹⁴ of the International Labour Organization,

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for actions concerning children,

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,¹⁵ the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹⁶ and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,¹⁷ recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁸ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁹ and the outcome documents of their review conferences, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,²⁰ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²¹ and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,²² the Declaration on the Right to Development,²³ the declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,²⁴ the outcome document of the fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2017, and the outcome documents of previous Global Conferences,

Underscoring the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁵ in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child and their well-being,

Taking note of all relevant international instruments on the rights of migrants and refugees, and recalling the importance of protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all refugee and migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their caregivers, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

Taking note also of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly²⁶ and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in resolution [73/155](#),²⁷ as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,²⁸ the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

¹³ Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

¹⁴ Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

¹⁵ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

¹⁶ Resolution [55/2](#).

¹⁷ Resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

¹⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²⁰ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

²¹ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

²² Resolution [69/2](#).

²³ Resolution [41/128](#), annex.

²⁴ Resolution [62/88](#).

²⁵ Resolution [70/1](#).

²⁶ [A/74/240](#).

²⁷ [A/74/231](#).

²⁸ [A/74/259](#).

Children and Armed Conflict,²⁹ the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material,³⁰ and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,³¹ whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Acknowledging the submission of the report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty,³²

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child, and acknowledging the important role played by national governmental and local structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions, including national human rights institutions, where they exist, for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of national human rights institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the importance of international, regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to advance the effective protection and promotion of the rights of the child and the elimination of all forms of violence against children, including all violent punishment of children,

Encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law and to promote and protect the right to education, to make it accessible, inclusive, quality and non-discriminatory and to facilitate the continuation of education in situations of armed conflict, and encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to protect children affected by armed conflict, including from the recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups and by supporting long-term and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation for these children,

Urging all States to respect, protect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and to involve children, including children with disabilities, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion and inequality and that the situation of children in many

²⁹ A/74/249.

³⁰ A/74/162.

³¹ A/74/189.

³² A/74/136.

parts of the world remains negatively affected by the prolonged effects of poverty and inequality, reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is one of the greatest global challenges and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, recognizing the impact of poverty beyond the socioeconomic context and the intrinsic interlinkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development, and in this regard underlining the importance of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and their communities,

Profoundly concerned that children in many parts of the world remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity and pollution, which further threaten health, food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard calling for the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³³

Recognizing that the risk of maternal mortality is highest for girls under 15 years of age and that complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among girls under 15 years of age in many countries,

Recalling the importance of promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration; reaffirming all latest international policy developments and relevant United Nations agreements in this regard; strengthening international and regional cooperation, within the framework of the United Nations and relevant regional fora,

Expressing serious concern that children with disabilities, particularly girls, face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and are disproportionately subjected to mental and physical violence and sexual abuse in all settings,

Expressing concern that millions of children worldwide continue to grow up deprived of parental care, separated from their families for many reasons, including but not limited to poverty, discrimination, violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking in persons, humanitarian emergencies, armed conflict, natural disaster, climate change, migration, death or illness of a parent and lack of access to education, health and other family-support services,

Recalling its resolution [64/142](#) of 18 December 2009, which contained the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children in its annex, which serve as a set of orientations to help inform policy and practice for the protection and well-being of children deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so, and acknowledging the progress that has been achieved since its adoption,

1. *Welcomes* the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto² contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. *Recognizes* that, while progress has been made, many challenges remain, and that, in this regard, both the high-level commemorative event on 25 September 2019 and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 20 November 2019 were

³³ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

occasions for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to take additional measures to ensure that the rights of children are fully realized;

3. *Calls upon* State parties to increase their efforts for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 5 of its resolution [71/177](#) of 19 December 2016 and that the general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and encourages further efforts by the Secretary-General in this regard;

6. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;¹⁵

7. *Notes* the work of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other sexual abuse material, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and, in this regard, their contribution to the progress achieved in the promotion and protection of the rights of children;

8. *Reaffirms* section II of its resolution [73/155](#), on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children, in which it addressed non-discrimination; registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care; economic and social well-being of children; eradication of poverty; right to education; right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health; right to food; child labour; prevention and elimination of and response to violence against children; promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations; migrant children; children and the administration of justice; prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and children affected by armed conflict;

9. *Calls upon* States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind;

10. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, children of African descent and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, including children with disabilities, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

11. *Recalls* every child's right to be registered immediately after birth, to a name, to acquire a nationality and to recognition everywhere as a person before the law, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ respectively, reminds States of their obligation to ensure the registration of the birth of all children without discrimination

of any kind, including in the case of late birth registration, calls upon States to ensure that birth registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost, and recognizes the importance of birth registration as a critical means of preventing statelessness;

12. *Urges* States to improve the situation of children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection, taking into account that, while a severe lack of goods and services hurts every human being, it is particularly threatening and harmful to children, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, to reach their full potential and to participate as full members of society, and exposed to conditions that lead to increased violence;

13. *Calls upon* States to scale up scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk-reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

14. *Reaffirms* the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, and calls upon States to make primary education compulsory, inclusive and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have equal access to education of good quality, making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion by eliminating social, economic and gender disparities in education and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls, children with disabilities, pregnant adolescent girls, children living in poverty, indigenous children, children of African descent, persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities and children in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

15. *Urges* States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and to end child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest;

16. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against children in all settings, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, child abuse and exploitation, hostage-taking, domestic violence, incest, trafficking in or sale of children and their organs, paedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, child sex tourism, gang and armed violence, sexual exploitation of children online and offline, bullying, including cyberbullying, and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, and urges States to strengthen efforts to prevent and protect children from all such violence through a comprehensive, gender-responsive and age-appropriate approach and to develop an inclusive multifaceted and systematic framework, which is integrated into national planning processes, to respond effectively to violence against children and

to provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

17. *Calls upon* all States to protect the human rights of all children and to ensure, for children belonging to minorities in vulnerable situations, including migrant children, indigenous children, children of African descent, internally displaced children and children with disabilities, the enjoyment of all human rights as well as access to health care, social services, social protection and accessible and inclusive education on an equal basis with others, and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, internally displaced children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive special protection and assistance and that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

18. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, but that boys are also targets, in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel and in patterns of abduction of children, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end and prevent them and to encourage age- and gender-specific support services, including psychological, social and sexual and reproductive health-care services, and education, social protection and reintegration programmes;

19. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that children associated or allegedly associated with armed groups should be treated primarily as victims and in line with the best interests of the child, and to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to prosecution and detention and take measures that focus on rehabilitation and reintegration in an environment that fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child, in accordance with relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, as well as human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

20. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

I

Children without parental care

21. *Recalls* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that a child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality and potential, should grow up in a family environment and that a child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State, and that States parties shall, in accordance with their national laws and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, ensure safe and appropriate quality alternative care for such a child;

22. *Urges* all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to preserve the identity of children, including their nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by

law, to protect children in matters relating to birth registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, recognizing that every effort should be directed to enabling children to remain in or swiftly return to the care of their parents or, when appropriate, other close family members and that, where alternative care is necessary, family and community-based care should be promoted over placement in institutions;

23. *Recalls* that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵ requires all States parties to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, including with respect to family life;

24. *Reaffirms* that children shall not be separated from their parents against their will except when competent authorities, subject to judicial review, determine in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child, and that such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence;

25. *Reaffirms* that a child shall not be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily and that the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and that every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age;

26. *Notes* that children without parental care are more likely than their peers to experience human rights violations, such as exclusion, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and in this regard expresses deep concern on the potential harm of institutionalization and institutional care to children's growth and development;

27. *Recognizes* that many children living without parental care have families, including at least one parent alive and/or relatives, and in this regard encourages actions to achieve family reunification unless it is not in the best interests of the child;

28. *Stresses* that no child should be forced to give up family connections in order to escape poverty, or to receive care, comprehensive, timely and quality health services or education, or because they are in contact with the law;

29. *Recognizes* that poverty, all forms of violence, including mental and physical violence, domestic violence, structural violence and survival activities may lead children into the criminal justice system, including the juvenile justice system, and that detention in the criminal justice system is sometimes used as a substitute for prevention and referral to child protection authorities and services;

30. *Also recognizes* that financial and material poverty, or conditions directly and uniquely imputable to such poverty, should never be the only justification for the removal of a child from the care of his or her parents or primary caregivers and legal guardians, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing his or her reintegration, but should be seen as a signal for the need to provide appropriate support to their family, benefiting the child directly;

31. *Urges* States to strengthen child welfare and child protection systems and improve care reform efforts, which should include increased multisectoral collaboration, inter alia, between child welfare and health, education and justice sectors, active coordination among all relevant authorities, improved cross-border systems and improved capacity-building and training programmes for relevant stakeholders;

32. *Expresses deep concern* regarding the large and growing number of migrant children, particularly those who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, who may be particularly vulnerable along their journey, and expresses the commitment to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and migrant children with disabilities, to ensure that they receive appropriate protection and assistance and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies on integration, return and family reunification;

33. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to prevent and combat illegal adoptions and all adoptions that are not in the best interests of the child;

34. *Urges* States to take effective action to provide support to families and to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their parents, including by:

(a) Prioritizing investments in child protection services and social services to support quality alternative care, including families and communities in order to prevent the separation of children from their families, with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration;

(b) Adopting and enforcing laws and improving the implementation of policies and programmes, budget allocation and human resources to support children, particularly children with disabilities, and children living in disadvantaged, stigmatized and marginalized families, to address the root causes of unnecessary family separation and ensure that they are cared for effectively by their own families and communities;

(c) Taking all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child;

(d) Recognizing the right of a child who has been placed by competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement;

(e) Ensuring that removal of children from the care of their family should be seen as a measure of last resort and should, whenever possible, be temporary and removal decisions should be regularly reviewed and the child's return to parental care, once the causes of removal have been resolved or have disappeared, should have the best interests of the child as a primary consideration and be based on comprehensive assessment;

(f) Developing and strengthening inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and programmes for poverty reduction, also designed to promote and strengthen parents' ability to care for their children, and to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, including initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting, health and well-being for all at all ages, equal access to economic resources, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion and promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members;

(g) Providing gender-sensitive and child-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, as can be the case of families headed

by a single parent, in particular those headed by women or by children, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education, affordable quality childcare services and health-care services;

(h) Supporting and assisting families' and caregivers' capacities in regard to child development, including through comprehensive education and training, and the promotion of involved and positive parenting to enable them to provide children with care in a safe environment;

(i) Providing early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families with a view to preventing concealment, abandonment, neglect, discrimination and segregation and to ensuring they have equal rights with respect to family life;

(j) Designing and implementing programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, including access to quality education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education, care for their children, and protect them from discrimination, as well as to ensure healthy and safe pregnancy;

(k) Ensuring that all decisions, initiatives and approaches related to children without parental care are made on a case-by-case basis, by suitably qualified professionals in a multidisciplinary team, through a judicial, administrative or other adequate and recognized procedure, with legal safeguards, taking into account the best interests of the child, and regularly reviewed, with a view to ensuring the child's safety, security and participation, and grounded in the best interests of the child concerned, including through incorporating a gender perspective and in conformity with the principle of non-discrimination;

(l) Putting in place rigorous and systematic judicial and administrative "gatekeeping" procedures that are designed to ensure that quality alternative care for children is used only after consideration of the best interests of the child as a primary consideration and that children receive the most appropriate care for their needs, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and taking into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children;³⁴

35. *Also urges* States to take action to ensure the enjoyment of human rights for all children without parental care, in accordance with the international human rights framework, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, not least the rights to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, education, to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age and maturity of the child, and also to take action to provide a range of alternative care options and to protect all children without parental care, including by:

(a) Promoting the implementation of international frameworks, and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, including through training on those for care staff and others working with children, and strengthening national legislation, regulations and policies to protect the rights of children without parental care;

(b) Ensuring the availability of a comprehensive range of quality accessible and disability-inclusive alternative care options, in the best interests of the child and on a case-by-case basis, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by taking into account

³⁴ Resolution 64/142, annex.

the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, for emergency, short-term and long-term care;

(c) Strengthening regulation, including registration, licensing, oversight and accountability mechanisms, promoting development and dissemination of evidence-based methods, and monitoring and assessing the quality of care and status of children and all other circumstances relevant to the placement in all alternative care settings, including kinship care settings, through a periodic review, to ensure that the rights and the best interests of the child are upheld and that children are able to report violence, abuse and other concerns;

(d) Improving data collection, information management and reporting systems related to children without parental care in all settings and situations in order to close existing data gaps and develop global and national baselines, including by investing in quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance and ensuring that quality data guides policymaking;

(e) Ensuring adequate and systematic training in the rights of the child, including by encouraging States to take the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children into account for professional groups working with and for children, including with children without parental care, including specialized judges, law enforcement officials, lawyers, social workers, medical doctors, care professionals, health professionals and teachers, and coordination among various governmental bodies involved in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

(f) Prioritizing quality alternative care options over institutionalization with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration, and, where relevant, adopting policies, strategies and comprehensive plans of action in that respect, including by implementing relevant reforms, developing or reforming legislation, budget allocation, awareness-raising campaigns, training, and increasing the capacity of all relevant actors;

(g) Progressively replacing institutionalization with quality alternative care, including, inter alia, family and community-based care and, where relevant, redirecting resources to family and community-based care services, with adequate training and support for caregivers and robust screening and oversight mechanisms;

(h) Undertaking every effort, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, to provide quality alternative care within the wider family, and, failing that, within the community in a family setting, bearing in mind the best interests of the child and taking into account the child's views and preferences;

(i) Protecting the human rights of children in alternative care and ensuring swift accountability for human rights violations or abuses, including by protecting children from all forms of violence and abuse, including bullying, in all care settings;

(j) Recognizing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by children in vulnerable situations such as those living in child-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, girls, children with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses, children with disabilities, children in detention, children who exceed the age limit for care systems as established by national legislation, children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in vulnerable situations, indigenous children and children of African descent and the necessity to increase the support for children in this regard;

(k) Establishing and developing safe, well-publicized, child-friendly, confidential and accessible and effective mechanisms to enable children in alternative care settings or their representatives to seek counselling, to report violence against

children or other safeguarding concerns and file complaints on incidents of violence and to ensure that all children have access to such mechanisms;

(l) Ensuring that adolescents and young people leaving alternative care receive appropriate support in preparing for the transition to independent living, including support in gaining access to employment, education, training, housing and psychological support, participating in rehabilitation with their families where that is in their best interest, and gaining access to after-care services consistent with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children;

(m) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all alternative care policies, and implementing gender-responsive measures that address the specific needs of girls in alternative care settings;

(n) Ensuring appropriate care and protection of children who work and/or live on the street without any parental contact or supervision, including through measures to support their sustainable reintegration into their families and, when family reintegration is not possible or appropriate, through a case-by-case approach to provide quality alternative care that is appropriate and in the best interests of the child;

(o) Protecting unaccompanied and separated children at all stages of migration through the establishment of specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification, and provide access to health-care services, including mental health, education, legal assistance and the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings, including by swiftly appointing a competent and impartial legal guardian, as essential means to address their particular vulnerabilities and discrimination, protect them from all forms of violence, and provide access to sustainable solutions that are in their best interests;

(p) Ensuring that child protection authorities are promptly informed and assigned to participate in procedures for the determination of the best interests of the child once an unaccompanied or separated child crosses an international border, in accordance with international law, including by training border officials in the rights of the child and child-sensitive procedures, such as those that prevent family separation and reunite families when family separation occurs;

(q) Taking measures to ensure that all children who are separated from their parents in accordance with applicable law and procedures, and where such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child, are promptly referred to child protection authorities and provided with appropriate and quality alternative care, inter alia, family and community-based care;

(r) Promoting alternatives to detention for children and taking steps to minimize the risk of violence against children in detention, as well as encourage and facilitate frequent family visits and regular contact and communication between children and their family members unless it is in the child's best interest not to do so, as well as with the outside world, and to ensure that no child should be subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or that disciplinary sanctions for detained children do not include a prohibition of contact with family members;

(s) Taking appropriate measures to prevent and respond to the separation of children from their families in humanitarian contexts, inter alia, by giving priority to family tracing and family reunification and reintegration, and, where appropriate, to cooperate with international humanitarian and refugee organizations, including by facilitating their work, in line with their obligations under international law;

(t) Taking appropriate measures to protect children who are victims of trafficking and are deprived of parental care, as well as enacting and enforcing legislation to prevent and combat the trafficking and exploitation of children in care facilities, and supporting children who are victims of human trafficking in returning to their families and in receiving appropriate mental health and psychological assistance that is victim-centred and trauma-informed and taking appropriate measures to prevent and address the harms related to volunteering programmes in orphanages, including in the context of tourism, which can lead to trafficking and exploitation;

II Follow-up

36. *Expresses its gratitude* for the work of Marta Santos Pais and welcomes the appointment of Najat Maalla M'jid as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, pursuant to its resolution [62/141](#) of 18 December 2007, expresses its support for her work, and recognizes the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, as extended by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/155](#), in promoting the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions and in advancing the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children, including through partnerships with regional organizations, as well as advocacy through thematic consultations, field missions and thematic reports addressing emerging concerns;

37. *Urges* all States, requests United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in promoting the further implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and in supporting Member States in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁵ encourages States to provide support to the Special Representative, including adequate voluntary financial support for the continued, effective and independent performance of her mandate, and invites organizations, including the private sector, to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

38. *Recognizes* the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of work and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, welcomes the “Act to protect children affected by conflict” campaign initiated by the Special Representative and, bearing in mind its resolution [63/241](#) of 24 December 2008 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of its resolution [51/77](#) of 12 December 1996, as well as paragraph 39 of its resolution [72/245](#) of 24 December 2017, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for an additional period of one year, until 2021;

39. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to consider the issue of children deprived of liberty, bearing in mind the report on children deprived of liberty;

40. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken regarding Security Council resolutions [1539 \(2004\)](#) of 22 April 2004, [1612 \(2005\)](#) of 26 July 2005, [1882 \(2009\)](#) of 4 August 2009, [1998 \(2011\)](#) of 12 July 2011, [2068 \(2012\)](#) of 19 September 2012, [2225 \(2015\)](#) of 18 June 2015 and [2427 \(2018\)](#) of 9 July 2018 and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and

in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that information collected and communicated by the monitoring and reporting mechanism is accurate, objective and verifiable, and in this regard encourages the work and the deployment of United Nations child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions;

41. *Decides:*

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child, containing information on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, bearing in mind the thirtieth anniversary of its adoption in 2019;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the rights of the child and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, in carrying out her mandate for the protection of children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to continue to engage proactively with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and non-State armed groups, including by negotiating action plans, securing commitments, advocating for appropriate response mechanisms and ensuring attention and follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, and reaffirms the important role the Special Representative can play in contributing to conflict prevention;

(e) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution [62/141](#), including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda;

(f) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining in the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material and the sexual exploitation and abuse of children;

(g) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(h) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-sixth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”.

Draft resolution II

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 72/154 of 19 December 2017 and all relevant resolutions on the girl child, and recalling its resolution 66/170 of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recalling all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,³ the Optional Protocols thereto⁴ and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,⁵

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁶ and reaffirming also other internationally agreed development goals and commitments relevant to the girl child,

Noting the adoption of the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage,

Reaffirming all relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, including the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,⁷ the Beijing Declaration⁸ and Platform for Action,⁹ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁰ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹¹ the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,¹² the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Global Crisis – Global Action”,¹³ and the political declarations on HIV and AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly held in 2006,¹⁴ 2011¹⁵ and 2016,¹⁶ and reiterating that their full and

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex; United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and *ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

⁶ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁷ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁰ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹² *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹³ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

¹⁴ Resolution 60/262, annex.

¹⁵ Resolution 65/277, annex.

¹⁶ Resolution 70/266, annex.

effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that chronic poverty remains one of the biggest obstacles to meeting the needs and promoting and protecting the rights of the child, including the girl child, and that girls living in poverty are more likely to be married as children or to work to ease family hardships, often ending education and suffering other harmful consequences, further limiting their opportunities and leaving them entrenched in poverty, and recognizing also that the eradication of poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

Recognizing also that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, including extreme poverty, and noting that the impacts of global financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors are felt directly by households,

Recognizing further that social protection, education, adequate health care, nutrition, full access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, skills development and combating discrimination and violence against girls, among other things, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child, and recalling the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations system in relation to the girl child,

Underscoring that women and girls may be disproportionately affected by and are more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, which further threaten health, food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and noting in this regard the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁷

Deeply concerned that the extreme situation of girls in child-headed households persists and that poverty, armed conflict, climate-related and other hazards, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, including the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and other humanitarian emergencies increase the incidence of child-headed households, forcing children, particularly girls, to undertake adult responsibilities, including being the main household earner and caring for younger siblings, and making them particularly vulnerable to poverty, violence, including physical and sexual violence, and discrimination, which seriously inhibits their development and violates and/or impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

Deeply concerned also about the continuing lack of recent information and statistics, disaggregated by sex, on the status of children in child-headed households, which are necessary to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the unpaid care and domestic work related to the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects girls by depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to receive an education, often resulting in their having to head households and increasing their vulnerability to the worst forms of child labour and to sexual exploitation,

Noting with concern that millions of girls are engaged in child labour and its worst forms, including those who have been victims of trafficking in persons and

¹⁷ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

affected by armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, that children without nationality or birth registration are vulnerable to trafficking in persons and child labour and that many children face the double burden of having to combine economic activities with unpaid care and domestic work, which deprive them of their childhood and hamper the full enjoyment of their right to education and opportunities for decent employment in the future, and noting in this regard the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work,

Recognizing that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence and forced labour, which, among other things, would hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those Goals that are relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of girls, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including by partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Recognizing also that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in decisions that affect them, are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing further that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through girls' organizations with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

Deeply concerned about all forms of violence against children, including those that disproportionately affect girls, such as child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and the use of information and communications technology and social media to perpetrate violence against women and girls, and, in addition, about the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, and that violence against women and girls is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls in society,

Deeply concerned also about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, including girls with disabilities, bearing in mind their specific needs, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition, including food allocation, and physical and mental health-care services, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys, and in leaving them more vulnerable than boys to the consequences of unprotected and premature sexual relations and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and violence, abuse, rape, incest, honour-related crimes and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, child, early and forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned further that, despite its widespread practice, child, early and forced marriage is still underreported, recognizing that this requires further attention and that child, early and forced marriage exposes the girl child to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often leads to premature sexual relations, early pregnancy and early childbearing and increases the risk of obstetric fistula and high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity, and furthermore entails complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which often lead to disability, stillbirth and maternal death, particularly for young women and girls, which require appropriate prenatal and postnatal health-care services for mothers, including in the area of skilled birth

attendance and emergency obstetric care, and noting with concern that this reduces girls' opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills and is likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their physical and mental health and well-being, their employment opportunities and their quality of life and that of their children, and violates and/or impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

Deeply concerned that young women and girls are particularly affected by water scarcity, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, and concerned furthermore that girls, especially those in rural areas, are often excluded from full and continued participation in school owing to their burden of water procurement at home, a lack of water and sanitation facilities in schools and inadequate access to effective feminine hygiene products,

Emphasizing that increased and equal access to quality education for young people, especially adolescent girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, as well as health care, hygiene and sanitation, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases and infections, in particular HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

Recognizing that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education, and recognizing also that among gendered barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are child marriage, early pregnancy, gender-based violence, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on girls' education when compared with that of boys,

Deeply concerned that school-related violence against girls, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, such as violence perpetrated by teachers, continues to deter girls' education and, in many cases, the transition to and completion of secondary education, and that these risks may influence parents' decision to allow girls to attend school,

Noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools, and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls,

Stressing the need for the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, the specialized agencies, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of enhanced financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of the girl child,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁸
2. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the child, including the girl child, as provided under international human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities³ and the Optional Protocols thereto⁴ as a matter of priority;

¹⁸ A/74/246.

3. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),¹⁹ and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),²⁰ of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

4. *Urges* States to develop or review relevant programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation, birth registration, health care, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, including non-communicable diseases, and to mainstream a gender perspective into all development policies and programmes, including those specific to the girl child;

5. *Also urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, including extreme poverty, deprived of adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, with limited or no access to basic physical and mental health-care services, shelter, education, participation and protection;

6. *Recognizes* that ensuring equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education requires transformations in education systems, mainstreaming a gender perspective into educational programmes, infrastructure development and teacher training, and in this regard calls upon States to invest in quality education, including through adequate financing, to ensure that all girls, including those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, enjoy their right to education;

7. *Notes* the role of the United Nations in supporting national Governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²¹ and in realizing girls' right to education;

8. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children, including those living in rural areas, and ensuring that all children have equal access to quality education, as well as making secondary and tertiary education available and accessible to all, in particular through the progressive introduction of free secondary education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, ensuring physical access to education, including by increasing financial incentives to families, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, ensuring that all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence and providing hygienic, separate and adequate sanitation facilities, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

9. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle gender stereotypes, in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

10. *Encourages* States to adopt, as appropriate, and implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote girls' education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including information and communications

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2133, No. 37245.

²¹ Resolution 70/1.

technology, throughout their education, by, inter alia, expanding the scope of education and training opportunities ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills, recognizing that girls who develop such skills may enjoy more academic success and higher-paying jobs in the future, and recognizing also that girls and women have an equally important role to play in these arenas as men and boys;

11. *Calls upon* States, with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

12. *Urges* States to acknowledge the different needs of girls and boys during their childhood and adolescence and, as appropriate, to make adapted investments that are consistent with and responsive to their changing needs, in particular ensuring that girls have access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and feminine hygiene products as well as private toilet facilities, including feminine hygiene product disposal facilities, in educational institutions and other public spaces, which will improve their health and access to education and increase their safety;

13. *Calls upon* States, in collaboration with civil society and other relevant actors, to promote educational and health practices in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural, and girls are not stigmatized on this basis, recognizing that girls' attendance at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls;

14. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and calls upon all States, the United Nations system and civil society to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action,⁹ as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives,²² including reviewing remaining laws that discriminate against women and girls in order to modify or abolish them and, where appropriate, strengthening national mechanisms to implement inclusive policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, including access to justice, fighting impunity for perpetrators of and ensuring the availability of appropriate penalties for crimes of sexual violence committed against the girl child, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

15. *Also urges* States to ensure that the applicable conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to the employment of girls and boys are respected and effectively enforced and that girls who are employed have equal access to decent work and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence

²² Resolution S-23/3, annex.

and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and technical and vocational training, and urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate child labour and its worst forms, commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous forms of child labour, trafficking and slavery-like practices, including forced and bonded labour, and recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and to recognize that girls, including in child-headed households, face greater risks in this regard;

16. *Calls upon* States, with the support of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems, strengthen existing ones to ensure primary health care with an integrated HIV response and make them more accessible to adolescent girls;

17. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard invites the international community to assist national efforts, upon request, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

18. *Urges* all States to enact, uphold and strictly enforce laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, to raise the minimum age for marriage, engage all relevant stakeholders, including girls, where necessary, and ensure that these laws are well known, to further develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans of action and programmes and to support already married girls and adolescents and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, to ensure the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of her human rights and to ensure equal opportunities for girls, including by making such plans an integral part of her total development process;

19. *Urges* States to enact, as appropriate, and implement legislation to protect, support and empower children living in child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, that includes provisions to ensure their physical, psychosocial and economic well-being, including protecting their property and inheritance rights, access to health-care services, nutrition, clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, education, scholarships and training opportunities, and that their family is protected and assisted in staying together, including through, where appropriate, social protection programmes and economic support;

20. *Also urges* States to forge partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly by working with and involving communities in developing programmes and mechanisms designed to ensure the safety and protection as well as the empowerment of children, especially girls, and to ensure that they receive the support they need from their communities;

21. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status,

economic situation, marital status and geographical location, and improve gender statistics on time use, unpaid care work and water and sanitation in order to provide a better understanding of the situations of girls, especially of the multiple forms of discrimination that they face, and to inform the development of necessary policies and programme responses, which should take a holistic age-appropriate approach to addressing the full range of the forms of discrimination that girls may face, in order to protect their rights effectively;

22. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the full enjoyment by girls with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal basis with other children, and to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs;

23. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and harmful practices in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and child, early and forced marriage, and to develop age-appropriate, safe, confidential and disability-accessible programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

24. *Urges* States to strengthen and intensify their efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of school-related violence against girls and to hold perpetrators accountable;

25. *Calls upon* all States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and the media, to prevent the distribution over the Internet of child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable the reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

26. *Urges* States to formulate or review, as needed, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should have dedicated resources, be widely disseminated and provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;

27. *Also urges* States to ensure that children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, with the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, to ensure that this right is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, to meaningfully involve girl children, including those with special needs, as well as girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and to include them as full partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs, with a view to ensuring their full and effective participation;

28. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of girl children are particularly vulnerable, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, and children who are incarcerated or who live without parental support, and therefore urges States, with the support of the international community, where relevant, to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national, subregional and regional policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, community and family capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their safety, enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

29. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, promote and protect the rights of the girl child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations and in climate-related and other hazards and natural disasters, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, all of which may result in the creation of child-headed households, and urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls in all phases of humanitarian emergencies, from relief to recovery, and in particular to ensure that children have access to basic services, which include clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and trafficking, including forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

30. *Deplores* all acts of sexual exploitation and abuse of and trafficking in women and children, including in humanitarian crises and by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, including military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, takes note of the voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse introduced by the Secretary-General, welcomes the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General or the Member States from which those humanitarian workers originate and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat such abuses and exploitation by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based on recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;²³

31. *Calls upon* Member States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective child- and youth-sensitive measures to combat, eliminate and prosecute all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy within wider efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by taking effective measures against the criminalization of girls who are victims of exploitation and ensuring that girls who have been exploited receive access to the necessary psychosocial support, and in this regard urges Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of

²³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/59/19/Rev.1)*.

Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons²⁴ and the activities outlined therein, with full respect for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;²⁵

32. *Reaffirms* that everyone has a right to a nationality as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²⁶ and in this regard calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider adopting and implementing nationality legislation consistent with their applicable obligations under international law and to facilitate the acquisition of nationality by and ensure free or low-cost birth registration for children born on their territories or their nationals abroad who would otherwise be stateless;

33. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

35. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

36. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support are given to the girl child at risk, living with or affected by HIV, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers and girls with disabilities, and child heads of households, with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, in particular the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

37. *Invites* States to promote initiatives aimed at reducing the prices of antiretroviral drugs, especially second-line drugs, available to the girl child, including bilateral and private sector initiatives as well as initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of States, including those based on innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development, including those that aim to provide further access to drugs at affordable prices to developing countries

²⁴ Resolution 64/293.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁶ Resolution 217 A (III).

on a sustainable and predictable basis, and in this regard takes note of the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID;

38. *Calls upon* all States to integrate food and nutritional support with the goal that children, especially girl children, have access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life;

39. *Calls upon* States to ensure that social protection programmes, including HIV-sensitive programmes, are provided to orphans and other vulnerable children, with particular attention to addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of girl children, ensuring school attendance and protecting their rights;

40. *Urges* States and the international community to increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, so as to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and life skills that they need to fulfil their social, economic and other potential and overcome their challenges, including the prevention of HIV infection and early pregnancy, and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

41. *Urges* States, the international community, relevant United Nations entities, civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of financial resources and technical assistance, efforts to address girls' right and access to education;

42. *Strongly calls upon* States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the girl child is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in global efforts towards the full and timely realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁶ and of all other relevant internationally agreed development goals, in particular for the eradication of poverty at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in this regard, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis on improvements in the social, economic and political investments made by Member States towards empowering girls in rural areas, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.