



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



Programme

Tuesday 8 November 2022

Venue: [Nouakchott, Hotel Azalaï Marhaba](#)

Time	AGENDA	Notes
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome and opening	
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1. Keynote panel: Deprivation of liberty as structural violence to children and the road to justice for children Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN SRSG on Violence against Children Prof. Manfred Nowak, Independent Expert for the UN Global Study on Children deprived of Liberty	

11:00 – 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Session 2. Deprivation of liberty in administration of justice & children living in prison with their primary caregivers	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Session 3. Deprivation of liberty in the context of institutions	
15:30 – 16:00	Break	
16:00 – 17:00	Session 4. Deprivation of liberty and children on the move	
17:00 – 18:00	Session 5. Deprivation of liberty of children in armed conflicts or national security contexts	
19:00 – 22:30	Gala dinner: Child-led event and Child Rights Award	
Wednesday 9 November 2022		
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6. 1 st day outcomes and conclusions Methodology for breakout sessions Presentation of panel discussions and child participation	
10:30 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 13:00	Session 7. Four breakout sessions: the Roadmap to Action 2023-2024	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 16:00	Session 8. Report back from breakout sessions, discussion and conclusions Presentation of the Roadmap to Action 2023-2024	
16:00 – 16:30	Break	
16:30 – 18:00	Deprivation of liberty and administration of justice in Mauritania: Interactive session with local initiatives, projects, children	

[REGISTRATION HERE](#)

**GLOBAL FORUM ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY
8-9 November 2022, Nouakchott, Mauritania**

Concept Note

TIME	8-9 November 2022
VENUE	Hotel Azalai Marhaba, Nouakchott, Mauritania
ORGANISERS	Defence for Children International and Terre des Hommes, co-chairs of the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty, Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, UN Interagency Task Force on Deprivation of Liberty
PARTNERS	<i>Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organisation on Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Campus of Human Rights, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), High Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Liaison with civil society in Mauritania, African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), International Detention Coalition, Save the Children, Child Rights International Network (CRIN), Penal Reform International (PRI), ...</i>
SPONSORS	Sponsors include: Permanent Missions in Nouakchott and the region, UE, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, local authorities, Foundations, other private sector present in Mauritania...

CONTEXT

On the organisers: DCI together with Terre des Hommes are co-chairing the **NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty** which is in the initiative of the publication and presentation at the UN General Assembly of the [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty \(2019\)](#) by the [lead author and independent expert Prof. Manfred Nowak](#).

The [Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children \(SRSG VAC\)](#), Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, is coordinating the **UN Interagency Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty**.

While deprivation of liberty is one of the most harmful violations of children's fundamental rights, across the globe, over 7 million children per year are deprived of liberty in the administration of justice, held in immigration detention, detained in relation to armed conflicts or national security contexts, or living with their primary caregivers in detention. During the pandemic, children deprived of liberty were at high risk of contracting the virus. Some promising practices have been observed in several countries around the globe that have increasingly made use of alternative solutions; however, the problem has been exacerbated by the pandemic and mitigation measures that have been further exposing children to higher risks of violations of their human rights, including detention for their migratory status.

The [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#) identified for each form of deprivation of liberty good practices of non-custodial measures as well as structural changes that facilitate the identification of such alternatives. For instance, in the case of administration of justice, developing comprehensive child protection systems, applying diversion at all stages as well as restorative justice principles are good practices that have given positive results. Moreover, integrating into the national law the recommendations of the UNCRC included in the General Comment 24 on children's rights in the Justice systems (e.g. minimum age of criminal responsibility, time limits for police custody and pretrial detention, specialised child justice systems...) could prevent or significantly limit the number of children deprived of liberty.

The [UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#) was conducted by the independent expert, Professor Manfred Nowak, in coordination with UNICEF, OHCHR, UNODC and other UN entities under the coordination of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, academic institutions and other civil society actors ([NGO Panel composed of 170 CSOs](#)). The Global Study was presented to the General Assembly in October 2019 including quantitative data by category of deprivation of liberty. The Study also presented examples of good practice, and recommendations on how governments can significantly reduce the number of children deprived of liberty.

The challenge is now to ensure full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda to end violence against children and all forms of deprivation of liberty of children. In doing so, the SRSG VAC is convening regularly the UN Interagency Task Force for the implementation of the Recommendations of the Global Study on children deprived of liberty to actively advocate and mobilize multi-stakeholders, governments, CSOs and children themselves to put an end to all forms of deprivation of liberty.

OBJECTIVES

The idea is to organise an international global Forum of two days three years after the publication of the Study. It will be an opportunity to take stock of the work achieved on justice for children and deprivation of liberty, mobilising key stakeholders to trigger action in front of unprecedented challenges, ensuring that no child is left behind. The Forum will be opened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid and Prof. Manfred Nowak, the independent expert and lead author of the Global Study who will be sharing his experience from the Study and its dissemination.

In recent years, many countries have experienced a dramatic shrinking of civic space, political unrest and COVID-19 restrictions which affected children's rights and meaningful child participation. While the global pandemic has revealed serious gaps in access to justice for children during times of lockdowns, and had a severe impact on human rights of children deprived of liberty in particular, paving the path for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 can still fill the deep divides, if we act now.

Three years after the presentation of the Global Study to the UN General Assembly, the event will:

- Take stock of progress and challenges for each cluster: Administration of Justice, children deprived of liberty with their primary caregiver, children on the move, children in institutions and children detained in the context of armed conflict/national security grounds;
- Exchange promising practices from different countries and contexts, such as investment in non-custodial measures to ensure children's safe reintegration into families and communities;
- Advocate for the follow up of data collection on children deprived of liberty;
- Promote the launch of national action plans and policies highlighting alternatives to detention;
- Elaborate on the adoption of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches to ending deprivation of liberty of children;

- Build synergies and alliances enhancing collective action of child rights organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to promote the recommendations of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and use SDG 16 in particular as a roadmap for recovery and promotion of justice for children;
- Promote enhanced and coordinated cooperation at national, regional, and international levels;
- Promote prevention and reintegration policies and practices;
- Highlight good and innovative practices that enable children's effective and meaningful participation in these objectives;
- Increase political will to promote and implement child-friendly justice, creating a momentum for reforms on non-custodial alternatives to deprivation of liberty;
- Ensure follow-up and dissemination of inputs to the Forum by bringing key advocacy messages to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023 and other relevant Fora (e.g. the next World Congress on Justice with Children 2025);
- Adopt a roadmap to action for the implementation of the Global Study's recommendations.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM (TWO DAYS)

- ✓ Members of the UN Interagency Task Force for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty
- ✓ Members of the NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty
- ✓ Other major international and regional child rights NGOs and civil society networks
- ✓ UN agencies and other international or regional organisations
- ✓ Child rights professionals, experts, academics, as well as other stakeholders and practitioners (judges, lawyers, social workers...)
- ✓ Members of human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies (UNCRC, ACERWC...) or Special Procedures
- ✓ Other institutional partners, including donors
- ✓ 'Pathfinder countries', in particular those on Justice Action Coalition as well as key Permanent Missions sensitive to child rights

SPEAKERS

The experts (national and international) – children and adults – addressing the Forum have a rich and confirmed experience within different child rights areas and possess recognised competence and vocation in this field. A balance between grassroots, national, regional and international levels will be ensured among the participants.

PARTNERS:

