



---

**Sixty-eighth session**  
Agenda item 65

## **Promotion and protection of the rights of children**

### **Report of the Third Committee**

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Adriana **Murillo Ruin** (Costa Rica)

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-eighth 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 considered the item at its 14th to 18th, 26th, 36th, 49th, 51st, 53rd and 54th meetings, on 16, 17, 18, 24 and 31 October and on 21, 26 and 27 November 2013. At its 14th to 18th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b). An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.3/68/SR.14-18](#), 26, 36, 49, 51, 53 and 54).

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection ([A/68/253](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([A/68/257](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the girl child ([A/68/263](#));

(d) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict ([A/68/267](#));



(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children ([A/68/269](#));

(f) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children ([A/68/274](#));

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ([A/68/275](#));

(h) Letter dated 25 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/68/487](#)).

4. At its 14th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, who responded to a question raised by the representative of Cuba (see [A/C.3/68/SR.14](#)).

5. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Slovenia, Norway, Germany, the Sudan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt and Belarus (see [A/C.3/68/SR.14](#)).

6. Also at the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of El Salvador, the European Union, Portugal, Norway, Japan, the United States of America, Slovenia, Israel and Austria (see [A/C.3/68/SR.14](#)).

7. Also at the 14th meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, who responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the United States of America and Slovenia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.14](#)).

8. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see [A/C.3/68/SR.14](#)).

## **II. Consideration of proposals**

### **A. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.26](#) and Rev.1**

9. At the 36th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of Burkina Faso, the Congo, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Timor-Leste, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system" ([A/C.3/68/L.26](#)) which read:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*“Recalling* the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and resolution [66/139](#), adopted on 19 December 2011,

*“Recognizing* the primary role and responsibility of the State in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, bearing in mind the importance of relevant actors of the United Nations supporting the State in this regard in accordance with their respective mandates,

*“Reaffirming* that the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including those of a State and all relevant actors of the United Nations dealing with the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection,

*“Recognizing* the important role and the continuing work of the United Nations system and all its relevant actors in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and recognizing also the role and contribution of civil society in this regard,

*“Stressing* that further strengthening collaboration within the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, is important for continuing to support efforts of Member States in the realization of the rights of the child, and in this regard reaffirms the important role that the General Assembly continues to play in strengthening collaboration and coherence within the United Nations system,

“1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, which represents an advance in compiling useful information on existing collaboration among all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection;

“2. *Welcomes* the existing collaboration among relevant actors of the United Nations working on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and encourages them, within existing resources and in accordance with their respective mandates, to highlight information on such collaboration in their existing reports to the General Assembly and to also address this issue within the framework of the existing Third Committee interactive dialogue under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of the rights of children’, and invites these United Nations actors to further enhance their collaboration;

“3. *Also welcomes* the strategic plan, 2014-2017, of the United Nations Children’s Fund, which was developed in close collaboration with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and stresses, among other things, capacity development and South-South cooperation as key implementation strategies;

“4. *Reiterates* the importance of all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection to continue to exercise their functions in a fully independent manner and to act in full observance of their respective mandates;

“5. *Underlines* the importance of sustained, adequate resources and support for the work of the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and in this regard strongly encourages enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of all relevant actors of the United Nations, so as to ensure the delivery of the necessary technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of child protection;

“6. *Requests* the United Nations Children’s Fund, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to develop, within existing resources, a compendium of activities on child protection work of the United Nations system, which should (a) serve as a database on capacity development for both the United Nations system and Member States, to be updated and submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and (b) highlight instances where relevant United Nations actors on child protection have collaborated and delineate specific areas of child protection work that are based on Member States’ capacity-building needs and the available expertise of the United Nations system;

“7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the current collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, taking into account information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations, underlines the principle of equitable geographical representation and the broad spectrum of views and practices that exist on child protection systems currently in place in different regions and countries, and encourages Member States and actors of the United Nations to contribute comments and relevant information to the report.”

10. At its 53rd meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/68/L.26/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.26 and Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Senegal, Singapore, South Sudan, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Thailand orally revised operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, by inserting the word “follow-up” before the word “report”.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.26/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 31, draft resolution I).

13. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Malaysia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and Belarus; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union), Guatemala (also on behalf of Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), Canada, Chile, the United States of America and Switzerland (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway,

the Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia) (see [A/C.3/68/SR.53](#)).

## B. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.27](#) and Rev.1

14. At the 26th meeting on 24 October, the representative of Malawi, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, as well as Armenia, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Peru, introduced a draft resolution entitled “The girl child” ([A/C.3/68/L.27](#)), which read:

*“The General Assembly,*

*“Reaffirming* its resolution [66/140](#) of 19 December 2011 and all relevant resolutions, including 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, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocols thereto and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,

*“Reaffirming* the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made in the outcome documents of the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’, and welcoming the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

*“Reaffirming also* the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled ‘A world fit for children’,

*“Reaffirming further* 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’, and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in 2006 and 2011,

*“Reaffirming* all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 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’, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, and reiterating that their full and effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the

agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session, which highlight the intrinsic linkages between violence and empowerment of the girl child,

*“Recalling* the Secretary-General’s 2008-2015 campaign ‘UNiTE to End Violence against Women’ and the call upon Governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls,

*“Welcoming* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first envoy on youth in line with his Five-Year Action Agenda on working for and with women and young people,

*“Recognizing* that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children, including the girl child,

*“Recognizing also* that the phenomenon of child-headed households is linked to other economic, social and political realities, such as war, armed conflict, economic need and health inequities, and that a comprehensive approach to these problems is needed to resolve the issue of child-headed households,

*“Recognizing further* that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, and noting that the burden of the global financial and economic crisis, the energy crisis, the food crisis and the continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those headed by girls,

*“Recognizing* that child-headed households may result from the death of parents and/or legal guardians, and that children can become de facto heads of households owing to parental illness, whether physical or mental, parental neglect, the migration of parents or other such factors,

*“Deeply concerned* about the extreme vulnerability of children who are heads of households, particularly girls, who may be exceptionally negatively affected by discrimination and vulnerable to poverty, which in turn may lead to their having difficulty completing their education owing to economic and care burdens placed on them at a young age,

*“Deeply concerned also* about the vulnerability of children raised in child-headed households who suffer from the lack of adult support and may be particularly vulnerable to poverty, psychological stress and physical vulnerability,

*“Deeply concerned further* that children heading households may be at greater risk of HIV, either because of parental death as a result of HIV/AIDS or because of their vulnerability to violence and exploitation in supporting the households they are heading,

*“Deeply concerned* that the phenomenon of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, is becoming a serious social problem and that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, erosion of the extended family, exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and

underemployment, and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

*“Deeply concerned also* that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, the incidence of child-headed households increases and makes the girl child particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse, exploitation and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

*“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 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 being drawn into the worst forms of child labour, especially sexual exploitation,

*“Noting with concern* that 88 million girls are engaged in child labour and that many of them face a double burden, having to combine economic activities with domestic chores, depriving them of their childhood and diminishing their opportunities to benefit from education and decent employment in the future,

*“Recognizing* that the needs of girls vary by age and that the risks of violence and discrimination that they face change over their life cycles, from childhood through adolescence,

*“Recognizing also* that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

*“Recognizing further* that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Millennium 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 also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and 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, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child, early and forced marriages, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking in persons and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity,

which reflect 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, which often result in less access for girls to education, and to quality education, nutrition, including food allocation, and physical and mental health care, 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 marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

*“Deeply concerned further* that child, early and forced marriages expose the girl child to greater risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, often lead to early childbearing and increase the risk of obstetric fistula, disability, stillbirth and maternal death, reduce girls’ opportunities to complete their education, gain comprehensive knowledge, participate in the community or develop employable skills and are likely to have a long-term adverse impact on their employment opportunities and their and their children’s quality of life, thereby violating and impairing the full enjoyment of their human rights,

*“Deeply concerned* that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation in the next generation, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/146](#) of 20 December 2012, remains unfinished business,

*“Emphasizing* that increased access to education for young people, especially adolescent girls, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, dramatically lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases and infections, in particular HIV and other sexually transmitted infections,

*“Recognizing* that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in respect of their access to education, health-care services and employment, and the importance of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard,

“1. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority;

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



“3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum and to implement the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative, and calls for the reaffirmation and implementation of the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

“4. *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, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurial training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment, equitable compensation and decent work;

“5. *Calls upon* States and the international community 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 and ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as 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 and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

“6. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls’ physical and mental health and well-being;

“7. *Also calls upon* States to acknowledge the differential needs of girls during their childhood and adolescence and to make differential investments that are responsive to their changing needs;

“8. *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, as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives, where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement 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 abolishing laws that discriminate against women and girls, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

“9. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, where applicable, to remain

dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;

“10. *Also urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, deprived of 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 the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society, with a particular focus on children living in child-headed households, including the child head of household;

“11. *Further urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for 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 payment and remuneration, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and also urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, slavery-like practices, forced and bonded labour, trafficking and hazardous forms of child labour;

“12. *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;

“13. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, 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 in all development policies and programmes, including those specific to the girl child;

“14. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide 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;

“15. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws ending child, early and forced marriage and to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the 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, raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary and ensure that these laws are well known, and to further develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for 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;

“16. *Calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child, early and forced marriages and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education, including by establishing safe residential facilities, increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality and ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools;

“17. *Urges* States to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households are fulfilled and that the heads of such households retain all the rights inherent to their status as children, including but not limited to putting in place measures to ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school consistent with their age;

“18. *Also urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to protect and support child-headed households include provisions to ensure their economic well-being, including access to health care, nutrition, shelter and education, the right of children to inherit and the right of families to stay together;

“19. *Calls upon* States to put in place concrete measures to ensure that while children heading households, especially girls, retain all the rights inherent to their status as children, they also receive appropriate assistance to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities as household heads by ensuring and protecting their property and inheritance rights;

“20. *Also calls upon* States to include an integrated approach in supporting child-headed households, given the psychological trauma, stigma and physical and economic stress children may experience as a result of becoming heads of households at a very young age;

“21. *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 of children, especially girls, in child-headed households as well as to ensure that they receive the support they need from their community;

“22. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research on families and household formation and structure, with a particular emphasis on the existence of de facto child-headed households and the long-term economic and psychological

impact that being a child head of household or a child raised by another child has on the children and on social sustainability;

“23. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation and marital status and geographical location, 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;

“24. *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;

“25. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour and child 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;

“26. *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, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

“27. *Urges* States to formulate 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 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;

“28. *Also urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, and to

involve girl children, including those with special needs, 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;

“29. *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 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 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;

“30. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

“31. *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, as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, all of which may result in the creation of child-headed households, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction, trafficking and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account their special needs in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

“32. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

“33. *Also deplors* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, 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 and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action

necessary to combat these abuses 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;

“34. *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 Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the activities outlined therein, and expresses its view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion of the rights of the girls and enhance cooperation and a better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

“35. *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;

“36. *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;

“37. *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 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;

“38. *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;

“39. *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 Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

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

“41. *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 preferences, for an active and healthy life;

“42. *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 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;

“43. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, in the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels, including in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda;

“44. *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 for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, are realized within their time frame, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty and should be included in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda;

“45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis and emphasis on the importance of

implementing policies and achieving targets on water, sanitation and hygiene as they relate to the girl child, 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.”

15. At its 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.27/Rev.1](#)) submitted by Armenia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi,\* Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Uruguay.

16. At the same meeting, the representative of Malawi announced that Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

17. Also, at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.27/Rev.1](#) (see para. 31, draft resolution II).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union), Israel (also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, El Salvador, Japan, Palau, Switzerland and Uruguay) and the United States of America, as well as by the observer for the Holy See ([A/C.3/68/SR.51](#)).

### C. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.28](#) and [Rev.1](#)

19. At the 36th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Lithuania, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia,

\* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.



Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled “Rights of the child” (A/C.3/68/L.28), which read:

*“The General Assembly,*

*“Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 67/152 of 20 December 2012,

*“Emphasizing* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

*“Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*“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 all actions concerning children, including adolescents,

*“Reaffirming also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled ‘A world fit for children’, and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the Declaration on the Right to Development and 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, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, the outcome document, entitled ‘The future we want’, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the

outcome document of the World Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 28 November 2008,

*“Taking note with appreciation* 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 Assembly and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution [67/152](#), as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

*“Acknowledging* the important role played by national governmental 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 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 interest 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, and relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

*“Profoundly concerned* that the situation of children in many parts of the world has been negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

*“Expressing deep concern* that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, and bearing in mind their evolving capacities, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized,

“I

**“Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto**

“1. *Reaffirms* 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, including adolescents;

“2. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict as a matter of priority and to implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation, policies and action plans, strengthening relevant governmental structures for children, including by establishing, where appropriate, ministers in charge of child and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and ensuring adequate and systematic training in the rights of the child for all those working with and for children, as well as ensuring child rights education for children themselves;

“3. *Welcomes* in this regard the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

“4. *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;

“5. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and calls upon States parties to implement it;

“6. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including the recent adoption of its general comments Nos. 14 to 17, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

“7. *Requests* all relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system to incorporate systematically a strong child rights perspective throughout all activities in the fulfilment of their mandates, as well as to ensure that their staff are trained in child rights matters, and calls upon States to continue to cooperate closely with all those organs and mechanisms;

“8. *Encourages* States to strengthen their national statistical capacities and to use statistics disaggregated, inter alia, by age, gender and other relevant factors to enable the identification of discrimination and/or disparities and other statistical indicators at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to develop and assess social policies and programmes for the full realization of the rights of the child;

## “II

### “Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

#### “Non-discrimination

“9. *Calls upon* all States:

“(a) To ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind;

“(b) To incorporate special measures in formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

“(c) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and related violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage and forced sterilization, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

“(d) To ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children, inter alia, by integrating the rights of children with disabilities into policies and programmes affecting children, including their rights to education, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including reproductive health, and to protection from violence, abuse and neglect; to develop and enforce legislation aiming at their maximum inclusion in society, without discrimination, taking into account that children with disabilities may be subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and segregation; and to take into account the conclusions included in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013;

“10. *Urges* all States to respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, 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 special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children’s organizations and child-led initiatives, including by setting up safeguards and mechanisms for ensuring the right to be heard;

“11. *Also urges* all States in particular to establish and strengthen mechanisms for the effective participation of children and adolescents in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affect them, such as health, environment, education, social and economic welfare and protection against violence, abuse and exploitation;

“12. *Calls upon* States that find themselves in situations of economic crisis to refrain from adopting retrogressive measures that have a negative impact on the rights of the child and to meet core obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority, while fully using maximum available resources;

**“Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care**

“13. *Once again 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 child’s identity, including nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by law, reminding States of their obligation to register the birth of all children without discrimination of any kind, including late birth registration, and to ensure that registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost;

“14. *Welcomes* the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and encourages States to take the Guidelines into account when adopting, enforcing, improving or implementing policies and programmes to protect children growing up without parents or caregivers, recognizing that efforts should be directed primarily to enabling the child to remain in or return to the care of his or her 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;

“15. *Calls upon* States to guarantee, to the extent consistent with the obligations of each State, the right of a child whose parents reside in different States to maintain, on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances, personal relations and direct contact with both parents by providing enforceable means of access and visitation in both States and by respecting the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of their children;

“16. *Also calls upon* States to address and pay particular attention to cases of international parental or familial child abduction, and encourages States to engage in multilateral and bilateral cooperation to resolve those cases, preferably by accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and to comply fully with the Convention, and to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention;

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

**“Economic and social well-being of children**

“18. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create a safe and enabling environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field, while reaffirming that the primary responsibility rests with each individual State;

*“Eradication of poverty*

“19. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts for poverty eradication, to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children, and to accelerate their efforts to realize the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within their time framework, and reaffirms that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

“20. *Strongly recommends* that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children be well reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

*“Right to education*

“21. *Recognizes* the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory, inclusive and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as 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, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children living in poverty;

“22. *Urges* Member States to implement strategies for the realization of the right to education, including in humanitarian emergencies, as an integral element in the context of humanitarian protection and assistance, with the support of the international community, the United Nations system, donors, multilateral agencies, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations;

*“Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health*

“23. *Calls upon* States:

“(a) To take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is promoted and protected, without any kind of discrimination, and that any risk of violence, which has a negative impact on the physical and mental health of the child, is prevented and addressed, including through the enactment and implementation of laws, strategies and policies, gender- and child-responsive budgeting and resource allocation, and adequate investment in health systems, including comprehensive and integrated primary health care,

including in efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 and in the health workforce;

“(b) To adopt strategies to prevent and address the harmful use of alcohol and illicit substances with a holistic and human rights perspective, and to provide information, education and counselling on the effects of substance abuse, and also on the importance of family and school support for its prevention and the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of children and adolescents with substance abuse issues;

“24. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for the full realization of the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and therefore urges States and, through them, service providers to ensure a regular supply of safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation services of good quality and sufficient quantity, guided also by the principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination, bearing in mind that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for their populations is to be progressively realized with full respect for national sovereignty;

“25. *Affirms* the importance of applying a human rights-based approach to reducing and eliminating preventable maternal and child mortality and morbidity, and requests all States to renew their political commitment in that respect at all levels;

“26. *Calls upon* States and all relevant stakeholders to address, as a matter of priority, the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV by providing care, support and treatment to those children, their families and caregivers by promoting rights-based and child-oriented HIV and AIDS policies and programmes, and to ensure access to affordable, effective and quality prevention, care and treatment, including through correct information, access to voluntary and confidential testing, sexual and reproductive health care, services and education, and access to safe, affordable, effective, quality and pharmaceutical products and medical technologies, by intensifying efforts to develop affordable, accessible and quality tools for early diagnosis and prioritizing prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus;

*“Right to food*

“27. *Calls upon* all States to take action to ensure the full realization of the right to food for all and to eliminate child hunger and malnutrition, including through the adoption or strengthening of national programmes to address food security and nutrition and adequate livelihoods, especially regarding vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies, the promotion of breastfeeding and a nutritious diet, as well as programmes, for example, school meal programmes, that should ensure adequate nutrition for all children, in order to enable all children to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities;

**“Child labour**

“28. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child’s education or be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour, to promote education as a key strategy in this regard, including the creation of vocational training and apprenticeship programmes and the integration of working children into the formal education system, and to examine and devise economic policies, where necessary, in cooperation with the international community and the private sector, that address factors contributing to these forms of child labour;

“29. *Urges* States to substantially increase efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and encourages States, in this regard, to fully implement the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, an outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference;

“30. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the global report of the Director General of the International Labour Organization entitled ‘Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour’, urges all States that have not yet ratified the Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182) of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so as a matter of priority, and encourages States to consider ratifying the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (Convention No. 189);

“31. *Takes note* of the outcome document of the Third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and in this regard encourages States to ensure full implementation of the declaration of the Conference;

“32. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and his reports on the implementation of the issues addressed in the resolutions on the rights of the child adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first to sixty-fifth sessions, and in this regard also welcomes the progress achieved, recognizes the challenges that remain and calls upon States to further intensify their efforts to implement the Convention;

**“Prevention and elimination of violence against children**

“33. *Condemns* all forms of violence against children, and urges all States:

“(a) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;



“(b) To respect fully the rights, human dignity and physical integrity of children and to prevent and address any emotional, physical or sexual violence or any other humiliating or degrading treatment or punishment;

“(c) To give priority attention to the prevention of all forms of violence against children and to addressing its underlying causes and its gender dimension through a systematic, comprehensive and multifaceted approach, recognizing that witnessing violence, including domestic violence, also causes harm to children;

“(d) To develop a well-coordinated and well-resourced national strategy for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including measures aimed at, inter alia, raising awareness, building the capacity of professionals working with and for children, supporting effective parenting programmes, fostering research, collecting data on the incidence of violence against children and developing and implementing appropriate national monitoring tools to periodically assess progress;

“(e) To protect children from all forms of violence or abuse by all those who work with and for children, including in educational settings and in international development cooperation, as well as by government officials, such as the police, law enforcement authorities, employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions and health-care personnel;

“(f) To establish and develop safe, well-publicized, confidential and accessible mechanisms to enable children or their representatives to seek counselling, to report violence against children and file complaints on incidents of violence against children and to ensure that child victims of violence have access to confidential, child- and gender-sensitive health and social services and are supported in their recovery and reintegration, taking into account the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on this matter;

“(g) To take measures to ensure that all those who work with and for children protect children from bullying, including from bullying through the Internet and other communications technologies, and implement preventive and anti-bullying policies in order to ensure a safe and supportive environment free from harassment and violence;

“(h) To strive to raise awareness of the negative effects of violence against children and to change attitudes that condone or normalize any form of violence against children, including cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of discipline, treatment or punishment, harmful traditional practices and all forms of sexual violence;

“(i) To take measures to promote constructive and positive forms of discipline and child development approaches in all settings, including the home, schools and other educational settings, and throughout care and justice systems;

“(j) To end impunity for perpetrators of crimes against children, to undertake thorough and prompt investigations of all acts of violence against children and to prosecute such acts of violence and impose appropriate

penalties, recognizing that persons convicted of violent offences against children, including sexual abuse, who continue to pose a risk of harm to children should be prevented from working with children;

“(k) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations, and in this context recalls the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including those adopted at its fifty-seventh session, on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;

“34. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Criminal Court in ending impunity for the most serious crimes against children, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and calls upon States not to grant amnesties for such crimes;

“35. *Encourages* all States and requests United Nations entities, regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely and follow up on the study on violence against children and the recommendations contained therein, and to promote their mainstreaming in regional policy agendas and to further consolidate their implementation at the national level;

“36. *Recognizes* the significant progress and achievements made since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, expresses support for her work to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions and to advance the implementation of the recommendations in the United Nations study on violence against children, and takes note with appreciation of her global survey and thematic reports, including the report entitled ‘Protecting children from harmful practices in plural legal systems’, and the joint report of the Special Representative, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system;

“37. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society and with the participation of children, and the contribution of her regional and thematic consultations and field missions to advancing progress in the protection of children from violence;

“38. *Encourages* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative and to provide support, including financial support, to her for the effective and independent performance of her mandate, and calls upon States and institutions concerned and invites the private sector to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

**“Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations**

“39. *Calls upon* all States to prevent violations of the rights of children working and/or living on the street, including all forms of discrimination, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, torture and all kinds of violence and exploitation, and to bring the perpetrators to justice, to adopt and implement policies for the protection, social and psychosocial rehabilitation and reintegration of those children and to adopt economic, social and educational strategies to address the problems of children working and/or living on the street;

“40. *Also calls upon* all States to protect refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children, in particular those who are unaccompanied, who are particularly exposed to violence and risks in connection with armed conflict and trafficking, and taking into account their gender-specific needs, stressing the need for States as well as the international community to continue to pay more systematic and in-depth attention to the special assistance, protection and development needs of those children through, inter alia, programmes aimed at rehabilitation and physical and psychological recovery, and to programmes for voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement, to give priority to family tracing and family reunification and to cooperate with international humanitarian and refugee organizations, including by facilitating their work;

“41. *Further calls upon* all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, including migrant children and indigenous children, the enjoyment of all human rights as well as access to health care, social services and education on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive special protection and assistance;

“42. *Calls upon* States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

“43. *Urges* States to ensure access to quality education for indigenous children, particularly for indigenous girls, and to promote education systems that respect the cultures and traditions of the communities that are responsive to their needs;

“44. *Reaffirms* the right of indigenous children, in community with other members of their group, to learn, enjoy and transmit their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion or belief and to use their own language and in this regard encourages Member States to actively promote the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and looks forward to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014;

“45. *Calls upon* all States to protect, in law and in practice, the inheritance and property rights of orphans, paying particular attention to

underlying gender-based discrimination, which may interfere with the fulfilment of these rights;

“46. *Also calls upon* all States to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in emergency situations, including natural disasters, in particular their right to food, safe drinking water and sanitation, education, emergency health care, family reunification, protection and trauma relief.

**“Children and the administration of justice**

“47. *Recalls* the validity and importance of international standards and norms in the field of human rights in the administration of juvenile justice, including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, and calls upon all States:

“(a) To abolish by law and in practice, as soon as possible, the death penalty, life imprisonment without possibility of release, emotional or physical violence or any other humiliating or degrading treatment for those under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offence, and invites States to consider repealing all other forms of life imprisonment for offences committed by those under 18 years of age;

“(b) To commute immediately such sentences and to ensure that any child previously sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment without possibility of release is removed from special prison facilities, especially from death row, and transferred to regular institutions of detention appropriate for the age of the offender and the offence committed;

“48. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

“49. *Urges* States to take special measures to protect children in contact with the law, including by means of the provision of adequate legal assistance, training in juvenile justice for judges, police officers, prosecutors and specialized lawyers, as well as other representatives who provide other appropriate assistance, such as social workers, the establishment of specialized courts, as appropriate, the promotion of universal birth registration and age documentation and the protection of the right of juvenile offenders to maintain contact with their families through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

“50. *Calls upon* all States to protect children deprived of their liberty from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that, if they are arrested, detained or imprisoned, children are provided with adequate legal assistance and that no child is sentenced or subjected to forced labour or corporal punishment or deprived of access to and provision of health care and services, hygiene and environmental sanitation, education, basic instruction and vocational training, and to undertake prompt investigations of all reported acts of violence and ensure that all violators are held accountable;

“51. *Urges* States to ensure that the child is assisted during all judicial proceedings by a competent adult, parent or guardian, in addition to the child’s lawyer, and to ensure that the child’s right to be heard in proceedings is observed;

“52. *Calls upon* all States to take all the measures necessary to avoid re-victimization of children victims or witnesses during all stages of judicial proceedings;

*“Children of incarcerated parents*

“53. *Calls upon* all States to give attention to the impact of parental detention and imprisonment on children and, in particular:

“(a) To give priority consideration to non-custodial measures when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a child’s sole or primary caretaker, subject to the need to protect the public and the child, and bearing in mind the gravity of the offence;

“(b) To identify and promote good practices in relation to the needs and physical, emotional, social and psychological development of babies and children affected by parental detention and imprisonment;

“54. *Acknowledges* the negative impact of a parent’s death sentence and execution on his or her children, and urges States to provide children affected by the death sentence or execution of a parent with the protection and assistance they may require;

**“Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

“55. *Expresses deep concern* about the persistence of the practices of the sale of children, child slavery and sexual exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography, and calls upon all States:

“(a) To prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish effectively all forms of the sale of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, commercial and domestic sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights of victims to effective remedy, protection and rehabilitation and to take effective

measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

“(b) To enact and enforce necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet and in all other media of pornography that exploits children, 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;

“(c) To ensure the prosecution and punishment of offenders, whether local or foreign, by the competent national authorities, either in the country in which the crime was committed, in the country of which the offender is a national or resident, in the country of which the victim is a national or on any other basis permitted under domestic law, and for these purposes to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance and the necessary collaboration for prevention, detection, investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings;

“(d) To increase cooperation at all levels to prevent and dismantle networks trafficking in or selling children and their organs and, for those States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

“(e) In cases of trafficking in children, the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, to address effectively the needs of victims, including their safety, legal assistance and protection, physical and psychological recovery and full reintegration into society, paying particular attention to their gender-specific needs, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance;

“(f) To combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through the adoption, effective application and enforcement of preventive, rehabilitative and punitive measures targeting customers or individuals who sexually exploit or sexually abuse children;

“(g) To give priority to the identification of norms and standards on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises, particularly those involved in information and communications technologies, related to respect for the rights of children, including the right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation, particularly in the virtual realm, as set out in the relevant legal instruments, and to outline basic measures to be taken for implementation;

“(h) To mobilize public awareness, involving families and communities, with the participation of children, concerning the protection of children against all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse;

“(i) To contribute to the prevention and elimination of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by adopting a holistic approach, addressing the contributing factors, including underdevelopment, poverty, economic disparities, inequitable socioeconomic structures,

dysfunctional families, lack of education, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, criminal or irresponsible adult sexual behaviour, child sex tourism, organized crime, harmful traditional practices, armed conflicts and trafficking in children;

“(j) To take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation that leads to trafficking, including sexual exploitation and the sex tourism demand;

**“Children affected by armed conflict**

“56. *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, including humanitarian 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, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

“57. *Recalls*, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that they shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

“58. *Urges* States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law;

“59. *Calls upon* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to mainstream the rights of the child into all activities in conflict and post-conflict situations and to ensure adequate child protection training of their staff and personnel;

“60. *Calls upon* States:

“(a) When ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment of persons into the national armed forces from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention, bearing in mind that under the Convention persons under 18 years of age are entitled to special protection, and to adopt safeguards to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced;

“(b) To take all feasible measures to ensure the demobilization and effective disarmament of children used in armed conflicts and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, in particular through educational measures, taking into account the rights and the specific needs and capacities of girls, and calls upon States and regional organizations to include commitments in this regard in peace agreements;

“(c) To ensure timely and adequate funding for national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children and for settlement, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for all children associated with armed forces and groups, including detained children, particularly in support of national initiatives, to secure the long-term sustainability of such efforts, including through the use of a multisectoral and community-based approach that is inclusive of all children, family-based care arrangements, as also highlighted in the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), and the mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance from international cooperation for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children;

“(d) To undertake measures to ensure that children in situations of armed conflict enjoy all the rights enshrined in relevant international instruments and that national authorities, with the support of the international community, as appropriate, take steps to ensure access to and the delivery of basic services necessary for the survival of children in different areas, including health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and psychosocial recovery, ensuring continuous access to education for children affected by armed conflict, and to encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to further raise attention and mobilize international support to address the plight of these children;

“(e) 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;

“(f) To take all feasible measures, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as a matter of priority, to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, as distinct from the armed forces of a State, including the adoption of policies that do not tolerate such practices and legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize them;

“(g) To support relevant existing internationally agreed mechanisms established to address the issue of children in armed conflict that contribute to the roles, responsibilities and capacities of national Governments in this field;

“61. *Calls upon* all States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support, as appropriate, national and international mine action efforts, including with regard to cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance, further calls upon States, regional and subregional organizations and non-governmental actors to minimize the impact of explosive weapons on civilians, including children, and offer assistance to victims of mines;

“62. *Condemns* in the strongest terms rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, expresses deep concern at mass and systematic rape and sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, in some instances calculated to humiliate, dominate, instil fear and disperse and/or forcibly relocate a population, calls upon all States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to



address this issue, as well as the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges States to adopt appropriate national legislation and to ensure rigorous investigation and prosecution of such crimes;

“63. *Reaffirms* the essential roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, notes the increasing role played by the Security Council in ensuring protection for children affected by armed conflict, and also notes the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission in areas that promote and contribute to the enjoyment of the rights and welfare of children;

“64. *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 and [2068 \(2012\)](#) of 19 September 2012, 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;

“65. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and recognizes the increased level of activity of her office and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative;

“66. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Representative and of the significant developments and achievements in the protection of children in armed conflict at the national and international levels, and emphasizes the contribution of the field visits conducted by the Special Representative with the consent of the State concerned in situations of armed conflict as an important element in the implementation of her mandate;

“67. *Recalls* that States bear the primary responsibility for the protection of children, recalls the obligations to refrain from attacking schools in violation of international humanitarian law and to take all feasible precautionary measures to protect civilians from such attacks, in particular schoolchildren, and urges States to avoid using schools for military purposes and to ensure safe and continuous access to education in times of conflict.

### “III

#### “Follow-up

“68. *Decides*:

“(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution;

“(b) 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 discharging her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

“(c) 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 the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 48 of resolution [67/152](#), to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

“(d) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography 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 sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

“(e) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

“(f) To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of the rights of children’, focusing section III of the resolution entitled ‘The rights of the child’ on a new theme.”

20. At its 54th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.28/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.28](#).

21. At the same meeting, the representative of Lithuania announced that Benin, Canada, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Togo and Ukraine had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Lithuania orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) After operative paragraph 9, a new operative paragraph 10 was added, reading:

“*Expresses its concern* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”;

(b) In operative paragraph 11 (a) (former para. 10 (a)), the words “human rights and fundamental freedoms” were replaced by the words “civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights”;

(c) In operative paragraph 12 (former para. 11), the words “and their right to be heard,” were inserted after the words “to express themselves freely”, and the words “including by setting up safeguards and mechanisms for ensuring the right to be heard” at the end of the paragraph were deleted;

(d) After operative paragraph 25 (b) (former para. 24 (b)), a new operative paragraph 25 (c) was added, reading:

“To ensure that the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, is fully realized for all children by giving full attention to all health needs of children, through providing information, health-care services and comprehensive, evidence-based education on sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality, consistent with their evolving capacities and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents or legal guardians, in accordance with the rights, needs and best interests of the child, free of discrimination and on an equitable and universal basis”;

(e) In operative paragraph 33 (former para. 32), after the words “held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013” the phrase “in this regard encourages States to ensure full implementation of the Declaration and to continue” was replaced by the words “urges States to continue”;

(f) After operative paragraph 40 (former para. 39), a new paragraph 41 was added, reading:

“*Reaffirms* the right of the child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her, as well as the rights of the child to freedom of association, to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly”;

(g) In operative paragraph 52 (former para. 50), the words “corporal punishment” were replaced by the words “emotional or physical violence or any other humiliation or degrading treatment”, and the words “access to open space for recreation” were added after the words “environmental sanitation”;

(h) After operative paragraph 54 (former para. 52), a new operative paragraph 55 was added, reading:

“*Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and notes in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015”;

(i) Operative paragraph 57 (former para. 54), which read:

“*Acknowledges* the negative impact of a parent’s death sentence and execution on his or her children, and urges States to provide children affected by the death sentence or execution of a parent with the protection and assistance they may require”;

was revised to read:

“*Acknowledges* that a parent’s deprivation of liberty, sentencing to death or life imprisonment has a serious impact on children’s development, and urges States, in the framework of their national child protection efforts, to provide the assistance and support these children may require”;

(j) In operative paragraph 58 (i) (former para. 55 (i)), at the end of the paragraph, before the words “armed conflicts and trafficking in children”, the words “harmful traditional practices” were deleted;

(k) In operative paragraph 71 (a) (former para. 68 (a), the words “with a focus on progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child” were added at the end of the paragraph;

(l) In operative paragraph 71 (f) (former para. 68 (f)), the words “a new theme” were replaced by the phrase “the theme: Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”.

23. Also at the 54th meeting, the Secretary informed the Committee that Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago had withdrawn their sponsorship of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.28/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 31, draft resolution III).

25. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, also on behalf of Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of India, El Salvador, the United States of America, Indonesia, Bahrain (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Iraq, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Bangladesh, Singapore, Libya, the Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Jamaica, as well as by the observer for the Holy See (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

#### **D. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.29](#) and Rev.1**

26. At the 26th meeting, on 24 October, the representatives of Canada and Zambia, on behalf of Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Senegal and Zambia, jointly introduced a draft resolution entitled “Child, early and forced marriage” ([A/C.3/68/L.29](#)), which read:

*“The General Assembly,*

*“Recalling* its resolutions [66/140](#) of 19 December 2011 on the girl child and [67/144](#) of 20 December 2012 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [24/23](#) of 27 September 2013, and all other previous resolutions relevant to child, early and forced marriage,

“*Reaffirming* its resolution [66/170](#) of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child, and noting with appreciation the theme of the first International Day, ‘Ending child marriage’,

“1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [24/23](#), to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of the rights of children’;

“2. *Decides* to convene during its sixty-eighth session a panel discussion on ‘Child, early and forced marriage and the post-2015 development agenda’, requests the Secretary-General to liaise with States, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant special procedures mechanisms, civil society, including relevant children and youth organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their participation, and also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion;

“3. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of the rights of children’, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the issue of child, early and forced marriage.”

27. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.29/Rev.1](#)) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.29](#) and Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Eritrea, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Paraguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

28. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.29/Rev.1](#) (see para. 31, draft resolution IV).

29. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay (also on behalf of Costa Rica), El Salvador, Qatar, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mauritania ([A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

**E. Draft decision proposed by the Chair**

30. At its 54th meeting, on 27 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly take note of documents considered in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children (see para. 32).

### 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 Strengthening collaboration on child protection within the United Nations system**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Reaffirming further* the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1</sup> and its Optional Protocols,<sup>2</sup> and recalling all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and resolution 66/139, adopted on 19 December 2011,

*Recognizing* the primary role and responsibility of the State in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, bearing in mind the importance of relevant actors of the United Nations supporting the State in this regard,

*Reaffirming* that the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including those of States and of all relevant actors of the United Nations dealing with the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection,

*Recognizing* the important role and the continuing work of the United Nations system and all its relevant actors in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and recognizing also the important role and contribution of civil society in this regard,

*Encouraging* relevant actors to promote capacity-building through international, regional, trilateral and South-South cooperation in support of national efforts in the endeavour to promote child protection,

*Stressing* that collaboration within the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, is important for the continuation of support for the efforts of Member States in the realization of the rights of the child, and in this regard reaffirms the important role that the General Assembly continues to play in strengthening collaboration and coherence within the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>3</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the existing collaboration among relevant actors of the United Nations working on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, invites them, within existing resources and mandates, to

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

<sup>3</sup> A/68/253.

continue to highlight information on such collaboration in their existing reports to the General Assembly and to also address this issue within the framework of the existing Third Committee interactive dialogue under the agenda item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”, and invites these United Nations actors to further enhance their collaboration;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all relevant actors of the United Nations on child protection continuing to exercise their functions in a fully independent manner and to act in full observance of their respective mandates;

4. *Underlines* the importance of sustained, adequate resources and support for the work of the United Nations system on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including child protection, and in this regard strongly encourages enhanced voluntary contributions to support the work of all relevant actors of the United Nations, so as to support the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of child protection, at the request of Member States;

5. *Encourages* key child protection stakeholders in the United Nations system to continue their collaboration, including through promoting holistic, multi-partner and multisectoral responses to child protection issues, taking into account national best practices in different regions and countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a follow-up report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the current collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, taking into account information provided by Member States and relevant actors of the United Nations.



## Draft resolution II

### The girl child

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [66/140](#) of 19 December 2011 and all relevant resolutions on the girl child, and recalling 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,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>2</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>3</sup> the Optional Protocols thereto<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,<sup>5</sup>

*Reaffirming* the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child made in the outcome documents of the 2005 World Summit<sup>6</sup> and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,<sup>7</sup> and welcoming the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals held in 2013,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [66/170](#) of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child and its role in raising awareness of the situation of girls around the world,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,<sup>9</sup>

*Reaffirming also* 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”,<sup>10</sup> and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS adopted by the high-level meetings of the General Assembly in 2006<sup>11</sup> and 2011,<sup>12</sup>

*Reaffirming further* all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their 5-, 10- and 15-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration<sup>13</sup> and Platform for Action,<sup>14</sup> the outcome

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; *ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and *ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution 60/1.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 65/1.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 68/6.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution S-27/2, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution S-26/2, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 60/262, annex.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution 65/277, annex.

<sup>13</sup> *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.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>15</sup> the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>16</sup> and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>17</sup> and reiterating that their full and effective implementation is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that education, adequate health care, nutrition, skills development and combating discrimination and violence against girls, inter alia, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child, and in this regard recalling the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session,<sup>18</sup> which highlight the intrinsic linkages between empowerment of the girl child and the prevention and elimination of violence, and Commission on Population and Development resolution 2012/1 of 27 April 2012,<sup>19</sup> which highlights actions concerning development and the human rights of adolescents and youth, and further recalling the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations system in relation to the girl child,

*Recalling* the Secretary-General’s 2008-2015 campaign “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” and the call upon Governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls,

*Taking note* of the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first Envoy on Youth in line with the imperative, contained in his five-year action agenda, on “Working for and with women and young people”,

*Recognizing* that chronic poverty remains one of the biggest obstacles to meeting the needs of and promoting and protecting the rights of children, including the girl child,

*Recognizing also* that urgent national and international action is required to eliminate poverty, in particular extreme poverty, and noting that the ongoing effects of the global financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and continuing food insecurity as a result of various factors is felt directly by households, especially those headed by girls,

*Recognizing further* that the phenomenon of child-headed households is linked to other economic, social and political realities, such as armed conflict, natural disasters, lack of economic empowerment and health inequities, and that a comprehensive approach to these problems is needed to resolve the issue of child-headed households,

<sup>15</sup> Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>16</sup> *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.

<sup>17</sup> *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.

<sup>18</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>19</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 5 (E/2012/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

*Deeply concerned* about the serious social problem of child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, and that the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including illness and mortality, the erosion of the extended family, the exacerbation of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and migration, as well as urbanization, have contributed to the increase in the number of child-headed households,

*Recognizing* that child-headed households may result from the death of parents and/or legal guardians, and that children can become de facto heads of households owing to parental illness, whether physical or mental, parental neglect, the migration of parents or other such factors,

*Deeply concerned* about the extreme vulnerability of children who are heads of households, particularly girls, who may be exceptionally negatively affected by the economic and care burdens placed on them at a young age, which in turn may lead to their having difficulty completing their education and increase their vulnerability to poverty, discrimination, trafficking and physical abuse,

*Deeply concerned also* about the vulnerability of children raised in child-headed households, in particular the girl child, who suffer from the lack of adult support and may be particularly vulnerable to poverty, mental and psychosocial trauma and physical vulnerability owing to, inter alia, food insecurity and poor nutrition, limited access to safe water and adequate sanitation, and communicable and non-communicable diseases,

*Deeply concerned further* that children in child-headed households may be subjected to stigma and discrimination owing to the fact that parental death is a result of HIV/AIDS, and that children heading households may be at greater risk of HIV because of their vulnerability to violence and exploitation as they seek to support their households,

*Deeply concerned* that, in situations of poverty, armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, the incidence of child-headed households increases and makes the girl child particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse, exploitation and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, thus limiting their potential for full development,

*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 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 an estimated 68 million girls<sup>20</sup> are engaged in child labour and that many of them face the double burden of having to combine economic activities with domestic chores, which deprive them of their childhood

---

<sup>20</sup> International Labour Organization, *Making progress against child labour — Global estimates and trends 2000-2012* (Geneva, 2013).

and diminish their opportunities to benefit from education and decent employment in the future,

*Recognizing* that the needs of girls vary, according to a number of factors, including their age, and that the risks of violence and discrimination that they face change over their life cycles, from childhood through adolescence,

*Recognizing also* that girl children are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, which continue to hinder efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirming the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

*Recognizing further* that the empowerment of and investment in girls, which is critical for economic growth, and the achievement of all Millennium 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 also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and 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, in particular the phenomena that disproportionately affect girls, such as commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography, child, early and forced marriage, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking in persons and, in addition, about the corresponding lack of accountability and impunity, which reflect discriminatory norms that reinforce the lower status of girls in society,

*Deeply concerned also* that violence against women and girls is underrecognized, particularly at the community level, and underreported or unrecorded as a result of stigma, fear, social tolerance and the often illegal and covert nature of such activities,

*Deeply concerned further* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, 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,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the adoption by the Human Rights Council of its resolution [24/23](#) of 27 September 2013 entitled “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps”,

*Deeply concerned* 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 child birth, 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 employment opportunities and their and their children's quality of life and violates and impairs the full enjoyment of their human rights,

*Deeply concerned also* that female genital mutilation violates and impairs the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls and that it is an irreparable and irreversible harmful practice, and that the goal of ending female genital mutilation in the next generation, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012, remains unfinished business,

*Stressing* the need for the international community, the relevant United Nations entities, 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 child-headed households and women and girls at risk of or subjected to child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation,

*Emphasizing* that increased access to 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 women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in respect of their access to education, health-care services and employment, and the importance of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard,

1. *Stresses* the need for the full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as provided to her under human rights instruments, and urges States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>2</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>3</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto<sup>4</sup> as a matter of priority;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)<sup>21</sup> and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)<sup>22</sup> of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in

<sup>21</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2133, No. 37245.

order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum<sup>23</sup> and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, and calls for the reaffirmation and implementation of the commitments contained in the Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to gender and education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to place enhanced emphasis on quality education, including communications and technology education, where available, for the girl child, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, to promote access to skills and entrepreneurship training for young women and to tackle male and female stereotypes in order to ensure that young women entering the labour market have opportunities to obtain full and productive employment, equitable compensation and decent work;

5. *Calls upon* States and the international community 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 and ensuring that all children have access to education of good quality, as well as 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, improving the safety of girls on the way to and from school, ensuring all schools are accessible, safe, secure and free from violence, and providing 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;

6. *Calls upon* States, with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being;

7. *Urges* States to acknowledge the different needs of girls and boys during their childhood and adolescence and, as appropriate, to make differential investments that are responsive to their changing needs;

8. *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,<sup>14</sup> as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives, 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 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, and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve those goals;

---

<sup>23</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

9. *Urges* States to strengthen efforts to urgently eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and, where applicable, to remain dedicated to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto;<sup>24</sup>

10. *Also urges* States to improve the situation of girl children living in poverty, in particular extreme poverty, deprived of 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 the girl child, leaving her unable to enjoy her rights, to reach her full potential and to participate as a full member of society, with a particular focus on children living in child-headed households, including the child head of household;

11. *Further urges* States to ensure that the applicable requirements of the International Labour Organization for 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 payment and remuneration, are protected from economic and sexual exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and abuse in the workplace, are aware of their rights and have access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, and also urges States to develop gender-sensitive measures, including national action plans, where appropriate, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, hazardous forms of child labour, trafficking and slavery-like practices, including forced and bonded labour, and to recognize that girls, including in child-headed households, face greater risks in this regard;

12. *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;

13. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality 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;

14. *Calls upon* States to strengthen the capacity of national health systems, and in this regard calls upon the international community to assist national efforts, including by allocating adequate resources in order to provide 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;

---

<sup>24</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

15. *Urges* all States to enact and strictly enforce laws ending child, early and forced marriage and 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 stakeholders, where necessary, and ensure that these laws to end child, early and forced marriage are well known, to further develop and implement comprehensive policies, plans of action and programmes for 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;

16. *Calls upon* States to support and implement, including with dedicated resources, multisectoral policies and programmes that end the practice of child, early and forced marriage and ensure the provision of viable alternatives and institutional support, especially educational opportunities for girls, with an emphasis on keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, ensuring physical access to education, including by increasing financial incentives to families, promoting the empowerment of girls, improving educational quality, ensuring safe and hygienic conditions in schools, and, where applicable, establishing safe residential facilities;

17. *Urges* States to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households are respected and that the heads of such households exercise all the rights of the child, and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school consistent with their age;

18. *Also urges* States to ensure that efforts to enact and implement legislation to protect, support and empower child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, include provisions to ensure their economic well-being, access to health-care services, nutrition, clean water and sanitation, shelter and education, and inheritance, and that the family is protected and assisted to stay together;

19. *Calls upon* States to put in place concrete measures to ensure that while children heading households, especially girls, exercise all the rights of the child, they also receive appropriate assistance to enable them to fulfil their de facto responsibilities as household heads by ensuring and protecting their property and inheritance rights;

20. *Also calls upon* States to include an integrated approach in supporting and empowering child-headed households, given the mental and psychosocial trauma, stigma and physical and economic stress children may experience as a result of becoming heads of households at a very young age;

21. *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, protection and empowerment of children, especially girls, in child-headed households as well as to ensure that they receive the support they need from their community;

22. *Calls upon* States to strengthen research on families and household formation and structure, with a particular emphasis on the existence of de facto child-headed households and the long-term economic and psychological impact that



being a child head of household or a child raised by another child has on the children and on social sustainability;

23. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen research, data collection and analysis on the girl child, disaggregated by household structure, sex, age, disability status, economic situation and marital status and geographical location, 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;

24. *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, to adopt, implement and strengthen appropriate policies and programmes designed to address their needs, and to take into account the conclusions contained in the outcome document adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, held on 23 September 2013;<sup>25</sup>

25. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, discrimination and exploitation in all settings, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, 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;

26. *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, including depictions of child sexual abuse, ensuring that adequate mechanisms are in place to enable reporting and removal of such material and that its creators, distributors and collectors are prosecuted, as appropriate;

27. *Urges* States to formulate 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 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;

28. *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,

---

<sup>25</sup> Resolution 68/3.

with the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, and ensure that this right is fully and equally enjoyed by the girl child, and to 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;

29. *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 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;

30. *Encourages* States to promote actions, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance, for the social reintegration of children in difficult situations, in particular girls, considering, inter alia, views, skills and capacities that those children have developed in the conditions in which they lived and, where appropriate, with their meaningful participation;

31. *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 natural disasters as well as in other humanitarian emergencies, all of which may result in the creation of child-headed households, and further 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 protect them from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection, gender-based violence, including rape, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction, trafficking and 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;

32. *Deplores* all cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and urges States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

33. *Also deplors* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse of and trafficking in women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, 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 and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses 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;<sup>26</sup>

34. *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 Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>27</sup> and the activities outlined therein, and expresses its view that it will, inter alia, contribute to the promotion of the rights of girls and enhance cooperation and a better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and promote increased ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>28</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;<sup>29</sup>

35. *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;

36. *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;

37. *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;

38. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies and the human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including the special procedures, to

<sup>26</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/59/19/Rev.1)*.

<sup>27</sup> Resolution 64/293.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

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;

39. *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 Millennium Development Goal 6, in particular to halt and begin to reverse by 2015 the spread of HIV;

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

41. *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 preferences, for an active and healthy life;

42. *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 and protecting their rights;

43. *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 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;

44. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the commitment of States and the United Nations system in their responsibility to mainstream the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, into the development agenda at the national, regional and international levels, including in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

45. *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 the situation of child-headed households;

46. *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 for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels, recognizing that strengthened availability

and effective allocation of resources are required at all levels in order to ensure that all the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>30</sup> are realized within their time frame, and reaffirming that investment in children, particularly girls, and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, as well as the summary report of the panel discussion to be held at the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, and decides to consider both documents at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

48. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including a status analysis and emphasis on the importance of implementing policies and achieving targets on water, sanitation and hygiene as they relate to the girl child, 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.

---

<sup>30</sup> Resolution 55/2.

### **Draft resolution III**

#### **Rights of the child**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution [67/152](#) of 20 December 2012,

*Emphasizing* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1</sup> constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention,<sup>2</sup> calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

*Recalling* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>4</sup> the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>5</sup> the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>6</sup> the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime<sup>7</sup> and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>8</sup> and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>9</sup>

*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 all actions concerning children,

*Recalling* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, as well as resolution [65/198](#) of 21 December 2010 on indigenous issues, in which it was decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2014, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,

*Reaffirming* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>10</sup> the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>11</sup> and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,<sup>12</sup> and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution [66/138](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [61/177](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>10</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution [55/2](#).

<sup>12</sup> Resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>13</sup> the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,<sup>14</sup> the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,<sup>15</sup> the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,<sup>16</sup> the Declaration on the Right to Development<sup>17</sup> and 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,<sup>18</sup> the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,<sup>19</sup> the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,<sup>20</sup> and the outcome document of the World Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 25 to 28 November 2008,

*Taking note with appreciation* 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 Assembly<sup>21</sup> and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 67/152,<sup>22</sup> as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children<sup>23</sup> and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,<sup>24</sup> whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

*Acknowledging* the important role played by national governmental 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 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 interest 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,

<sup>13</sup> *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.

<sup>14</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

<sup>15</sup> See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

<sup>17</sup> Resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution 62/88.

<sup>19</sup> Resolution 65/1.

<sup>20</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>21</sup> A/67/229.

<sup>22</sup> A/68/257.

<sup>23</sup> A/68/274.

<sup>24</sup> A/68/267.

*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, and relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

*Profoundly concerned* that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

*Profoundly concerned also* that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

*Expressing deep concern* that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, and bearing in mind their evolving capacities, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized,

## **I Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto**

1. *Reaffirms* 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;

2. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>1</sup> the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography<sup>25</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict<sup>26</sup> as a matter of priority and to implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation, policies and action plans, strengthening relevant governmental structures for children, including, where appropriate, by establishing ministries and/or departments in charge of child and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and ensuring adequate and

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2173, No. 27531.



systematic training in the rights of the child for all those working with and for children, as well as ensuring child rights education for children themselves;

3. *Welcomes* in this regard the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

4. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>22</sup> and his reports on the implementation of the priority themes addressed in the resolutions on the rights of the child adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first to sixty-fifth sessions, and in this regard welcomes the progress achieved, recognizes the challenges that remain and calls upon States to further intensify the implementation of the Convention;

5. *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;<sup>10</sup>

6. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,<sup>27</sup> and calls upon States parties to implement it;

7. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, taking into account the adoption of its general comments, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Requests* all relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system to incorporate systematically a strong child rights perspective throughout all activities in the fulfilment of their mandates, as well as to ensure that their staff are trained in child rights matters, and calls upon States to continue to cooperate closely with all those organs and mechanisms;

9. *Encourages* States to strengthen their national statistical capacities and to use statistics disaggregated, inter alia, by age, sex and other relevant factors to enable the identification of discrimination and/or disparities and other statistical indicators at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to develop and assess social policies and programmes for the full realization of the rights of the child;

10. *Expresses its concern* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment, including sexual abuse;

---

<sup>27</sup> Resolution 66/138, annex.

## **II Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children**

### **Non-discrimination**

11. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

(b) To incorporate special measures in formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

(c) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage and forced sterilization, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(d) To ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children, inter alia, by integrating the rights of children with disabilities into policies and programmes affecting children, including their rights to education, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to protection from violence, abuse and neglect; to develop and enforce legislation aiming at their maximum inclusion in society, without discrimination, taking into account that children with disabilities may be subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination and segregation; and to take into account the conclusions included in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities,<sup>28</sup> held on 23 September 2013;

12. *Urges* all States to respect 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 special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives;

13. *Also urges* all States in particular to establish and strengthen mechanisms for the effective participation of children in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affect them, such as health, environment, education, social and economic welfare, protection against violence, abuse and exploitation, and disaster response;

---

<sup>28</sup> Resolution 68/3.

14. *Calls upon* States that find themselves in situations of economic crisis to refrain from adopting retrogressive measures that have a negative impact on the rights of the child, and also calls upon States to meet core obligations on the rights of the child under the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority, while fully using maximum available resources;

#### **Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care**

15. *Once again 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 child's identity, including nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by law, reminding States of their obligation to register the birth of all children without discrimination of any kind, including late birth registration, and to ensure that registration procedures are universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective and provided at minimal or no cost;

16. *Recalls* the adoption of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children<sup>29</sup> and encourages States to take the Guidelines into account when adopting, enforcing, improving or implementing policies and programmes to protect children growing up without parents or caregivers, recognizing that efforts should be directed primarily to enabling the child to remain in or return to the care of his or her 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;

17. *Calls upon* States to guarantee, to the extent consistent with the obligations of each State, the right of a child whose parents reside in different States to maintain, on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances, personal relations and direct contact with both parents by providing enforceable means of access and visitation in both States and by respecting the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of their children;

18. *Also calls upon* States to address and pay particular attention to cases of international parental or familial child abduction, and encourages States to engage in multilateral and bilateral cooperation to resolve those cases, preferably by accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction,<sup>30</sup> and to comply fully with the Convention, and to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention;

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

#### **Economic and social well-being of children**

20. *Calls upon* States and the international community to create a safe and enabling environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field, while reaffirming that the primary responsibility rests with each individual State;

---

<sup>29</sup> Resolution 64/142, annex.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1343, No. 22514.

*Eradication of poverty*

21. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts for poverty eradication, to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children, and to accelerate their efforts to realize the internationally agreed development and poverty eradication goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, within their time framework, and reaffirms that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty;

22. *Strongly recommends* that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children be well reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

*Right to education*

23. *Recognizes* the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education compulsory, inclusive and available free to all children, ensuring that all children have equal access to education of good quality, as well as 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, and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls, children with disabilities and children living in poverty;

24. *Urges* Member States to implement strategies for the realization of the right to education, including in humanitarian emergencies, as an integral element in the context of humanitarian protection and assistance, with the support of the international community, the United Nations system, donors, multilateral agencies, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations;

*Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health*

25. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is promoted and protected, without any kind of discrimination, and that all forms of violence, which have a negative impact on the physical and mental health of the child, are prevented and addressed, including through the enactment and implementation of laws, strategies and policies, gender- and child-responsive budgeting and resource allocation, and adequate investment in health systems, including comprehensive and integrated primary health care, including in efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 and in the health workforce;

(b) To adopt strategies to prevent and address the harmful use of alcohol and illicit substances with a holistic and human rights perspective, and to provide information, education and counselling on the effects of substance abuse, and also on the importance of family and school support for its prevention and the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of children and adolescents with substance abuse issues;

(c) To ensure that the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, is fully realized for all children by giving full attention to all health needs of children, through providing information, health-care services and comprehensive, evidence-based education on sexual and reproductive health, human rights and gender equality, consistent with their evolving capacities and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents or legal guardians, in accordance with the rights, needs and best interests of the child, free of discrimination and on an equitable and universal basis;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for the full realization of the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and therefore urges States and, through them, service providers to ensure a regular supply of safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation services of good quality and sufficient quantity, guided also by the principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination, bearing in mind that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for their populations is to be progressively realized with full respect for national sovereignty;

27. *Affirms* the importance of applying a human rights-based approach to reducing and eliminating preventable maternal and child mortality and morbidity, and requests all States to renew their political commitment in that respect at all levels;

28. *Calls upon* States and all relevant stakeholders to address, as a matter of priority, the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV by providing care, support and treatment to those children, their families and caregivers by promoting rights-based and child-oriented HIV and AIDS policies and programmes, and to ensure access to affordable, effective and quality prevention, care and treatment, including through correct information, access to voluntary and confidential testing, comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, services and education, and access to safe, affordable, effective, quality and pharmaceutical products and medical technologies, by intensifying efforts to develop affordable, accessible and quality tools for early diagnosis and prioritizing prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus;

#### *Right to food*

29. *Calls upon* all States to take action to ensure the full realization of the right to food for all and to eliminate child hunger and malnutrition, including through the adoption or strengthening of national programmes to address food security and nutrition and adequate livelihoods, especially regarding vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies, the promotion of breastfeeding and a nutritious diet, as well as programmes, for example, school meal programmes, that should ensure adequate nutrition for all children, in order to enable all children to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental capacities;

#### **Child labour**

30. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective eradication of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately

the worst forms of child labour, to promote education as a key strategy in this regard, including the creation of vocational training and apprenticeship programmes and the integration of working children into the formal education system, and to examine and devise economic policies, where necessary, in cooperation with the international community and the private sector, that address factors contributing to these forms of child labour;

31. *Calls upon* all States to take into account the global report of the Director General of the International Labour Organization entitled “Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour”, urges all States that have not yet ratified the Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138)<sup>31</sup> and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182)<sup>32</sup> of the International Labour Organization to consider doing so as a matter of priority, and encourages States to consider ratifying the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (Convention No. 189);

32. *Urges* States to substantially increase efforts to achieve the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016, and in this regard encourages States to fully implement the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, an outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference;

33. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour, the outcome document of the Third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and urges States to continue to promote the engagement of all sectors of society in creating an enabling environment for the eradication of child labour;

### **Prevention and elimination of violence against children**

34. *Condemns* all forms of violence against children, and urges all States:

(a) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

(b) To respect fully the rights, human dignity and physical integrity of children and to prevent and address any emotional, physical or sexual violence or any other humiliating or degrading treatment or punishment;

(c) To give priority attention to the prevention of all forms of violence against children and to addressing its underlying causes and its gender dimension through a systematic, comprehensive and multifaceted approach, recognizing that witnessing violence, including domestic violence, also causes harm to children;

(d) To develop a well-coordinated and well-resourced national strategy for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including measures aimed at, inter alia, raising awareness, building the capacity of

---

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

professionals working with and for children, supporting effective parenting programmes, fostering research, collecting data on the incidence of violence against children and developing and implementing appropriate national monitoring tools to periodically assess progress;

(e) To protect children from all forms of violence or abuse by all those who work with and for children, including in educational settings and in alternative care and residential care settings, and in international development activities and humanitarian relief work, as well as by government officials, such as the police, law enforcement authorities, employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions and health-care personnel;

(f) To establish and develop safe, well-publicized, confidential and accessible mechanisms to enable children or their representatives to seek counselling, to report violence against children and file complaints on incidents of violence against children and to ensure that child victims of violence have access to confidential, child- and gender-sensitive health and social services and are supported in their recovery and reintegration, taking into account the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children<sup>33</sup> on this matter;

(g) To take measures to ensure that all those who work with and for children protect children from bullying, including from bullying through the Internet and other communications technologies, and implement preventive and anti-bullying policies in order to ensure a safe and supportive environment free from harassment and violence;

(h) To raise awareness of the negative effects of violence against children and to strive to change attitudes that condone or normalize any form of violence against children, including cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of discipline, treatment or punishment, harmful practices and all forms of sexual violence;

(i) To take measures to promote constructive and positive forms of discipline and child development approaches in all settings, including the home, schools and other educational settings, and throughout care and justice systems;

(j) To end impunity for perpetrators of crimes against children, to undertake thorough and prompt investigations of all acts of violence against children and to prosecute such acts of violence and impose appropriate penalties, recognizing that persons convicted of violent offences against children, including sexual abuse, who continue to pose a risk of harm to children should be prevented from working with children;

(k) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations, and in this context recalls the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including those adopted at its fifty-seventh

---

<sup>33</sup> A/HRC/16/56.

session,<sup>34</sup> on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;

35. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Criminal Court in ending impunity for the most serious crimes against children, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and calls upon States not to grant amnesties for such crimes;

36. *Encourages* all States and requests United Nations entities, regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to disseminate widely and follow up on the study on violence against children and the recommendations contained therein,<sup>35</sup> and to promote, where relevant, their mainstreaming in regional policy agendas and to further consolidate their implementation at the national level;

37. *Recognizes* the significant progress and achievements made since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, expresses support for her work to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions and to advance the implementation of the recommendations in the United Nations study on violence against children, and takes note with appreciation of her global survey and thematic reports, including the report entitled “Protecting children from harmful practices in plural legal systems”, and the joint report of the Special Representative, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system;<sup>36</sup>

38. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society and with the participation of children, and the contribution of her regional and thematic consultations and field missions to advancing progress in the protection of children from violence;

39. *Encourages* all States, requests United Nations entities and agencies, and invites regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative and to provide support, including financial support, to her for the continued effective and independent performance of her mandate, and calls upon States and institutions concerned and invites the private sector to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

#### **Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations**

40. *Calls upon* all States to prevent violations of the rights of children working and/or living on the street, including all forms of discrimination, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, torture and all kinds of violence and exploitation, and to bring the perpetrators to justice, to adopt and

<sup>34</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>35</sup> See A/61/299 and A/62/209.

<sup>36</sup> A/HRC/21/25.



implement policies for the protection, social and psychosocial rehabilitation and reintegration of those children and to adopt economic, social and educational strategies to address the problems of children working and/or living on the street;

41. *Reaffirms* the right of the Child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her, as well as the rights of the child to freedom of association, to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly;

42. *Calls upon* all States to protect refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children, in particular those who are unaccompanied, who are particularly exposed to violence and risks in connection with armed conflict and trafficking, and taking into account their gender-specific needs, stressing the need for States as well as the international community to continue to pay more systematic and in-depth attention to the special assistance, protection and development needs of those children through, inter alia, programmes aimed at rehabilitation and physical and psychological recovery, and to programmes for voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement, to give 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;

43. *Also calls upon* all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, including migrant children and indigenous children, the enjoyment of all human rights as well as access to health care, social services and education on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive special protection and assistance;

44. *Calls upon* States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

45. *Urges* States to ensure equal access to quality education for indigenous children, particularly for indigenous girls, and to promote education systems that respect the cultures and traditions of the communities that are responsive to their needs;

46. *Reaffirms* the right of indigenous children, in community with other members of their group, to learn, enjoy and transmit their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion or belief and to use their own language and in this regard encourages Member States to actively promote the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People<sup>37</sup> and looks forward to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014;

47. *Calls upon* all States to protect, in law and in practice, the inheritance and property rights of orphans, paying particular attention to underlying gender-based discrimination, which may interfere with the fulfilment of these rights;

48. *Also calls upon* all States to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in emergency situations, including natural disasters, in particular their right

---

<sup>37</sup> Resolution 61/295, annex.

to food, safe drinking water and sanitation, education, emergency health care, family reunification, protection and trauma relief;

### **Children and the administration of justice**

49. *Recalls* the validity and importance of international standards and norms in the field of human rights in the administration of juvenile justice, including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency,<sup>38</sup> the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice,<sup>39</sup> the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,<sup>40</sup> the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime<sup>41</sup> and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders,<sup>42</sup> and calls upon all States:

(a) To abolish by law and in practice, as soon as possible, the death penalty, life imprisonment without possibility of release, emotional or physical violence or any other humiliating or degrading treatment for those under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offence, and invites States to consider repealing all other forms of life imprisonment for offences committed by those under 18 years of age;

(b) To commute immediately such sentences and to ensure that any child previously sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment without possibility of release is removed from special prison facilities, especially from death row, and transferred to regular institutions of detention appropriate for the age of the offender and the offence committed;

50. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

51. *Urges* States to take special measures to protect children in contact with the law, including by means of the provision of adequate legal assistance, training in juvenile justice for judges, police officers, prosecutors and specialized lawyers, as well as other representatives who provide other appropriate assistance, such as social workers, the establishment of specialized courts, as appropriate, the promotion of universal birth registration and age documentation and the protection of the right of juvenile offenders to maintain contact with their families through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

52. *Calls upon* all States to protect children deprived of their liberty from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to ensure that, if they are arrested, detained or imprisoned, children are provided with

---

<sup>38</sup> Resolution 45/112, annex.

<sup>39</sup> Resolution 40/33, annex.

<sup>40</sup> Resolution 45/113, annex.

<sup>41</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20, annex.

<sup>42</sup> Resolution 65/229.

adequate legal assistance and that no child is sentenced or subjected to forced labour or emotional or physical violence or any other humiliation or degrading treatment or deprived of access to and provision of health care and services, hygiene and environmental sanitation, access to open space for recreation, education, basic instruction and vocational training, and to undertake prompt investigations of all reported acts of violence and ensure that all violators are held accountable;

53. *Urges* States to ensure that the child is assisted during all judicial proceedings by a competent adult, parent or guardian, in addition to the child's lawyer, and to ensure that the child's right to be heard in proceedings is observed;

54. *Calls upon* all States to take all the measures necessary to avoid revictimization of children victims or witnesses during all stages of judicial proceedings;

55. *Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice and notes in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015;

#### *Children of incarcerated parents*

56. *Calls upon* all States to give attention to the impact of parental detention and imprisonment on children and, in particular:

(a) To give priority consideration to non-custodial measures when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a child's sole or primary caretaker, subject to the need to protect the public and the child, and bearing in mind the gravity of the offence;

(b) To identify and promote good practices in relation to the needs and physical, emotional, social and psychological development of babies and children affected by parental detention and imprisonment;

57. *Acknowledges* that a parent's deprivation of liberty, sentencing to death or life imprisonment has a serious impact on children's development and urges States, in the framework of their national child protection efforts, to provide the assistance and support these children may require;

#### **Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

58. *Expresses deep concern* about the persistence of the practices of the sale of children, child slavery and sexual exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography, and calls upon all States:

(a) To prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish effectively all forms of the sale of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, commercial and domestic sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights of victims to effective protection and rehabilitation, to provide

remedy and to take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

(b) To enact and enforce necessary legislative or other measures, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prevent the distribution over the Internet and in all other media of pornography that exploits children, 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;

(c) To ensure the prosecution and punishment of offenders, whether local or foreign, by the competent national authorities, either in the country in which the crime was committed, in the country of which the offender is a national or resident, in the country of which the victim is a national or on any other basis permitted under domestic law, and for these purposes to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance and the necessary collaboration for prevention, detection, investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings;

(d) To increase cooperation at all levels to prevent and dismantle networks trafficking in or selling children and their organs and, for those States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;<sup>8</sup>

(e) In cases of trafficking in children, the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, to address effectively the needs of victims, including their safety, legal assistance and protection, physical and psychological recovery and full reintegration into society, paying particular attention to their gender-specific needs, including through bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation and financial assistance;

(f) To combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through the adoption, effective application and enforcement of preventive, rehabilitative and punitive measures targeting customers or individuals who sexually exploit or sexually abuse children;

(g) To give priority to the identification of norms and standards on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises, particularly those involved in information and communications technologies, related to respect for the rights of children, including the right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation, particularly in the virtual realm, as set out in the relevant legal instruments, and to outline basic measures to be taken for implementation;

(h) To mobilize public awareness, involving families and communities, with the participation of children, concerning the protection of children against all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse;

(i) To contribute to the prevention and elimination of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by adopting a holistic approach, addressing the contributing factors, including underdevelopment, poverty, economic disparities, inequitable socioeconomic structures, dysfunctional families, lack of education, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, criminal or irresponsible adult sexual behaviour, child sex tourism, organized crime, armed conflicts and trafficking in children;

(j) To take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation that leads to trafficking, including sexual exploitation and the sex tourism demand;

### **Children affected by armed conflict**

59. *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, including humanitarian 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, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

60. *Recalls*, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that they shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or excessive use of force, condemns such practices resulting in the killing and maiming of children, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

61. *Urges* States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;

62. *Calls upon* all States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to mainstream the rights of the child into all activities in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and to ensure adequate child protection training of their staff and personnel;

63. *Calls upon* States:

(a) When ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment of persons into the national armed forces from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention, bearing in mind that under the Convention persons under 18 years of age are entitled to special protection, and to adopt safeguards to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced;

(b) To take all feasible measures to ensure the demobilization and effective disarmament of children used in armed conflicts and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, in particular through educational measures, taking into account the rights and the specific needs and capacities of girls, and calls upon States and regional organizations to include commitments in this regard in peace agreements;

(c) To ensure timely and adequate funding for national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children and for settlement, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts for all children associated with armed forces and groups, including detained children, particularly in support of national

initiatives, to secure the long-term sustainability of such efforts, including through the use of a multisectoral and community-based approach that is inclusive of all children, family-based care arrangements, as also highlighted in the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), and the mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance from international cooperation for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children;

(d) To undertake measures to ensure that children in situations of armed conflict enjoy all the rights enshrined in relevant international instruments and that national authorities, with the support of the international community, as appropriate, take steps to ensure access to and the delivery of basic services necessary for the survival of children in different areas, including health, nutrition, water, sanitation and psychosocial recovery, ensuring continuous access to education for children affected by armed conflict, and to encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to further raise attention and mobilize international support to address the plight of these children;

(e) 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;

(f) To take all feasible measures, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law, as a matter of priority, to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, as distinct from the armed forces of a State, including the adoption of policies that do not tolerate such practices and legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize them;

(g) To support relevant existing internationally agreed mechanisms established to address the issue of children in armed conflict that contribute to the roles, responsibilities and capacities of national Governments in this field;

64. *Calls upon* all States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support, as appropriate, national and international mine action efforts, including with regard to cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance, further calls upon States, regional and subregional organizations and non-governmental actors to minimize the impact of explosive weapons on civilians, including children, and offer assistance to victims of mines;

65. *Condemns in the strongest terms* rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, expresses deep concern at mass and systematic rape and sexual violence committed against children in armed conflict, in some instances calculated to humiliate, dominate, instil fear and disperse and/or forcibly relocate a population, calls upon all States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to address this issue, as well as the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges States to adopt appropriate national legislation to prevent such crimes and to ensure their rigorous investigation and prosecution;

66. *Reaffirms* the essential roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of

the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, notes the increasing role played by the Security Council in ensuring protection for children affected by armed conflict, and also notes the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission in areas that promote and contribute to the enjoyment of the rights and welfare of children;

67. *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 and [2068 \(2012\)](#) of 19 September 2012, 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;

68. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and recognizes the increased level of activity of her office and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative;

69. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Representative<sup>43</sup> and of the significant developments and achievements in the protection of children in armed conflict at the national and international levels, and emphasizes the contribution of the field visits conducted by the Special Representative with the consent of the State concerned in situations of armed conflict as an important element in the implementation of her mandate;

70. *Recalls* that all parties bear the primary responsibility for the protection of children, recalls the obligations to refrain from attacking schools in violation of international humanitarian law and to take all feasible precautionary measures to protect civilians from such attacks, in particular schoolchildren, and urges States to avoid using schools for military purposes and to ensure safe and continuous access to education in times of conflict;

### **III Follow-up**

71. *Decides:*

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities, in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly

---

<sup>43</sup> A/68/267.

and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in discharging her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(c) 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 the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 48 of resolution [67/152](#), to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

(d) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography 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 sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(e) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(f) To continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "The rights of the child" on the theme "Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



## **Draft resolution IV**

### **Child, early and forced marriage**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [66/140](#) of 19 December 2011 on the girl child and [67/144](#) of 20 December 2012 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [24/23](#) of 27 September 2013 on strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, and all other previous resolutions relevant to child, early and forced marriage,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [66/170](#) of 19 December 2011 on the International Day of the Girl Child, and noting with appreciation the theme of the first International Day, “Ending child marriage”,

*Guided* by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

*Reaffirming* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, with a particular focus on challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [24/23](#), as well as the related summary report on the panel discussion of the Council at its twenty-sixth session, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”;

2. *Decides* to convene during its sixty-eighth session a panel discussion on child, early and forced marriage worldwide, including the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, requests the Secretary-General to liaise with States, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant special procedures mechanisms, civil society, including relevant children and youth organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their input, and also requests the Secretary-General to prepare an informal summary report on the panel discussion;

3. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”, taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of the issue of child, early and forced marriage.

32. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the promotion and protection of the rights of children**

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”:

(a) Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/68/267);<sup>1</sup>

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children;<sup>2</sup>

(c) Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;<sup>3</sup>

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A/68/267.

<sup>2</sup> A/68/269.

<sup>3</sup> A/68/274.

<sup>4</sup> A/68/275.