

10<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

### **Annual full-day meeting on the Rights of the Child**

*Joint oral statement on behalf of the International Catholic Child Bureau (special ECOSOC consultative status), Defence for Children International, Bahá'í International Community (special consultative status), End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT, Special Consultative Status), Women's World Summit Foundation (Special Consultative Status), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT, special consultative status), SOS-Kinderdorf International (special consultative status), World Alliance of YMCAs, Plan international (Roster status), World Vision International (general consultative status), Terre des Hommes<sup>1</sup>*

Thank you Madam Chair,

We would like to thank those involved in organising this annual full day meeting and particularly for including NGOs. We also thank the panellists for their contributions.

Discussing the effective implementation of the Convention is particularly timely as we prepare to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention in November 2009. Much remains to be done if all children over the world are to fully enjoy their rights. We look to the Council and its mechanisms to contribute to this achievement.

With regard to the panellists' statements, we would like to thank Ms Asma Jahangir for her statement and the information she gave on how the Special Procedures already include the rights of the child in their work. We encourage the Special Procedures to continue to do so. We also favour joint missions and reports of the child rights related Special Procedures with other Special Procedures. In addition, the Coordinating Committee should regularly discuss the way the Special Procedures could effectively and usefully include child rights in their work.

Looking beyond this annual full day meeting, child rights NGOs call upon the Council to effectively integrate child rights in all aspects of its work and mechanisms. In this regard, we would like to make three additional remarks to members of the Council:

- 1) In relation to the UPR, we recommend the member states include the rights of the child in their national reports, particularly through consultations with child rights NGOs and child led organisations. We also call upon the Council to include these organisations in the follow-up to the recommendations. We strongly encourage the Council to improve the quality of consideration given to child rights in the UPR and urge States under review to not reject the recommendations on child rights.
- 2) In addition, as part of the Council's commitment with regard to child rights, member states should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to support the Special Procedures and OHCHR.
- 3) Finally, we suggest that this discussion be officially reported for the records of the 10<sup>th</sup> session. We also hope it will contribute to and be explicitly reflected in the resolution. Lastly, we wish it to be used in an effective manner subsequently to improve the integration of child rights in the work of the Council.

We thank you very much.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement is also supported by Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) and by the Secretariat of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.