



The Ariel Foundation International (AFI) in partnership with Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation Submission to the United Nations Office of High Commission for Human Rights on the Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 17 October 2016.

Ariel Foundation International (AFI) in special ECOSOC consultative status, and in partnership with Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation International (ALCFI) will hold an AFI-ALCFI **5th Young Ambassadors Children's Human Rights Summit - on Sustainable Development Goals** during the 34th Human Rights Council parallel events at the Palais des Nations in March 2017.¹ The children's summit is open to all children.

Statement of the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Sustainable Development

Children are 2 billion of the world's population. Children are human beings with equal Human Rights. Yet children are more vulnerable to violence, exploitation, poverty, hunger, inequity, discrimination and lack of participation in their society at all levels. Children are regularly left out of true partnership and participation with those who make decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their future generations.

The protection of children's rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development foundation starts with equity of opportunity for children to have their voices heard and opinions known through direct participation in the active realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Children through various AFI programmes have had the opportunity to express their opinions not only to one another but also to international stakeholders at the European Parliament, The Senegalese Parliament and also the Palais des Nations since 2014. The AFI Youth Ambassadors Summits at the Human Rights Councils parallel events during the last three years (2014-2016) have had the opportunity to directly participate in their own child-led summits at the United Nations on issues that are included in both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) through presentation and also group meetings chaired by children. The children presented and deliberated on subjects that included clean drinking water and nutrition, education, exploitation of children, Child Labour, discrimination, violence against children, Refugees, promotion of children's human rights, equity and justice and fair wages.

The Youth Ambassadors Children Human Rights Summits videos, photos can be viewed and publications downloaded from <http://www.youthsummit-un.org/arielfoundation-international/>

¹ Ariel Foundation International in partnership with Ariana-Leilani Children's Foundation organizes summits for children at National and International Parliaments (European Parliament, UK Parliament and Senegalese Parliament) and also the United Nations, Palais des Nations Human Rights Council Parallel events for summits held and chaired by children that result in videos, reports and their voices being included in the national and international levels. Children can and do participate in their world on the national and international levels.