

Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 19/34 “The Right to development”

UNICEF

1. We make the following proposals under Criteria 1:

Criteria (a) To promote constant improvement in socio-economic well-being

- As noted by the WHO, adolescents face a series of nutritional challenges yet remain a largely neglected population, in which the needs of adolescent girls are often ignored. UNICEF therefore proposes that the nutritional status of adolescents, particularly girls, be addressed under sub-criteria 1 (a) (v) on food security and nutrition. A particular focus on adolescent girls is warranted as they face a greater risk of nutritional problems than adolescent boys, including anaemia and underweight.

Criteria (g) To promote and ensure access to the benefits of science and technology

- UNICEF suggests that marginalized and excluded children, particularly girls, be specifically addressed under the sub-criteria 1 (g) (i) on pro-poor technology development strategy. As outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action, Governments shall develop and adopt curricula and teaching materials “particularly in areas where women have traditionally been underrepresented, such as mathematics, science and technology”. Further, Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) obliges States Parties to ensure women equal rights with men in the field of education, including access to the same curricula and the elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education. UNICEF therefore proposes that there be particular focus on the existence of policy frameworks for technology development targeted at marginalized and excluded girls, such as girls from rural populations, the poor, and indigenous and minority girls.
2. Under Criteria 2 we propose: **To ensure non-discrimination, access to information, participation and effective remedies:**
 - Ensure that all indicators under this segment (and others as appropriate) are disaggregated by sex, age, location, disability and ethnicity to guarantee inclusive development.
 - We further propose to highlight the child’s right to be heard in the context of article 12 of the CRC. Children are key stakeholders in development, and taking their views into account will help ensure that government policies are effective and promote their best

interests.¹ This could be enhanced through the establishment of mechanisms which aim to move towards the systematic inclusion of children's participation in policy-making. Mechanisms to institutionalize child participation might include: children's parliaments, youth advisory committees, national or regional consultations, dialogue with children through, electronic media, focus groups on specific issues, and collaboration with existing children's organizations.²

¹ Every Child's Right to be Heard: A Resource Guide on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 12, Gerison Lansdown, Save the Children UK, 2011, p. 128.

² Ibid, p. 129.