



Save the Children submission for the report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

October 2016

Introduction:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 is an ambitious, interdependent and holistic plan of action for “people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership”.¹ In particular, the “leave no one behind” pledge has the potential to spur unprecedented change for the world’s poorest and most excluded children by ensuring that those furthest behind will be reached first and by meeting goals and targets for all nations, peoples and segments of society. The 2030 Agenda’s ambition to tackle inequalities provides the international community with a key opportunity to address discrimination and advance human rights, including children’s rights, and to establish more inclusive and equitable societies. It is therefore essential to seize this opportunity to ensure that respecting, protecting and fulfilling children’s rights, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its Optional Protocols, is central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Human Rights Council in its resolution 31/7 of 23 March 2016 requested the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a report on “Protecting the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” to be considered at its thirty-fourth session in March 2017. The following submission outlines Save the Children’s response to OHCHR’s invitation for contributions from stakeholders.

Question 1: What key lessons learned from the experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals should be taken into account to ensure that the rights of the child are protected in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were particularly successful in focusing global priorities and played a key role in channeling political commitments and investments into key social sectors such as health or education, thereby accelerating reductions in child mortality and improvements in school enrolment.² As a result, under-five and maternal mortality has fallen by almost half since 1990,³ while the number of out-of-school children of primary school age fell from 100 million in 2000 to an estimated 57 million in 2015.⁴

¹ United Nations General Assembly (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² Save the Children (2012) *After the Millennium Development Goals: Setting out the options and must haves for a new development framework*. Available at: <http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/After%20the%20Millennium%20Development%20Goals.pdf>

³ Requejo, J., Victoria, C. and Bryce, J. (2015) *A decade of tracking progress for maternal, newborn and child survival. The 2015 report. Countdown to 2015*. UNICEF and World Health Organization. Available at:

Available at: http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2015Report/CDReport_2015_ex-profiles.pdf

⁴ United Nations (2015). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*. Available at:

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

However, these MDG successes were based on national average rates of change, masking considerable, and often growing, inequalities between different groups of children.⁵ Progress for children from poor households, in remote and rural areas, living with a disability and from ethnic and religious minorities has been lagging behind progress for more advantaged children. This lack of progress is often a result of exclusion, a mix of poverty and discrimination, which shuts off opportunities and compounds disadvantage over time. All too often, the poorest girls are at the very back of the queue as a result of deeply rooted discriminatory norms and multiple discriminations. Moreover, children affected by conflict and emergencies, such as refugees, are amongst the most disadvantaged in the world.

Therefore, a key lesson learned from the MDGs has been the need to ensure that the 2030 Agenda would tackle inequalities. The “leave no one behind” pledge included in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda seeks to tackle discrimination in the implementation of the framework particularly by ensuring that those furthest behind will be reached first and by meeting goals and targets for all nations, peoples and segments of society.

A further lesson learned has been to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is more ambitious than the MDGs in that the commitments included in it are focusing on “getting to zero” on critical dimensions of poverty, notably relating to child mortality and in ensuring universal access to a variety of essential services.

The MDGs also go beyond goals focused on developing countries towards a universal set of 17 goals and associated targets that need to be achieved by all countries, regardless of whether they are high, middle or low-income. The 2030 Agenda therefore transcends the North/South divide and the ambition to tackle inequalities as the “leave no one behind” pledge covers all nations. This brings the 2030 Agenda closer to the spirit of human rights, including the UNCRC, as human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

Finally, the 2030 Agenda is an inter-generational framework that also includes specific core promises to children everywhere that had not been addressed in the MDGs, such Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, target 16.2 to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”.

Based on these lessons learned, Save the Children’s report *From Agreement to Action*⁶ outlines five key areas of action to ensure that the rights of the child are upheld by the 2030 Agenda:

1. National plans

Integrating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda into national priorities, actions, plans and budgets is a critical first step towards national ownership and implementation. The mobilization of sufficient resources, and the way in which they are allocated and spent, is also critical for the successful implementation of the new agenda.

2. Institutions

To translate plans into progress, strong institutions and coordination mechanisms are essential. Without effective public institutions to implement the agenda, we will not be able to build the world envisaged by the new framework. While strong political leadership can help drive progress, coordination mechanisms can help overcome silos.

3. Leave no one behind

The cross-cutting pledges to “leave no one behind”, to see targets and goals met for all segments of society, and to endeavor to reach the furthest behind first, are some of the most important and potentially transformative

⁵ Save the Children (2016) *From Agreement to Action, Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/From_Agreement_to_Action.pdf

⁶ See above.

commitments in the new global framework. Realizing the commitment to “leave no one behind” demands targeted policies and approaches – such as interim ‘stepping-stone’ equity targets – to help accelerate equitable progress towards all goals.

4. Data

High-quality disaggregated data is essential for tackling group-based inequalities, ensuring progress towards goals, and realizing the commitment to leave no one behind. It also plays a crucial role in informing planning and supporting active, empowered citizens. To meet the challenge of measuring progress towards the SDGs, there need to be strengthened national data systems, secure financial resources, and international collaboration.

5. Accountability

The MDGs were not accompanied by a sufficiently robust system of accountability. According to the UN Secretary-General, the lack of accountability was one of the reasons for the shortfalls in progress to achieve the MDGs. Accountability for the 2030 Agenda must be far more comprehensive than that which existed for the MDGs. It should promote the implementation of the SDGs by going beyond mere monitoring to create a system of robust, regular, effective, open and inclusive accountability. It must ensure accountability to all people, including children and excluded groups who often do not have the opportunity to participate in formal accountability processes. Regular dialogue and engagement with people of all ages and backgrounds, including children, must be an integral part of accountability processes at all levels, in order to fulfil the pledge to “leave no one behind”.

Question 2: What approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda would ensure the protection of the rights of all children, and that no child is left behind?

a. Equality and non-discrimination

The “leave no one behind” pledge in *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Paragraph 4, is the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda:

“As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.”⁷

The pledge implies that progress towards the SDGs should be judged according to how well groups that are furthest behind are advancing. No longer should issues of exclusion and discrimination be masked by a focus on average rates of progress; the spotlight should instead be placed firmly on excluded groups.

Implementation of the pledge should be grounded in the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. Non-discrimination (Article 2, UNCRC) is one of the four general principles of the UNCRC, that also includes the principle of the best interests of the child (Article 3), the right to life, survival and development (Article 6) and the right to be heard (Article 12). These four rights are overarching rights that need to be taken into account for all of the rights in the UNCRC to be realized.

Millions of children globally are being left behind simply because of who they are and where they live. The furthest behind often experience overlapping exclusion across more than one of these dimensions.

⁷ See note 1 above.

Exclusion is apparent in every country and for millions of children⁸:

- 400 million children around the world are from ethnic and religious groups that are discriminated against.
- 1 child in 10 lives in a conflict-affected country.
- 150 million children are estimated to be living with a disability.
- 400 million children under 13 live in extreme poverty.
- One quarter of all children we have data on – equivalent to 1.2 billion children in developing countries – are living in a region of their country that has been left behind.

Save the Children, through its global campaign, is working to ensure that *Every Last Child* has the opportunity to survive and learn.⁹ To overcome the financial, discriminatory and accountability barriers to inclusion, we're calling on leaders across the world to make **Three Guarantees to All Children**:

1. Fair finance – sustainable financing of and free access to essential services

Public investment in good-quality and equitable essential services must be increased and improved, notably by increasing public revenues through ensuring that international actions stem illicit financial flows and tax avoidance along with other financial reforms. Universal essential services will help all children, but they will help excluded children the most.

2. Equal treatment – end discriminatory policies, norms and behaviours

Discriminatory norms must change, and legal and policy barriers be removed (for instance, those that tolerate and perpetuate violence in schools and child marriage).

3. Accountability of decision-makers – to children, their families and communities

Greater participation of excluded groups – including children – in policy-making and budget allocation must be ensured.

b. Investing in children

Lack of public investment in quality essential services remains a key barrier for the sustainable realization of children's rights. To deliver on the ambition of the 2030 Agenda in a way that protects and realizes children's rights, UN Member States must ensure sufficient, equitable and effective public resource mobilization, budget allocation and spending on children.

To implement the SDGs in a way that protects child rights, Member States must translate international commitments to investment in children, including in paragraph 8 of the 2030 Agenda, paragraph 7 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and in the Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 28/19 on 'Towards better investment in the rights of the child', into the necessary budgetary and other fiscal measures. These international commitments reinforce legal obligations outlined in the UNCRC (article 4) to dedicate sufficient public resources to realize children's rights.

⁸Save the Children (2016) *Every Last Child report*. Available at: http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0df91d2eba74a%7D/EVERY_LAST_CHILD_.PDF

⁹See Save the Children's *Every Last Child* campaign: <https://campaigns.savethechildren.net/>

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 19 on “Public Budgeting for the Realization of Children’s Rights”¹⁰ is a key document that Member States should integrate into their budgetary and other fiscal processes to ensure more and better investment in children’s rights. The General Comment can also ensure that Member States invest sufficient public resources in implementing the SDGs through a child rights lens.

Both the HRC resolution 28/19 and the UNCRC General Comment No.19 also recognize the importance of investment in children for sustainable development:

UNCRC GC No, 19, paragraph 12 - The Committee reiterates that prioritizing children’s rights in budgets, at both national and subnational levels, as required by the Convention, contributes not only to realizing those rights, but also to long-lasting positive impacts on future economic growth, sustainable and inclusive development, and social cohesion.

HRC resolution 28/19, paragraph 4 - Affirms that investment in children has high economic and social returns, and that all related efforts to ensure resources allocated and spent for children should serve as an instrument for the fulfilment of children’s rights

Children should be prioritized in budgetary and other fiscal decision-making. This is also in line with HRC resolution 28/19 on ‘Towards better investment in the rights of the child’, paragraph 22 (b) ‘To make children a priority in budgetary allocations and spending as a means to ensure the highest return on the limited resources available’.

Where resources are limited, children’s rights should be given precedence. The UNCRC General Comment No.19 also provide guidance on this in paragraph 31: “The obligation imposed on States parties by article 4 to realize children’s economic, social and cultural rights “to the maximum extent” also means that they should not take deliberate retrogressive measures in relation to economic, social and cultural rights. States parties should not allow the existing level of enjoyment of children’s rights to deteriorate. In times of economic crisis, regressive measures may only be considered after assessing all other options and ensuring that children are the last to be affected, especially children in vulnerable situations.”

To fulfil the 2030 Agenda pledge to “leave no one behind” and to put “the furthest behind first”, governments must ensure that their resource mobilization, budget allocation and spending also cater for the rights of the most excluded groups of children and that they do not discriminate against any child or group of children in budgets allocation and spending. As outlined in the UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 42 “States parties should take proactive measures to ensure positive outcomes for all children in relation to legislation, policies and programmes by mobilizing sufficient revenue and allocating and spending funds accordingly”. In order to achieve substantive equality, States parties should identify groups of children that qualify for special measures and use public budgets to implement such measures. In General Comment No.19, paragraph 61 it is said that ‘States parties shall not discriminate against any child or category of children through resource mobilization or the allocation or execution of public funds. Spending equitably does not always mean spending the same amount on each child, but rather making spending decisions that lead to substantive equality among children. Resources should be fairly targeted to promote equality. States parties are obliged to remove all discriminatory barriers that children may face in accessing their rights.’

To know and show how much governments invest in children, allocation and spending on children must be made visible in budgets. Budget classification systems must at a minimum be designed in such a way that it is possible to

¹⁰UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2016) *General Comment No.19 “Public Budgeting for the Realization of the Rights of the Child”*. Available at: <https://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/6613857.74612427.html>

track allocation to children by age, gender, geographical area and categories of children in vulnerable situations (also UNCRC General Comment No. 19, paragraph 84). The availability, including in the public domain, of timely, comprehensive and disaggregated data on the situation of all children in a country is crucial to inform resource planning, budget allocation and spending, not least to ensure that budgets are responsive to the needs and rights of the most excluded groups of children.

Governments should conduct child rights impact assessments to identify the effects of SDG implementation on children, including the impact of legislation, policies, programmes and budgets on children, especially excluded groups of children who might have special needs and therefore require a larger share of spending to ensure their access to public quality services (in line with UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 47). HRC resolution 28/19, paragraph 16 (b) also requires that ‘Conducting assessments of the impact of fiscal policies, as well as budget allocation and spending, on the realization of the rights of child, including the most disadvantaged and marginalized, and of how investments in any sector can serve the best interests of the child’.

Governments need to secure sufficient resources to deliver children’s rights and the SDGs. SDG target 17.1 covers the strengthening of domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection, while target 16.5 aims at reducing corruption. Domestic resource mobilization, particularly through progressive taxation that does no harm to children, will continue to be one of the most significant and sustainable source of revenue for governments. Many governments could mobilize far more domestic revenue by reforming their tax systems and improving compliance. In addition, fiscal space could also be expanded by cracking down on corruption and wastages and improving efficiency and effectiveness in public spending. The UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 74, requires that ‘States parties should take concrete sustainable measures to mobilize domestic resources at the national and subnational levels, such as through taxes and non-tax revenues’. Paragraph 34 of the same document states that ‘Corruption and mismanagement of public resources in State revenue mobilization, allocation and spending represents a failure by the State to comply with its obligation to use the maximum of available resources. The Committee underlines the importance of States parties allocating resources to prevent and eliminate any corruption affecting children’s rights, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.’ HRC resolution 28/19, paragraph 12 (e) also asks governments ‘To combat corrupt or illicit practices at all levels, including tax evasion and illicit financial flows, that directly affect the resources available for the realization of children’s rights, and in this regard to consider, as appropriate, developing global partnerships to that end’.

Resource mobilization at national levels need to be supported internationally, including by international action to stem illicit financial flows and tax avoidance along with other financial reforms. SDG target 16.4 commits Member States to reduce illicit financial flows. These international actions would include commitments to mandatory public country-by-country reporting to help flag discrepancies between economic activities in a given country and the tax being paid by companies in the same country; to public registries of beneficial ownership for companies and trusts to reveal who is ultimately benefitting and therefore accountable for the practices taking place; and to multilateral automatic exchange of tax information to enable governments to act by making necessary tax information from other countries available. The UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 75, makes a brief reference to illicit financial flows ‘The Committee underlines the fact that international and regional cooperation for the realization of children’s rights can include mobilization of resources to targeted programmes, as well as measures relating to taxation, combating tax evasion, debt management, transparency and other issues’. HRC resolution 28/19, paragraph 12 (e) states that ‘To combat corrupt or illicit practices at all levels, including tax evasion and illicit financial flows, that directly affect the resources available for the realization of children’s rights, and in this regard to consider, as appropriate, developing global partnerships to that end’.

The poorest countries will continue to require development aid to support their own efforts. States providing official development assistance should fulfill their ODA commitments and be encouraged to provide funding for the implementation of all children's rights. SDG target 17.2 commits developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/ONI to developing countries. The UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 35, says that 'States parties have an obligation to cooperate with one another in the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights, including the rights of the child. States that lack the resources needed to implement the rights enshrined in the Convention and its Optional Protocols are obliged to seek international cooperation, be it bilateral, regional, interregional, global or multilateral. States parties with resources for international cooperation have an obligation to provide such cooperation with the aim of facilitating the implementation of children's rights in the recipient State'. And paragraph 75 says that 'States parties shall seek international cooperation if the available resources to realize the rights of children are insufficient. Such cooperation shall take the Convention and its Optional Protocols into account both on the part of the recipient and the donor States. The Committee underlines the fact that international and regional cooperation for the realization of children's rights can include mobilization of resources to targeted programmes, as well as measures relating to taxation, combating tax evasion, debt management, transparency and other issues'.

c. Partnerships for implementation

Global partnerships are key to achieving the SDGs, it is therefore essential that synergies between different goals are harnessed through cross-sector coordination and collaboration, including with human rights and child rights actors.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health¹¹, the Global Partnership for Education¹² or the newly launched Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children¹³ play a critical role in mobilizing and sharing expertise, financial resources, technologies and knowledge to achieve the 2030 Agenda for children. Other initiatives, such as the Education Cannot Wait Fund¹⁴ have also been launched to tackle implementation of SDG 4 in humanitarian crises to ensure that all children can adequately access education in emergencies. These partnerships and funds have partly answered the call for more and better funding, more and better support and more and better collaboration and commitment but more Member States support is also needed to ensure that they fully address the needs of the children left behind.

d. Accountability and monitoring

The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on governments being held to account for progress on goals and targets and people, including children, having an active role and opportunities to meaningfully engage in monitoring and accountability processes at local, national, regional and international levels¹⁵. Paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda sets out that follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda should be guided by the principles of universality, transparency, equity, participation and respect for human rights.

¹¹ <http://www.who.int/pmnch/en/>

¹² <http://www.globalpartnership.org/>

¹³ <http://www.end-violence.org/>

¹⁴ <http://www.educationcannotwait.org/>

¹⁵ Save the Children (2016) *Towards A New Accountability Paradigm: An Accountability Framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Available at: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/New_Accountability_Paradigm.pdf

In order to strengthen the implementation of SDG goals and targets and to ensure alignment with existing international human rights, including child rights obligations, the 2030 Agenda accountability framework should work in synergy with and build upon the recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms. This will ensure a two-way systematic flow of relevant data, analysis and recommendations. For example, recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism and special procedures, and conclusions of human rights treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, should inform national and thematic reviews at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development . A compilation of all relevant conclusions and recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms relating to the 17 SDGs per country could be summarized in a UN report. Member States should also reference measures taken to implement these recommendations in their voluntary national reports to the HLPF. International human rights mechanisms should, where relevant, also include a focus on the SDGs in their reviews of states and make recommendations on the implementation of relevant SDGs in accordance with international human rights obligations. To facilitate this work, the UN Secretariat could prepare a compilation of all relevant recommendations of the HLPF relating to the status of implementation of the SDGs and targets per country and link this up to relevant human rights obligations. This compilation can then be used by international human rights mechanisms in their review of states.

States need to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda linked to existing international human rights obligations to ensure that all people, including children and excluded groups, are aware of the commitments that have been made under the Agenda, their rights and how they can meaningfully engage participate in implementation and accountability.

States should conduct regular reviews of progress towards implementation of the SDGs that are inclusive, consultative and participatory, providing an enabling environment and opportunities for all people to participate. Reviews should be published in a timely manner and disseminated in accessible formats.

It is important to base national level reviews on global indicators and any additional national indicators set by countries, which are relevant to their national context and priorities. To be able to monitor progress for all segments of society and to reach the furthest behind first, indicators should, at a minimum, be disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location.

The 2030 Agenda pledges to "leave no one behind" and "to reach the furthest behind first" should also be considered guiding principles in designing accountability processes at all levels. On the one hand, states should take proactive, concrete steps to focus on the progress of the most excluded groups, including by ensuring the disaggregation of data for all social and economic groups for all people-focused targets, and by setting national stepping stone equity targets to prioritize reaching the groups that are the furthest behind.

On the other hand, countries must also ensure that accountability processes are inclusive and do not leave anyone behind. Leaving no one behind in accountability processes means addressing the financial, linguistic, logistical, and technological or age barriers that prevent the participation of specific groups. It means engaging all people, especially excluded groups, in regular and continuous interactive dialogue to assess progress. Excluded groups must not be viewed as mere beneficiaries of the new agenda, but as active participants who can contribute to implementation and accountability by freely providing their views as to whether government policies and actions are achieving their intended aims. In designing or revising processes for accountability at all levels, governments should seek the views of a diverse range of people, including children, through inclusive and open consultations.

In order for adults and children to engage in public decisions-making and accountability processes, governments need to ensure an enabling environment for civil society to play its role, including by guaranteeing the rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and access to information in law and practice.

Accountability processes at all levels need to be designed and implemented in ways that allow for children, including the most excluded groups of children, to participate in these processes in a meaningful, safe and inclusive way. The UNCRC provides children with the right to participate in public affairs (Article 12, UNCRC). In addition to fulfilling an international legal obligation, the participation of children in local, national, regional and international accountability processes can assist governments to design more relevant policies and allocate resources more effectively. Ensuring children's views and recommendations are heard and responded to is critical to achieve the SDGs. It also helps to strengthen children's civic engagement, putting their civil rights and freedoms into practice. Save the Children's work with children across different regions and recent research with more than 1.600 children from 60 countries¹⁶ have generated a number of good practices and lessons learned that should be considered in ensuring children's meaningful, inclusive and safe participation in accountability processes including:

- Children need their own spaces and organizations – online and offline – where they can meet, learn about their rights and the 2030 Agenda, share experiences and take joint action.
- Children need access to age-appropriate and timely information in a language they can understand, such as the child-friendly version of the SDGs which is available in different languages.¹⁷
- Children need access to child-friendly, meaningful, age-appropriate and safe formal mechanisms and spaces where they can engage with decision-makers and provide input into accountability processes.
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can provide avenues for children's participation and peer learning. Children could, for example, participate in High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) reviews via new technology with all meetings webcast.
- Decision-makers at all levels need to be ready to listen to children and demonstrate accountability by providing feedback to them on how their inputs have been considered and acted upon.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has provided multiple guidelines on child participation, including General Comment No. 12 and its 'Working methods for the participation of children in the reporting process of the Committee on the Rights of the Child'. General Comment No.19 also contain strong language of children's participation in budgetary and other fiscal processes and also stresses the importance of 'States parties to budget for and provide contextually appropriate materials, mechanisms and institutions to enable meaningful participation' (paragraph 54).

Furthermore, people, including children, will not be able to engage meaningfully in 2030 Agenda accountability processes without access to relevant data and information. SDG target 16.10 commits States to provide access to information. To achieve this and to support accountability, data and other public information must be freely available in a timely manner, broadly disseminated, and converted into formats that are easy to understand and use by practitioners, policymakers and people alike, while also protecting the privacy and safety of individuals and groups. UNCRC General Comment No.19, paragraph 62 states that 'States parties should develop and maintain public financial management systems and practices that are open to scrutiny, and information on public resources

¹⁶ Centre for Children's Rights and Save the Children (2016), *Children Speak Out – Summary of research with children on their civil and political rights*, <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/enabling-exercise-civil-and-political-rights-views-children>

¹⁷ Global Movement for Children of Latin America and Caribbean (2014), *The World We Want – A Young Person's Guide to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development*, [Online] available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16166_TWLL_Children_s_Goals_Booklet_\(Final_Edit\).pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16166_TWLL_Children_s_Goals_Booklet_(Final_Edit).pdf)

should be freely available in a timely manner. Transparency contributes to efficiency and combats corruption and mismanagement of public budgets, which in turn increases the public resources available to advance child rights. Transparency is also a prerequisite for enabling meaningful participation of the executive, legislatures and civil society, including children, in the budget process. The Committee emphasizes the importance of States parties actively promoting access to information about public revenues, allocations and spending related to children and adopting policies to support and encourage continuous engagement with legislatures and civil society, including children.'

