



Permanent
Mission of India
Geneva



Children's Right to Development: Action Pillars in Times of Crises

HRC57 Side-Event, 19 September 2024, 2-3 pm, Room XXIV PDN

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Since the Declaration on the Rights of the Child adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, numerous international standards have focused the human rights of children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child – the most widely ratified human rights treaty – adopts the best interests of the child as an overarching principle in protecting children's human rights. It focuses on the child's multidimensional development: physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. In addition to the obligations of States, parents and caregivers, businesses also have responsibilities to respect children's human rights, as elaborated by the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

2. Although the Declaration on the Right to Development does not expressly mention children, the phrase "every human person and all peoples" in Article 1 includes children and they "are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized". Several provisions of the Declaration provide a strong normative foundation to protect their human rights. For example, promoting "the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security" in line with Article 7 of the Declaration is critical, because children's rights are impacted disproportionately during conflicts.

3. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also provides an important pathway to realize children's human rights as several targets focus specifically on children. Yet, the progress so far in achieving children's human rights and development has been slow. About 200 million children below the age of 5 are affected by undernutrition, while over 600 million children are at a heightened risk of vector-borne diseases. More than 460 million children are living in or fleeing from conflict, and at least one billion children suffer the consequences of violence every year. Moreover, COVID-19, conflicts and climate change have exacerbated challenges to realize children's human rights.

4. What should the international community do differently to realise all human rights of all children? The UN **Special Rapporteur on right to development, Prof. Surya Deva, in his report to the Human Rights Council's 57th Session (A/HRC/57/43) articulates why the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development, should inform and complement children's rights and child development under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards.** He proposes 5 action pillars to overcome ongoing challenges in realizing the right to development of children: investing in child development, nurturing responsible leadership, enabling participation, ensuring safety and facilitating remediation.

5. **Against this background – and continuing the fruitful discussions in the HRC54 side event on implementing the right to development and the 2030 agenda – this side event aims to bring together representatives of States, UN agencies, treaty bodies and civil society organisations with a view to discuss the importance of taking decisive collective actions to realise children's human rights, including the right to development.** The event will provide an opportunity to various stakeholders to share good practices, including those related to international cooperation, in overcoming ongoing challenges.

6. This HRC57 side event is **co-organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development and the Permanent Mission of India; and co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Brazil, the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg, and the Permanent Mission of South Africa.**

When: Thursday 19 September 2024, 2 – 3 pm
Where: Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Format: *In-person*

Flow:

1. **Introduction: Moderator, Ms. Federica Donati, Chief, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR**
3 mins: Introduce the report and topic, and the panellists
Outline focus and objectives of the panel discussion
2. **Opening Remarks: H.E. Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, Permanent Representative of India**
5 mins: Introduce the topic and welcome participants
Outline how India views synergy between Children’s Rights and Right to Development
3. **Mr. Surya Deva, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Development**
7 mins: Overview of the report, including his perspectives on how the Right to Development complements children’s rights and child development under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards; provide a briefing on the suggested ways forward
4. **H.E. Ambassador Tovar Da Silva Nunes, Permanent Representative of Brazil:** 5 mins
5. **H.E. Ambassador Lotte Knudsen, Permanent Observer of the EU Delegation:** 5 mins
6. **H.E. Ambassador Mxolisi Nkosi, Permanent Representative of South Africa:** 5 mins
7. **Ms. Mikiko Otani, Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:** 5 mins
8. **Ms Clélia Bringolf, International Advocacy Manager, Fondation Apprentis d’Auteuil International:** 5 mins
9. **Q&A/Comments and Interventions:** 20 mins