

40th session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 25 February–22 March 2019

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education”

Mr. President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) and its partner organizations working with children with disabilities in Eastern Europe and Côte d’Ivoire welcome the **Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive”** and the presentations delivered.

Whilst we all agree that children with disabilities must enjoy their rights to education like other children, our organizations are strongly of the view that empowerment of children with disability is a pre-requisite for an effective inclusive education as well as a deinstitutionalization process that protects them from violence, isolation and exclusion. There is a need to prepare in advance children¹, including with severe disabilities, to efficiently enter the mainstream school system with appropriate education tools and infrastructures.

To achieve these goals and for the resolution under discussion, our organizations call on States to:

- 1. Empower children with disabilities to participate, in accordance with their evolving capacities, in the development and enforcement of inclusive education tools, services, methods and infrastructures;**
- 2. Ensure that the education of children with severe physical and mental disabilities is delivered in the most appropriate languages, modes and means of communication for the individual, in environments which maximize academic, social and personal development, including the provision of assistive compensatory aids, specific learning materials in accessible formats, communication aids and assistive and information technology;**
- 3. Create a conducive environment for the development and functioning of civil society operations, and adopt community-based responses that allow and strengthen cooperation among States bodies, local governments, municipal entities, civil society organizations and families dealing with children with disabilities, to ensuring a public control and monitoring over relevant services and policies, including inclusive education;**
- 4. Acknowledge that institutionalization of children with disabilities as a response to disability-related challenges in many parts of the world may undermine and hinder children’s development and effective access to inclusive education;**
- 5. Anticipate and ensure that children with disabilities, in accordance with their evolving capacities, follow curricula that allow for their future autonomy.**

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ See our written statement submitted to the current session of the Human Rights Council, A/HRC/40/NGO/170.