



**40<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 25 February–22 March 2019**

**Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG) (A/HRC/40/50).**

**Mr. President,**

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) and its partner organizations involved in the programme on violence, in particular of sexual nature, against children in Eastern Europe<sup>1</sup> and Latin America<sup>2</sup>, welcome the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Rightly, the report points out that the 2030 Agenda ambitiously calls for “a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation”. Its Target 16.2 as well as Target 4.a) (education), Target 5.3 (child marriage and female genital mutilation) and Target 8.7 (recruitment and use of child soldiers) provide for a new momentum to build a world fit for children, a world free from violence, fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Despite some political commitments materialized by path-finding States and specific national policies, the risk of violence in children’s lives is still unfortunately high worldwide. “No child behind” should not remind a mere slogan but a meaningful and strong action opportunity. As 2019 is a year of a progress review of the implementation of the whole of the 2030 Agenda, our organizations would like to suggest that the global thematic report on ending violence against children that will be produced by the SRSG addresses the following:

1. **National policies are not always provided with adequate resources to appropriately capture and address local needs.** This situation is counter-productive as the expectations are not met, leaving States officials in charge of the implementation frustrated and children unprotected;
2. **National policies still do not fully consider children as rights holders and therefore entitled to enjoy and claim their rights.** Some national systems still lack effective and efficient referral mechanisms for victims of violence and the assistance, counseling, care and protection services are not always accessible, affordable, timely and effective;
3. **National policies are not always holistic and inclusive.** Some children with disabilities, migrant children, children from minority groups are excluded. Policies should be non discriminatory and provide services for all children;
4. **National policies are not always monitored and evaluated with the participation of children themselves, civil society organizations, professional associations, academia, religious leaders and independent children’s rights institutions;**
5. **National policies do not always create a desegregated data system** to compile statistics to inform States official’s endeavors, anticipate strategic actions and strengthen the national prevention, assistance and protection system;

Whilst taking stock of the 4-year implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we hope that the SRSG’s evidence-based report will give voice to children and organizations that defend their rights, reflect their views, experiences and recommendations to map out genuine ways towards a world free from violence against children.

**Thank you Mr. President.**

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<sup>1</sup>Arevamanuk from Armenia, Bir Duyno from Kirghizstan, Children Support Center from Lithuania and Doctors to Children from the Russian Federation, Public Health Foundation of Georgia (PHF) from Georgia and Women’s Consortium of Ukraine from Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup>Juventud para Cristo (JPC) from Uruguay, Vicaría Pastoral Social Caritas (VPSC) from Chile, Base Educativa y Comunitaria de Apoyo (BECA) from Paraguay, Centro de Desarrollo y Asesoría Psicosocial (CEDAPP) and Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones (CESIP) from Peru.