

*10 years on*  
**The World Report on  
Violence against Children**  
*Past, present and future*

*Brief Report*



*Side Event to the 33rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council  
27 September 2016*

**Organisers:**

Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect - Global Partnership to End Violence against Children - Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Sponsors:**

Permanent Missions of Switzerland, Uruguay, Sweden, Mexico and Portugal

series of events on the rights of the child and the SDGs



SRE

SWISS PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION  
OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Permanent Mission of Portugal to the  
United Nations Office and other  
international organizations in Geneva



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF SPAIN

Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun Svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès  
de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres  
organisations internationales à Genève



Permanent Mission of Uruguay  
to the United Nations

27 September 2016

10 years on –  
the World Report on  
**Violence Against Children.**  
Past, present and future

16 to 18 hrs.  
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland

The event will be followed by a reception

Panel

**Professor Paulo Pinheiro,**  
(Video message.)  
Independent  
Expert for the UN  
Study on Violence  
against Children

**Ms. Marta Santos Pais,**  
Special  
Representative of  
the United Nations  
Secretary-General  
on Violence against  
Children

**Dr. Etienne Krug,**  
Director for  
Management of  
Noncommunicable  
Diseases, Disability,  
Violence and Injury  
Prevention, WHO &  
Co-Chair of the  
Executive Committee of  
the Global Partnership  
to End Violence Against  
Children



# CONTENTS

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....   | 4  |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>BACKGROUND</b> .....   | 4  |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>OVERVIEW</b> .....   | 5  |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>VIDEO MESSAGE BY PROFESSOR PAULO PINHEIRO</b> .....  | 6  |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> .....   | 6  |
| 5.1        | Questions Posed to Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children .....   | 6  |
| 5.2        | Questions Posed to Dr. Etienne Krug, Director of Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO, and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children ..... | 9  |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>DIALOGUE WITH STATES</b> .....   | 10 |
| 6.1        | The Representative of Switzerland .....   | 10 |
| 6.2        | The Representative of Portugal .....  | 11 |
| 6.3        | The Representative of Mexico .....  | 12 |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> .....   | 12 |
| 7.1        | Questions Posed to Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children .....   | 12 |
| 7.2        | Questions Posed to Dr. Etienne Krug, Director of Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO, and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children ..... | 13 |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>DIALOGUE WITH STATES</b> .....   | 14 |
| 8.1        | The Representative of Uruguay .....   | 14 |
| 8.2        | The Representative of Sweden .....  | 14 |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF)</b> .....  | 15 |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>GENERAL DEBATE</b> .....   | 15 |
| 10.1       | Questions and Comments from the Floor .....   | 15 |
| 10.2       | Answers from the Panel .....  | 16 |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>ANNEX</b> .....  | 17 |
| 11.1       | Participants list .....   | 17 |
| 11.2       | Inspire Website link .....  | 19 |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During the 33rd Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), a side event was held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the World Report on Violence Against Children (2006), organized by the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect; the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children; the Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children; and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Key panel speakers participating in the event, included: Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children; Dr. Krug, Director of Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children; and Professor Paulo Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the UN Study on Violence Against Children (2006), who delivered a video message. The event was moderated by Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director of Arigatou International Geneva. The main objective of the event was to discuss the progress, including the successes and remaining challenges, of these last 10 years, since the adoption of the World Report on Violence Against Children.

Violence against children cuts across boundaries of geography, race, class, religion and culture. It occurs in homes, schools and streets; in places of work and entertainment; and in care and detention centres. Perpetrators include parents, family members, teachers, caretakers, law enforcement authorities and other children. Factors such as gender, race, ethnic origin, disability or social status make some children even more vulnerable to violence. The World Report on Violence against Children was the outcome of the first comprehensive global attempt to describe the scale of all forms of violence against children and its impact. The impact of violence against children is, moreover, documented in the United Nations Study that is the subject of the World Report on Violence against Children. The Study outlines what must be done to confront this challenge, specifically focusing on the role of States.

The event had three main objectives. First of all, its objective was to contribute to raising awareness of the urgency to prevent and address violence against children. Secondly, to discuss the link between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, in particular, violence against children related goals and targets. Finally, its third objective was to share strategies to prevent, address and eliminate violence against children and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### **Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect**

The Working Group on Children and Violence aims to promote action that will prompt violence prevention strategies and protect children who are vulnerable. In particular the Working Group focuses on the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and works towards the implementation of this instrument as a legal obligation for Governments and as a core protection tool for children as well as towards the implementation of the recommendations to the UN Study on Violence against Children as a core protection tool for children.

### **Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children**

To promote dissemination of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and ensure an effective follow up to its recommendations, the Study called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG).

The General Assembly took note of the Study's recommendations and requested the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Representative on violence against children to act as a high-profile, global independent advocate to promote prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children (Resolution 62/141).

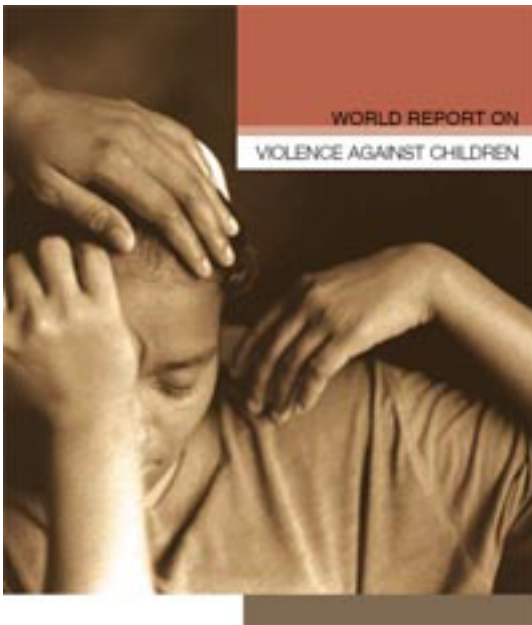
### **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**

As part of Agenda 2030, the world's Governments have set ambitious targets to end violence by 2030, in order to deliver the vision of a world where all children – girls and boys alike – grow up free from violence and exploitation. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children will support the efforts of those seeking to prevent violence, protect childhood, and help make societies safe for children. It is working with partners across sectors with governments, the 'UN family', civil society, the private sector, foundations, researchers and academics, and children themselves to a) build political will; b) promote solutions; c) accelerate action; and d) strengthen collaboration.

### **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity. It has a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights.

## 3. OVERVIEW



Children's human rights were formally recognized by the international community through the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989. The UNCRC contains a comprehensive set of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, which are considered to be universal, indivisible and interdependent. Four guiding principles underpin the Convention: non-discrimination; the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate. According to this third principle, the State has a responsibility to ensure children's survival and development to the maximum extent possible. These protection rights include the protecting children from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty.

While some progress has been made since 2006, when the World Report was launched, children continue to be subjected to violence. More than 50 States have a clear legal prohibition of all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment, but in practice the children are still not fully protected. There is a strong need for both qualitative and quantitative data and evidence, in order to have clear picture of the real situation of these millions of children. Only then we can continue to put into practice effective strategies and policies to protect our children and to measure progress.

## 4. VIDEO MESSAGE BY PROFESSOR PAULO PINHEIRO



**Professor Paulo Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children** - based on the findings presented in his report of October 2006 - stressed the sheer scale of violence meted out to children on a daily basis. It is concerning that now, 10 years after the submission of his report, children are still physically, and lawfully, assaulted at their homes and schools, among other public and private places. Adults, including parents, continue to find ways to justify the

assault. They resist giving children the same protection in law from assault that adults have long enjoyed. Moreover, still only 10% of children worldwide live in countries where they have full legal protection from all forms of corporal punishment.

On the other hand, Pinheiro welcomes the progress made over these last 10 years and is pleased to see that 49 States have now achieved prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings, and a further 57 States are now also committed to achieving a complete legal ban. SDG Target 16.2, on ending all forms of violence against children, has also contributed to a change in how children are viewed and how they should be treated.

Finally, Pinheiro calls upon States to work collaboratively and urgently towards achieving the SDG of ending violence against children. They should denounce all attempts to justify or defend violence, and pledge to change the laws so that children are fully protected and can grow up free from violence.

## 5. PANEL DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Questions Posted to Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

What have been the main achievements of these last years and what were the most difficult challenges in addressing the issue on violence against children?

SRSR Santos Pais, reminded of the continued relevance of the UN Study on Violence Against Children. The Study should be seen as policy guidance; a resource that we can all use every day. The findings and recommendations of the Study built ground for the inclusion of the Target 16.2 on ending all

forms of violence against children and other relevant targets in the new Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

In addition to the success with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the Study has influenced the development of new standards at all levels. A good global example is the third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OPIC-CRC), which allows individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two Optional Protocols. At the regional level we have seen the adoption of strong Regional Political Declarations and Regional Action Plans on Violence against Children to guide implementation.



At the national level achievements include the fact that now more than 50 States have a legal ban on all forms of violence against children and close to 100 countries have a national agenda on the issue. Moreover, an increasing number of countries gather data to assess the prevalence of violence and to inform policy and budgetary decisions. And finally, the role of children as active contributors has strengthened over the years. In many cases national and regional platforms are in place to enable regular discussions amongst children, and to interact with policy makers. SRSB Santos Pais highlighted how the 2030 Agenda was developed with the active participation of more than 800,000 children from all regions and their call for violence against children to be considered as one of the priority concerns was heard and reflected in the outcome. Clearly, they should also be part of the implementation and monitoring process.

Moreover, what are the current priorities that, according to you, we can and should work towards?

Despite the several achievements over the last years, there are still a lot of challenges. The greatest challenge, according to SRSB Santos Pais, remains the fact that violence against children is an issue

that is still much hidden. Violence against children often happens behind closed doors, in the privacy of the home or behind closed doors of institutions. Children feel afraid to raise their voice and tell their stories and professionals may feel hesitant to intervene and lack the skills to do so in a way that does not cause further harm to the victim. Low levels of reporting, investigation and prosecution contribute to prevailing sense of fear and impunity.

Other challenges include the need for high level coordination at the national level. Violence is a multifaceted problem; it affects all the rights of the child and can only be effectively addressed through a comprehensive multi-sector approach. We also need to evaluate what we are doing and what difference we are making. Moreover, there is a lack of monitoring tools. Even though there are presently more data services available, we still lack data on violence against children with disabilities, LGBTI children, migrant children and children seeking asylum. Many countries need support to enhance their national capacity and tools and methodologies to collect relevant data.

Finally, SRSB Santos Pais calls upon every State to seize the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda and its review and follow-up process. States need to mainstream the Sustainable Development Agenda at the national level. To support this process and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the UN Violence Study, SRSB Santos Pais launched this year a social mobilization initiative, “High Time to End Violence against Children”, together with many partners. The initiative is a reminder of the imperative and urgency of our cause and emphasizes that the countdown to 2030 has started.

How do you think the Sustainable Development Goals shall be monitored to ensure proper implementation, taking into account the gender dimension and accountability, in particular in regard to violence against children?

First of all, according to SRSB Santos Pais, we need to bring the Sustainable Development Agenda into the national context. This needs to be done formally, by inscribing the Agenda into a national development plan.. Since national agendas are State led, each country can follow its own perception. Therefore, we need to have some sort of framework to have a common understanding on the Sustainable Development Agenda. According to SRSB Santos Pais, the recommendations that were adopted by the United Nations Study provide this type of framework. SRSB Santos Pais noted that during the first High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) voluntary reporting cycle this July there were practically no references to children or violence. We need to continue joint efforts to ensure that next year’s theme on poverty will change the course.

Furthermore, we need to bring the discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals into the work of the different human rights mechanisms. It is also important that the leadership comes from States themselves. They need to adopt a number of actions, and support other States in order to enable them to take action and be actively involved. Apart from the States’ own involvement, we must not forget the importance of having children involved in the decision making and awareness-raising processes. They can share their own experiences and inform us and, therefore, they are the ones that can make a real difference.



## 5.2 Dr. Krug, Director of Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

With the launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, what would be the main priorities and challenges to be faced from now, until 2030, by the Global Partnership and how does the Global Partnership plan to tackle these?

Dr. Krug, speaking on behalf of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, informed us about the new Partnership. The Partnership was launched on the 12th of July 2016, to make ending violence a public priority. It was launched on the initiative of UNICEF. The New Partnership has three main goals, namely: 1) continue to build political will; 2) accelerate action at national and local level in order to tackle all forms of violence against children; and 3) strengthen collaboration between all parts of society, all sectors, international agencies, etc. Alongside the launch of the Partnership, was the launch of INSPIRE: a technical package of seven strategies to prevent violence against children.



The package is based on convergence between key agencies (including UNICEF, World Health Organization - WHO, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC) in the strategies they have been recommending. INSPIRE presents the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on prevention programmes and services to reduce violence against children. The package will be central to the Partnership's strategy.

With regard to the priorities of the Global Partnership, according to Dr. Krug, one of the main priorities is multi-sectional collaboration. We cannot tackle the problem of violence against children sector by sector, we need to make sure that all the sectors work together towards the issue. Moreover, we must ensure that action is based on sound data and science. Finally, we must strengthen the quality and quantity of programs at the national level.

The main challenges, on the other hand, would include the fact that there are many Sustainable Development Goals, with even more Targets. It is hard to make sure that the priority goes to Target 16.2, on ending all forms of violence against children, without losing view of the other Targets. Secondly, funding remains a problem. Since violence against children is still seen as an issue within the family, the Government does not always feel it has responsibility. Parents are seen as the ones responsible for their own children and, therefore, the Government often ignores the problem and refuses to provide funding in order to work towards an adequate solution. Thus, this is linked to a final challenge, namely, to make violence against children a problem of the Government.

How will the Global Partnership collaborate with the human right mechanisms to promote and ensure accountability?

Dr. Krug stresses that the Global Partnership is open for collaboration with many different actors, such as for example, United Nations human rights mechanisms and civil society organizations. He believes that collaboration with human rights mechanisms will benefit both sides. Not only will the Partnership benefit from the relationship with these entities, but they will also benefit from the work delivered by the Partnership.

There are many different opportunities in which collaboration can exist. For example, with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of the Human Rights Council. Dr. Krug hopes that this collaboration will materialize both at the international and national levels.

## 6. DIALOGUE WITH STATES

How do you see the role of the Human Rights Council in addressing violence against children in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and how do you think coordination and accountability can be strengthened?

**6.1 The Representative of Switzerland, Mr. Frédéric Chenais**, pointed out that almost all United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures have potential to contribute, directly or indirectly, to the promotion and protection of children's rights. Human Rights mandates of the United Nations, such as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Children in Armed Conflict, and United Nations special procedures, such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography have placed the issue of violence against children at the heart of their mandates.

Switzerland sees two different ways in which the Human Rights Council can address violence against children in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. First of all, the Human Rights Council should include, as often as possible, reference to these Goals in its various resolutions and reports, to ensure the clear link to its Agenda. Secondly, the Human Rights Council must actively participate in the High Level Political Forum, which will be following up on the implementation of the Agenda.

Finally, beyond the role of the Human Rights Council, Switzerland calls upon States to continue to

collect data and share information on violence against children. Such as, for example, data on children deprived of liberty, which the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty will gather.



**6.2 The Representative of Portugal, Mr. Eduardo Pinto Silva**, recognized how 10 years have passed since the groundbreaking UNSG's Report on Violence - led by Professor Paulo Pinheiro - which resulted in the creation of the mandate of SRSG on Violence against Children in 2009. Fantastic progress has been made since then throughout the world and the SRSG's personal commitment and leadership have been of paramount importance in this regard. Portugal has been since the very first moment of her mandate an unconditional supporter and thanks her for all her work.

It is at the same time true that ending violence against children is a task that continues and will always continue to need utmost vigilance and efforts. We cannot afford losing momentum on this endeavour and the new Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes an incredible opportunity to strengthen those efforts.

In this regard, Portugal very much welcomes the High Time Initiative, launched last March by the Office of the SRSG in collaboration with many partners, and we fully subscribe its goals. It is indeed high time to end all forms of violence against children and to change attitudes and practices that condone violence against children and to adopt and enforce laws and policies to prevent and respond to this phenomenon.

Focusing on the role of the Human Rights Council, it indeed plays a relevant role in the elimination of violence against children, including by raising awareness to this issue and by supporting efforts towards the implementation of the related SDG's. This can be done by (I) the approval of resolutions on the topic which request the OHCHR to prepare reports and studies on the topic providing important recommendations to member States; (II) through the Annual full day discussion on the Rights of the Child; (III) through its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism where member States can make recommendations on violence against children thus stimulating peer accountability; or (IV) by the important work of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Council's special proce-

dures. Finally, we consider of the utmost importance the multi stakeholder cooperation to end violence against children and we therefore welcome as well the presence here today of Dr. Etienne Krug and the important work also carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO).

**6.3 The Representative of Mexico, Mr. Raul Vargas Juárez,** is convinced that, even though all sectors of society share the responsibility of condemning and preventing violence against children, Governments are ultimately responsible for the protection of children. Governments must fulfil their human rights obligations and other commitments, and they must ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence.

Mexico welcomes Sustainable Development Goals 5.2 and 16.2, and recognizes that States still have a lot to do in order to comply with the implementation of these. To attain these Goals, we must, first of all, ensure proper data on violence against children. Secondly, we need to recognize national, cultural and traditional related challenges, in order to have a clear picture of where we stand in each country.

With regard to the role of the Human Rights Council, Mexico believes that the Council must continue to address violence against children by further mainstreaming violence related instruments into the United Nations policy agenda. Furthermore, we should recognize the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as an effective instrument for the Council to advance in this regard.

## 7. PANEL DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children

How are you promoting accountability and supporting the sharing of positive experiences and promising practices with Governments, regional bodies, civil society organizations and other partners to achieve change in children's protection?

**SRS** **Santos Pais** emphasized that the starting point of promoting accountability are the legal obligations undertaken by States themselves. Thus, we need to start with the standards that have been adopted and commitments that States have already adhered to. The Global Partnership is an important platform in this regard. In addition, two new partnerships relevant for violence against children were recently launched, namely, 1) the Global Alliance to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour and 2) the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. We can use those and other platforms and share good practices; however, we need something that is common to all of us. The Sustainable Development Goals provide that commonality, just as the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Moreover, there is a need for more and better data. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have contributed greatly to provide this. However, we cannot wait for the perfect data to act.

Another good strategy in order to promote accountability is regional cooperation. A number of high

level political declarations exist, but what matters most is the process to make these declarations effective; we need to promote this debate among States. Moreover, the pressure on national Governments is fundamental. This pressure should be seen as a healthy form of competition, necessary so that States can learn from each other.

## 7.2 Dr. Etienne Krug, Director of Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, WHO and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children

Can you share concrete evidence based on strategies relating to violence against children and what is INSPIRE and how can it be useful for Governments, civil society organizations and other parties?

**Dr. Krug**, presented INSPIRE: a technical package of seven evidence based strategies to prevent violence against children. INSPIRE is “the answer to the question on what needs to happen at national and local levels to ensure that we achieve Target 16.2 and other relevant Targets”. Each letter of INSPIRE stands for a strategy:

**I** stands for **implementation and enforcement of laws**, including laws against violent punishment, against sexual abuse and exploitation, and to limit access to alcohol and firearms. In South Africa, introduction and enforcement of a Firearms Control Act saved the lives of over 4,500 people in five years, many of whom were adolescents.

**N** stands for **norms and values change**. In Uganda, a community-based programme to change norms around family violence is estimated to have reduced by two thirds the number of children witnessing domestic violence between their parents.

**S** stands for **safe environments** and involves programmes to create safe environments where children gather and spend time.

**P** stands for **parent and caregiver support**. In South Africa, a group-based parent training and support programme reduced parents’ use of physical violence against their teenage children by over 40%.

**I** stands for **income and economic strengthening**. In Cote d’Ivoire, a programme combining group savings and loans with gender equity training reduced intimate partner violence by half, and with it the number of children witnessing such violence.

**R** stands for **response and support services for children affected by violence**. This includes for example: shelters, case management, post-rape health services, treatment programmes for juvenile offenders and foster care.

**E** And, finally **E stands for Education and life skills**: In various countries, schools-based life and social skills training programmes have reduced fighting, hitting and bullying by a quarter.

Dr. Krug points out that the next step is the need for scaling up and implementing INSPIRE informed programs at country level. Through the Partnership, we will work with States, UN agencies and actors, International and national NGOs to make sure that these strategies are effectively being implemented.

## 8. DIALOGUE WITH STATES

Name one or two promising practices in your countries and explain what makes them effective?

**8.1 The Representative of Uruguay,** Mrs. Cristina Gonzalez, starts by raising awareness to the fact that all resolutions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on the rights of the child mention the issue of violence as a concern, though, we need to do more than only negotiate language within resolutions. Uruguay has several pieces of legislation dealing with domestic violence, corporal punishment, and sexual violence, among others. Moreover, it established a framework in 2007, called the “Comprehensive System to Protect Children and Adolescents against Violence” (SIPIAV), including several specific intersectoral interventions with a participatory approach. These planned interventions mainly focus on prevention and care. The system works well at the local level, through Interdisciplinary Committees which are closer to the local communities and involve many different sectors as well.

In terms of prevention, Uruguay developed many awareness raising campaigns and works very close with the media and promoting child participation. One interesting initiatives was developed under the Program CEIBAL (One Laptop per child) which has nationwide coverage through the inclusion of child friendly software, specifically on violence against children. Furthermore, it was highlighted the development of several sectoral guidelines for, inter alia, teachers, health professionals and the



police on violence against children. Efforts in the collection data were highlighted, even though they remain a challenge.. Surveys have been carried out by the national statistical body and the Minister of Health Finally, Uruguay’s latest development is a law project under discussion in Parliament, focusing on intergenerational and gender violence. The text of the document is very advanced, it includes all types of violence and there are definitions and specific tasks for each sector.

**8.2 The Representative of Sweden,** Dr. Jannie Lilja, recalls that Sweden was the first country in the world to adopt legislation on the prohibition of corporal punishment (in 1979). There were two main reasons why this legislation had been effective. Mainly due to the many parallel efforts to communicate and socialize the content of the legislation. But also due to the various professional sectors which were involved, such as teachers, social workers, health professionals and the police.

The role of the Swedish social services had been very important. Social workers are training in how to talk to children and how to listen to them. This is key in order to support victims of violence. As long as children do not speak up and share their experiences, violence will remain hidden, and we will never be able to collect sound data. Lastly, the representative of Sweden points out that we cannot underestimate the importance of public spokespersons for children’s rights. They are the ones able to reach out with messages to society on the grave impact of violence against children – and, more importantly, on non-violent alternatives to bringing up children.

## 9. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

**The Representative of UNICEF, Ms. Nicolette Moodie**, welcomes the considerable progress made to tackle violence against children in the last ten and increased efforts to invest in both data collection and to build the evidence for what works to address violence. This has enabled a greater grip on the problem and therefore, an improved ability to respond and track progress. UNICEF is working hard to tackle inter-personal violence, through better data collection; and strengthened advocacy and partnerships.

As a founding member, UNICEF is working closely with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Finally, over the last three years, UNICEF has engaged in a multi-phased communication initiative to End Violence Against Children. The third phase launch of the #ENDviolence against children initiative aims 'to make violence against children everybody's business', by showcasing the settings where children should feel most secure and safe – the home, the school and the community – and empowering the public to take action. [Note: the third phase launch was delayed from October to December 2016].

## 10. GENERAL DEBATE

### 10.1 Questions and Comments from the Floor

**The Representative of "ATD Fourth World"**, a movement of solidarity among and in collaboration with the most excluded families around the world, is pleased to see that the issues of income and economic strengthening are included in the strategies laid down in INSPIRE. As an NGO working with people living in extreme poverty, they see how poverty, and the stress of survival, has a serious impact on children. This impact must be seen as a form of violence, since these children constantly live in insecurity.

The NGO, furthermore, expresses a point of concern with regard to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the next (third) cycle will be on reviewing actions taken towards the recommendations that have already been put forward. Therefore, ATD Fourth World asks the panel the following question: during the next cycle of the UPR, the Human Rights Council has decided to only focus on progress made in relation to the recommendations already put forward, therefore, "how do we bring issues of violence against children into the UPR discussion if those recommendations will not refer to violence?" Thus, we must discuss how we can nevertheless find a way for the Human Rights Council to contribute to the discussion on violence against children.

**The Representative of Slovenia** points out that only in July the national Government amended its law on violence within the family. The amended law is still in negotiations, thus, Slovenia hopes the Parliament will adopt it soon. The proposed amended law includes a ban on corporal punishment. Finally, the representative stresses that Slovenia will look into the issue of including violence against children in the country's national Sustainable Development Agenda.

**The Representative of "Ponimanie"** expresses its concern on the fact that the national Government of Belarus is not very cooperative when dealing with issues of human rights, and children in particu-

lar. If around fifty countries are highly cooperative with the issue, as mentioned by the panelists earlier, probably the same number of countries is absolutely non-cooperative. Therefore, the Representative of "Ponimanie" asks the panelists: "How can we use best practices to engage non-cooperative Governments to follow Sustainable Development Goal, Target 16.2 and what can we, as individuals and NGOs, do to contribute to tackle this issue?"



## 10.2 Answers from the Panel

**SRSR Santos Pais**, responding to the question posed by the representative of "Ponimanie", underlines that each one of us can make a difference including by raising awareness. The role of civil society is crucial and all governments and parents need further guidance on how to do better. Simply by listening to children we all can learn so much.

A final remark by SRSR Santos Pais: in March 2017, the Human Rights Council debate on the rights of the child will focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as per usual practice, a report will be prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) providing stakeholders a possibility to contribute. Another crucial opportunity for advocacy is the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) next summer, during which we hope to hear more member States reporting on the progress made to overcome violence against children, in the context of the theme "poverty".

**Dr. Krug**, responding to the question posed by the representative of "Ponimanie", stresses that we should not only focus on the "human rights argument" but we should complement this argument with other arguments as there are many ways to approach the issue. First of all, we can see violence against children as an issue of public health. For example, violence against children can lead to unwanted pregnancies, transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, victims pick up alcohol abuse, smoking, drug abuse, etc. Thus, the consequences of violence on the public health system are huge. Secondly, violence against children has an impact on the economy. The economic costs when dealing with violence are very high. Finally, we should use the media to raise awareness. Exposing the lack of action by the Government can put pressure on the Government both at national and international levels. Governments themselves made international commitments and, thus, they are the ones that should comply with these agreed standards.

**Final recommendations coming from the Panel:** in order to speed up the efforts in the Human Rights Council (HRC) a "group of friends" focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and violence against children could be considered. It is important to keep the dialogue moving and continue to encourage one another, including in the context of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.



## 11. ANNEX

### 11.1 List of participants

| Organization name  | Name            | Last name         |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| APG 23   | Francesca       | Salina            |
| Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas                 | Azalia          | Arias Gonzalez    |
| ATD Fourth World   | Irit            | Amaldi Schukraft  |
|  | Tony            | Low               |
|  | Janet           | Nelson            |
| Child Protection Area of Responsibility                  | Petra           | Heusser           |
|  | Sianoun         | Adi               |
| Child Protection Secretariat                             | Umberto         | Cancelliri        |
| Child Rights Connect                                     | Pierre          | De Billy          |
|  | Laure           | Elmaleh           |
| Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the good Shepherd | Yolanda         | Sanchez Contreras |
| Consultant in Children's rights                          | Andres          | Guerrero          |
| Consultant UNICEF  | Dan             | O'Donnell         |
| CRIN   | Isabelle        | Kolebinov         |
| DCI  | Irene           | Ceccanti          |
|  | Nerissa         | Morales Cordoba   |
| DCI Advisory Committee                                   | Sally Christine | Cornwell          |
| Defence for Children International                       | Johan           | Vigue             |
|  | Ileana          | Bello             |
|  | Estejanta       | Velez V           |
| Edmund Rice International                                | Anthony         | Comomazzo         |
|  | Brian           | Bond              |
| Education Network Philippines                            | Addie           | Unsi              |
| European Union Delegation                                | Ana             | Brito Maneira     |
| FMSI   | Sonia           | Montero Marcos    |
|  | Manel           | Mendoza           |
| FMSI _ Marist  | Evaristus       | Kasambwe          |
| Global Partnership                                       | Sabine          | Panotomalaca      |
|  | Roberta         | Cecchetti         |
| IFOR   | Martina         | Lanza             |

|  |                 |                  |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| IIMA_ VIDES intal                      | Merry Josephina | Isabella         |
| IIMA                                   | Neli            | Lolia            |
| Incetave                               | Beris           | Guynne           |
| ICRC                                   | Ricardo         | Fal Dutra Santos |
|  | Monique         | Nanchen          |
| Independant                            | Paulo           | Ferreira         |
| Indepedant Researcher                  | Essee           | Oruma            |
| International Dev. Law Organization    | Charlotte       | Horekens         |
| International Network for Human Rights | Anna            | Sassu            |
| ISPCAN                                 | Myriam          | Caranzano-maître |
| Make Mothers Matter                    | Valerie         | Bichelmeier      |
| Mission of Belgium                     | Stevens         | Thomas           |
| Mission of Brazil                      | Joao Lucas      | Almeida          |
|  | Rafael          | Soares           |
| Mission of Canada                      | Rosemary        | Mc Carney        |
| Mission of Colombia                    | Juan Carlos     | Moreno           |
| Mission of CZECK Republic              | Nikola          | Pasekova         |
| Mission of Estonia                     | Carmel          | Tellis           |
| Mission of Germany to the UN           | Lara            | Worbs            |
|  | Gunnar          | Schneider        |
| Mission of Guatemala                   | Monica          | Bolanos          |
|  | Gabriel         | Orellana         |
| Mission of Haiti                       | Patricia        | Moussigwac       |
| Mission of Mexico                      | Lucia           | Ramon            |
|  | Raul            | Vargas           |
| Mission of Slovenia                    | Klemen          | Ponikkar         |
| Mission of Sweden                      | Kadi            | Doumbia          |
| Mission of Switzerland                 | Frederic        | Chenais          |
| Mission of Tanzania                    | Dr. Catherine   | B. Sanza         |
| OHCHR                                  | Dorian          | Hall             |

|   |                |                   |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| OIDEL & Geoexpertise                          | Hayat          | Tib Ben Hammadi   |
| OMCT  | Carolina       | Borboro           |
| Plan International                            | Anya           | Gass              |
|   | Anne-Sophie    | Lois              |
| Permanent Delegation of the Covnest of Europe | Adela          | Murat             |
| Ponimanie                                     | Andrey         | makhanko          |
| Save the Children                             | Jorge          | Freyre            |
| Social Watch, Philippines                     | Rene           | Raya              |
| SOS Children's Villages International         | Alan           | Kikuchi-White     |
| TDH IF  | Laure          | Chello            |
| Terre des Hommes                              | Maria Carolina | Salaxar           |
|   | Peggy          | Herrmann-Ljubicic |
| UNICEF  | Nicolette      | Miidie            |
| UN retired                                    | Merida         | Moralez           |
| UN representative for ACEI                    | Justine        | Heckmann          |
| WCC   | Frederique     | Seidel            |
| WHO   | Alex           | Butchart          |
| World Health Organisation                     | Berit          | Kieselbach        |
| World Vision International                    | Constanza      | Maritnez          |
|   | Elena          | Gaia              |
| WWSF  | Elise          | Delley            |

### 11.2 INSPIRE Website link:

[http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/inspire/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire/en/)