



Joint Communique by child-focused agencies on the upcoming UN President of the General Assembly's High-Level Event on the *Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

24 February 2014. United Nations. New York

Over the course of the next several months, the 68th President of the United Nations General Assembly, His Excellency, Ambassador John W. Ashe is convening three (3) high-level events and three (3) thematic debates as a contribution to the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. As some of the largest child-focused civil society organizations we welcome the opportunity to contribute to all of these initiatives, particularly the high-level event on the *Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda* to be held on March 6 – 7, 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York.

In considering the diverse and critical needs and contributions of these constituencies, it is imperative that the specific and unique rights of children – from the earliest years on – are taken into account in these initiatives.

We contend that children and young people, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable, must be engaged as full participants in shaping their future. Their voices must be heard and heeded. Let us remember that the foundation for healthy, safe, sustainable and prosperous societies ***begins with healthy, safe, protected, well-educated and well-cared for children.*** Their rights and needs must, therefore, be at the center of the Post-2015 discussions and negotiations. If our collective aspirations for sustainable development goals are to come to fruition, we must be proactive in protecting and advocating for the rights of ***all children*** as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and regardless of gender, location, ethnicity, disability or other status. It is the children and young people of today and generations to come that will determine the brightness – or bleakness – of our future.

In coming together as international child-focused agencies, we believe that there are four inter-dependent priorities that deserve particular attention:

1. **Eradicating all forms of extreme poverty** in all its reinforcing dimensions – social exclusion, discrimination, economic deprivation, unequal treatment by service providers and legal systems, violence, abuse and exploitation;

2. **Tackling inequalities** both between and within countries as children are disproportionately affected and growing inequalities undermine prosperity and increase risks of instability.
3. **Stopping all forms of violence against children** in homes, schools and communities, in institutions, online in virtual communities, and through the use of mobile technologies; and
4. **Ensuring locally-led and transparent mechanisms for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability** so that people are able to hold their governments accountable for equitable progress at national and local levels.

These issues must be addressed boldly in the Post-2015 Development Agenda for it to be a success.

When children fail to thrive and fulfill their potential as they grow into adulthood, it is not only these children but *all of us* who suffer the consequences – their well-being is a direct reflection of the well-being of society as a whole and the ability of states to achieve sustainable development goals.

We look forward to further discussion at the President of the General Assembly events and beyond, and working together with Member States and other stakeholders in ensuring a *Post-2015 Development Agenda that recaptures the vision of a “World Fit for Children”*.

ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages and World Vision.

For further information, please see *Recommendations for a Post-2015 Development Agenda “Recapturing the vision of a ‘World Fit For Children’* [Position Paper](#) and [Key Messages](#) developed by ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF and World Vision.