



Synthesis of the round table
"Investing better in children's rights"
 16 November 2017, OECD, Paris



January 2018

Author: Socheata SIM

Presentation of *Objectif Enfance*

Daily involved in favor of childhood, several French NGOs members of the *Coordination Humanitaire et Développement (CHD)* and / or *Coordination SUD*¹, decided to pool their efforts to promote respect for children's rights in international cooperation policies. In 2014, they created the *Groupe Enfance* that currently includes the following NGOs: Apprentis d'Auteuil, Asmae Association Sœur Emmanuelle, La chaîne de l'espoir, ECPAT France, Un Enfant par la Main, Plan International France, Secours Islamique France, Solidarité Laïque, SOS Villages d'Enfants France and Vision du Monde France².

Each year, on the occasion of Universal Children's Day on November 20th, they organize the collective event "*Objectif Enfance*" to encourage decision makers and institutions to consider childhood as a priority issue in their policies and enable them to improve their practices. This action aims at asserting the central place that children's rights shall have in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and it questions how they could be better followed for more effective policies.

Children's rights get exposed at the OECD

For the 2017 edition, a round table was held in Paris on November 16th, at the Conference Center of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), whose mission is to promote policies that will improve economic and social well-being around the world. It was organized under the high patronage of Ms Catherine Colonna, former Minister, Ambassador, French Permanent Representative to the OECD.



The event gathered more than 130 participants to discuss with a panel of experts from French and foreign cooperation agencies, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the OECD and international NGOs. Were also present the Children's Defender, delegations from different countries (Austria, Chad, Monaco, Sweden, Japan, Canada ...), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the French Development Agency (AFD), parliamentarians, representatives of local authorities, the OECD and civil society.

The purpose of the round table

- Analyze children's rights issues in the frame of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Identify how Official Development Assistance can contribute to better understanding and implementation of children's rights by the donor and recipient States.
- Make recommendations for the integration of children's rights in policies, programs and fundings of bond debtors, according to the CRC meaning, in a sustainable and efficient way.

This document aims at reporting on discussions held during this event to international policy actors: the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French Development Agency, the OECD, parliamentarians, public authorities, development and aid organizations. The round table provided an overview of the state of children's rights in the world and recommendations were made for them. This synthesis relates its content and the debates.

¹ The [Coordination Humanitaire et Développement \(CHD\)](#) and [Coordination SUD](#) gather solidarity organizations which implement humanitarian projects dedicated to relief, reconstruction and/or development issues all around the world.

² Learn more about the Groupe Enfance with its position paper (in French) : [Politique internationale de la France : agir pour les droits de l'enfant, 2015](#)

INTRODUCTION

Acting for children: the key of sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. The NGOs of the Groupe Enfance share the conviction that a constant attention to children and their rights is a powerful lever for **starting a virtuous circle towards equality, peace and respect for rights**: an essential triptych **to achieve the 17 SDGs**.



Research about prevention, socialization, learning and skills development underline that early childhood education and care (ECEC) has long-lasting positive impact. What happens in earliest years has consequences for development, labor market integration, well-being and access to rights throughout life.

Acting to realize the rights of children provide significant benefits to children but also to families, communities, societies and economy as a whole³. Studies show that the return on investment of developing programs for children is high: *"1 dollar invested equals 7 dollars of social impact!"*⁴

The States have legal obligation towards children



Moreover, promoting children's rights is first of all a legal obligation. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1989, has been ratified by 196 States. They shall undertake all the appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures **to respect, protect and implement** the rights recognized in the Convention.

The States which are debtors according to the CRC must regularly report on their actions and the situation of the rights of the child in their territory. They submit a periodic report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The UN Committee elaborates general comments to assist the States in the development, planning and monitoring of policies that promote the rights of the child (especially the general comment 19⁵) but also the SDGs.

International collective responsibility for the rights of the child

If the previous Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) focused on poor countries (with primary goals of reducing child mortality, extreme poverty, diseases...), the SDGs mark a turning point in the vision of international solidarity. The division between the so called "developed donator countries" and "developing countries beneficiaries" is redefined with a more heterogeneous world than from a North / South perspective. Indeed, the most developed countries are not always the most advanced on children's rights. For example, there are important disparities between the European countries. And progress in a country are not necessarily homogeneous in all areas (education, health, housing...).

The States must act proportionately to their means, **for the children within their country, but also for the children of other countries** with more limited resources, partners of the development and humanitarian aid. Even if the CRC recognizes that the primary responsibility of States is to fulfill children's rights over their territories, it requires their collective responsibility, particularly in mobilizing resources where needed, within the framework of international cooperation (article 4).

³ [Towards better investment in the rights of the child, 2014, UN Human Rights Council](#) and [Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage, 2013, European Commission](#)

⁴ [The Living Conditions of Children, 2007, World Bank](#)

⁵ [General comment n°19 on Public Budgeting for the Realization of Children's Rights, 2016, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#)

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SDGS: THE MAIN ISSUES

The speakers of the round table exposed the situation of children's rights in the world and they identified three key challenges related to childhood to reach the SDGs.

Missing data about children's rights

Whereas countries that have ratified the CRC have to report on their actions, many of them do not produce enough data on children's rights, including child poverty and violences against children. The current data available is only sufficient for half of the SDGs global monitoring indicators related to children.⁶

Moreover, it is very difficult to have indicators and obtain data about categories of particularly vulnerable children: those who do not live with their families, those in conflict with the law, children placed in institutions or living in the street, disabled children, children victims of trafficking, children recruited from armed groups, unaccompanied minors, climate refugees, unregistered children at birth, migrants, from minority groups... **Millions of children are not counted in official data and statistics**, and they do not appear in the State's reporting on the SDGs implementation⁷.

"Data isn't only numbers, we have to see the children behind these numbers." Claudia Arisi, SOS Children's Villages International



It is a major problem in the CRC implementation and monitoring, to measure progress and achievements. As parts of solutions, some international tools have been created like the **KidsRights Index**⁸ (which measures the degree of respect of children's rights, their situation in the world and the implementation of the CRC by the States) or the **Childonomics methodology of Eurochild**⁹ which evaluates the social impact of projects promoting children's rights (at short, medium and long terms, not only focused on children but also considering the benefits on their environment).

Increasing child poverty



The OECD and civil society actors are worried about the worldwide increase of child poverty¹⁰, especially since the economic crisis of 2007. Africa will have in the next 15 years a growing proportion of children among its population, **with a growing number of children living in poverty**¹¹. If the current trends continue:

*"167 million children will live in extreme poverty and 9 out of 10 will live in sub-Saharan Africa."*¹²

Poverty is not only monetary, it is linked to various material deprivations: under-nutrition, limited access to clean water, inadequate medical care, etc. It leads to the disrespect of children's rights: with a negative impact on safety, social relations, communication within family, health, education, leisure and recreation...

The children who grow in poverty are unable to achieve their real potential and to participate as full citizens and equal members of society. They are less likely to have access to quality education (SDG 4) that would allow them to earn a decent income (SDG 8). When they reach adulthood, they will have no choice and raise their children in poverty as well. Breaking the intergenerational circle of poverty (SDG 1) requires at first to fight against child poverty.

"Children from disadvantaged backgrounds will have difficulty to integrate. We need to help them more." Olivier Thévenon, OECD

⁶ [Is every child counted? Status of data for children in the SDGs, 2017, Unicef Report](#)

⁷ ["All Children Count, But Not All Children Are Counted"](#), 2015, Open letter to the UN, signed by over 250 organizations in 2017

⁸ Global index initiated by the KidsRights Foundation and the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, which analyzes data from 165 countries which ratified the CRC: existence of children's rights legislation, specific budgets, cooperation of civil society, disaggregated data available... <http://kidsrightsindex.org>

⁹ Eurochild is a European network promoting and defending the rights and well-being of children. <http://www.eurochild.org/projects/childonomics>

¹⁰ In the OECD countries: relative poverty affects 1 child in 7. [How is life? 2015, OECD Report](#)

¹¹ [Generation 2030 Africa 2.0, 2017, Unicef Report](#)

¹² [The State of the World Children 2016. A fair chance for every child, 2016, Unicef Report](#)

Violence against children: invisible but everywhere



Children are exposed to violence and abuse from the prenatal period and beyond their 18th birthday. Violence is multiple and **can affect them in many aspects of their lives**¹³: within their families, at school, in their village or community, by social institutions.

In addition to physical violence, they may be victims of so-called "educational", emotional, psychological, sexual and gender-based violence (female genital mutilations, child forced marriages...) which will have potentially irreversible consequences on their development.

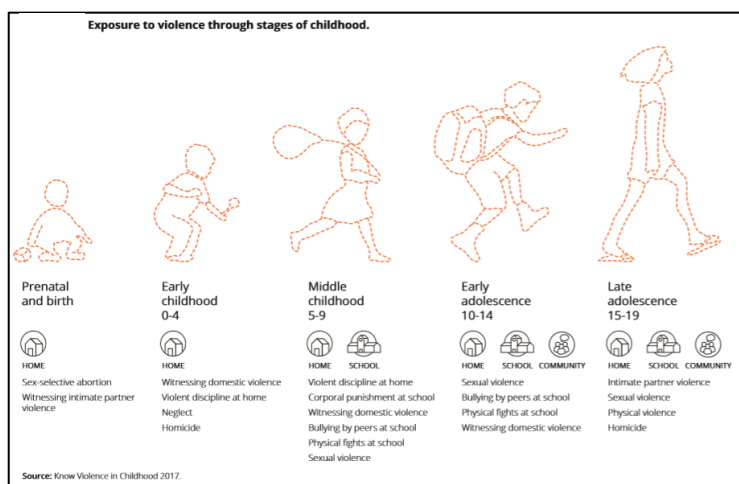
Violence is rarely reported, even less punished. **We must enforce the tools to collect data on violence** that attack the integrity, health and well-being of children (SDG 3). Situations of exploitation and violence are amplified in contexts of poverty, armed

conflict, climate-related disasters or discrimination¹⁴.

"Violence against children is severe, public commitments must be changed into actions!" Alexandra Matei, World Vision International

World Health Organization and other actors work on a set of seven solutions to end violence against children¹⁵. Violence requires an approach at different scales: international protocols (against sexual exploitation or forced labor), national or regional observatories like the French ONPE¹⁶, councils / committees within communities and villages, prevention campaigns among families and children...

*"Every year, 1.7 billion children experience abuse in the world."*¹⁷



TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The experts discussed strategies and tools for a better integration of children's rights into cooperation and international solidarity policies. They also questioned how official development assistance could be more effective and efficient by giving more attention to children's rights and by improving the traceability and evaluation of these fundings.



¹³ [A Familiar Face: Violence in the lives of children and adolescents, 2017, Unicef Report](#)

¹⁴ According to data 2017 of Unicef, nearly 535 million children live in countries affected by conflict or natural disasters.

¹⁵ [Inspire. 7 Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, 2017, WHO](#)

¹⁶ The Observatory of child protection (former ONED) has missions of research, information and prevention about children at risk or in danger. It supports the actors of child protection in France. <http://www.onpe.gouv.fr>

¹⁷ Ending violence in childhood, 2017, Report of [Know Violence in Childhood](#)

Prioritizing investments in children and mainstreaming approach

There has been progress in recent decades in birth registration, reduction of infant mortality, care access, education, gender equality, and child participation. Many States and institutions have integrated children's rights into their policies. For example in Africa, with the drafting of a pioneering charter in 1990¹⁸ as an additional element to the CRC, or through the research by the African Child Policy Forum¹⁹ about policies and welfare of children. Yet millions of children are still victims of inequalities, violence and exploitation.



The current situation is the result of a lack of prioritization and funding for childhood and for the realization of children's rights. And even when specific budgets are allocated, the measures taken may be inappropriate for the real needs of children.

"When governments are asked why this policy has not been implemented and why the expected impact has not been achieved, it is often related to a wrong use of resources." Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Adopting an integrated approach for the rights of the child is essential in order to develop child-related budgets and to promote a more effective, transparent, equitable and sustainable development assistance policy. Firstly, it is fundamental to consider the rights of the child as inseparable, to move from a sectoral approach to a more global approach in the continuity of human rights²⁰.

Secondly, it is important to think about the impact on the rights of the child for all public policies and development aid, not only for specific projects or measures targeting children and their rights. Considering this impact could be systematic done before any bill.



As example of mainstreaming approach, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has set up a network and a gender marker²¹ to promote and monitor gender equality (SDG 5) in development budgets and all international processes.

The mission of NGOs within children's rights

NGOs have a central role to play in helping States and international institutions to better understand the child rights approach, to integrate it into their policies and to fulfill their obligations according the CRC. They have four fundamental missions:

1. Be vigilant and watchful to **remind the States / institutions their commitments** and that they can always do better for children's rights.
2. **Support policy makers** in diagnosis, technical assistance, recommendations and evaluation through their expertise and knowledge of subject (programmatic approach). NGOs are involved in the implementation of accessible, inclusive and quality services that improve at long-term health, education and social protection systems. They also help to structure the assistance provided during emergency crisis.
3. Sensitize other actors: private sector, general public, civil society. By promoting the rights of the child and reporting on achievements in the context of the SDGs, they can help to make it a topic of debate in society. Their primary mission is **to represent children and youth, to strengthen their individual and collective capacities to act and assert their rights**.
4. **Implement field projects**, with local civil society organizations, contributing to the effectiveness of children's rights.

¹⁸ [African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#)

¹⁹ This organization works for the respect of the rights of the child in Africa: <http://www.africanchildforum.org>

²⁰ Some countries, like Sweden, have chosen to adopt [a human rights-based approach that includes children's rights \(HRBA\)](#).

²¹ Learn more about Gendernet at the DAC of the OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/about-gendernet.htm>

The OECD: a leader in international cooperation

The OECD reviews development cooperation policies and practices, paying particular attention to international and country-specific goals and targets. It can be a driving force for coordination and facilitation to foster collective learning, help its Member States and broadly the whole donor community to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance.

The SDGs should stimulate the collection of data and the production of indicators, which are essential for guiding policy design. In addition to defining strategic directions, setting standards and identifying good practices, the OECD can boost the capacity of developing countries in terms of data collection and treatment. Obtaining disaggregated data is essential to identify categories of children at risk, in difficulty or in exclusion (and thus understand and act on the primary causes of their vulnerability).



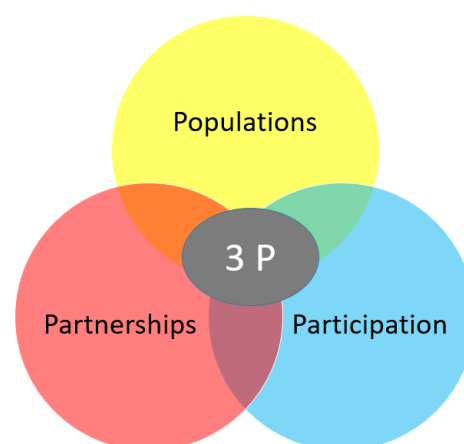
Finally, the challenge is to measure not only what is done but also what the States should be able to do, depending on their available resources and the budgets allocated. Therefore, the OECD launched on November 20, 2017 an international portal that contains fifty indicators on the well-being and equal opportunities of children. This new tool has the particularity to integrate prospective data by measuring the distance to reach the SDGs.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/social/family/child-well-being>

Children's participation as cross-cutting priority

To be effective, international aid must be based on the participation of children and youth. It is necessary to consult them to take into account their point of view and to associate them with the decision-making process as they are the first concerned. Children are not just beneficiaries of public policies, **they are and must be considered as actors and agents of change, as part of the solutions**²².

The States have to rely on their expertise of use / experience to implement policies that are appropriate, efficient and responsive to their real needs. Especially if we consider that rights matters are complex because their evaluation can be subjective. Thus, it is important to quantify budgets dedicated to children and their rights, but also to have indicators on population's feelings and perceptions.



3 « P » to take account for more effective policies



In France, the network *Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Enfant*²³ works in favor of the implementation of several tools promoting the expression of children and their political representation. Other measures could be expanded: creation of educational tools so that children can know and assert their rights, awareness campaigns (thought with children and in which they are actors), adaptation of documents on public policies and development budgets in a "child-friendly" language so children can give their opinion and contribute to their definition...

The major challenge today is **to reach every child**, especially those outside the radars of institutional services. NGOs have the responsibility to bring their voices in front of policy makers and **to prioritize the most vulnerable, at risk or excluded children**. The 2030 Agenda has general principles of participation and non-discrimination (as well as the CRC), and its ambition is to *"leave no child behind"*.

²² A working group of the Child Rights Connect network has done [a study on children's point of view](#), from 71 countries, to better invest their rights.

²³ The KidsRight Index ranks France 6th in the implementation of children's rights and highlights that it needs to improve on children's participation. The French collective AEDE organizes regular meetings of children and youth throughout the territory to consult them, collect their speech and thus carry out actions and make recommendations closer to their concerns, daily life and experiences. Website: <http://collectif-aede.org>

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUPE ENFANCE

To the OECD and its members States

Better priority for the rights of the child in the development policies, and better appropriation of children's rights approach by donor and recipient States, as well as any stakeholder involved in international aid

1. Create a group of voluntary DAC members states, (if possible a subsidiary body of the DAC) dedicated to children's rights, coordinated by the OECD general secretariat, to promote the realization of children's rights, particularly in developing countries, through their international cooperation (Article 4 of CRC), by facilitating exchanges of practices among States, peer reviews, edition of OECD guidelines, OECD events and trainings.
2. Adopt, within the DAC, a "child rights" policy marker for all development aid and international cooperation projects and budgets (inspiring of gender equality and environment policy-markers as examples).
3. Foster the participation of children and youth in political and economic decision-making processes to improve the effectiveness of international aid and policies affecting them.

Better investment in children's rights concretization through official development assistance and national budget allocation

4. Conduct one or several technical and financial studies estimating the need for funding to realize the rights of the child (it could be linked to the cases studies of the Research Collaborative initiative).
5. Establish a global investment plan for 2020-2030 ensuring that children's rights are realized by 2030. Encourage the DAC members states to make a collective commitment in 2019 to support this plan, including an annual percentage of Official Development Assistance allocated to the rights of the child.
6. Give more attention to examine the financial and qualitative efforts of the States in this perspective, in the context of their periodic reviews by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Better knowledge and better monitoring of children's rights realization during the Agenda 2030

7. Make a research to set up a global methodology framework of data collection and monitoring about children's rights (indicators, targeted populations, data disaggregation) to have worldwide comparable data and to be able to count the hardest children to reach.

CONCLUSION

The children can wait no more... leave no child behind!

The situation of children around the world is marked by strong inequalities. If nothing changes by 2030:

- 69 million children risk to die under the age of five
- 60 million children of primary school age will be out of school
- Nearly 120 million children will suffer from stunting
- 750 million women will have been married under the age of eighteen



In response to these alarming numbers²⁴ that threaten the future of millions of children, it is urgent to take action to reverse the trend. Inequalities, non-respect of rights and violence are not fatality. Fighting them requires **a strong political commitment from governments**, in a sustainable and global perspective. The SDGs and the CRC insist on the importance of international solidarity, with the accountability of States for their commitment to achieve these global goals, on their territory and in other countries.

"There is no other choice than investing in the rights of the child. Children can wait no more." Geneviève Avenard, French Children's Defender, Deputy to the Defender of Rights, and also Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the French speaking Ombudsmen Association²⁵

We must take into account the voices of all children so that **no child is excluded, invisible or left behind**. All children should be represented and listened to, regardless of their gender, social background, family situation, state of health... Tackling discriminations against children is an absolute necessity (SDG 10: reducing inequalities). It could be the object of special monitoring by the UN and the States, as other formal commitment exist to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination or against women²⁶.

We need an ambitious global investment plan for children

To create a stronger government interest in children's rights as early as possible, world leaders should realize how much interest their States would have to invest significantly in this area, especially to reach the SDGs. Recognizing the importance of acting in favor of children, they could then agree on a minimum annual investment to be made collectively: in their official development assistance budget but also in their national budget.

Political commitment is necessary, but technical support is also essential. The OECD has an important role to play in directing ODA towards children's rights and promoting better monitoring of allocated budgets, in particular through the action of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) or its subsidiary organs²⁷. Its economic and social surveys can facilitate the appropriation of children's rights approach by the States and lead to new priorities in national budgets.

Finally, a global effort must be made to improve the traceability of fundings: calculating ODA's part for children, defining control mechanisms of these financial flows, planning calendars and impact evaluations to measure the long-term social and economic value of the budgets allocated to the rights of the child. At least, financial flows targeting children aged 0 to 18 should be identified, differentiated from those to adults, and according to possibilities, even specified by age group.



Daniel Schlosser, French Permanent Representative at the OECD

But beyond the question of benefits in return, as stated by the United Nations General Assembly at a special session on children: *"investing in children and respecting their rights lays the foundation for a just society, a strong economy, and a world free of poverty"* ²⁸

²⁴ [The State of the World Children 2016. A fair chance for every child, 2016, Unicef Report](#)

²⁵ These are independent mediation bodies around the rights of individuals that help to improve institutions. From the investigation of complaints or individual complaints, they identify failures in the system and access to rights, and make recommendations.

²⁶ International Conventions [on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#) or [on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#)

²⁷ The DAC sets consensual standards, including how to account for ODA and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD).

²⁸ [A World Fit for Children](#), 2002, UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children Documents A/S-27/19, pp50-51

Strengthen cooperation between the States, international organizations and civil societies

Partnerships are an essential instrument for cooperation and development (SDG 17) to create together solutions around the world. At the global level, the Child Rights Connect network²⁹ acts for the effective implementation of the CRC in each State. More specialized, there are other initiatives by sectoral policies as the Global Partnership for Education³⁰. To foster a multi-actors dialogue and a cross-cutting approach, it is important to make links between institutions, administrations, communities, private and research sectors, representatives of different interest groups, parliamentarians and citizens. The NGOs could be force of proposal or support on:

- The creation of a **working group between States** to pool resources and expertise, discuss findings, issues, progress and difficulties. The analysis of practices would be peer reviews between donor and recipient countries of ODA.
- **The involvement of the private sector** by making children's rights an area of corporate social responsibility (CSR), as well as issues of gender equality or ecology. Actions could be the development of guidelines for good practice, international certifications or labels (about fight against child labor, support for parenthood and child care ...).
- Conducting **surveys towards professionals who are in charge or in contact with children** (teachers, animators, medico-social or early childhood personnel, etc.) about their knowledge, their practices and their needs. Depending on the returns, training and initiatives for the rights of the child might be proposed to improve aids and services in terms of access but also integration, equality, equity and quality.

Let's react now to make children's right a reality before 2030!

The NGOs of the Groupe Enfance call the OECD Member States, particularly the DAC, to a **strong mobilization by 20 November 2019** ensuring that the rights of the child will be realized at the end of the SDGs. The 30th anniversary of the CRC is an opportunity of formal commitment to the full and effective application of it, by adopting concrete measures and an ambitious financing plan. Special attention should be given to the participation of children and youth, reaching the disadvantaged and most vulnerables in priority. This will be relevant with the general theme adopted in 2019 by the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development³¹: "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".



As historical actor for human rights and CRC, France should be more involved in the effectiveness of children's rights in the world. By its strong capacity of conviction with other States, it can encourage the international community to enforce the cause of children in their policies. But also in terms of exemplarity, allocating more of its gross national income to ODA and by making the rights of the child an important step of its foreign policy. It could be demonstrated with new orientations of French Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) and through dedicated budgets of French Development Agency.

The rights of the child have experienced periods of progress and setback, characteristic of human rights. We need to get mobilized every day with great determination to reach the SDGs. The challenge today is to make significant progress continuously, without any backward, for current and future generations. It is the responsibility of all of us to fulfill children's rights as a moral and concrete commitment, whether we are big or small. United for the children, we have the power to make it happen by 2030!

²⁹ Website : <http://www.childrightsconnect.org>

³⁰ It supports 65 developing countries to ensure every child a quality basic education. Website: <http://www.globalpartnership.org>

³¹ The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the United Nations platform for monitoring and reviewing the SDGs.



For more than 150 years, Apprentis d'Auteuil has been involved and works with the most vulnerable young people and families. Recognized Catholic charitable foundation, it supports young people in difficulty through programs of fosterling, education, training and insertion in France and abroad to enable them to become free and happy adults of tomorrow. <http://www.apprentis-auteuil.org>



Founded in 1980, Asmae Association Soeur Emmanuelle is present in eight countries (Egypt, Mali, Lebanon, Philippines, Madagascar, India, Burkina Faso and France) and acts for the development of the child through partnerships with local associations. Asmae is committed to supporting the poorest children, to promoting their autonomy through education and protection. <http://www.asmae.fr>



Founded in 1997, the association ECPAT France aims to fight against sexual exploitation of children: forced and early marriage, sexual exploitation in prostitution, trafficking, sex tourism, online paedocriminality, in France and worldwide. <http://www.ecpat-france.fr>



Since 1994, La chaîne de l'espoir is an association that works in more than 30 countries to provide access to care and education for the poorest children. Every year, more than 100 000 children benefit from its care programs, with 5 000 operated, and 11 000 children benefit from its education programs. <http://www.chainedelespoir.org>

Ensemble, sauvons des enfants



For more than 80 years, Plan International has been one of the largest development organizations in the world. It is working in 52 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America for a more fair world that advances children's rights and gender equality. <http://www.plan-international.org>



Since 1956, Solidarité Laïque has been fighting exclusion and improving everyone's access to quality education. The organization acts in France and in more than 20 countries. Respect for the rights of the child here and abroad is at the heart of its priorities, whether in its advocacy actions, in its programs or in its citizenship education for children. <http://www.solidarite-laique.org>



Founded in 1991, Secours Islamique France works in the fields of humanitarian emergency and development aid. In France, SIF fights against exclusion and poverty. Internationally, SIF acts to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene, food security, and acts for the rights of children. <http://www.secours-islamique.org>



Guided by the spirit of the CRC, SOS Children's Villages has for mission to allow each child to have a family life. For 60 years, SOS Children's Villages has been welcoming brothers and sisters in France and around the world without parental support in an SOS Children's Village or by strengthening the family with programs to prevent abandonment. <http://www.sosve.org>



Founded in 1990, Un Enfant par la Main is an international solidarity association, member of the ChildFund Alliance, which offers to sponsor underprivileged children and carry out projects in their communities in Africa, Latin America and Asia. It was joined in 2017 by Enfants sans Frontières. <http://www.unenfantparlamain.org>



Vision du Monde has been helping the poorest children in the world to grow well for more than 65 years. Through child sponsorship, Vision du Monde is helping families and communities in nearly 100 countries around the world to develop in the long term and build a better future for their children. <http://www.visiondumonde.fr>

The next actions of the Groupe Enfance



NGOs of the Groupe Enfance consider themselves as debtors according to the CRC. In order to achieve children's rights and SDGs, they will organize actions with three categories of key actors: decision makers, civil society involved at international level and general public.

The Groupe Enfance pursues its goal that the French State contributes more to the effectiveness of the rights of the child in the world, especially towards its partner countries through development and humanitarian aid. Its actions will also aim to ensure that French NGOs and other operational actors in

humanitarian action and development take better account of children's rights in their international actions.

Acknowledgments

The Groupe Enfance thanks the Permanent Representation of France to the OECD, in particular Ms Catherine Colonna for her high patronage and support, M. Daniel Schlosser for his involvement and advice in organizing this event, as well as the staff of the Conference Center including Ms Sandra Gregory, Head of the Conference Department, and M. Jeong Min Han for their excellent service.

Thanks also to all the speakers for their participation:

- Ms Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi, Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
- M. Arno Engel, Analyst in the Early Childhood and Schools Division, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD
- M. Olivier Thévenon, Social Policy Economist, Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD
- Ms Jenny Hedman, Gender Equality and Development Advisor, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
- M. Armand Rioust de Largentaye, Project Officer, Strategic Foresight and Institutional Relations, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Ms Agata D'Addato, Senior Policy Coordinator - Policy, Practice and Research - at Eurochild, co-chair of the ChildRights Connect Working Group on Investment in Children
- Ms Ellen Vroonhof, Coordinator of Kids Rights Index, program of the KidsRights Foundation, in cooperation with Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Ms Claudia Arisi, Advocacy Manager, SOS Children's Villages International
- Ms Birgitta Weibahr, Senior Policy Specialist Human Rights and Democracy, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- M. Théophile Nkyema, Executive Director of the African Child Policy Forum
- Ms Alexandra Matei, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Vision du Monde International

Moderators:

- Ms Michelle Perrot, Advocacy and Youth Engagement Director, Plan International France
- Ms Catherine Lalonde, EU Director, ChildFund Alliance

Rapporteure:

- Ms Amal Abou El Ghayt, Advocacy Manager and External Relations, Secours Islamique France

Great witness:

- Ms Geneviève Avenard, French Children's Defender, Deputy to the Defender of Rights, and also Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the French speaking Ombudsmen Association

Contact us

Groupe Enfance
CHD – Coordination Humanitaire et Développement
M. Olivier Mouzay – Executive Secretary
7 rue Pasquier 75008 Paris, France
Email: olivier.mouzay@c-hd.org

The Groupe Enfance will be pleased to contribute to analysis and debates, to exchange about its recommendations, all together with organisations and individuals mobilized for children's rights (policy makers, development agencies, French and international NGOs, youth and children...).

Learn more: <http://www.objectif-enfance.org>

