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# 147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola  
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## IPU-UNICEF Joint workshop

### *The role of parliaments in securing effective public spending for children's rights*

Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 12:00 – 13:30  
Sala 1.07, first floor

#### Concept note

#### The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the overarching international legal framework for the protection of children's rights. Parliaments play a pivotal role in facilitating implementation of the Convention, including by ensuring that funding and resources are invested effectively from a children's rights perspective.

#### Article 4

*States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to **the maximum extent of their available resources** and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.*

Since 1989, the Convention has ushered in significant advancements in the promotion of children's rights, guiding national children's policies that take into account "the best interests of the child" (Article 3 of the Convention). The voice of children is increasingly being heard and parliaments are becoming places where children's concerns are being addressed. The systematic and large-scale collection and analysis of data on the situation of children has led to improved policy-making. Moreover, implementation

of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has further propelled the advancement of children's rights.

However, despite undeniable progress, much remains to be done and the challenges are increasing. Children are still suffering from poverty, famine, hunger, illiteracy, disease, discrimination, exploitation, child trafficking, labour and marriage – as well as from violence of all kinds. Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of pandemics, conflicts and climate change. For these children, implementation of the Convention is still wishful thinking.

#### Public Finance for Children (PF4C)

The IPU and UNICEF have a long-standing partnership to mobilize parliamentarians into action and secure their contribution to the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. A specific focus of this work has centred on Article 4 of the Convention. These efforts have supported the collection of evidence, the adoption of advocacy measures, public participation in budgetary decision-making, engagement in the planning and budgeting process, and resource mobilization.

In this regard, UNICEF's public financial management work has aimed to support the full realization of children's rights by making the best possible use of public budgets. UNICEF's PF4C work is context-specific, and can be adapted to the national, sectorial, or local level.

Parliaments are one of the most important stakeholders in the PF4C area. Across the world, UNICEF country offices have increased their cooperation with parliaments on a range of issues, including: assessing child-related spending in the national budget and providing advice and recommendations; amplifying the voices of children and youth in parliamentary budget discussions; and improving budget transparency and credibility.

### **Objectives of the panel discussion**

- Raise parliamentary awareness of the need to budget to promote and protect children's rights, and of possible courses of action.
- Identify, share and follow-up on good parliamentary practices in all phases of the budget cycle, including in monitoring budget implementation, to serve as inspiration for better budgeting in support of children's rights.
- Highlight challenges and problems in leveraging resources for children, to be brought to the attention of the IPU and UNICEF for advice and follow-up.

### **Organization of the panel discussion**

Parliamentarians, representatives from UNICEF and a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will participate in this interactive panel. Discussions will be guided by the following questions:

- How has the parliament in your country regularly measured public spending for children?
- Has public expenditure for children been adequate? Has it increased in recent years? Has it responded to the needs of children?
- How have parliaments been able to ensure that a children's rights perspective drives the allocation of resources?
- What are the challenges that parliaments face when taking into account the needs of children and reflecting them in their budgets? In other words, do lawmakers harness the full potential of children's rights arguments when debating the hierarchy of priorities?
- What good practices of parliamentary involvement in the four stages of the budget cycle exist in support of children's rights?
- How have parliaments contributed to budget credibility?
- What steps have parliaments taken to prevent discrimination in budget-related legislation and to address inequalities affecting children, for example by increasing or reprioritizing certain parts of the budget, or improving the overall effectiveness, efficiency and equity of their budgets?
- Has the children's rights perspective been adequately combined with a gender perspective?
- What steps have parliaments taken to ensure that children's opinions have an impact on the design of budgets?
- To what extent has the existence of dedicated parliamentary committees on children's rights in some parliaments enhanced the budget process in support of children's rights? How have these committees worked together with parliamentary finance/budget committees?

### Panellists:

- **Ms. L. Moreira Daniels**, Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF Angola
- **Ms. A. E. N. Gomes da Silva Troso**, Chair of the fifth Committee on Economy and Finance, National Assembly of Angola.

### Moderator

**Ms. S. Kiladze**, IPU focal point with the United Nations Committee on the Right of the Child (CRC), former Member of Parliament of Georgia.