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Making child rights matter: Promoting cooperation between parliaments and the United Nations Committee on the rights of the child

Online briefing for parliamentarians organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Thursday, 15 February 2024

14:00–16:00 CET (Geneva time)

BACKGROUND

As part of its efforts to promote children's rights, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has increasingly engaged with the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The IPU and the CRC initiated a formal partnership on 2 February 2023 for the purpose of promoting stronger synergies between parliaments and the CRC.

The online briefing will aim to provide parliamentarians with a deeper understanding of how parliamentarians, in line with their constitutional powers, can help to advance children's rights, including through the adoption of parliamentary strategic plans as well as their support for the work of the CRC. Secondly, it will seek to explore how parliamentarians can ensure adequate public financing for the promotion and protection of children's rights. Lastly, the briefing will offer an opportunity to exchange best parliamentary practices both with regard to the promotion of the rights of the child and parliaments' contribution to the work of the CRC.

The briefing is intended to be interactive and will be held online in English, with interpretation into Arabic, French and Spanish.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 15 February 2024

14:00

Welcome remarks

- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Ms. Ann Marie Skelton, Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

14:10–14:40

Session I: Making the rights of the children a reality: The role of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Although it has been ratified by almost all countries, we have yet to see the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the national level. It is crucial, therefore, that parliamentarians become better aware of the Convention and of the specific role they can play to advance children's rights.

During this session, participants will hear about the purpose and scope of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Participants will be informed about the functioning of the CRC and the different contributions that parliaments can make to the CRC's reporting procedure, be it through the drafting of the report, its presentation before the CRC and the implementation of the CRC recommendations following the review.

Moderator: Mr. Rinchen Chopel, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- Ms. Sophie Kiladze, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Mr. Rogier Huizenga, Programme Manager, Human Rights Programme (IPU)

14:40–15:10

Session II: Promoting the rights of the child: Ensuring adequate public financing

Both the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out goals for the implementation of the rights of the child. In spite of this, many children are still suffering from poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, discrimination, exploitation and trafficking, and child labour and marriage, as well as other acts of violence. It is therefore urgent that further efforts be made to allocate more resources to address these critical challenges.

This session seeks to explore with the participants how best they can use their budget allocation role to effectively promote the rights of the child.

Moderator: Ms. Thuwayba al Barwani, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

- Mr. Alberto Musatti, Social Policy Specialist, Public Finance for Children (UNICEF)
- Ms. Emma Muteka, MP, Deputy-Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Social Welfare and Labour Affairs (Namibia)

15:10–16:00

Session III: Sharing of good practices followed by interactive discussion

During this session, participants (parliamentarians) will share good practices of both the promotion of the rights of the child and of cooperation with the CRC. The following questions will guide the discussion:

Moderator: Mr. Rogier Huizenga, Programme Manager, Human Rights Programme (IPU)

- How is parliament engaged in the promotion of the rights of the child?
- What can the IPU, CRC, UNICEF and OHCHR do to strengthen such involvement?
- What are participants' experiences of previous engagement in the CRC reporting process?
- Can participants share the challenges and opportunities of such engagement?
- In light of these experiences, how can parliament become (even) more engaged?

16:00

End of briefing