



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of  
the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

**ITEM 70: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018



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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Our Delegations thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted to the General Assembly under this agenda item.

CELAC countries are strongly committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of Children and ensuring that no child is left behind and reaffirm that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the highest standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

We express our strong commitment to the promotion, protection and respect of all Human Rights for all persons, without discrimination of any kind, as a fundamental basis for sustaining the democratic life of our nations. We underline the importance of implementing measures aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of those in vulnerable situations, and at the same time, we will promote gender equality, decent work and will endeavor to eradicate child labor in our region, as part of actions aimed at prioritizing the rights of children and adolescents as subjects of law.

In this regard, the situation of children and adolescents is a priority for Latin American and Caribbean countries. The leadership of our region is well recognized in advancing the agenda on the rights of the child. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind the challenges we still face in reaching all goals and international commitments related to the well-being and rights of children and adolescents.

As a region integrated mostly by middle-income countries, we still have important challenges to fully protect the rights of children. We are working to address vulnerabilities resulting from poverty and inequality, but also from cultural and social factors, particularly discrimination based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disabilities and gender inequalities. Progress achieved is also exposed to different risks, such as the effects of global financial crisis, natural disasters, and multidimensional challenges resulting from violence, organized crime and human and drug trafficking, which mostly affect groups and persons in vulnerable situations.

Education is a human right, a social investment and one of the most important public good to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This human right is the mean to guarantee to present and future generations more and better opportunities in a globalized world. We believe in the importance of improving the quality and equity in access to education in order to ensure the social inclusion of all children, adolescents



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and young persons in all education services from primary to higher education in order to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and reduce inequality.

We also recognize that investing in all children and youth is imperative for building the human capital required to turn demographic transitions into grown dividends that reduce poverty and generate prosperity.

We are concerned by situations that children face in the context of large migratory movements, particularly unaccompanied children, including adolescents. We are aware that this migration may be the result of diverse causes and factors, and therefore, we recognize the importance of coordinating efforts between countries and international organizations, to address this situation.

We express our concern about the recent application of migratory policies related to the separation of migrant children and adolescents from their parents and relatives, motivated by their migratory status. We must work to end the detention of migrant children and adolescent, ensuring that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration in this regard.

Also, we call upon all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and those in vulnerable situations, including migrant children and indigenous children, as well as children placed in alternative care and within the juvenile justice system, the enjoyment of all human rights regardless of their migratory status and access to health care, social services and education without discrimination of any kind, and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, those separated from their parents and primary caregivers and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive appropriate protection and assistance.

And as is customary, Member States from our region will put forward the GRULAC/EU sponsored omnibus resolution on the "Rights of the Child" under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

We express deep concern that, as indicated in the Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, January 2018, every five minutes a child dies as a result of violence and that globally 1 billion children, between 2 and 17 years of age, experience physical, sexual, emotional or multiple types of violence, with an estimated 120 million girls and 73 million boys having been the victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives.



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Violence is widespread and pervasive and affects children of all ages, leaving long-lasting scars on children's lives and often has irreversible consequences on their development and well-being and on their opportunities to thrive later in life; thus weakening the very foundation of social progress, generating huge costs for society, slowing economic development and eroding nations' human and social capital.

Also, we recognize that bullying, including cyberbullying, can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of violence and aggression to social exclusion, and that, although rates differ from country to country, bullying, online or in person, has a negative impact on the rights of the child and is among children's main concerns, affecting a high percentage of children and compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work. We acknowledge the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among children everywhere and therefore, we request the United Nations Development System to continue to advance on measures to support States in their efforts to prevent and protect children from any form of bullying.

CELAC members reiterate the need to strengthen efforts to implement programmes for realizing child rights in early childhood with equity, involving the support of international organizations through the development of specific early childhood programmes, and to further enhance international cooperation to assist developing countries in achieving all internationally agreed development goals. Early childhood development policies and strategies, including adequate nutrition, should be supported as a way to break the cycles of poverty with the aim to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and end hunger in order to achieve sustainable development.

To conclude Mr. Chair,

CELAC emphasizes that no child should be left behind and that States should pay particular attention to the protection of children who are marginalized or are in vulnerable situations or who face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion and should ensure the enjoyment of all their human rights, without discrimination of any kind.

CELAC underscores the importance of achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development its goals and targets, to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child. The advancement of global poverty eradication efforts requires the full commitment of the international community, including through the mobilization of all necessary resources and support in this regard, as well as a multifaceted approach to ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of children.

I thank you,