



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 68

### Promotion and protection of the rights of children

#### Report of the Third Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Myriam Oehri (Liechtenstein)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled:

“Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

“(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

“(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered proposals and took action on the item at its 8th and 9th meetings, held on 16 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup> Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 6th meetings, from 5 to 8 October.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Committee, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 5 October, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its seventy-fifth session and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, convened three virtual informal meetings to hear introductory statements and hold interactive dialogues on the item. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to the present document.

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

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<sup>1</sup> A/C.3/75/SR.8 and A/C.3/75/SR.9.

<sup>2</sup> See A/C.3/75/SR.1, A/C.3/75/SR.2, A/C.3/75/SR.3, A/C.3/75/SR.4, A/C.3/75/SR.5 and A/C.3/75/SR.6. Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at the 1st meeting, on 5 October, official statements received by the Secretariat for posting on eStatements can be accessed at the following link: <https://journal.un.org/>.



**Item 68 (a)****Promotion and protection of the rights of children**

Report of the Secretary-General on the issue of child, early and forced marriage ([A/75/262](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ([A/75/307](#))

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict ([A/75/203](#))

Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children ([A/75/149](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material ([A/75/210](#))

**Item 66 (b)****Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children**

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children ([A/75/286](#))

5. At the 7th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.<sup>3</sup>

**II. Consideration of proposals****A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.16/Rev.1](#)**

6. At its 9th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Protecting children from bullying” ([A/C.3/75/L.16/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, the Bahamas, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Czechia, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.16/Rev.1](#) (see para. 33, draft resolution I).

<sup>3</sup> See [A/C.3/75/SR.7](#).

**B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) and amendments contained in documents [A/C.3/75/L.77](#) to [A/C.3/75/L.84](#)**

9. At its 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Child, early and forced marriage” ([A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam and Zambia. Subsequently, Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Zambia, also on behalf of Canada, made a statement.

11. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in connection with the amendments contained in documents [A/C.3/75/L.77](#) to [A/C.3/75/L.83](#).

12. Also at the 8th meeting, the representative of the United States made a statement in connection with the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/75/L.84](#).

**Action on the amendments contained in documents [A/C.3/75/L.77](#) to [A/C.3/75/L.84](#)**

13. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.77](#)).

14. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that China had joined as a sponsor of the draft amendment.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 109 to 20, with 31 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Eritrea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Oman, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire,

Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

16. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.78](#)).

17. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 111 to 21, with 29 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint

Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

18. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.79](#)).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 105 to 26, with 30 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

20. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.80](#)).

21. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 101 to 29, with 34 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

22. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.81](#)).

23. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 110 to 19, with 31 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, China, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

24. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.82](#)).

25. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 108 to 23, with 31 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Congo, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

26. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the Russian Federation ([A/C.3/75/L.83](#)).

27. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 103 to 24, with 37 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nicaragua,

Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cabo Verde, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palau, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Yemen.

28. At the 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) submitted by the United States of America ([A/C.3/75/L.84](#)).

29. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft amendment by a recorded vote of 121 to 11, with 32 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Belarus, Cameroon, Libya, Nauru, Nicaragua, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, United States of America.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo,

Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Djibouti, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen.

30. Before the votes on the amendments, the representatives of Canada, Germany (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Turkey), Costa Rica (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Argentina made statements in explanation of vote.

**Action on draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#) as a whole**

31. At its 8th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.18/Rev.1](#), as a whole (see para. 33, draft resolution II).

32. After the adoption, the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Turkey), the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Guatemala, Qatar, Egypt and Iraq, as well as the observer for the Holy See, made statements.

### III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

33. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I Protecting children from bullying**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/158](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/176](#) of 19 December 2016 and [73/154](#) of 17 December 2018 on protecting children from bullying, all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council that are relevant to the protection of children from bullying,

*Reaffirming* the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>1</sup> and emphasizing that it constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein,

*Recalling* the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,<sup>2</sup> the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Declaration of Principles on Tolerance<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety,<sup>5</sup> especially the Goals and targets aimed at ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, and at building and upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive, and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all children, and underscoring the importance of its implementation for ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child,

*Recalling* the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2019,

*Recalling also* the proclamation of the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School, including Cyberbullying, to be observed on the first Thursday of November every year, which took place for the first time in 2020, and noting in this regard the activities held on the occasion of the first observance of the International Day,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>6</sup> as well as of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Recognizing* the importance of international, regional and bilateral multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives to advance the effective protection and promotion of the rights of the child and the elimination of violence against children, including all forms of bullying, and in this regard noting with appreciation the efforts

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [66/137](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> See [A/51/201](#), annex, appendix I.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 429, No. 6193.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> [A/73/265](#).

of, inter alia, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and the WeProtect Global Alliance,

*Noting* national efforts on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General, including the organization of expert consultations at the regional level, promoted by Member States, in order to raise awareness of the impact of bullying on the rights of the child and to share experiences and best practices, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,

*Welcoming* the development of national and subnational action plans and awareness-raising campaigns and the enactment of legislation by several Member States to prevent and respond to school violence and bullying, including cyberbullying,

*Recognizing* that bullying, including cyberbullying, can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of physical, verbal, sexual and relational violence or aggression to social exclusion, including from peer to peer, which can inflict physical, psychological and social harm, and that, although rates differ from country to country, bullying, online or in person, has a negative impact on the fulfilment of 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, and acknowledging the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among children,

*Recognizing also* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its disproportionately heavy impact, inter alia on children, and its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs and the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets,

*Recognizing further* that the use of technology, specifically digital platforms, can mitigate the loss of education and learning opportunities caused by school closures, while expressing concern that the poorest and most vulnerable children are least likely to live in a suitable home-learning environment with an adequate Internet connection and learning support,

*Deeply concerned* that increased unsupervised use of the Internet, inter alia during the COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated children's exposure to the risk of all forms of violence, including in digital contexts, inter alia peer-to-peer sexual harassment and cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation and abuse, child grooming, trafficking in persons, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, xenophobia and discrimination,

*Recognizing* the importance of generating appropriate statistical information and data on bullying, including, whenever possible, cyberbullying, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts,

*Recognizing also* that children exercising their right to education, including through digital technologies, should not have their safety affected and should be protected from any violation or abuse of their right to privacy, and in this regard emphasizing that efforts to expand connectivity and digital learning and bridging the digital divide should give special regard to the protection of children,

*Concerned* about the occurrence of bullying in all parts of the world and the fact that children who are victimized by such practices may be at heightened risk of compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work and for a wide range of physical and/or mental health conditions, as well as potential long-term effects on the individual's ability to realize his or her own potential,

*Concerned also* that bullying, including cyberbullying, is associated with long-lasting consequences that continue on into adulthood,

*Noting with concern* that children who are marginalized or vulnerable, who face stigmatization, exclusion or discrimination of any kind, are disproportionately affected by bullying, both in person and online,

*Recognizing* that bullying often includes a gender dimension and is associated with gender-based violence and stereotyping that negatively affects both boys and girls,

*Noting* the risks associated with the use of new information and communications technologies and applications, including increased vulnerability to bullying, while stressing that they can create new ways to enhance education and, inter alia, foster learning and teaching on the rights of the child and can be useful tools to promote children's protection, including with appropriate guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

*Noting also* the role that information and communications technologies play in reducing the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, including by empowering children to report such abuses,

*Recalling* the obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure that parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child as well as to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child, and recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

*Acknowledging* the distinct and important roles that parents, legal guardians, schools, civil society, sports associations, communities, State institutions and traditional and non-traditional media each play in securing children's protection from the risks associated with bullying, including cyberbullying, and in preventing all forms of violence, including by promoting children's online safety,

*Recognizing* that early childhood is a critical stage for cognitive, emotional and behavioural development and that the parent-child relationship is a significant factor in predicting bullying behaviour in adolescents, as well as the existing evidence of a link between domestic violence and bullying in schools and other educational settings,

*Emphasizing* that evidence-based initiatives to strengthen children's life skills and respect for human rights, tolerance, concern for others and the responsibility to foster safety, as well as whole-school and whole-community programmes that fully respect all human rights and help to prevent and address bullying, constitute best practices that should be developed, strengthened and shared through international cooperation,

*Acknowledging* that children are uniquely placed to inform effective solutions and responses to bullying, including cyberbullying, and underlining that children's

participation and their contributions, including their views and recommendations, therefore need to be at the centre of efforts to prevent and address bullying and that their effective and meaningful participation is critical to a clear understanding of bullying and its impacts in order to effectively address it,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children;<sup>7</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of the policy brief of the Secretary-General on the impact of COVID-19 on children, in which States are encouraged to invest in digital literacy and regulations that ensure children's privacy, data protection and safety online while also taking more energetic steps to protect children from online child sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as other online harms;

3. *Calls upon* Member States:

(a) To continue to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children, including in and out of school, both in person and in digital contexts, from any form of violence, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, by promptly responding to such acts, and to provide appropriate support to children affected by and involved in bullying;

(b) To continue to promote and invest in education, including as a long-term and lifelong process by which everyone learns tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies;

(c) To address, through necessary measures, the wider economic and social inequalities that may contribute to bullying, including cyberbullying, including poverty, gender norms and stereotypes, taking into account that risk factors are mixed and vary depending on country and context;

(d) To develop and implement, as appropriate, measures and restorative practices to repair harm, restore relationships, avoid recidivism, promote the accountability of perpetrators and change aggressive behaviour;

(e) To generate and analyse statistical information and data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and to provide information on disability, with regard to the problem of bullying, including cyberbullying, as a basis on which to elaborate effective public policies;

(f) To adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, clear and comprehensive measures, including, where relevant, legislation, that seek to prevent and protect children from bullying, including cyberbullying, and provide for safe and child-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

(g) To ensure that child protection, including social protection and mental health services, is recognized as essential and that it continues to be provided and be accessible and available to all children at all times, including during lockdowns, quarantines and other types of confinement and public health measures;

(h) To strengthen the capacities of schools and the skills of professionals working with children in early detection and response to prevent and respond to bullying, including cyberbullying, in particular initiatives to mobilize support to prevent and address this phenomenon, and to ensure that children are informed of any existing public policies to secure their protection;

(i) To continue to raise public awareness, involving family members, legal guardians, caregivers, young people, schools, formal and non-formal and in-person

<sup>7</sup> A/75/149.

and digital education settings, communities, community leaders, the media, sports organizations, athletes, parents and coaches, as well as civil society organizations, with the participation of children, regarding the protection of children from bullying;

(j) To develop accessible parenting and other skills programmes for parents, legal guardians and family members, together with social protection interventions that help to tackle negative social norms that contribute to violence against children and bullying, and that help to promote a nurturing family environment, reduce the risk of social exclusion and deprivation and reduce children's potential exposure to violence at home that might be caused by, inter alia, school closures, confinement, movement restrictions, disruption of the provision of child protection services, or added family stress related to job loss and isolation;

(k) To involve and provide children with the opportunity to participate effectively in the development of initiatives to prevent and address bullying, including available support services and safe, accessible, age- and child-sensitive, confidential and independent counselling and reporting mechanisms, to guide them in promoting inclusive and responsible digital behaviour and to inform them of available mental and physical health-care services and procedures in place to support them, where they exist, and encourages Member States to make such support services available, as much as possible;

(l) To pay particular attention to children in vulnerable situations, including through efforts to promote mutual respect and tolerance for diversity in order to combat stigmatization, racism, xenophobia, hate speech, discrimination or exclusion;

(m) To continue to share national experiences and best practices for preventing and tackling bullying, including cyberbullying;

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue to share with the Secretary-General, through existing processes and mechanisms, information about any initiatives undertaken at the national or subnational level to prevent and address bullying, including cyberbullying, to promote peaceful social interaction with a view to assessing progress, and to make use of the results achieved;

5. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt appropriate measures, such as plans of action on the prevention of and response to bullying, including cyberbullying, to implement them effectively and to assess progress in children's protection, drawing on the experience of Member States, the United Nations, regional organizations, academia and civil society actors;

6. *Urges* Member States to ensure that all schools are free from violence, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, and peer-to-peer sexual harassment in digital contexts, and that they address all forms of violence against children, with particular attention to girls;

7. *Calls upon* Member States, with assistance from relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support victims of bullying with access to evidence-based, quality programmes, care and counselling for their physical, psychological and social recovery, as well as psychological care and trauma counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

8. *Welcomes* the continued collaboration of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children with human rights bodies and mechanisms, within their respective mandates, including the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in order to support efforts to prevent and address all forms of violence against children in all settings, such as bullying, including cyberbullying;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to facilitate further international efforts, in collaboration with Member States, to continue to raise awareness of the impact of bullying, including cyberbullying, on the basis of evidence, including through existing initiatives of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes;

10. *Invites* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to include information relevant to her mandate on the progress achieved in the protection of children from bullying, including cyberbullying, in her report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions;

11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”.

## Draft resolution II

### Child, early and forced marriage

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [69/156](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/175](#) of 19 December 2016 and [73/153](#) of 17 December 2018 on child, early and forced marriage,

*Recalling* its resolutions [74/134](#) of 18 December 2019 on the girl child and [73/148](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment”, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [41/8](#) of 11 July 2019 on the consequences of child, early and forced marriage<sup>1</sup> and all other previous resolutions relating to child, early and forced marriage,

*Guided* by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>3</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>5</sup> and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>6</sup> together with the relevant Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>7</sup> as well as other relevant human rights instruments, and recalling the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>9</sup> as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>10</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>11</sup> which marks its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2020, and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

*Taking note* of the relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>12</sup> and noting the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and the range of Goals and targets relevant to eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including target 5.3,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the ongoing United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children’s Fund Global Programme to End Child Marriage, as well as international, regional, national and subnational instruments, mechanisms and initiatives to end child, early and forced marriage, including the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia, the Joint Inter-Agency Programme to End Child Marriage and Early

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution [66/138](#), annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 521, No. 7525.

<sup>9</sup> [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

<sup>10</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>11</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995*

(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>12</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage, and further encouraging coordinated approaches to action at all levels,

*Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates, abuses or impairs human rights and is linked to and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring the human rights obligations and commitments of States to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

*Recognizing also* that social protection, education, adequate health care, nutrition, full access to clean water, including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, skills development and the combating of discrimination and violence against girls, among other things, are all necessary for the empowerment of the girl child,

*Noting* the recent progress made globally towards ending child, early and forced marriage, including a decrease in the proportion of girls who were married before the age of 18 in the past decade from one in four to approximately one in five, while expressing concern that, despite this global trend, progress has been uneven across regions, that the current pace of change is not sufficient to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 and that the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are projected to result in 13 million additional cases of child, early and forced marriage that otherwise would have been averted by 2030,

*Recognizing* that, in some contexts, the practice of child, early and forced marriage may include arrangements that are not formalized, registered or recognized by a religious or State authority, that such arrangements should be addressed in policies and programmes on child, early and forced marriage and that the gathering of information on these arrangements will help to develop responses for affected girls and women,

*Noting with concern* that deep-rooted gender inequalities and stereotypes, harmful practices, perceptions and customs, and discriminatory norms are not only obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and the empowerment of all women and girls, but are also among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places children, in particular the girl child, at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives,

*Noting with concern also* that poverty, insecurity, early pregnancy and lack of education are also among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, that armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies are among the exacerbating factors and that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that the immediate alleviation and eventual eradication of extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

*Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage is underrecognized and underreported and often coincides with impunity and lack of accountability, particularly at the community level, and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places women and girls at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives, including marital rape and sexual, physical and psychological violence, and reinforces the lower status of girls and adolescent girls in society,

*Recognizing also* that child, early and forced marriage is a major impediment to the achievement of the economic empowerment of women and their social and economic development, thereby hampering the ability of women to enter, advance and remain in the labour market, and that this harmful practice can impede economic independence and impose direct and indirect short- and long-term costs on society, and recognizing further that the economic autonomy of women can expand their options for leaving abusive relationships,

*Recognizing further* that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and that the empowerment of and investment in all women and girls, as well as the strengthening of their voice, agency, leadership and meaningful participation in all decisions that affect them, are key factors in breaking the cycle of gender inequality and discrimination, violence and poverty and are critical, inter alia, for sustainable development, peace, security, democracy and inclusive economic growth,

*Bearing in mind* the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the human rights of individuals, especially girls,

*Recognizing* that men and boys should play a role as strategic partners and allies of women and girls and that their meaningful engagement can contribute to transforming discriminatory social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence, as well as child, early and forced marriage, ending this practice and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

*Recognizing also* that families, communities and religious, traditional and community leaders play an essential role in transforming negative social norms and confronting gender inequality, and recognizing further that empowering girls, including already married girls, requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities, including through women's and girls' organizations, with the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, boys and men, as well as the wider community,

*Recognizing further* the need to support girls and women who were subjected to child, early and forced marriage, as well as their children, and underscoring the importance of removing structural barriers that prevent their access to services that respond to their specific needs,

*Noting with concern* that child, early and forced marriage disproportionately affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities and the development of employable skills for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to pregnancy, marriage, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, and that educational possibilities and opportunities are directly related to the empowerment of women and girls, their employment and economic opportunities and their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

*Noting with concern also* that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from primary and secondary education, and recognizing that the attendance of girls at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls,

*Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage remains a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent and unintended pregnancy, maternal and

newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, as well as increasing vulnerability to all forms of violence,

*Recognizing also* that the incidence and risk of child, early and forced marriage can increase during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict, public health emergencies and natural disasters because of various factors, including insecurity, increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, the misconception of providing protection through marriage, gender inequality, lack of access to continuous, quality education, the stigmatization of pregnancy outside marriage, the absence of family planning services, disruption in social networks and routines, increased poverty and the absence of livelihood opportunities, and that this requires increased attention, appropriate protection measures and coordinated action by relevant stakeholders, with the full and meaningful participation of the women and girls affected, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing further the importance of addressing the increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation in those situations,

*Recognizing further* that preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and supporting married girls and women affected by this harmful practice require appropriate gender- and age-sensitive protection, prevention and response measures, as well as coordinated action by relevant stakeholders, and that existing gaps in the collection and use of reliable data and evidence remain a major challenge for programming and informing appropriate measures and actions,

*Expressing deep concern* about the unprecedented and multifaceted negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the incidence of, and efforts to end, child, early and forced marriage, including the wide-reaching economic, social and human consequences and devastating impacts of the pandemic on the livelihoods of people and families, especially women and girls, and the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as the severe disruption to health and education systems, social protection programmes and the provision of protection and support services, including essential services,

*Noting with deep concern* that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated containment measures, including school closures and restrictions on the right to freedom of movement, are likely to increase risks faced by girls, including already married girls, as well as women affected by this harmful practice, including risks associated with sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and other types of exploitation, social isolation, unintended and/or early pregnancy, obstetric fistula, female genital mutilation, economic hardship, as well as the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the associated risk of not returning to school, and difficulties in gaining access to health-care services, hindering the fulfilment of their rights and future economic opportunities, and that these risks are even further exacerbated in humanitarian situations,

*Expressing deep concern* that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic not only exacerbates root causes of child, early and forced marriage, but also diverts international, regional and national attention and resources away from, inter alia, the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage and other harmful practices, and furthermore that COVID-19 containment measures are delaying and disrupting efforts, including by civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to end child, early and forced marriage, especially at the local level,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> A/75/262.

2. *Calls upon* States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including women and girls, men and boys, parents and other family members, teachers, religious, traditional and community leaders, civil society, organizations led by girls, women's organizations, youth and human rights groups, the media and the private sector, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, to support girls and women who are affected or at risk, who have fled such a marriage or whose marriage has dissolved, and widowed girls or women who were married as girls, including through the strengthening of child protection systems, protection mechanisms such as safe shelters, access to justice and the sharing of best practices across borders;

3. *Also calls upon* States to develop and implement measures at all levels to end child, early and forced marriage, including national and subnational action plans where appropriate, and to make adequate resources available across relevant sectors, including health, nutrition, protection, governance and education;

4. *Urges* States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage, protecting those at risk and addressing the needs of those affected, and work towards the coherence of these laws and policies at the local level, to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses;

5. *Calls upon* States to enact, enforce and uphold laws concerning a minimum age of marriage, to monitor their application and to progressively amend laws with lower minimum ages of marriage and/or ages of majority to 18 and engage all relevant authorities to ensure that these laws are well known;

6. *Urges* States to repeal or amend laws and remove any provisions that enable perpetrators of rape, sexual abuse or abduction to escape prosecution and punishment by marrying their victims;

7. *Calls upon* States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the timely registration of births and marriages, especially for individuals living in rural and remote areas, including by identifying and removing all physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages;

8. *Also calls upon* States to promote the meaningful participation of and active consultation with children and adolescents, including already married girls, on all issues affecting them and to raise awareness about their rights, including the negative impact of child, early and forced marriage, through safe spaces, forums and support networks, including in digital spaces, that provide information, life skills and leadership skills training and opportunities, including catch-up and literacy education, and lifelong learning opportunities, remote learning opportunities and childcare, as needed, to be empowered, to express themselves, to participate meaningfully in all decisions that affect them and to become agents of change within their communities;

9. *Further calls upon* States to promote awareness-raising about the harmful effects of child, early and forced marriage on the individual and wider society and the benefits of ending this harmful practice, including through open dialogue with all stakeholders, including girls and boys, women and men, religious, traditional and community leaders, parents, legal guardians and other family members, to work with local communities to combat negative social norms and gender stereotypes that condone child, early and forced marriage, to empower parents and communities to abandon the practice and to empower all women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives;

10. *Recognizes* that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding and that parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child, acknowledging the need to support their capacity to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, and reaffirming that the best interests of the child will be their basic concern;

11. *Urges* Governments, while addressing child, early and forced marriage, to confront family poverty and social exclusion through investing in family-oriented policies addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on education, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, paying special attention to gender-sensitive social protection measures, child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons and protecting, supporting and empowering children, including girls, in child-headed households;

12. *Also urges* Governments, with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders, to tackle poverty, lack of economic opportunities for women and girls and other entrenched economic incentives that act as drivers of child, early and forced marriage, including by ensuring the rights of women and girls to inheritance and property, their equal access with men and boys to social protection, childcare services and direct financial services, to encourage girls to continue their education, including through their re-enrolment in school after childbirth, to develop livelihood opportunities through access to technical and vocational education and training and life skills education, including financial literacy, and to promote freedom of movement, women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as equal political participation and rights to inherit, own and control land and productive measures;

13. *Encourages* States to promote and protect the human rights of already married girls and women affected by this harmful practice, to promote equality in all aspects of marriage and its dissolution and to address their specific needs, such as through targeted programmes that provide social services to protect them from sexual and gender-based violence, increase their decision-making power, make it easier for them to seek formal employment, increase their economic independence and financial literacy, access education, skills development programmes and lifelong learning opportunities, ensure their equal access to health-care services and information and decrease their social isolation, including by establishing or strengthening childcare services and working with communities to change discriminatory social norms;

14. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect the right of women and girls to equal access to education through enhanced emphasis on free and quality primary and secondary education, including catch-up and literacy education for those who have not received formal education, have left school early or were forced to leave school, including because of marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and/or childcare responsibilities, which empowers young women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives, employment, economic opportunities and health, including through scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians,

caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to contribute to ending child, early and forced marriage;

15. *Recognizes* that education is one of the most effective ways to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to help married women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives, and urges States to remove barriers to education, including by investing in quality primary and secondary education for every child in a safe environment, through adequate financing, ensuring that married girls and boys, pregnant girls and women and young parents continue to have access to schooling, improving access to quality formal education and skills development, especially for those living in remote or insecure areas, improving the safety of girls at and on the way to and from school, providing safe and adequate sanitation, including for menstrual hygiene management, adopting and implementing laws and policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence and to hold perpetrators accountable, strengthening and intensifying their efforts to implement effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, engaging men and boys, community leaders and parents, educating children from a young age regarding their human rights and the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect and designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support respectful relationships, non-violent behaviours, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls;

16. *Encourages* States to adopt, as appropriate, and implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote technical and vocational training and skills development and lifelong learning opportunities, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology, as well as higher educational opportunities for women and girls, including those at risk of or affected by child, early and forced marriage, so as to enable them to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to fulfil their full potential;

17. *Urges* Governments to promote, respect and protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems, including health information systems, that make universally accessible and available quality, gender-responsive, adolescent-friendly health services, sexual and reproductive health-care services, information and commodities, HIV and AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and care, mental health services and nutrition interventions and prevention, treatment of and care for obstetric fistula and other obstetric complications by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care;

18. *Also urges* Governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls, including the right of women, and those girls who have been subjected to child, early and forced marriage, to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

19. *Urges* States to formulate or review, as needed, appropriate policies, programmes or strategies in order to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, and address discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, which may occur against women and girls subjected to child, early and forced

marriage, as well as strengthen child protection systems and provide targets and timetables for implementation;

20. *Also urges* States to ensure access to justice and accountability mechanisms and remedies for the effective implementation and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including by informing women, girls and boys about their rights under relevant laws, including in marriage and at its dissolution, improving legal infrastructure, removing all barriers to access to legal counselling, assistance and remedies, training law enforcement officers, the judiciary and professionals working with women and children and ensuring oversight of the handling of cases of child, early and forced marriage;

21. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement, in consultation with and with the participation of women and, as appropriate, girls, and integrate into humanitarian responses, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, measures to address the increased vulnerability of women and girls to child, early and forced marriage, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict, natural disasters and public health emergencies, including by ensuring their access to such services as health and education, as well as strengthening follow-up and interventions to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings, as well as to address the needs of those affected;

22. *Also calls upon* States to take a comprehensive, rights-based, age- and gender-responsive, victim-centred and multisectoral approach that takes into account linkages with other harmful practices in the prevention of and response to child, early and forced marriage in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to pay particular attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations and those experiencing various forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities, including in humanitarian situations, in terms of, inter alia, access to essential services such as safe spaces, shelters and other social protection services, health-care services, safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, as well as access to education and to timely registration of births and marriages;

23. *Further calls upon* States, with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders, to ensure that COVID-19 response measures are transformative, participatory and adequately funded, promote inclusive, gender-equal and sustainable economies and societies, and address inequalities and exclusion and poverty, which are among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage by, inter alia:

(a) Paying particular attention to the specific needs of children, especially adolescent girls, who are more likely to be subjected to child, early and forced marriage, in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic at all levels, and promoting their effective and meaningful participation in decisions that affect them, by prioritizing the provision of child- and adolescent-centred services, with a focus on equitable access, particularly in relation to schooling, nutrition programmes, immunization, maternal and newborn care, and child protection programmes;

(b) Mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families and communities by, inter alia, expanding programmes that protect them against economic shocks, including poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes;

(c) Mitigating the impact of school closures, particularly for those learners who are among the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable, especially girls, by facilitating access to and continuity of equitable and inclusive quality education for all, including through distance learning, re-enrolling all previously enrolled children

and those who were already out of school, providing community awareness on the importance of girls' education, and working to ensure that those subjected to child, early and forced marriage, pregnant girls and women, as well as young parents, also continue to have access to schooling on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring access to the Internet and bridging the digital divides, both between and within countries and the gender digital divide;

(d) Adopting measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to address the discrimination and gender inequality, including gender stereotypes and negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours, unequal power relations in which women and girls are viewed as subordinate to men and boys, that are at the root of these imbalances;

(e) Ensuring continuity and further strengthening protection and support services for women and girls who experience violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially girls at risk of child, early and forced marriage and already married girls and women affected by this harmful practice, and designating protection shelters, hotlines and help desks, health and support services and legal protection and support as essential services available to all women and girls, in addition to establishing safeguarding measures and raising awareness and providing training for police, judiciary, first responders, health workers, and education and child services staff;

(f) Ensuring uninterrupted access to and funding for essential health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, including menstrual hygiene, and including in disadvantaged areas such as rural communities, informal settlements and humanitarian settings;

(g) Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 response measures on the ability of civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders working at the local and national levels to continue their work with girls, families and local communities to prevent and respond to child, early and forced marriage;

24. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate among themselves and with Member States in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, as well as to support those who were married as children;

25. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, the international financial institutions, civil society and other relevant actors and human rights mechanisms to continue to collaborate with Member States and national statistical agencies in order to assist in strengthening and building capacity for data and reporting systems for analysing, monitoring and publicly reporting on progress to end child, early and forced marriage based on evidence;

26. *Affirms* the need for States and relevant United Nations entities and agencies to improve the collection and use of quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on violence against women and harmful practices, including in humanitarian settings and in the context of public health emergencies such as COVID-19, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, civil status, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geographical location, socioeconomic status, education level and other key factors,

as appropriate, to enhance research and dissemination of evidence-based and good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage and to strengthen monitoring and impact assessment of existing policies and programmes as a means of ensuring their effectiveness and implementation;

27. *Encourages* the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, including in the context of child, early and forced marriage;

28. *Encourages* Governments to include information on progress towards eliminating child, early and forced marriage, including best practices and implementation efforts, in their national reports to relevant international treaty bodies and the universal periodic review and within the national voluntary reviews conducted through the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly, based on evidence, before the end of its seventy-sixth session, on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married girls and women affected by this practice, including girls' and women's empowerment programmes, gaps in funding, research and data collection, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

30. *Decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of this issue.

**Annex****Virtual informal meetings to hear an introductory statement and hold interactive dialogues on agenda item 68 and sub-items (a) and (b)**

1. At the virtual informal meeting of the Committee in the afternoon of 9 October 2020, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Germany, Colombia, Morocco, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Turkey, Qatar, Pakistan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, France, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Estonia, the European Union, Malta, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Syrian Arab Republic.
  2. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children made an introductory statement.
  3. At the virtual informal meeting of the Committee in the morning of 12 October 2020, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Spain, the European Union, Belgium, Slovakia, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan.
  4. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other sexual abuse material, made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Morocco, the European Union, Mexico, India, the Philippines, Israel and the United States of America.
  5. At the virtual informal meeting of the Committee in the afternoon of 12 October 2020, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Morocco, Portugal, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Austria, Qatar, Japan, Belgium, Slovenia, Costa Rica and Mexico.
  6. At the same meeting, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Morocco, Luxembourg, Mexico, Italy, Azerbaijan and Poland.
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