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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement submitted by CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue), a non- governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Recommendation for Clear Action and Consequences for Change

We cannot just wish everyone well, but need reachable goals and actions to pave the way for others to follow. There must be consequences for the States, militias and economic powers worldwide. By failure to uphold or by breaking the current UN Resolution and the complimentary human rights laws (1) there must be a tangible legal and economical follow-up, which will force change.

Examples are targeting schools, libraries, playgrounds, religious buildings, arts and cultural centers, but also the contamination of fields, air, water and infrastructures. Not only educational and environmental terrorism is condemned, but as focus we also bring in “fear as a weapon” and creation of a negative mental health environment.

Without deeper interpretation of the UN Resolution and the complimentary human rights laws, we need to see Janusz Korczak’s foundational values on children’s rights. His philosophy rests on the recognition of the child as a full human being in the present, not a “future adult” or incomplete person. This encapsulates the view that children are entitled to be taken seriously and treated with dignity equal to that of adults.

In his **Magna Charta Libertatis**, the late Dr Janusz Korczak lays out three fundamental rights in his book *"How to Love a Child"*, Korczak identified three principal rights:

1. "The child’s right to die" — acceptance of mortality and risk; not only the rejection of overprotection that denies the reality of life and growth, but choice of environment for this.
2. "The child’s right to live in the present" — “Children are not the people of tomorrow. They are people today.” Rights and respect must not be deferred and need to be seen as equals.
3. "The child’s right to be what the child is" — individuality and authenticity.

Additional rights emphasized in his writings **How to Love a Child, The Child’s Right to Respect**, and related works highlighting:

4. The right to love — “Love the child, not just your own”.
5. The right to respect.
6. The right to optimal conditions in which to grow and develop.
7. The right to make mistakes and to fail.
8. The right to be taken seriously and to express opinions and participate actively in judgments concerning them.
9. The right to a Children’s Court where the child can judge and be judged by peers. Korczak instituted such a court in his orphanages, in which even educators could be tried. We see this as best practice and he documented statistics into how he saw this as a success.

In practice, Korczak implemented democratic self-governance (children’s parliament and peer court), rejected corporal punishment and adult despotism, and insisted that the child is the expert on their own experience. He criticized the 1924 Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child as too weak—a plea for goodwill rather than a firm demand for rights. His ideas later influenced the drafting and spirit of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is safe to say that the foundation of these desired results proclaimed by the UN Resolution and Dr. Korczak's insights is a broken floor of human rights and dignity. Especially in conflict and post-conflict regions, it is impossible to stand on this shattered floor, even in this modern world. Children's safety, hopes and conditions, which should be a solid concrete foundation, are shattered rubble, bombed by the inflicting States and Parties, not seeing children as humans deserving of rights, but often as targets, armed soldiers or tools, to create pressure and win overhand against its seen enemies.

Herewith, we commend more solid actions with consequences to ensure the safe environments needed for the healthy soil of life. It is unjust to wish them rights, health and happiness, but we need to ensure this as the leading CSOs, NGOs and powers for human rights. These rights are striped from them from the moment of conception and at the latest at birth. They are born into conflict situations, which not only rob them of their rights and worth, but even chances for positive change. Equally burdening is the psycho-physical issues and traumas, which children must endure. As adults born out of the soil of conflict, statistically they will not only have more difficulty to integrate into healthy society and be mentally or physically fit, depending on if emotional or physical injury or both, but often via the war-fed influences and political powers choosing to influence children and youth, they will feed to the negativity and "war-tornness", in turn, passing this unjust conflict-ridden culture to the next generation. A vicious circle, if we don't break the cycle with clear actions, to re-pave the cracked foundation of basic human rights, on which they should build their lives.

We carry the responsibility as knowledge-carriers and heralds of global good intension. We, humanity today, regardless of race, religion, gender, etc., we cannot ignore the situations in conflict and post-conflict regions. We must bring positive change, not empty words. Like Dr. Korczak, regardless, how small or big, we must start building a structure of reform, where the rights of children can be exercised. These need to be secured and restored.

We need to give the children the soil (not through displacement as permanent solution) to grow and to exercise the foundational rights mentioned by Dr. Korczak and framed by the UN Resolution 2025.

In the UN Resolution you are "commending" civil societies, regional, and local initiatives to protect the human rights of women and children, so please do not give us empty soil or a broken foundation, but work with us together to do this with a solid action plan, executing consequences and delivering fruitful future to the next generations. Together we can enable change in conflict and post-conflict regions.

Österreichische Janusz Korczak-Gesellschaft, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

(1) The UN Resolution (A/HRC/RES/60/19)

The Human Rights Council resolution, adopted on 7 October 2025, focuses on the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, with particular emphasis on ensuring justice, remedies, and reparation for victims.

It is guided by the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security (notably 1325) and children and armed conflict (notably 2427), and the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.

(2) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>