

Human Rights Council
63rd regular session of the Human Rights Council
30 September 2026

**Item 8: General debate on follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration
and Programme of Action - General Debate**

Madame Vice-President,

Child Rights Connect delivers this statement on behalf of 185 civil society organisations.¹

On 7 and 23 September, the High Commissioner warned that the work of the UN treaty bodies - the legal backbone of the UN human rights system - is endangered by chronic underfunding and the ongoing liquidity crisis and issued an urgent call for help and support.

However, the challenges are not purely financial. Chronic underfunding, States falling short of their reporting obligations, and growing operational constraints represent a political crisis and, ultimately, a human rights crisis.

OHCHR and the treaty bodies themselves have made several proposals through the treaty body strengthening process, which could be piloted, on how to move towards greater predictability, harmonization and digital transformation. Yet, the system continues not only at a standstill, but in a downward spiral. In 2025, a 40% reduction in meeting time resulted in approximately 30% fewer reviews. The situation has worsened in 2026, adding further delays to an already backlogged system.²

We call on States to reaffirm their political and financial commitment for a strong, fully accessible and effective treaty body system:

1. ensuring sustainable funding through the UN regular budget, allowing to reduce review backlogs and ensuring foreseeability of States reviews sufficiently in advance;
2. providing dedicated resources for hybrid modalities that enable meaningful participation by civil society and other stakeholders; and
3. investing in accessible digitalization tools without further delay.

We call on all parts of the UN, including OHCHR, UNOG and the DGACM, to coordinate and overcome any administrative obstacles to treaty body strengthening.³

Not acting decisively in this direction is disengaging from human rights protection when it is needed the most.

Thank you.

¹ **Note:** Due to the reduced speaking time allocated for oral statements at the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council, an abbreviated version of the statement was delivered during the session. The version published here reflects the full text of the statement. The list of signatories has also been updated following the delivery to reflect the latest confirmed list of supporting organisations.

² See further example of impact. [Impact of UN liquidity situation on the work of treaty bodies in 2025 -2026](#) and [Exceptional working methods and NGO/civil society participation in treaty body sessions](#).

³ United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM).

List of signatories (as of 30.09.2026):

1. 6Rang (Iranian LGBT+ Network)
2. Acción por los Niños - Lima Perú
3. Advocacy Forum-Nepal
4. Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC)
5. African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies
6. Al Khidmat Foundation
7. Alliance for the Rights of the Child (Czechia)
8. Alliance pour l'Universalité des Droits Fondamentaux AUDF ONG
9. Amnesty International
10. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
11. ASOCIACION CIUDADANA POR LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
12. Association des Jeunes Futurs Cadres du Pays
13. Association for action against violence and trafficking in human beings-Open Gate/La Strada North Macedonia
14. Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
15. Association for the Prevention of Torture
16. Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)
17. AsyLex
18. Australian Child Rights Taskforce
19. AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS (AFDO) LTD
20. Autistic Minority International
21. Banglar Manbadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM)
22. BIMBA
23. Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance - BICE
24. Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación - CLADE
25. CASACIDN FEDERACIÓN ARGENTINA
26. CCPR Centre
27. Cedar Centre for Legal Studies
28. Center for Migration, Gender and Justice
29. Center for Reproductive Rights
30. Central Union for Child Welfare
31. Centre for the Sustainable use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR)
32. Centre International de Conseil, de Recherche et d'Expertise en Droits de l'Homme (CICREDHO)
33. Child Rights Coalition Asia
34. Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia)
35. Child Rights Connect
36. Child Rights Information Center in Moldova (CRIC)

37. Child Rights Network Switzerland
38. Children Advocacy Network- CAN Pakistan
39. Children of Incarcerated Caregivers
40. Children's Legal Centre Wales
41. Children's Rights Alliance for England, part of Just for Kids Law
42. Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
43. CINTRAS, Centro de salud Mental y Derechos Humanos
44. CLADHO
45. Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement, CVPD
46. Coalition Nationale des Associations des Personnes Handicapées (CONAPH)
47. Collectif des Défenseurs Sahraouis des Droits de l'Homme au Sahara Occidental (CODESA)
48. Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, A. C. COSYDDHAC
49. Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
50. Conseil français des associations pour les droits de l'enfant
51. Consortium for Street Children
52. Convention on Health Equity Alliance (aka Framework Convention on Global Health)
53. Coordinadora de Profesionales por la Prevención de Abusos (CoPPA)
54. Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience
55. Corporación La Caleta
56. Corporación Polimorfás
57. Cross Cultural Foundation
58. CUWEDE COD LAB
59. Defence for Children International
60. Defence for Children International-Canada
61. Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast
62. Down Syndrome International
63. Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar
64. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (DefendDefenders)
65. ECPAT Sri Lanka
66. Edmund Rice International
67. Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms
68. Egyptian Front for Human Rights
69. Emonyo Yefwe International
70. Eurochild
71. European Disability Forum
72. European Network on Statelessness
73. European Union of the Deaf
74. FIACAT
75. FIAN International
76. First Rights Project of Methoria

77. Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil
78. Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale (FMSI)
79. Framework Convention on Global Health Alliance
80. Franciscans International
81. Fundación por las Voces de Infancia y Género A.C.
82. Funktionsrätt Sverige
83. Geneva for Human Rights - Global Training & Policy Studies
84. Geneva Human Rights Hub
85. GIN SSOGIE
86. Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors
87. Global Detention Project
88. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
89. Global Justice Center
90. Greek Helsinki Monitor
91. Harm Reduction International
92. Hilar Talentos para Cosechar Derechos AC
93. HIV Legal Network
94. Human Rights Watch
95. IDA
96. IMADR
97. Inclusion Canada
98. inclusion netherlands
99. Independent Medico Legal Unit
100. Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos
101. Instituto Promoviendo Desarrollo Social - IPRODES
102. Intact Denmark
103. International Catholic Child Bureau
104. International Commission of Jurists
105. International disability organization
106. International Federation of World Peace Organizations
107. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims
108. International Service for Human Rights
109. International Social Service
110. Irish Penal Reform Trust
111. IWRAW
112. Japan Disability Forum
113. Jubilee Campaign
114. Juristes pour l'enfance
115. Justice for Iran (JFI)
116. JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)
117. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law

118. Kazakhstani NGOs Coalition against Torture
119. Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR)
120. Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
121. L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie
122. L'Arche Internationale
123. Latin American and Caribbean Womens Health Network
124. Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
125. Lithuanian Disability Forum
126. Make Mothers Matter
127. MBRDO
128. Minority Rights Group (MRG)
129. Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples
130. Nation Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWD)
131. National Coalition for Children's Rights Austria
132. Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality
133. Neuroförbundet
134. Ogiek Peoples' Development Program
135. Omega Research Foundation
136. OMEP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education)
137. Operation 1325
138. Pax Romana - International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-MIEC)
139. People's Watch
140. Persatuan Aliran Kesedaran Negara (National Consciousness Movement)
141. PF "Children's Fund of Kazakhstan"
142. Plan International INC
143. Plataforma de Infancia
144. PRO Global/Pensioners without Borders
145. Programme Against Custodial Torture & Impunity (PACTI)
146. Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness for Lesbian and Bisexual Women (PETAL)
147. Purple Royale: Trans Voices Amplified
148. QADER for Community Development
149. Race and Equality
150. Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia Inc
151. REDIM - México (Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México)
152. REDRESS Trust
153. Rehab Solutions.
154. RESEAU CAMEROUNAIS DES ORGANISATIONS DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
155. Right to Education Initiative
156. Rugby Belize
157. Rural People's Sangam

158. Samarthanam trust for the disabled
159. Save the Children International
160. Search for Justice (Pakistan)
161. Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre
162. Social Justice Center
163. Society for International Development (SID)
164. Svenska Avdelningen av Internationella Juristkommissionen
165. Swedish Foundation for Human Rights
166. Taiwan Mad Alliance
167. Terre des Hommes International Federation
168. The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession
(ACIJLP)
169. The Helix Foundation for Children and Youth
170. The International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus
171. The Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights - JWCHR
172. The Swedish Human Rights and Democracy Movement (Föreningen Ordfront)
173. TI-MG
174. Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
175. Trajosko Drom
176. Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
177. Validity
178. Verdandi
179. War Child Alliance
180. Western Cape Network on Disability
181. Women and Modern World Social Charitable Center – CWMW
182. World Association for School as an Instrument for Peace
183. World Federation of the Deaf
184. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
185. Young Women For Sustainable Development Malawi