

# *CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE*

Advocacy Guide for the 2019 United Nations General Assembly  
Rights of the Child Resolution

*UNGA Advocacy WG*

*July 2019*

## About this Advocacy Guide

When it comes to influencing UN General Assembly resolutions, engaging with Member States at the national government level in the lead up to and during the negotiations is absolutely key. Member States' position on the subject of a resolution is largely determined by the national government at the capital level, and for some States, in consultation with their political or regional groups (formal and informal groups of Member States who may choose to align on substantive issues or for particular political occasions).

Once determined, the national government will typically communicate this position to their permanent representative/s at the UN in NY who engage in the formal negotiations during the UNGA sessions. Permanent Representatives may also play a role in informing that decision. States with larger delegations to the UNGA may have delegates from the national government as well as from their permanent missions in NY participating directly in the negotiations in taking place in the UNGA and its Main Committees).

Recognising the importance of national advocacy to inform the content of UNGA Resolutions, this guide has been developed to aid coalition members engage with the national government in their country of operation around the 2019 Rights of the Child Resolution (RoC) on Children without Parental Care.

The guide contains background information on the UN General Assembly RoC Resolution process, the key recommendations endorsed by the coalition, as well as and practical tips, sample communications, timelines and suggestions to aid in advocacy planning.

Our hope is that it will assist you to develop an effective advocacy strategy that leverages your in-country networks, key relationships and knowledge of national care reform efforts at the national level to positively influence your government's position and engagement in the UNGA RoC Resolution negotiations.

## Background Information: UNGA Rights of the Child Resolution 2019

Each year, the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) makes important decisions affecting the lives of people around the world. These decisions are called resolutions, and though not binding, they recommend a course of action for all United Nations Member States on a wide array of topics from human rights to education, development, climate, and peace and security, among others. One of the resolutions addresses children's rights. The theme of the 2019 UN General Assembly RoC Resolution is Children without Parental Care. In accordance with [UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/155](#), the RoC Resolution will be informed by a report of the Secretary-General on the same topic, prepared by UNICEF with input from Member States and civil society partners.<sup>1</sup> The RoC Resolution language is negotiated by Member States during the sessions of the [UNGA Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee](#), referred to as the 'Third Committee'. The Third Committee is one of the six main committees of the UNGA and is the committee which discusses and adopts resolutions on social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. For more information about the negotiation process, see the external timeline on p.5.

The 2019 UNGA RoC Resolution, together with the report of the Secretary-General, offer an important opportunity to place children without parental care on the global agenda, review progress

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<sup>1</sup> See [UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/155](#), which requests the Secretary General to submit to the UNGA at its 74<sup>th</sup> session (in 2019) a comprehensive report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with a focus on children without parental care.

made in preventing unnecessary family-child separation and providing appropriate alternative care, and recommend specific actions to strengthen care reforms globally. This focus is particularly timely as 2019 is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#) and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

Furthermore, the UN's Agenda 2030, is built on an understanding that to truly achieve sustainable development, we must start focusing on those who have been left the furthest behind. [The Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) recognize that strategic investments in children are key to furthering peace, ending global poverty, and ensuring that all human beings can fulfil their potential.<sup>2</sup> The SDGs set forth bold targets across sectors and include an explicit focus on improving child outcomes through poverty reduction and increased access to health, nutrition, education, justice, and protection. If we are serious about putting children at the centre of the global development agenda, we cannot ignore the environments and relationships in which they grow. Decades of research have demonstrated that we cannot truly support children without investing in family relationships and ensuring that quality care is provided to all children.<sup>3</sup> Despite the vital role that family environments play in children's lives and well-being, children living without parental care are not mentioned at all. The 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child is also an important opportunity to ensure that children without parental care are not left behind in the global development agenda.

Given the opportunities that 2019 presents, it is vital that children's advocates engage at global and national levels to ensure that the 2019 UNGA RoC Resolution strategically addresses key challenges in ensuring the rights of and protections for children without parental care.

*Children without parental care include those living in child-headed households, foster care, residential care, detention, on the street, as well as those who are trafficked, associated with armed groups, unaccompanied children seeking asylum, or separated from their families as a result of poverty, parental death, disease, disability, discrimination, substance abuse, violence, neglect, abuse, conflict, disaster, or migration.*

## Key Recommendations

Children's advocates from across the globe have worked together to recommend specific language for inclusion in the RoC Resolution. These recommendations unpack the aforementioned key areas, proposing language that reaffirms existing commitments as well and suggests new commitments and language to move the agenda forward.

As of July, the Key Recommendations have been endorsed by over 175 organisations, networks and agencies working at national, regional and international levels. See the *Key Recommendations* at the end of this document. The Key Recommendations are divided under 9 *Key Areas*:

1. Recognize and prioritize the role of families
2. Support families and prevent unnecessary family-child separation
3. Protect children without parental care and ensure high-quality, appropriate alternative care
4. Recognize the harm of institutional care for children and prevent institutionalization
5. Strengthen child welfare and protection systems and services

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations. 2015. Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development. New York: United Nations General Assembly (hereafter referred to as 'UN. 2015.').

<sup>3</sup> National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2004. Young children develop in an environment of relationships. Working Paper No. 1.

6. Ensure adequate financial and human resources
7. Improve data collection and regular reporting
8. Ensure full participation of children without parental or family care
9. Follow-up to the RoC resolution

All 64 recommendations are part of the commitment and changes that need to be recognised by Member States as a part of this Resolution. However, it's important to highlight in our advocacy efforts with governments at national level, the most cutting-edge aspects of these recommendations, which would address some of the key barriers identified to implementation, and move the agenda forward in a significant manner globally, including:

- 1) Addressing the key drivers of family separation, including through programs that support and strengthen families in their caregiving role enabling children to remain in or return to safe, and nurturing family care;
- 2) Embedding clear political commitment for comprehensive care reform through a coordinated, cross-government approach, with clear time frames and plans for transition, and investment in a range of high-quality alternative care options - including in humanitarian settings;
- 3) Recognising the harm of institutionalisation to children and making clear commitment to stop funding new institutions and redirecting resources (human and financial) towards family-based care;
- 4) Securing resources for the transition via national budgets and international cooperation;
- 5) Tackling the push and pull factors (including private donations to institutions and orphanage voluntourism, and trafficking)
- 6) Ensuring children's access to alternative care is not discriminatory – with particular attention to children in the context of migration and children with disabilities;
- 7) Placing children and young people's participation in decision and policy making that concern them at the centre of the reform agenda.

## How to approach UNGA RoC Resolution advocacy

It is important to note from the outset that the negotiation of resolution language is a formal negotiation between Member States (for more information in how UNGA resolutions are drafted and negotiated see <https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/drafting-resolutions>)

The role of coalition members working at the national level is to **provide support** to national governments, including the key government agencies and personnel, to ensure they are:

- Aware of the importance and significance of the Resolution.
- Informed of the coalition Key Recommendations, the process by which they were developed, and the significance of any new recommendations made.
- Provided with an opportunity to unpack the coalition Key Recommendations with in-country experts (identified by the coalition), discuss any priorities and concerns and encouraged to engage with in-country experts and practitioners to explore areas of concerns.
- Clearly communicate their position to permanent mission in NY.
- Supported and encouraged to showcase their progress and leadership in care reforms in the context of the UNGA, including progress that relates to the Key Recommendations.
- Take an active role in promoting the integration of the Key Recommendations in the RoC Resolution throughout the negotiations.

Therefore, it's best to approach national government advocacy through the lens of 'offering your expertise' in support of government rather than lobbying government. Try to use formal channels of

communication and direct relationships you have with key ministries, agencies and personnel and avoid public mediums such as social media.

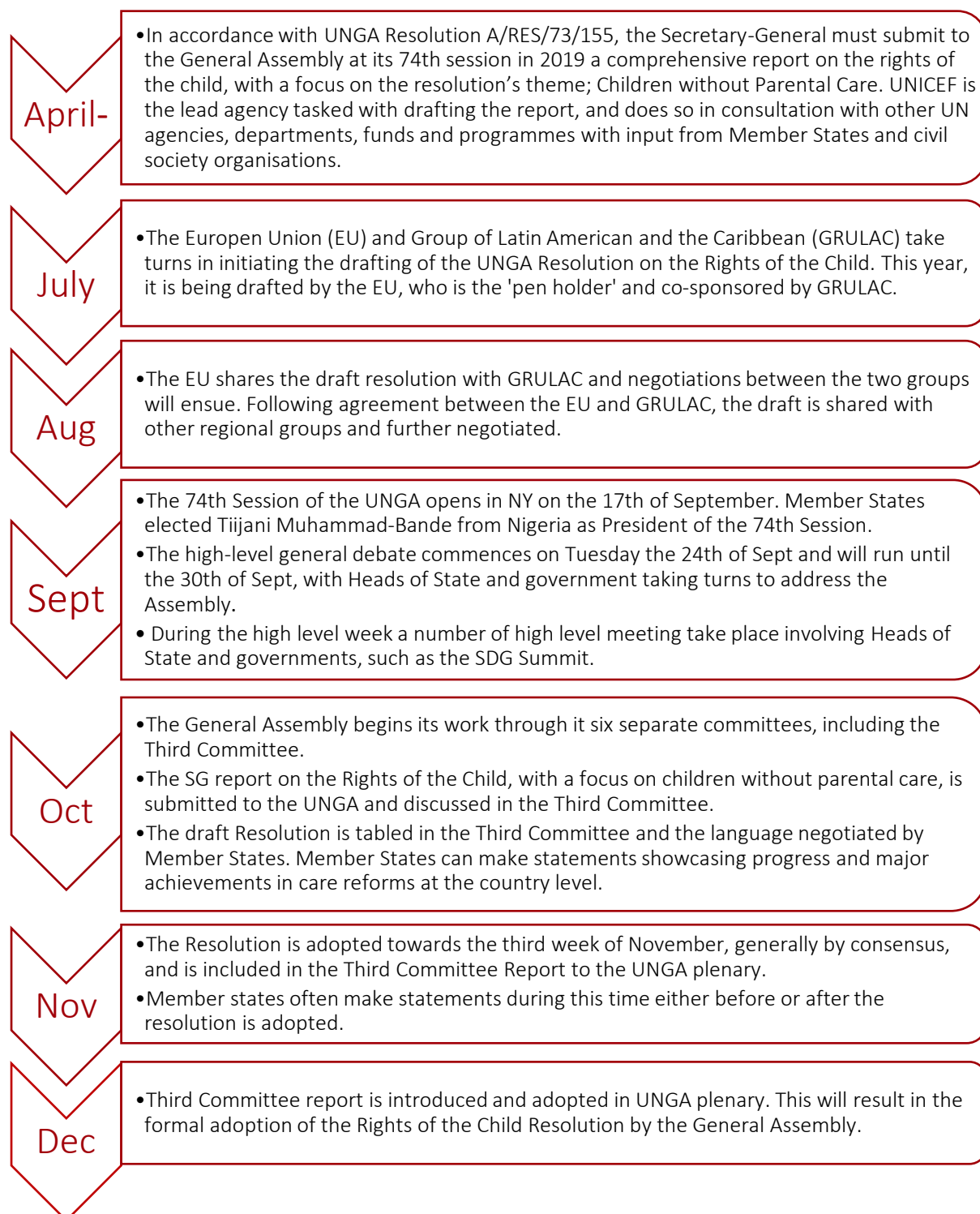
## The External Timeline

The development of a UNGA RoC Resolution follows a prescribed and foreseeable process. It commences with the theme of the Resolution being determined and adopted by the Third Committee of the UNGA, which takes place in the sessions of the previous year.

The UNGA sessions also attract many high-level political events, side events, and forums, some of which may present key advocacy opportunities for those advocating around a given Resolution. The drafting and negotiation process coupled with these high-level events establish the external timeline of the RoC UNGA Resolution. This external timeline is outlined in the section below.

It is important for coalition members advocating at the national government level to understand this external timeline and develop their internal advocacy timeline accordingly. This includes understanding if your country is part of a political group involved in the drafting process and when that takes place. This will ensure you develop a strategy that provides timely support and information and enables capital to maximise external opportunities.

## UNGA Rights of the Child Resolution on Children without Parental Care Timeline



## Timeline of global forums, meetings and high-level advocacy opportunities

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### July and August

The meeting of the [high-level political forum \(HLPF\) on sustainable development in 2019](#) convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held from Tuesday, 9 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019; including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Tuesday, 16 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019. The theme will be "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*". The HLPF is an important opportunity to make a link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child and ensure that Member States are aware of the *Key Recommendations*. Advocacy organizations are currently working to organize a side event focusing on children without parental care at the HLPF.

For more information please contact Merel Krediet [Merel.krediet@wearelumos.org](mailto:Merel.krediet@wearelumos.org)

A breakfast meeting (similar to the meeting held with EU delegation and EU Member States in June in New York) is held with the Missions of Latin American and Caribbean states is planned in August. This will include the large child focused agencies as well as those from the care reform sector. Active participation and participation via skype is also encouraged so that practitioner experts can also attend.

For more information, please contact Debra Jones [Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org](mailto:Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org)  
Florence Martin [Florence.Martin@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:Florence.Martin@bettercarenetwork.org)

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### September

During the high-level week of the UNGA in September when Heads of States and governments are in the city for the general debate, there are also several high-level meetings or summits organised to address key areas of international concerns.

[SDG Summit](#): On 24 and 25 September, Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 15 Sustainable Development Goals. The event will be the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. During this time there may be opportunities to raise the absence of children without parental care in the SDGs.

Lumos is organising a side event hosted by the EU, **Transforming Care to Ensure Every Child Grows Up in a Family Environment, Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda's Pledge to Leave No One Behind**. The side event will provide an opportunity for a representative of the advocacy coalition to bridge the SDGs and the ROC resolution.

Please contact Debra Jones for more details [Debra.jones@wearelumos.org](mailto:Debra.jones@wearelumos.org)

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### October

Child Rights Week is likely to be the week of 14 October, which is when the item on children's rights is discussed in the Third Committee. A side event will be organized on children without parental care, by the EU, GRULAC and UNICEF, given the focus of the 2019 UNGA Rights of the Child Resolution.

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### November - December

Events to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the CRC and the 10th Anniversary of the Alternative Care guidelines (20th November 2019). These could take place earlier than November. National and global level commemorative events are important opportunities for advocacy on the issue of children without parental care, including the priorities of the key recommendations.

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## Internal Timeline

The internal timeline is the advocacy implementation plan that you develop to guide your engagement with national government in your country of operation. There are five key stages that need to be outworked and factored into your planning. They are as follows.



Each of these stages are unpacked below, with suggested steps, discussion points and tips included.

### Stage One: Be prepared to advocate for the Key Recommendations

#### Key objectives:

1. You know the Key Recommendations well and can present them effectively.
2. You can explain the process by which they were drafted.
3. You are able to represent the coalition of actors that are behind the Key Recommendations
4. You are ready to respond to questions about issues that are particularly sensitive to some under the Key Recommendations

Timeline: July 2019

#### Suggested Steps:

1. Familiarise yourself with the coalition Key Recommendations.
2. Make sure you can articulate the key areas, and which recommendations fall under each key area.
3. Be prepared to put forward the argument for inclusion of recommendations that are most critical to moving the agenda forward.
4. Read the F.A.Q that will be provided to be able to respond to questions by governments and other stakeholders on particular issues, including on topics that can be sensitive.



## Stage Two: Identify your target stakeholders

### Key objectives:

- a. Identify the right ministries, Ministers, national bodies, office bearers and department personnel to engage with.
- b. Identify existing in-country networks and groups that could be mobilised, and formal and informal channels of communication between civil society and government that could be leveraged.
- c. Seek to understand whether your country will be represented by a delegation from the national government or representatives from permanent mission at the UN in NY.

Timeline: July 2019

### Suggested steps:

1. **Identify existing non-government networks** or groups that you can mobilise. This could include engaging relevant:
  - Alliances, associations or networks involved in care reforms;
  - Working groups and communities of practice;
  - Task forces, expert groups or peak bodies with a formal role in UN related processes.
2. **Identify the appropriate contacts** within government. This could include:
  - Relevant Ministers such as:
    - Minister of Foreign Affairs (which usually has responsibility for UN affairs)
    - Minister of Social Affairs
    - Minister for Women and Child Development
  - Key departments and department personnel, for example:
    - Human Rights and Treaties Division in the Foreign Affairs Department
    - Child Welfare Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs
  - Key national bodies and related office bearers such as
    - National Council for Children
    - Children's Commission/er
    - Ombudsperson

### Tip

#1 Check if there is an expert group, child rights task force, peak body or CRC coalition operational in your country. These groups often have an existing mandate and communication channels with the right government agencies and personnel. They can be key groups to join and/or engage with or mobilise in your advocacy efforts.

#2 If there is a Care Leavers Association or network of care experienced young people and adults, ensure they are engaged and involved in putting forward the key recommendations and influencing your strategy.

## Stage Three: Raising Awareness

### Key objectives:

To ensure the relevant departments and government personnel at the capital level, including within the specialised technical ministries, are aware of:

- a. The Rights of the Child Resolution due to be adopted at the UNGA in December 2019; and
- b. the significance of the Resolution focused on children without parental care, and the importance of this opportunity; and
- c. the coalition Key Recommendations and the process by which they were developed; and
- d. the recommendations that are critical to move the agenda forward, recognising that not all of the key recommendations will be included.

Timeline: July-August

### Suggested steps:

1. Determine who within your organisation or coalition (if you are working through a network) is best placed to make first contact and with which Ministers, key office bearers and department personnel. In some contexts, relationship matters, and it's best to utilise the person in your agency with the existing connections. In other contexts, hierarchy matters, and it's best to leverage seniority or status.
2. Make initial contact with the relevant government agency, department, body or contact. Depending on the strength and nature of your current relationship and your knowledge of 'how things work' in your country. Initial contact will likely be for the purpose of introducing the issue, making an initial offer to support government with information and requesting an opportunity for a follow up meeting or discussion.

Initial contact could be made:

- a. Via a letter- This might be more appropriate if you don't have a strong relationship with the relevant department/agency/personnel. A sample letter has been developed for this purpose and can be found in the annex section (Annex 1).
  - b. Via a call or email- This might be more appropriate in cases where you already have direct contact and an existing relationship with the right person/agency.
  - c. In the context of an existing meeting or forum. This might be more appropriate where there is an existing government-civil society forum where this issue can be introduced onto the agenda.
3. Organise follow up contact. This might be via email, calls or face to face meetings. The follow up meetings or communications are most likely to be your main opportunity to achieve the goal of awareness raising. In these meetings:
    - d. Make sure your most competent technical person is engaged in these discussions.
    - e. As a key civil society organisation or network of organisations engaged in care reforms at the country level, reiterate your desire to offer technical support to government if needed. You are essentially acting as 'subject matter experts' and offering your expertise in support of the government.
    - f. Be prepared to answer questions, provide background information and clarification.
    - g. Do your best to pre-empt and prepare to discuss any sensitivities that might arise. You may already be aware of what these sensitivities might be, or you may need to

do some research to identify national positions on relevant issues and/or background information on the individuals you are meeting.

- h. Be prepared to keep moving the agenda forward. Know what you want to achieve out of each meeting, including what you need to know or determine as well as what you need to communicate. Clarify action points from each meeting and provide timely follow up.

### Tips

#1 Together is better! If you have an interagency network or working group in your country, this is likely to be a more effective platform for engagement.

#2 It might be necessary to translate the key asks into a local language for the purpose of national level government engagement and advocacy. This might be particularly the case when engaging with the specialised ministry who may be less familiar with UN technical language. Where translation is required, ensure a high-quality translation, and where possible use a translator familiar with UN technical language. When it comes to negotiations around resolutions, language is of great importance!

#3 It is really important to ensure that awareness is raised within all ministries and departments that have a role in influencing the country's UNGA negotiations. Where your primary engagement is with the specialised technical ministry, such as Social Affairs, you may need to provide support to the specialised ministry to influence the ministry with responsibility for UN engagement, which is likely to rest with Foreign Affairs.

## Stage Four: Secure Commitment from the National Government

### Key objectives:

The objective here is to secure a commitment from your national government, which could take the form of:

- a. Supporting the inclusion of the coalition Key Recommendations in the Resolution.
- b. Advocating for the inclusion of the recommendations critical for moving the agenda forward in the negotiations.
- c. Co-sponsoring the Resolution.
- d. Playing a positive leadership role in the country's political group to secure group commitment for the Key Recommendation's inclusion and the adoption of a strong RoC Resolution.

Timeline: September- October

### Suggested discussion points

The 2019 RoC Resolution will be the first time the UNGA will adopt a resolution focused on the theme of children without parental care and it is celebrating 10 years since it endorsed the Guidelines for Alternative Care. In your discussion:

1. Emphasize that this is an historical opportunity to secure strong commitment for the implementation of international standards on children’s care globally and provide clear political direction on the steps required for their realization for all children.
2. Draw your government’s attention to the positive opportunities to show leadership in regional and international fora and/or profile progress, as this may encourage commitment. These include the opportunity to:
  - a. Demonstrate leadership through co-sponsoring the Resolution
  - b. Reference the commitment made in their CRC and CRPD period report and report for the UPR
  - c. Speak about the country’s progress in the area of care reforms during the debate

Other ‘agreements/commitments’ you might encourage during discussions include:

1. Encourage government to identify areas of concern in the Key Recommendations and engage with practitioners in the country to look at practical examples as they explore their position.
2. Encourage government to communicate what their position is and to let you know if their position changes throughout the negotiations.
3. Encourage government to clearly articulate their position to the permanent mission to the UN.
4. Encourage government to play a positive leadership role in their regional or political group, particularly if the country has made significant progress with care reforms and can reassure States who have made less progress. You can find information about the regional and political groups [here](#)

Tips:

#1 Make sure you are ready to mobilise and provide further support should your country raise objections to language or further concerns during the negotiations with the Third Committee in NY. This will take place in October-November. Join the UNGA Resolution task force to stay informed and connect with those operating at the NY level. To be added to the task force basecamp group contact [sarah.johnson@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:sarah.johnson@bettercarenetwork.org)

## Stage Five: Advocacy at the Regional/International Level

**Key objective:**

The objective of this stage is to raise awareness of the importance of the Resolution:

- a. At the regional level
- b. Within the context of other international and intergovernmental fora

**Suggested steps**

1. Identify whether there is an opportunity to raise the importance of the Resolution at the regional level within the existing agenda of regional political organisations such as ASEAN, SAARC AU, ESC, the Inter American Human Rights Commission etc.
2. If you are an organisation that is operating at the regional level that has a relationship with a regional organisation, you may be able to do this directly. If you are not, you may be able to encourage your government to include the RoC Resolution in the agenda for discussion.

### Tips

#1 Identify if your country has a leadership role (Chair or President) or is particularly influential in a regional organisation as this may make it uniquely placed.

#2 Check whether there are regional organisation meetings taking place that might be good opportunities to raise awareness and commitment for the key recommendations

#3 If your government has raised in the past or is raising clear objection to or challenging position to the Key Recommendations or children's rights related to family care, be conscious of exacerbating their position by raising its profile in a highly political context. Equally be prepared that your government may play an active role to undermine positive commitments in the Resolution. If this is the case, consider working with countries in the region who have a more positive position to inform your government's agenda.

#4 Remember that the RoC Resolution is one of many issues that is being negotiated by your country at the regional/international level, and that this is likely to influence whether your government supports or votes for a strong RoC Resolution at the UNGA.

## Integrating the Timelines

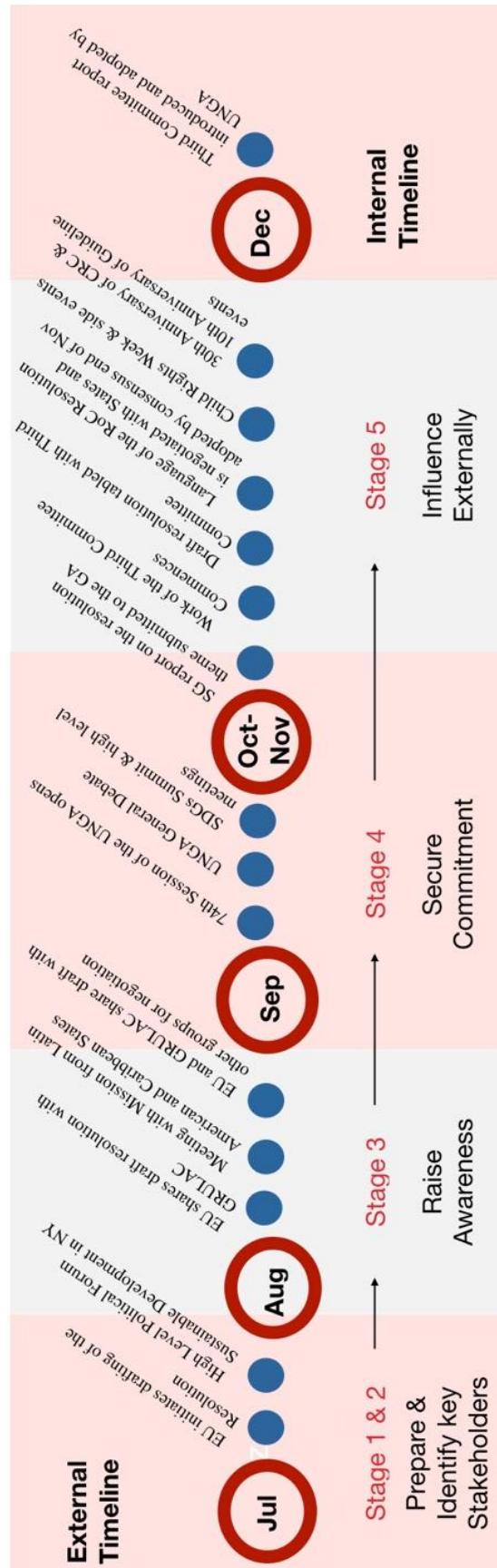


figure 1: External and internal timeline overlay

## Collaborate with Partners

The strength of our call for a strong 2019 UNGA RoC Resolution focusing on children without parental care, is the diversity and global reach of the members of the coalition. The more we can leverage this, the stronger our message will be and the more likely it will have an impact.

There are a number of ways we can foster collaboration at the global level, and a number of reasons why this is critical. These include:

1. Join the Advocacy Task Force basecamp group, ideally before you make contact with your government, to help coordinate and share any responses from national governments. This will allow us to:
  - a. Keep track of the advocacy efforts across the global coalition, so we know which countries have been contacted; and
  - b. Know how governments have responded; and
  - c. share positive responses from one country to encourage other countries to take bold and supportive action; and
  - d. thank countries for positive responses when communicating with their representatives in New York.
  - e. mobilise actors advocating at the capital level if a Member State raises objections to language during the negotiations in NY
2. Share information about advocacy efforts or other opportunities you are aware of, by contacting advocacy coordinators Nolan Quigley ([Nolan.Quigley@hopeandhomes.org](mailto:Nolan.Quigley@hopeandhomes.org)) and Debra Jones ([Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org](mailto:Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org)).
3. Clarify questions or issues raised by national level governments on the Key Recommendations by contacting the UNGA Advocacy Group co-chairs, Florence Martin ([Florence.martin@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:Florence.martin@bettercarenetwork.org)) and Becky Smith ([Re.Smith@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:Re.Smith@savethechildren.org.uk))

### Summary of Key Contacts

- Sarah Johnson- [sarah.johnson@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:sarah.johnson@bettercarenetwork.org). Contact Sarah to join the Global Task Force basecamp group or to include a new endorsing organisation to the coalitions' Key Recommendations.
- Nolan Quigley ([Nolan.Quigley@hopeandhomes.org](mailto:Nolan.Quigley@hopeandhomes.org)) and Deb Jones ([Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org](mailto:Debra.Jones@wearelumos.org)) –Task Force on Advocacy co-coordinators – Contact Nolan or Deb to share information about advocacy opportunities
- Florence Martin ([Florence.martin@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:Florence.martin@bettercarenetwork.org)) and Rebecca Smith ([Re.Smith@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:Re.Smith@savethechildren.org.uk)) – UNGA Advocacy Group Co-Chairs– contact Florence or Becky for queries related to the coalition Key Recommendations.

## Annex 1: Sample Contact Letter

### **Sample letter**

*[Appropriate salutation for government official]:*

I am writing to you on behalf of *[your organization's name]*. We work to *[add one paragraph about your work as it relates to children without parental care in the context of the country where you work]*.

We are part of a global coalition of actors working to promote and protect the rights of children without parental care. Together, we are asking for national governments and world leaders to take bold and principled action on behalf of some of the most vulnerable children in the world, including those living in child-headed households, foster care, residential care, detention, on the street, as well as those who are trafficked, associated with armed groups, unaccompanied children seeking asylum, or separated from their families as a result of poverty, parental death, disease, disability, discrimination, substance abuse, violence, neglect, abuse, conflict, disaster, or migration.

This year, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of the Child will focus on children without parental care. This is an important opportunity to place this vulnerable population of young people on the global agenda, review progress made in preventing unnecessary family-child separation and providing appropriate alternative care, and recommend specific actions to strengthen care reforms globally. This focus is particularly timely as 2019 is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#) and the 30th anniversary of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

This Resolution is an important moment for national and world to protect children without parental care and ensure strong child welfare and protection systems and services, including high-quality, appropriate alternative care. It is vital that governments engage at global and national levels to ensure that the 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child strategically addresses key challenges in ensuring the rights of and protections for children without parental care.

We would be grateful if your government would support this call for a strong 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child that places children without parental care at the center of the global agenda.

Please find enclosed for your reference and consideration *Key Recommendations* for inclusion in the 2019 Resolution.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss these matters further. Please count on us for any support we can offer in this regard.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

*[Your name]*  
*[Your contact information]*



## Annex 2: Coalition Key Recommendations

### Key Recommendations for the 2019 UNGA Resolution on the Rights of the Child with a focus on children without parental care

May 24th, 2019

#### 1. Recognize and prioritize the role of families

- a) Recognizing that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community; and 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;<sup>1</sup>
- b) Recalling that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognize a child's right to family life and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents or, where applicable, members of the extended family or community as provided by local custom;<sup>2</sup>
- c) Welcoming progress in strengthening child care, welfare and protection systems, including global efforts to redirect policies and services towards family-based care and reduce the use of institutional care, since the adoption of the CRC, CRPD, and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children;
- d) Profoundly concerned that millions of children worldwide continue to grow up deprived of parental care, separated from their families, or institutionalized as a result of poverty, discrimination, violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, humanitarian emergencies, conflict, disaster, climate change, migration, substance abuse, death or illness of a parent, and lack of access to education, health, and other family support services;<sup>3</sup>
- e) Noting with concern that children are often denied the right to family life due to discrimination on the basis of disability, nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, and other forms of discrimination;
- f) Recognizing the harm caused to children by the unnecessary separation from their families and noting that children living without nurturing and protective family care are more vulnerable to violence, trafficking and other forms of exploitation, abuse, neglect, as well as lack of stimulation and toxic stress, all of which can have a profoundly negative effect on their physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development throughout the life-course;<sup>4</sup>
- g) Deeply concerned that, despite the clear obligation of States to ensure that removal of a child from the care of the family is a measure of last resort and should, wherever possible, be temporary and for the shortest possible duration,<sup>5</sup> children continue to be unnecessarily separated from their parents for extended periods;
- h) Recognizing that the vast majority of children without parental care live with extended families and kin, many of whom require support to provide appropriate care in the best interests of the child;<sup>6</sup>
- i) Underscoring that to truly eradicate inter-generational poverty, end violence, foster equity, and to seriously put children at the heart of the global development agenda, the critical role that families play in ensuring children's health, physical, social, and emotional development, education, and protection must be acknowledged and supported;<sup>7</sup>

- j) Recognizing that services delivered to children—whether primary health and nutrition, early childhood care and development, education, or protection—do not work in a vacuum but are most effective when they consider the vital role of family in children’s lives and well-being;
- k) Understanding that children’s well-being suffers across domains without the consistent, nurturing and protective care of parents and families;<sup>8</sup>
- l) Recalls the State’s primary responsibility in promoting parental care, preventing unnecessary child-family separation, facilitating family-child reintegration where separation has occurred, where appropriate; and in all matters protecting the best interests of the child.<sup>9</sup>

**2. Support families and prevent unnecessary family-child separation**

- a) Calls upon States to prioritize family empowerment and develop and strengthen family-centered policies, including parental leave; affordable, quality child care services; and parenting support. Efforts should be made to support work-family balance, engage fathers, and promote the equitable sharing of family responsibilities between men and women;
- b) Urges States to address the drivers of separation through programs that support and strengthen families in their caregiving role<sup>10</sup> by providing full protection of children’s civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind;<sup>11</sup> universal health coverage;<sup>12</sup> free, safe, inclusive, equitable, and enabling learning opportunities and environments;<sup>13</sup> child-sensitive social protection policies and services;<sup>14</sup> and effective measures to prevent all forms of violence against children;<sup>15</sup>
- c) Underlining that efforts should be primarily directed to enabling the child to remain in or return to the care of his/her parents or, when appropriate, other family members, by ensuring that they have access to forms of support in the caregiving role and are able to provide safe, stable,<sup>16</sup> nurturing care<sup>17</sup> for their children;<sup>18</sup>
- d) Urges States to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children and their families without discrimination based on disability, parental status, socio-economic status, nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or any other basis, with a view to preventing concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation and to ensuring they have equal rights with respect to family life;<sup>19</sup>
- e) Encourages States to strive to change attitudes, beliefs and norms that condone or normalize violence against children, child abandonment, neglect, separation and unnecessary placement in alternative care, and instead build on positive social norms and practices that promote safe and nurturing family care to ensure child well-being and development;<sup>20</sup>
- f) Calls on States to promote family reunification and reintegration procedures that recognize that reintegration is not a single event but a longer process requiring preparation, support and follow-up measures that reflect the child's age, needs, evolving capacities, the cause of separation, and past experiences or trauma, and updating children and their caregivers on the process of family tracing and reintegration.<sup>21</sup>

**3. Protect children without parental care and ensure high-quality, appropriate alternative care**

- a) Recognizing that children living without parental care include those living in child-headed households, institutions, foster care, residential care, detention, on the street, as well as those who are trafficked, associated with armed groups, unaccompanied children seeking asylum, or separated from their families as a result of poverty, parental death, disease, disability, discrimination, substance abuse, violence, neglect, abuse, conflict, disaster, or migration;

- b) Recognizing also that children in need of alternative care have diverse and complex needs that should be met through a comprehensive child care, welfare and protection system offering a range of high-quality options for children;
- c) Underscoring that formal alternative care should always be a temporary measure whilst permanent solutions are sought, and should have the clear purpose of offering children a stable, protective, and nurturing environment;
- d) Deeply concerned that many children continue to be placed in unregistered, unregulated alternative care in violation of international standards of care and that many children in such circumstances are placed in inappropriate alternative care environments without proper assessment, care plans, and review processes in place;
- e) Calls upon all States to implement the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children in conformity with the CRC and CRPD and all relevant international conventions and human rights treaties, reviewing and, where necessary, developing or reforming national laws and policies so that they prioritize the care of children in a safe, nurturing, and permanent family environment;
- f) Reaffirms that no child should have to give up his or her family connections to receive care, supportive services, treatment, or education;
- g) Recalls that States should ensure that all decisions, initiatives and approaches related to children without parental care are made on a case-by-case basis, with a view, notably, to ensuring the child's safety, security, and participation, and grounded in the best interests and rights of the child concerned, in conformity with the principle of non-discrimination and taking due account of the gender perspective;<sup>22</sup>
- h) Underlines that for children at risk of separation, or already separated, a range of alternative care options should include access to quality community-based alternative care that allows children to live in a family setting within a community, including kinship care, foster care, *kafalah*, cross-border reunification,<sup>23</sup> and adoption.<sup>24</sup> Where the separation of parents and child is long-term, the alternative care arrangement should give the child a sense of security, continuity, stability and belonging by providing certainty on where the child will live for the rest of childhood and who the child's parents or legal guardians will be;
- i) Recognizes that in specific cases it may be necessary to provide quality, temporary, specialized, care in a small group setting organized around the rights and needs of the child in a setting as close as possible to a family, and for the shortest possible period of time. The objective of such placement should be to contribute actively to the child's reintegration with his/her family or, where this is not possible or in the best interests of the child, to secure his/her safe, stable, and nurturing care in an alternative family setting or supported independent living as young people transition to adulthood;
- j) Calls upon States to establish rigorous screening procedures through national and local authorities to ensure that only appropriate admissions to such facilities are made<sup>25</sup> and that placement decisions do not perpetuate social norms that discriminate against children based on disability, parental status, socio-economic status, nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or any other basis, are strictly authorized by a mandated administrative or judicial body<sup>26</sup> and regularly reviewed to enable transition to longer term care solutions in line with a child's right to family life and to being included in the community;
- k) Recalls that alternative care placement decisions must be taken within a child-sensitive due process framework in accordance with international human rights principles, including the child's rights to be heard, to have access to justice and to challenge before a judge any decision that could deprive him or her of liberty;<sup>27</sup>
- l) Underlines that when a child is placed in any form of alternative care, connections with his/her family, as well as with other persons close to him or her, such as friends, neighbors and previous carers, should be encouraged and facilitated, in keeping with the child's protection and best

interests. The child should have access to information on the situation of his/her family members in the absence of contact with them;<sup>28</sup>

- m) Recognizes that in some cases older adolescents may make the informed choice to live in a community-based, supported living arrangement as part of their transition to adulthood;
- n) Urges States to ensure that young people leaving or aging out of alternative care are properly supported as they return to families or transition to independent living;
- o) Calls upon States to, at minimum, establish registration, oversight, and accountability mechanisms and licensing systems for all formal alternative care options; assess the quality of care and status of children in all facilities and formal placements; conduct a planned, time-bound process to register; and develop and implement a plan for the safe, phased closure of those unable or unwilling to fulfill requirements for registration and licensing within a set period; prohibit the establishment of new institutions; and ensure effective gatekeeping and referral mechanisms are in place;
- p) Calls upon States to invest in robust co-operation mechanisms internationally, regionally and bilaterally, including through local level cross-border working groups where appropriate, to facilitate cross-border case management, family tracing, and appropriate care placements. These mechanisms should ensure that children's rights are protected by all relevant States, including the new state of habitual residence, and not discriminated against in this process due to their immigration status or that of their caregiver(s);
- q) Urges States to take appropriate measures to prevent and respond to family-child separation in humanitarian contexts. In particular, contingency plans should be put in place in preparedness and response phases to keep families together and facilitate rapid family reunification, especially in the context of population movements;
- r) Calls on States to develop policies and implement programs in humanitarian contexts to support family unity in non-detention settings; prohibit the establishment of new residential facilities for long-term care; establish standard operating procedures to delineate roles and responsibilities for those involved in the care, reunification, and legal status determination of separated and unaccompanied children; and support eligible families to host separated and unaccompanied children until they can be reunified with their parents or extended families as appropriate.

#### **4. Recognize the harm of institutional care for children and prevent institutionalization**

- a) Recognizing the harm of institutionalization and institutional care to children's growth and development across domains and throughout the life-course, including increased risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse;<sup>29</sup>
- b) Noting that most children in institutions have living parents and family members;
- c) Encourages States to replace institutionalization with appropriate measures to support family and community-based services and, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family and, failing that, within the community in a family setting, bearing in mind the best interests of the child and taking into account the child's will and preferences;<sup>30</sup>
- d) Urges States to phase out institutionalization and adopt a strategy and a concrete plan of action for de-institutionalization, including the duty to implement structural reforms, to improve accessibility within the community and to raise awareness among all persons in society about inclusion within the community. No new institutions may be built, nor may old institutions be renovated beyond the most urgent measures necessary to safeguard residents' physical safety. Institutions should not be extended and new residents should not enter in place of those that leave;<sup>31</sup>

- e) Underscoring that de-institutionalization requires a systemic transformation of the child care, welfare and protection system, including the establishment of a range of individualized support services, individualized plans for transition with budgets and time frames as well as inclusive support services, and a coordinated, cross-government approach which ensures reforms, budgets and appropriate changes of attitude at all levels and sectors of government;<sup>32</sup>
- f) Concerned that well-meaning support for institutions through donations, orphanage volunteering or tourism, and faith-based missions can lead to unnecessary family-child separation and undermine de-institutionalization and care reform efforts;
- g) Urges States to enact and enforce the necessary legislative or other measures, to prevent children from being trafficked into or exploited in residential care facilities, and to exercise due diligence in investigating, prosecuting and punishing offenders where residential care facilities fail to comply with the legislative and regulatory frameworks with respect to registration, recruitment, admissions and operations.

## **5. Strengthen child welfare and protection systems and services**

- a) Recognizing that comprehensive child welfare and protection services are essential components of an effective social service system, supporting national efforts to reduce child poverty, risk and adversity, while complementing and leveraging the work of the health, education, and justice sectors;<sup>33</sup>
- b) Urges States to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect while in the care of parents, legal guardians, or any other person who has the care of the child;<sup>34</sup>
- c) Calls on States to develop policies and services, including the organizations, structures, people, activities, data, and resources, with a primary intent to reach vulnerable families and provide child centered support services that reduce or eliminate risks factors, promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments, provide concrete support in times of need and improve families' economic security and stability, and foster parental and child resilience including through increased access to social support and coping strategies.
- d) Encourages States and all actors to develop and strengthen community-based, national, and cross-border child protection systems that have the capacity to assess the unique needs of vulnerable children and families, determine the best interests of the child,<sup>35</sup> make referrals to local resources (formal or informal), age- and gender-sensitive programs and services, and include rigorous assessment, gatekeeping,<sup>36</sup> and monitoring.<sup>37</sup> These systems should seek to provide a continuum of care – from prevention to response – that will secure child welfare and protection, including during the transition to adulthood.

## **6. Ensure adequate financial and human resources**

- a) Recognizing that funding for institutions can exacerbate unnecessary family-child separation and the institutionalization of children, States should ensure that public or private funds are not spent on maintaining, renovating, establishing building or creating any form of institution or institutionalization;<sup>38</sup>
- b) Urges States, to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where appropriate, within the framework of development cooperation, to allocate human and financial resources to ensure the optimal and progressive implementation of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, in conformity with the CRC, CRPD, and all relevant international conventions and human rights

treaties, throughout their respective territories in a timely manner. States should facilitate active cooperation among all relevant authorities and the mainstreaming of child and family welfare issues within all ministries directly or indirectly concerned;<sup>39</sup>

- c) Urges States to adequately resource care strengthening and reform and redirect public and private resources towards a range of suitable high-quality community-based care options and the safe transition from institutional to family-based care in the community. States must ensure that their funds are used to support child care reform both nationally and through international cooperation;
- d) Urges States to strengthen and provide adequate funding for a trained, qualified, accredited, mandated and supported social service workforce to work directly with children and families and to oversee the quality of care provided.<sup>40</sup>

## **7. Improve data collection and regular reporting**

- a) Recognizing that all children count, but not all children are counted and noting that the 2030 Agenda does not include a systematic process to identify the most vulnerable, including children without parental care;
- b) Underlining that the bold vision of the 2030 Agenda and its aim to “leave no one behind” will not be achieved if children without parental care continue to be neglected within the Sustainable Development Goals framework and related funding and programmatic implementation;
- c) Recognizing the importance of rigorous data collection, particularly by national authorities, and the urgent need to enhance international cooperation to this end, including through capacity-building, financial support and technical assistance. Data collection must be consistent with national legislation on data protection and international obligations related to privacy, as applicable;<sup>41</sup>
- d) Urges States to close existing data gaps, develop national and global baselines, and invest in quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data related to children living without parental or family care in all settings and situations.<sup>42</sup> Ethical data collection mechanisms to assess the situation of children living without parental care should include processes to determine where and with whom children are living, the type of care arrangement, and the quality of care they are receiving, ensuring data privacy protections, especially for children under 18;<sup>43</sup>
- e) Calls on States to ensure that data and information is disaggregated systematically across all sectors, including with respect to housing, living arrangements and social protection schemes as well as access to independent living and support and services. The information should allow for regular analyses of how deinstitutionalization and transition to support services in the community have progressed. It is important that indicators reflect the particular circumstances in every State party;<sup>44</sup>
- f) Urges States to ensure that comprehensive and up-to-date records are maintained regarding the administration of alternative care services, including detailed files on all children in their care, staff employed and financial transactions. The records on children in care should be complete, up to date, confidential and secure, and should include information on their admission and departure and the form, content and details of the care placement of each child, together with any appropriate identity documents and other personal information. Information on the child’s family should be included in the child’s file as well as in the reports based on regular evaluations. This record should follow the child throughout the alternative care period and be consulted by duly authorized professionals responsible for his/her current care;<sup>45</sup>
- g) Encourages States to track longitudinal data to measure progress over time on the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, including changes in legislative and policy frameworks, administrative and statistical data on the provision of alternative care services, social service workforce capacity and development, funding and budgetary

provisions, and perspectives and recommendations from children, young people, parents and families connected with the care system;

- h) Urges States to commit to ensure this data fosters research, guides coherent and evidence-based policy-making and well-informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time.<sup>46</sup>

## **8. Ensure full participation of children without parental or family care**

- a) Reaffirming the right of all children to express themselves freely, to be consulted and to have his/her views duly taken into account in accordance with his/her evolving capacities, and on the basis of his/her access to all necessary information. Every effort should be made to enable such consultation and information provision to be carried out in the child's preferred language;<sup>47</sup>
- b) Urges States to establish and strengthen mechanisms for the effective participation of children in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affect them directly in their daily lives as well as in relation to policies and services, such as health, the environment, education, social and economic welfare, protection against violence, abuse and exploitation, and disaster response;<sup>48</sup>
- c) Calls on States to support children and their families to participate in decisions that affect them, including individual care arrangements and placement in alternative care. Ensure that the preparation, enforcement and evaluation of a protective measure for a child should be carried out, to the greatest extent possible and with respect to the child's best interests and safeguarding, with the participation of his/her parents or legal guardians and potential foster carers and caregivers, with respect to his/her particular needs, convictions and special wishes. At the request of the child, parents or legal guardians, other important persons in the child's life may also be consulted in any decision-making process;<sup>49</sup>
- d) Urges States to establish a competent monitoring mechanism, such as a children's ombudsperson, commissioner or inspectorate, to monitor compliance with the rules and regulations governing the provision of care, protection and treatment of children in alternative care with unimpeded access to residential facilities to hear the views and concerns of the child directly, including through a confidential and safe complaint mechanism, and to monitor the extent to which his or her views are listened to and given due weight.

## **9. Follow-up**

- a) Decides to convene a one-day high-level dialogue of the plenary of the General Assembly, within existing resources, on strengthening care and protection systems for children without parental care, during United Nations High-Level Week in September 2020 or on the International Day for the Protection of Children; and that the high-level dialogue shall comprise an opening plenary meeting and an interactive panel discussion with the meaningful participation of children.

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<sup>1</sup> This language is established in the UNCRC, UNCRPD, and other UN documents. A/RES/73/155 adds that the “family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children”.

<sup>2</sup> This language is established in the UNCRC, Articles 5 and 7(1); UNCRPD, Article 23 (3 and 5); International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 17, 23 and 24); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 10; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Articles 14, 17, and 44; Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return (CMW/C/GC/4-CRC/C/GC/23)

<sup>3</sup> These risks are referenced in multiple UN documents, including the UNCRC (Article 9), UNCRPD (article 23); CRPD/C/GC/5; A/RES/64/142 paragraph 15; A/RES/71/177; and the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees.

<sup>4</sup> Explicit reference to the harm of separation is not made in established UN texts. This is an opportunity to reference the science behind adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress and neglect. For example, see Center on the Developing Child (2013). [The Science of Neglect](#) (InBrief). See also National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2005/2014). [Excessive Stress Disrupts the Architecture of the Developing Brain: Working Paper No. 3](#); and National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2004). [Young Children Develop in an Environment of Relationships: Working Paper No. 1](#)

<sup>5</sup> This is established in A/RES/64/142, paragraph 14. See also UNHCR (2018). [Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child](#).

<sup>6</sup> Help Age International and Every Child. (2012). [Family First: Prioritising support to kinship carers, especially older carers](#).

<sup>7</sup> A/RES/70/1, paragraph 25.

<sup>8</sup> G. Huebner, N. Boothby, J. L. Aber, G. L. Darmstadt, A. Diaz, A. S. Masten, H. Yoshikawa, I. Redlener, A. Emmel, M. Pitt, L. Arnold, B. Barber, B. Berman, R. Blum, M. Canavera, J. Eckerle, N. A. Fox, J. L. Gibbons, S. W. Hargarten, C. Landers, C. A. Nelson III, S. D. Pollak, V. Rauh, M. Samson, F. Ssewamala, N. St Clair, L. Stark, R. Waldman, M. Wessells, S. L. Wilson, and C. H. Zeanah. 2016. [Beyond Survival: The Case for Investing in Young Children Globally](#). Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC.

<sup>9</sup> This language is established in the UNCRC, UNCRPD, and other UN documents, for example, A/RES/64/142 paragraphs 32-38 (“promoting parental care”); A/RES/64/142 paragraphs 39-48 (“preventing family separation”); A/RES/64/142 paragraphs 49-52 (“promoting family reintegration”); A/RES/71/7; and Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees (“family tracing and reunification”). See also [The Sphere Handbook and Humanitarian Charter](#) (2018).

<sup>10</sup> Building on A/RES/64/142 paragraph 32.

<sup>11</sup> This language is established in the UNCRC, UNCRPD, and other UN documents, including A/RES/71/177, A/RES/64/142, A/RES/71/1, CRPD/C/GC/5 A/RES/71/177.

<sup>12</sup> This language is established in WHA 64.9 and A/RES/70/1.

<sup>13</sup> This language is established in the UNCRC (article 28), UNCRPD (article 24), and A/RES/70/1 (goal 4).

<sup>14</sup> Language concerning social protection is established in A/RES/70/1. See also the [Joint Statement on Advancing Child-Sensitive Social Protection](#) (2009).

<sup>15</sup> This language is established in A/RES/70/1 (target 16.2) and A/RES/71/177. See also World Health Organization [INSPIRE: Seven strategies for preventing violence against children](#) (2016).

<sup>16</sup> A/RES/64/142 paragraph 12 refers to a stable home and permanency.

<sup>17</sup> Incorporates language from the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, World Bank Group. [Nurturing care for early childhood development: a framework for helping children survive and thrive to transform health and human potential](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.

<sup>18</sup> UNCRC, UNCRPD, A/RES/64/142 paragraph 3 (State’s role in ensuring support for families), A/RES/64/142 paragraph 12 (“stable home” and “permanency”).

<sup>19</sup> This language is established in A/HRC/40/L.20/Rev.1 OP 16. CRPD/C/GC/5 also includes specific language around deinstitutionalization and replacement of institutions.



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- <sup>20</sup> Incorporates language from the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, World Bank Group. [Nurturing care for early childhood development: a framework for helping children survive and thrive to transform health and human potential](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.
- <sup>21</sup> See Inter-agency Group on Reintegration. (2016). [Guidelines on Children's Reintegration](#)
- <sup>22</sup> A/RES/64/142, paragraph 6. See also Inter-agency Group on Children’s Reintegration. (2016). [Guidelines on Children’s Reintegration](#) and UNICEF. (2007). [Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Groups](#).
- <sup>23</sup> See ICRC. (2004). [Inter-agency Guiding Principles on Separated and Unaccompanied Children](#).
- <sup>24</sup> The Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention).
- <sup>25</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/64/142, paragraph 125.
- <sup>26</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/64/142, paragraphs 5 and 57.
- <sup>27</sup> CRC/C/GC 23, paragraph 13.
- <sup>28</sup> A/RES/64/142, paragraph 81.
- <sup>29</sup> Berens, A.E., and Nelson, C.A. (2015). The science of early adversity: is there a role for large institutions in the care of vulnerable children? *The Lancet*.
- <sup>30</sup> This language is established in A/HRC/40/L.20/Rev.1 OP 16. CRPD/C/GC/5 also includes specific language around deinstitutionalization and replacement of institutions.
- <sup>31</sup> CRPD/C/GC/5, paragraphs 49 and 57.
- <sup>32</sup> CRPD/C/GC/5, paragraph 58.
- <sup>33</sup> This is established in A/RES/64/142, paragraph 8.
- <sup>34</sup> This is established in A/RES/69/194, part one.
- <sup>35</sup> This is established in A/RES/64/142, paragraph 6.
- <sup>36</sup> See Better Care Network and UNICEF (2015). [Making Decisions for the Better Care of Children. The role of gatekeeping in strengthening-family-based care and reforming alternative care systems](#).
- <sup>37</sup> See also The Child Protection Working Group. [Minimum Standard for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).
- <sup>38</sup> This language is referenced in CRPD/C/GC/5, paragraphs 1, 51, and 96.
- <sup>39</sup> This language is reflected in the UNCRC, UNCRPD (article 32), A/RES/64/142 paragraphs 24-26, A/RES/71/177, paragraphs 13-15, and A/RES/73/155, paragraph 12.
- <sup>40</sup> See Global Social Service Workforce Alliance. 2016. [The State of the Social Service Workforce 2016 Report: A Review of Five Years of Workforce Strengthening](#). See also online training resources, including [www.alternativecaremooc.com](#) and [www.childrenonthemovemooc.com](#).
- <sup>41</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/71/1, paragraph 40.
- <sup>42</sup> This language is referenced in CRPD/C/GC/5 paragraph 95; A/RES/71/1, paragraph 40.
- <sup>43</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/70/1, paragraphs 48 and 57. See also UNCRPD (Article 31) and A/RES/64/142, paragraph 69.
- <sup>44</sup> This language is referenced in CRPD/C/GC/5, paragraph 95.
- <sup>45</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/64/142, paragraphs 109 and 110.
- <sup>46</sup> This language is referenced in the Global Compact on Migration, Objective 1.
- <sup>47</sup> A/RES/64/142, paragraph 6. See also Inter-agency Group on Children’s Reintegration. (2016). [Guidelines on Children’s Reintegration](#) and UNICEF. (2007). [Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Groups](#).
- <sup>48</sup> This language is referenced in A/RES/68/147, OP13.
- <sup>49</sup> This language is established in A/RES/64/142, paragraph 65. See also CRC/C/CG /7.