

Conference Programme

Day 1 (Thursday 12/11)

8.00-8.45 **Registration**

9.00-9.30 **Conference opening and introduction to the themes and objectives of the conference (Plenary Session)**

Chair: *Roberta Cecchetti, International Save the Children Alliance*

Presentations: **“Welcome and introductory speeches by representatives of the Conference Organizers”**

- *Manuel Tornare, Councilor of the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva*

- *Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, CEO of the International Save the Children Alliance*

- *Pascal Villeneuve, Deputy Director, Programme Division, UNICEF*

- *Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaties Division, OHCHR*

9.30-10.50 **Panel 1: Introduction - The legal status of the CRC (Plenary Session)**

Chair: *Allegra Franchetti, OHCHR*

Presentations: **“The CRC as an enforceable treaty”- Prof. Ariel Dulitzky, Professor of Law and Director of the Human Rights Clinic, University of Texas**

“An introduction to use of the CRC as a legal instrument”- Elizabeth Dahlin, CEO of Save the Children Sweden

“The CRC as national law - Self Execution or Incorporation into domestic legislation” - Marius Emberland, Attorney at the Office of the Norwegian Attorney-General (Civil Affairs) and co-agent for cases for the European Court of Human Rights

“General measures of implementation of the CRC and the need for system reform”- Jean Zermatten, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

This panel will not have an associated Working Group.

10.50-11.20 **Coffee**

11.20-12.20 **Panel 2: Using National Systems to address violations of Child Rights (Plenary Session)**

Chair: *Ellen Stie Kongsted, Save the Children Norway*

Presentations: ***“Children seeking to obtain an effective remedy for violations of Child Rights in national courts”- Edo Korljan, Council of Europe***

“Seeking remedies for violations of Child Rights in different legal traditions (common law, civil law, religion based, community based and transitional) and systems (administrative, penal and civil courts)”- Savitri Goonesekere, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

“Enforcing Child Rights in weak national legal systems”- Nevena Vučković Šahović, Human rights lawyer/scholar and former member of the CRC

12.20-13.30 **Lunch**

13.30-15.00 **Working Groups on National Systems**

Working Groups: The Working Groups will discuss the national legal systems in their respective regions, how (and if) they work and how they can be used to enforce Child Rights.

15.00-15.30 **Coffee**

15.30-17.00 **Panel 3: Using International and Regional Systems to address violations of Child Rights (Plenary Session)**

Chair: *Nicolette Moodie, UNICEF*

Presentations: ***“An overview of Regional and International systems suitable for addressing violations of Child Rights and the Remedies available in these” - Susanna Villarán, Committee on the Rights of the Child***

“Bringing a case to a Regional Court - Case study of the Roma Children in Special Education Classes case (DH and Others v. Czech Republic) in front of the European Court of Human Rights - Lilla Farkas, CFCF Hungary

“Bringing a case to a Regional Court - Case study of the Serrano Cruz sisters (Las Hermanas Serrano Cruz v. El Salvador) in front of the Interamerican Court of Human Rights - Gisela de Leon, litigating lawyer CEJIL Mesoamerica

“The need for a Complaints Procedure under the CRC”- Peter Newell, Coordinator of the Global Initiative to end all Corporal Punishment of Children

17.00-18.30 Working Groups on International and Regional Systems

4 Working Groups: *The Working Groups will discuss the regional Human Rights Mechanisms in their respective regions, how (and if) they work and how they can be used to enforce Child Rights.*

18.30-20.00 Reception

Day 2 (Friday 13/11)

9.00-10.30 Panel 4: An introduction to Strategic Litigation (Plenary Session)

Chair: *Erik Nyman, International Save the Children Alliance*

Presentations: *“When and how should you consider Strategic Litigation and alternative practices (litigation, threat of litigation, friend of the court - amicus curiae)” - Ann Skelton, director for the Centre for Child law, South Africa*

“A case study of Successful Strategic Litigation achieving substantial impact on the realization of Children’s Rights- The India Right to Food case (People’s Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India & Others)” - Sheela Ramanathan, litigating lawyer, Human Rights Law Network India

“A case study of Successful Strategic Litigation - The Ogoni Case (The Social and Economic Rights Action Center and the Center for Economic and Social Rights v. Nigeria)” - Felix Morka, director of SERAC Nigeria

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-13.00 Panel 5: The added value of using the CRC as a legal instrument as a complement to existing strategies (Plenary Session)

Chair: *Lena Karlsson, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre*

Presentations: *“Why child focused NGOs should consider adding litigation to their range of tools” - Edmund Foley, Institute for Human Rights and Development, Gambia*

“Involving Children in litigation - the do’s and don’ts”- Vipin Bhatt, Programme Coordinator - Child Protection Unit, Haq: Centre for Child Rights India

“Case study: The creation of child friendly courts in Ethiopia”- Solomon Arede Waktolla, vice president of the Federal First Instance Court of Ethiopia

“Case study: Integrating litigation practices in the work of a child focused civil society organization”- Renato Roseno, ANCED, Brazil

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.30 Working Groups on the morning panels

4 Working Groups: *“Designing a Strategic Litigation strategy” - These Working Groups will, based on a fictive case, attempt to identify the general outline of a Strategic Litigation strategy to address the practice in the national and regional systems available to them, starting with the integration of a litigation process into existing national coalitions and networks and leading all the way to a plan for using regional and international mechanisms. The working group will also touch upon identifying suitable clients for strategic litigation practices and the steps needed to take in order to minimize the risk that they are harmed in the process. The experts of the group will provide a structure and technical information, but the process will be driven by the participants.*

16.30-17.00 Coffee

17.00-17.45 Working Groups report back to plenary (Plenary Session)

17.45-18.30 Concluding speeches and plans for follow-up (Plenary Session)

Presentations: *“Concluding speeches and plans for follow-up by representatives of the Conference Organizers”- Veronica Yates, CRIN and Alan Kikuchi-White, NGO Group for the CRC*