

55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

**Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child**  
**Panel discussion 2: Child rights mainstreaming in the United Nations**

14 March 2024

**Joint statement delivered by**  
**Terre des Hommes International Federation**

*Cosponsors listed below*

Thank you, Mr. President. This statement is delivered on behalf of several child rights organizations.

We welcome the Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Child Rights Mainstreaming. It is a critical document which recognizes that, to fully deliver on their mandate, the entire UN system and its entities have to systematically integrate children's rights into all aspects of their work.

But now we require concrete measures that explicitly focus on children as individual rights holders, combining targeted and integrated actions with appropriate human and financial resources allocation. Child rights mainstreaming needs to occur at all levels, across all pillars of the UN, and within Member States' national systems and policies, with children's meaningful, safe and inclusive participation at its core.

The report of the High Commissioner provides concrete examples and useful recommendations on how the UN can mainstream children's rights within the human rights pillar, in particular in the work of OHCHR and the UN human rights mechanisms. We urge States to seriously consider these recommendations.

We call on States in particular to:

- Take specific measures to ensure the Council consistently monitors progress on the implementation of the Guidance Note across the three pillars of the UN;
- Increase financial support for OHCHR, including as part of its regular budget, to effectively fulfill its mandate on child rights mainstreaming, including through its collaboration with UN partners, Member States, civil society and, children themselves;
- Establish and invest in sustainable structures and mechanisms to ensure the effective, ethical, meaningful, and safe participation of children in all their diversity in decision-making processes at local, national, regional, and international level.

I thank you, Mr. President.

## Cosponsors

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