

Dear colleagues of DCI,

The Human Rights Council held its 20th session (HRC – 20) from 18 June - 6 July. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has released an advance unedited version of the report of the HRC on its twentieth session – please find the document attached.

CHILD RIGHTS featured in a number of discussions and resolutions, including thematic and country topics such as trafficking, arbitrary detention, migrants, right to nationality, education, violence, business and human rights, the internet, Syria and Palestine. All resolutions are available at the following link: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session20/Pages/ResDecStat.aspx>

In overview:

- Regarding **TRAFFICKING** in persons, especially women and children, the HRC reiterated (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.1) its concern at the high number of persons who are being trafficked within and between regions and States; and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to organize consultations on the draft basic principles on the right to effective remedy for trafficked persons.
- The HRC (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.5) requested the Working Group on **ARBITRARY DETENTION** to prepare draft basic principles and guidelines on remedies and procedures on the right to anyone deprived of his or her liberty; It also asked the Group to submit a specific report to the HRC on national, regional and international laws, regulations and practices; and to subsequently hold a consultation with relevant parties.
- In a resolution (A/HRC/20/L.6) regarding the human rights of **MIGRANTS**, the HRC called upon States to respect the right of everyone to education and encouraged them to take steps that promote the prevention and elimination of discriminatory policies that deny migrant children and children of migrants' access to education. The Special Rapporteur on migrants, Mr. Crépeau, shared a range of successful non-custodial alternatives to detention, which are also considerably less expensive than detention measures. However, he warned that the success of such alternatives depends on the adoption of a human rights approach.
- The **RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY: WOMEN AND CHILDREN**, the HRC (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.8) called upon all States to adopt and implement nationality legislation with a view to prevent and reduce statelessness among women and children. States were urged to reform nationality laws that discriminate against women by granting equal rights to men and women to confer nationality to their children.
- With regard to the **RIGHT TO EDUCATION**, the HRC (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.12) called upon all States to achieve the Education For All (EFA) targets (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/>) and urges States and other relevant stakeholders to pay enhanced attention to education in emergency situations by, inter alia, enhancing the protection of schools from attacks and strengthening safety and disaster risk reduction.
- As for the elimination of all forms of **VIOLENCE** against women and remedies for women who have been subjected to violence, the HRC (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.10) strongly condemned all acts of violence against women and

girls and requested the Office of the High Commissioner present to the HRC recommendations on how to create and/or strengthen linkages and synergies between the mechanisms of the HRC and also with other relevant intergovernmental processes on the issue.

- During the interactive dialogue with the Working Group on **BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**, UNICEF encouraged partners to focus on the interaction between children's rights and businesses. To note is that the Committee on the Rights of the Child is currently preparing a General Comment on Child Rights and the Business Sector - The Committee has issued a second call for submissions. Here is how you can contribute: [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/callsubmissionsCRC\\_BusinessSector.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/callsubmissionsCRC_BusinessSector.htm) .
- In a resolution (A/HRC/20/L.22) regarding the situation of human rights in the **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**, the HRC strongly condemned the widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights and the continued extrajudicial killings and prosecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists.
- The Special Rapporteur Report on the situation of human rights in the **PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES** occupied since 1967, Mr. Falks, presented his report and held an interactive dialogue, during which an oral statement was presented by DCI – IS on behalf of DCI – Palestine - Please find the statement attached.

During the HRC – 20 many side events took place, principally:

➤ ***“CHILDREN, THE INDIRECT VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”*** organized by the Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV) of the International Action for Child Rights (formerly the NGO Group to the CRC), of which DCI-IS is convener. The event, held (21 June) in light of the presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, pointed out how the devastating effects of violence against women are in fact generally recognized, however far less is known about the impact on children who witness a parent or caregiver being subjected to violence. These children – the ‘forgotten’ victims of violence – were the focus of this side event.

This event included the participation of Ms. Brinck of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, and on this occasion, Representative of the Nordic Missions sponsoring the event (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden); Ms. Guerras Delgado, OHCHR; Ms. Moodie, UNICEF; Mr. Butchart, WHO; Ms. Santisteban, Plan International; Ms. Ercoli, Anti-Violence Centre Representative; and moderator: Ms. Cornwell, the African Child Policy Forum.

The report of this side event will be circulated to all sections soon.

The Working Group on Children and Violence (WG/CAV) also submitted a statement for the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The statement addressed the issue raised during the side-event: children as the forgotten victims of violence against women - Please find the statement attached

➤ ***“HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS”***, event organized by the Inter- African Committee on Traditional Practices IAC/CI-AF held (27 June) highlighting the gap between law and practice. Participants attempted to define the actions needed to realise the elimination of these practices: a holistic approach including the adoption and enforcement of laws (i.e. Kenya); awareness - raising and provision of education; and genuine political will.

➤ An event was also held (20 June), in light of the recent ***OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE UN CRC ON A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE (OP3 CRC)***, providing an opportunity for key actors, including States signatories to the OP3 CRC, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and civil society, to explain why ratification of OP3 CRC is important and provide updates on the ratification process at the national level. The “International Coalition for the OPCRC on a Communications Procedure” was launched – visit the official website: <http://205.153.116.94/~ratifyop/> .

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to receive further information on the aforementioned documents and activities – I remain at your disposal.

All the very best from Geneva,