



DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DCI  
DEFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONALE DEI  
DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI

10<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

### **Annual full-day meeting on the Rights of the Child**

*Oral statement presented on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) - international non-governmental organisations with Special Consultative Status.*

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

We would like to express our thanks to the organisers of this event and to the panellists, for their statements regarding the main progress and challenges in implementing the Convention at the national level.

DCI would like to draw particular attention to three key issues regarding the implementation of children's rights in juvenile justice at the national level and provide some recommendations in addition to those raised by the speakers.

We share the speakers' concerns regarding the importance of national coordination to ensure effective implementation at country-level. With this in mind, we would like to draw the attention of the Council to the work of the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice. The Panel is a coordination body mandated by ECOSOC to provide technical advice and assistance to governments and other actors in implementing international standards on juvenile justice. DCI urges States to seek the support of the Interagency Panel in implementing the juvenile justice articles of the Convention and in ensuring that their legal obligations and commitments are translated into effective practices on the ground.

DCI also welcomes the comments made by the speakers regarding the participation of children and young people in national initiatives to implement the Convention. Ensuring meaningful child participation is one right which can be upheld most effectively through political will rather than financial resources. In order to truly participate, children must be given access to information and receive adequate support from adults. In the juvenile justice system, this means that children should be ensured the right to a lawyer trained to hear and defend children in the justice system and that young people should be engaged in the development of national policies and practices.

We would be interested to hear from the panellists about any best practices in this regard.

Thank you.