

The Russian Federation

Positions for the United Nations International Children's Fund - Executive Board

I. Ending Discrimination Against Children with Disabilities

The Russian Federation (Russia) recognizes the importance of ending discrimination against children with disabilities through many technological and societal advances throughout the last decade. **Internationally**, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) proclaimed the *Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons* to ensure national and international action to protect rights such as adequate utilities in regards to education, careers, and existence. Russia commends the United Nations Education Organization (UNEO), which has made steps to progressing by promoting educational opportunities such as specialized schools, teachers, programs, and transportation for disabled persons. Russia has been working with the World Health Organization (WHO) by participating in the development of a program titled the International Classification of Functioning (ICF). This program creates an international standard to describe and measure health and disability amongst disabled children. The framework for measuring health and disability is arranged to understand and aid disabled persons on a large scale. The International Classification of Functioning (ICF) serves multiple purposes for every country that endorsed this classification system. The ICF establishes an international standard or language for disabled persons in regards to their essential needs. The purpose of this plan would include the sanctioning of data across countries, health care disciplines, services, and a systematic coding structure for health information organizations. Russia has participated in the development of the ICF for universal communication with other countries to continue pushing for progression for disabled persons and to ensure functioning daily life opportunities for disabled persons. **Regionally**, Russia has been collaborating with China since the establishment of China's Council on Disability Affairs in 1997. Russia and China have been working diligently in various fields related to disabled people, including assistive devices, personnel, culture and arts. The goal of this is to give disabled people a chance to thrive in society by providing them with therapeutic techniques, technology, and specially trained individuals. The intention of these activities can be combined with events of other councils in the committee, for the benefit of offering more opportunities of integrating disabled persons in a functioning society. **Nationally**, Russia has made great efforts to secure permanence in increasing the quality of life for citizens born with disabilities. In the Saratov region of Russia, the creation of a Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children was established, with the intention of preventing institutionalization, after the nation recognized the need to address growing disparity and discrimination towards disabled children within various institutions - most specifically, orphanages. This center sends professionals to provide rehabilitation services to children with disabilities living at home with families or within foster care. These children are taught skills to assist with their inclusion and participation within society. The program also educates family members and caregivers on their legal rights and train them to support the children. **Moving Forward**, the Russian Federation is proposing the following a **4-point action plan**: **1.** Recognizing those of special needs on the ICF scale, and work towards greater education for those who fall within this scale, in order to provide assistance to them and their families, and to enable them to become functioning members of society; **2.** Through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and when possible, governmental funding, push for technological advances among the education system to give disabled person's more opportunities to understand the rapidly development technological era; **3.** Where possible, provide free or low cost social work and community outreach, to break societal stigmas and integrate disabled persons into a functioning society of able persons; **4.** Provide greater access to private and secondary education so disabled individuals can receive education based on their needs.

II. Protecting the Rights of Children During Armed Conflict

The Russian Federation (Russia) has taken initiative to protect children during armed conflict through policies and

initiatives. **Internationally**, Russia became part of the International Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was ratified in August 16, 1990. On February 15, 2001, Russia signed the optional protocol that brought attention and awareness to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. This convention signifies the long-term solutions to ending any sort of violence towards children due to the aftermath of armed conflict. In 2008, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) met with members of the Russian government to discuss this particular issue of concern. The Russian Red Cross Society remains in close contact with the ICRC, focusing on regional conflicts and protecting victims of war and violence. In 2015 representatives from Russia and several other Member States, which include New Zealand, United States, and Costa Rica among others, gathered at the UN headquarters, in an effort to discuss and voice the concern they have with protecting civilians that are victims of armed conflict, especially women and children. Russia is also a member of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in an effort to enforce laws and regulations to protect children. Their mission is to shelter and prevent the consequences of armed conflict. **Regionally**, Russia has established the regional Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman in Europe, that focuses on the Eurasian zone that Russia is a part of. This institution takes charge in coordinating other governments and public services that are involved in the protection of children. They investigate violation of rights towards children and evaluate legislation that affects children. In 2010, the UN Committee on the Rights of a Child recommended the expansion of the institution and it is now operating in fifty other regions of the Russian Federation. **Nationally**, the Russian Constitution that was adopted in 1993, implements the protection of childhood, motherhood, and family. Similar to the provisions mentioned in the CRC are included in Russia's effort to eliminate any sort of violence towards children. The Family Code requires that public officials inform Child Protection Services of cases in which children are treated cruelly, and if their life or health is in danger. Further, Russian Criminal Codes ensure protection of children from violence. Article 127.2, part 2 is concerned with protecting children against crimes of rape and other sexual acts through the use of threat or force. The Russian National Strategy Plan seeks to protect the interests of children. Its main purpose is to set goals to protect children and figure out the best ways to do so, dealing with issues such as child protection and developing a child's rights protection system. Russia is adamant about eliminating any existence of trade in people, which is recognized as directly impacting children in conflict. The Russian Federation has continued to establish laws protecting minors, with special order No. 188 on the Organization of Prosecutor's Control Over implementation of Laws on Minors and Young People, which seeks to prevent the mistreatment of children and strives to have them grow up in a safe environment. In 2011, Russia founded the Investigative Committee (SledCom) with the intentions to investigate cases involving minors. Russia also declares the importance of providing children the healthcare they need in times of armed conflict. Russia declares their principles on healthcare for the youth in the Fundamentals of Russian Federation Legislation on Health Care, which guarantees children will receive free medical assistance and the treatment they need to get better. **Moving forward**, Russia proposes the following **4-point-action plan** in an effort to protect children during armed conflict. **1.** Collaborate with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to create systems that will protect children that are vulnerable to violence by providing recruitment to ensure the safety of children. They will then be put into safe and loving homes or communities far from armed conflict; **2.** Encourage countries to work closely with the Non-Governmental Agencies (NGO's) in an effort to bring more attention to this issue on an international level and implement a training and educational program for children and parents, that will keep children provide activities interest for children, and safe spaces that will enable them to be aware and avoid areas of danger where there potential to be recruited for armed conflict; **3.** Encourage nations to provide schools which will be protected by NGO's and governmental agencies, so that children are able to learn with no interruption, recognizing that education is a path to better opportunities and the ability to remove themselves from areas of conflict. This will ensure that children are safe in order to maintain normalcy, stability and promote reconciliation; **4.** With the support of the ICRC seek to provide psychological support for children who have been affected by the dilemmas of armed conflict. They will insure that hospitals and healthcare facilities are safeguarded and that they will support the affected children for as long as needed.