



JOINING FORCES
For All Children

Children's Right To Be Heard: We're Talking; Are You Listening?



Friday, 20 November 2020
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM (EST)

Today, on Universal Children's Day, Joining Forces welcomes children and youth from around the world to exercise their right to speak up on matters affecting their lives, as afforded by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Although the CRC is the world's most ratified treaty, global societal norms, insufficient resources, and adults' lack of understanding or support often inhibit children's meaningful participation.

Joining Forces is pleased, therefore, to facilitate today's event to provide young people with a platform to elevate their voices on Universal Children's Day—known globally as a day to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights.

With the COVID-19 pandemic increasing risks of violence against children, and interrupting their education, it is all the more urgent that government officials, local leaders, policymakers, and advocates hear what children have to say.

This event explores the importance of children's participation in securing their rights, lessons we can learn from children's experiences, and supporting children and youth as both a force, as well as a resource in decision-making—with a focus on how the pandemic is triggering an urgent need.

"This pandemic has helped us find something very important. The inner strength that we all have."

Emely, 17, Peru



Segment One

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Meg Gardinier, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance

REMARKS

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission
Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
Andrew Morley, President and CEO, World Vision International

PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN'S VIDEO

CHILDREN'S STATEMENT

Jaqueline (Guatemala)
Lusvin (Guatemala)

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Jaqueline, Lusvin and Andrew Morley

Segment Two

INTRODUCTIONS

Dorah Musiimire, Child Protection Specialist, ChildFund International, Uganda

PANEL DISCUSSION

Dorah Musiimire, Child Protection Specialist, ChildFund International, Uganda
Amal Aldoseri, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Rights of the Child
Diana (Bolivia); Masuma (India); Natasya (Indonesia)
Victoria (Malawi); Djiby (Senegal); Lucky (Uganda)

QUESTIONS FROM CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Moderated by Dorah Musiimire, Child Protection Specialist, ChildFund International, Uganda with participation by Amal Aldoseri, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Rights of the Child; Diana (Bolivia); Masuma (India); Natasya (Indonesia); Victoria (Malawi); Djiby (Senegal); Lucky (Uganda)

PROGRAM CLOSE

Meg Gardinier, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

(Adults in Order of Appearance)

Meg Gardinier, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance

As Secretary General of ChildFund Alliance since July 2015, Meg Gardinier provides strategic leadership to increase the impact of the Alliance's 12 members, which serve more than 16 million children and their families in more than 70 countries. As the chief advocate for the Alliance, she works with members to end violence and exploitation against children and to overcome poverty and the underlying conditions that prevent children from achieving their full potential. Prior to joining ChildFund Alliance, Ms. Gardinier held leadership positions in child rights organizations, including as Senior Coordinator of the Elevate Children Funders Group; Director of Arigatou International New York; Managing Director of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF; and Executive Director of the International Catholic Child Bureau North America. She holds a Master's Degree in International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University. She is married to Thomas Lawder with three daughters.

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission

Since December 2019, Dubravka Šuica is Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Democracy and Demography. Mrs Šuica is a Croatian politician from the city of Dubrovnik, where she served as its first female mayor and was awarded the 2006 World Mayor Award. Dubravka Šuica entered politics in the 1990s as a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union and served as a Member of the Croatian Parliament and Vice-Chair of the EU Integration Committee. Between 2004 and 2009, she was a Board Member of the Union of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Republic of Croatia. During ten years, she was President of the Croatian Delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. From 2013 to 2019 Dubravka Šuica served as a Member of the European Parliament. In June 2019, Šuica was elected as first Vice-Chair of EPP Group in the European Parliament.

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF

Henrietta H. Fore became UNICEF's seventh Executive Director on 1 January 2018. She has worked to champion economic development, education, health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in a public service, private sector and non-profit leadership career that spans more than four decades. This includes serving from 2007 to 2009 as the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Director of United States Foreign Assistance—the first woman to serve in these roles. Earlier in her career at USAID, Ms. Fore was Assistant Administrator for Asia and Assistant Administrator for Private Enterprise (1989-1993). In 2009, she received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award the Secretary of State can bestow. From 2005 to 2007, Ms. Fore served as Under Secretary of State for Management, the Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Department of State. From 2001 to 2005, she was the 37th Director of the United States Mint in the U.S. Department of Treasury, managing the world's largest manufacturer of coins, medals and coin products. In 2005, she received the Alexander Hamilton Award, the Department of Treasury's highest honor. Immediately prior to UNICEF, Ms. Fore was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Holsman International. Ms. Fore has a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wellesley College and a Master of Science in Public Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. She is married and has four children.

Andrew Morley, President and CEO, World Vision International

After three years in World Vision, Andrew was announced as the International President in 2018. Andrew was previously CEO of Clear Channel Advertising UK and a Global Trustee at Christian Aid. He has held senior/CEO positions in Google Mobility Motorola Mobile, Sky Television, Cable and Wireless, Harrods Group and Ford. He spent much of his career in international assignments, and has lived and worked in Africa, Australia, France, Germany, Singapore and the United States. Andrew has a First Class Degree in Marketing and a Degree in Theology from Durham University. His passion is to see an end to extreme poverty in his lifetime. Andrew is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church and is a Vicar at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) in London.

Amal Aldoseri, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Rights of the Child

Amal is currently Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. She is a member of the Bahrain Society for Childhood Development and a Board member of Fatma bint Mubarak Award for Childhood and

Motherhood, (UAE). She serves as the Focal Person for Asia and the Pacific on the Committee. She led the development of the first National Youth Strategy and the first National Child Strategy. Ms. Aldoseri was the founder and lead organizer of the Bahrain Youth Parliament. She also is the founder of Youth Peer Education-Bahrain (Y-PEER).

Dorah Musiimire, Child Protection Specialist, ChildFund International, Uganda

Dorah is a seasoned social development professional proficient in designing and implementing child rights and wellbeing programs both in civil society and government. Dorah has extensive experience in child protection, child-led advocacy, child justice, alternative care, and systems strengthening. She is a key contributor to reforms in policy and practice and keeps this trajectory alive through her work. She is a writer, poet, and a life-long mentor for girls. She graduated with a Masters in International Studies, and majored in Development Cooperation at Ewha Womans University in South Korea. Dorah is a Child Protection Specialist at ChildFund International, Uganda Country Office.

(Children in Order of Introductions)

Jaqueline, 15, Guatemala

Jaqueline is a promoter of social change in her children's group in her community. Her peers in a democratic process selected her. She has been actively involved in advocating for the rights of children, specifically girls. She also actively participates in the group of spokespersons for the Girls for Equality Movement. She is passionate about her community and is happy to represent her peers at this event.

Lusvin, 17, Guatemala

Lusvin is a 17-year-old boy from Guatemala. His peers in a democratic process selected him to participate. He is a member of a children's and young people group that advocates for the rights of children. He has been trained in child rights, participation, and leadership. He works on child rights advocacy activities with his peers in his community to strengthen children's participation and leadership. Lusvin is passionate about reading and working with people in his community to promote children's rights. He said through reading, he learned many things and this has helped in his journey in life. He is excited to represent his peers in this program.

Diana, 16, Bolivia

Diana is 16 years old and was born in Bolivia. She has always wanted to be part of children's organizations so her opinions are heard, but when she was in primary school, she was never able to voice her opinion. Once in high school, she was elected president of the student center of her school, but her proposals were not listened to by the school management and were never put into practice, which frustrated her. Diana participates in a self-protection group, and feels very comfortable with this group because they have similar objectives and her ideas coincide with those of others. In addition, her opinion counts for the different activities and organizing that she and her peers propose, and the educators listen to them. She also participates in the Youth Council, which has independence to propose their work plans and carry them forward. Her peers nominated her to participate in this event.

Masuma, 15, India

Masuma is a 15-year-old girl from India. She has participated in the Sports for Protection project since 2019. She loves to go to school and to play Kabaddi. She is also a member of children's Collective under Sports for Protection project. She and her team members initiated relief work as well as awareness generation activities during and post lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Masuma is a sensitive girl who raises her voice against any violence within her community. She is a girl who has dealt with challenging situations with an ever-smiling face. She always supports her peers in every situation and loves her mother a lot. Masuma, known to her peers for her active participation, was selected to participate in this event.

Natasya, 16, Indonesia

Natasya is a 16-year-old girl from Indonesia. Children's issues and social issues are her passion beside her hobbies of travelling, singing and drawing. That is the main reason she can keep her compassion for issues like children's rights and ending violence against children. She is grateful to have parents who support her positive activities.

She actively engages with different children forums from village level to provincial levels, and participates in diverse initiatives and programs such as a livelihood skills program for children, financial literacy for children, a campaign series to end violence against children, and a program for preserving traditional children game. A child led group of her peers selected her to participate in this event.

Victoria, 14, Malawi

Victoria is a 14-year-old girl from Malawi. She has been a SPEAKER for the Children's Parliament in her community in Malawi for the past four years. The Children's Parliament is a forum where children meet and deliberate on matters that affect them. They pass resolutions and demand accountability from duty bearers at both district and local levels, and they demand that other relevant issues are passed on to the national level decision-making structures. Her peers selected her to participate in this event because of her experience in representing children at both local, national and international forums.

Djiby, 18, Senegal

Djiby is from Senegal, West Africa. He is 18 years of age and is a student. His favorite subject is physics because he wants to become an engineer in the field of oil and gas. He is ambitious and is always at the service of his community, working in the children's group that he participates in. He also loves art; he creates arts and models. He participates in raising awareness about children rights and development in his community. Djiby is also an advocate for his peers and his dream is to become a future president of his country so that he can give a better life to children. A child led group of peers selected Djiby to participate in this event.

Lucky, 16, Uganda

Lucky is a 16-year-old girl from Uganda. She participates in advocacy activities and events at various foras in Uganda. She engages with community members and with duty bearers. She is an active and confident girl who enjoys participating in children events and raising her voice on behalf of fellow children. Lucky's peers selected her in a democratic process to participate in this event because of her community engagement.