



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 July 2019

Excellency,

It is my honour to write to you in regard to the High-level Commemorative Event of the General Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will take place on Wednesday, 25 September 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Trusteeship Council Chamber, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 73/301.

I would hereby like to invite your delegation to participate in this event. This is an opportunity to celebrate the momentous anniversary and the progress made in the advancement of children's rights to date. It will also serve as a call to action for Member States to strengthen their commitment to the advancement of the rights of the child while recognising the new challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please find attached herewith a draft concept note. For any further information, you may contact my Senior Adviser, Mr. Alexander Temitope. He may be reached via email at [alexander.ajayi@un.org](mailto:alexander.ajayi@un.org) or via telephone at +1 (646) 661-0444.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. ESPINOSA'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



**High-Level Commemorative Event of the General Assembly**  
**“Thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”**  
**25 September 2019**

**Background**

In the 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the lives of millions of children have been improved through the progressive realization of rights and fulfilment of obligations enshrined within the Convention and its Optional Protocols. The commemoration of CRC at 30 is a moment for bold action to ensure we leave no child behind, and to support every child to reach their full potential in fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Children across the world have been recognized as individual rights-holders of those rights inherent to the human dignity of all people. Children have equally been recognized as having the right to special protections and safeguards from those that constitute the duty-bearers in their lives and communities. In commemoration of the Convention, the General Assembly will convene a one-hour High-Level Commemorative Event on 25 September 2019. Member States will have the opportunity to endorse a non-binding and voluntary ‘global pledge’ of recommitment to the full realisation of child rights.

**Objectives**

The high-level commemorative event will involve the meaningful participation of children and will encourage Member States to reflect on and renew their commitment to the Convention. To this end, the event will provide an opportunity for the participants to:

- Celebrate the meaningful milestones and successes of the Convention in transforming the lives of children for the past thirty years since its ratification;
- Acknowledge the challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century for upholding the rights of the child in the form of, inter alia, climate change, rapid urbanization, exploitation of natural resources, protracted conflict and humanitarian crises, forced displacement, digitalization and mass connectivity and enduring multi-dimensional and inter-generational poverty with a profound impact on children’s’ rights and well-being.

**Format and Outcome**

The high-level commemorative event will take place during the high-level week of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, on 25 September 2019, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council

Chamber. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/301, the event will be addressed by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund, and United Nations Messenger of Peace Ms. Malala Yousafzai.

High-level Representatives of Poland, as the initiator of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the first Member State from each regional group to have ratified the Convention (Ghana, Ecuador, Russian Federation, Sweden, Vietnam) will address the event. The order of speakers from the regional groups will be in order of date of ratification, starting with the earliest<sup>1</sup>.

- Poland – Initiator of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Ghana – ratification on 5 February 1990
- Viet Nam – ratification on 28 February 1990
- Ecuador – ratification on 23 March 1990
- Sweden – ratification on 29 June 1990
- Russian Federation – ratification on 16 August 1990

**Proposed Programme**

<b>8:30 – 8:35</b>	Address by <b>H.E. Tijjani Muhammad Bandé</b> President of the 74 <sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly
<b>8:35–8:40</b>	Address by <b>H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres</b> United Nations Secretary-General
<b>8:40 – 8:45</b>	Address by <b>Ms. Henrietta Fore</b> Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
<b>8:45 – 8:50</b>	Address by <b>Ms. Malala Yousafzai,</b> Messenger of Peace
<b>8:50 – 9:20</b>	Address by representatives of: (i) Poland; (ii) Ghana; (iii) Vietnam; (iv) Ecuador; (v) Sweden; (vi) Russian Federation Closing by <b>H.E. Tijjani Muhammad Bandé</b> , President of the 74 <sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly

**Participants**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/301 on the “Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”, Member States and Observers of the General Assembly are encouraged to be represented at the high-level commemorative event at the highest-possible level and to include children and young persons in their delegations.

<sup>1</sup> Source: [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=en)