1st Global Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children

Pledging Guidance

Overview

States and key stakeholders (civil society, academia, donors, private sector; children and youth movements) are encouraged and expected to attend the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024) with a concrete and quantifiable commitment to action and present them as a pledge.

Priority pledge areas have been identified to maximize the impact of the Ministerial Conference and accelerate the delivery of SDG 16.2 (ending all forms of violence against children).

States and key stakeholders are invited to review the guidance and submit a pledge – focusing on one or more priority areas – by Friday, **25 October**.

The Ministerial Conference programme will offer States and stakeholders the platform to profile their pledge, generating awareness and accountability for delivery.

This note offers guidance on:

- Priority pledge areas and example pledges
- Consideration of settings and sectors
- Consideration of pledging criteria
- Accountability mechanism
- Process for pledge submission

Priority pledge areas and example pledges

All pledges that contribute to the prevention or reduction of violence against children are welcome, such as those consistent with the INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children technical package and those that increase investment in systems for preventing and addressing violence against children.

A. Example pledges around three Breakthrough Areas

We urge States to prioritize pledges against three breakthrough approaches that promise the widest impact: (i) Universal access to parent and caregiver support that prevents abuse and neglect while promoting nurturing care; (ii) Universal access to safe and enabling school environments; and (iii) Response and support services integrating justice, health and social welfare sectors that are accessible to all children who need them.

Parent and caregiver support: The government of [country] commits to providing 12 parenting support classes to all new parents by [year].

Safe and enabling school environments: The government of [country] commits to integrating positive discipline and anti-bullying curricula into all teachers' pre-service and in-service training by [year].

Response and support services: The government of [country] commits to establishing a multidisciplinary team in each province/district to deliver a continuum of child-centered, gender-sensitive justice, health, and social welfare services to victims and survivors of sexual violence (including technology-facilitated services) by [date].

B. Example pledges should also consider the following areas

Legal and Policy Frameworks: The government of [country] commits to update its legislation and policies on child sexual exploitation and abuse to respond to new and emerging threats in the digital environment.

Safe Environments: The government of [country x] commits to strengthen safe environments in xx municipalities/communities by implementing multistakeholder place prevention initiatives in identified violence hotspots and communities.

Safe Digital Environments: The government of [country] commits to prevent and respond to online violence against children by enacting internationally aligned, future-proof and tech-neutral regulations and standards such as safety by design principles and swift removal of child sexual abuse material from digital platforms.

Governance and Coordination Structures: The government of [country] commits to establishing multisectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination frameworks integrated into planning processes by [year].

Continuum of Services: The government of [country] commits to implement a protocol for multisectoral services for childhood sexual violence to prevent recurrence and support healing and justice.

Data collection and monitoring: The government of [country] commits by [year] to implement regular, systematic data collection on violence-related indicators using existing international standards.

Costs: The government of [country] commits to analyzing the costs of violence against children and the returns on investment by [year].

Human, financial, and infrastructure resources: The government of [country] commits to allocating human, financial, and technical resources by [year] to implementing national or subnational strategies, policies, or action plans.

Minimum standards and oversight: The government of [country] commits to establishing national minimum standards for providing services for children at -a -risk or experiencing violence.

Child and Survivor Engagement: The government of [country] commits to establishing an independent complaints procedure that not only hears, reviews, and responds to individual complaints from children but also actively engages survivors of violence in its design and implementation.

Consideration: settings and sectors

Accelerating progress on preventing violence against children requires an approach that mobilizes multiple sectors across multiple settings. In developing a pledge, all States and stakeholders are strongly encouraged to consider the settings in which children are affected by violence and the sectors that are required to play a role in preventing and reducing violence.

Multi-sector and multi-setting approaches should be reflected in pledges, specifically including:

Sectors: Health; education; social services; justice; family and welfare; community; treasury; digitalisation; information & communications technology
Settings: Migration, displacement and humanitarian; digital environments; home and family; schools; institutions; workplace.

Consideration: pledging criteria

A high-quality pledge is:

New or additional - meaning that the pledge does not announce a commitment that has already been made. This does not preclude pledging additional resources to an existing commitment or actions to build on an existing commitment
Quantifiable – providing, where possible, an implementation timeline and detail on the activities and beneficiaries
Needs-driven – aligning with the thematic priorities for pledges detailed below
Measurable – within a specific period

Further considerations in developing pledges:

Individual or joint pledges – States and stakeholders may announce individual or joint pledges
Consultation with stakeholders – States are encouraged to engage with stakeholders to ensure the pledge is appropriate, accessible, and inclusive
Pledge scope – Pledges can commit financial, material, or technical assistance and other actions, for example, at the policy level through policies and practices to prevent violence against children or launching a new initiative.

Consideration: International instruments

To date, international commitments to end violence against children include:

- the 1986 ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its optional protocols, alongside other important international and regional instruments that aim to protect the child from all forms of violence;

- the endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly of the recommendations of the 2006 Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children;
- the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its vision of a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation;
- and the series of United Nations General Assembly Resolutions – including those of the Human Rights Council – on the Rights of the Child, most recently Resolution 78/187 (2023), and all other relevant resolutions, including the World Health Assembly resolution WHA74.17 (2021).

States should consider pledges responding to ratification of international and regional instruments relevant to ending violence against children such as optional protocols to CRC and ICESCR; withdrawal of reservations to relevant human rights treaties; follow-up to relevant recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms including concluding observations from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as recommendations from other Human Rights mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review.

Pledges should consider commitments articulated by countries in their Voluntary National Reviews for implementing the SDGs.

Accountability

All pledges will be monitored annually, focusing on demonstrating progress by the second SDG Summit in September 2027.

It is envisaged that one of the major announcements of the Ministerial Conference will be the launch of a re-imagined Pathfinders initiative (Pathfinders 2.0), profiling the States that will lead a global effort to accelerate action on SDG 16.2 alongside the UNSRSG-VAC and critical partners. The follow-up to the pledges, including those made by States not currently engaged in the Pathfinding EVAC 2.0 and other stakeholders, will be led by the SRSG-VAC together with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Ending Violence against Children and in collaboration with the UN Country Team, where appropriate.

Pledging process

All pledges should be submitted on the Ministerial Conference pledging platform: https://endviolenceagainstchildrenconference.org/pledging-platform

The deadline for submission of pledges is **Friday, 25 October 2024**.

If you encounter technical difficulties when submitting your pledge or would like additional guidance on constructing a high-quality pledge, please contact sabinev@who.int.