

Joint Declaration : migrant children and adolescents

General Debate, item 3 45th Session of the Human Rights Council

Thank you Madame President:

I have the honor to present this Joint Declaration on behalf of El Salvador and a group of like-minded countries, concerning the current situation of human rights of migrant children and adolescents.

We believe that now, more than ever, children should be the center of attention for all member states in the United Nations system, particularly because of the critical moments we are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the situation of the human rights of children.

Human mobility is an inherent part of our current reality. In this regard, we recognize the multi-causal nature of migration, resulting from structural factors that link countries of origin, transit and destination in search for solutions and opportunities for such migration movements.

In this context, we highlight the importance of States to guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant, displaced and refugee children and adolescents, regardless of their migratory status.

We call all States to preserve the principle of the best interest of the child in their migratory cycle, as well as that of their relatives and the family unit, preserving their psychological and physical integrity and the right to education and health.

We also recognize the efforts made by governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, local governments and the United Nations system in the

countries of origin, transit and destination, in providing care and guaranteeing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant children and adolescents, particularly those unaccompanied children and adolescents, for which we reiterate the call to the international community to continue supporting these efforts.

Also, we call the Human Rights Council to pronounce permanently on this matter. In the same spirit, we request the cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement specific programs and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of migrant children and adolescents, in accordance with the rules and principles of International Human Rights Law.

We welcome the "Secretary-General's Policy Brief: COVID-19 and People on the Move" and support its four (4) basic tenets to guide human mobility response.

We urge Member States to display greater solidarity during these difficult times and to strengthen bilateral, sub regional, regional and multilateral cooperation, with the view of improving the protection, well-being, safe return and effective reintegration of migrant children and adolescents, as well as to guarantee that in response and recovery measures of the COVID-19 pandemic, no one is left behind.

Finally we reiterate our commitment to fully guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant children and adolescents, in broad cooperation with the United Nations human rights system

I thank you Madame President.