Concept Note

Seat at the table: Re-inventing CSO role and their Partnership with Governments
to End Violence Against Children
CSO Forum

Context

The inaugural Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) is scheduled to take place on November 7-8, 2024, in Bogota, Colombia. Achieving the goal to EVAC necessitates close collaboration with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to ensure that commitments are translated into tangible actions and that the protective environment around children is fortified. In anticipation of the formal conference days, CSO Forum is going to organize two sessions, one with only CSOs, and the other one with Governments.

Outline for each session:

The plans for these sessions are outlined below, serving as a basis for discussion with CSO members.

*The session with only CSOs* will serve as a retreat for connection, celebration, and structured discussions about reinventing the CSOs Forum profile to align with Pathfinding 2.0 and inspire a post-conference accelerator movement. A significant focus will be on defining strategic engagement in dual citizenship roles, both pressuring and partnering with governments, and developing a structured plan to stimulate discourse and decisions for the new movement while planning the session with governments.

*The session with CSOs and governments* aims to re-imagine a new, upgraded partnership within the context of "Pathfinders 2.0." CSOs will highlight their unique value by bringing a coordinated voice and powerful mechanisms to connect local and global levels, offering strategies that bridge the divide between local and global efforts. This session will serve as a celebration of successful practices, encouraging governments to leverage effective methods developed by CSOs and scale them in culturally sensitive ways to significantly contribute to ending violence against children.

The framing of the discussion will include breakthroughs in justice, support for families, safety in schools and communities, and online protection for children. National CSOs will also be involved to harness this Call to Action in their national engagements. The CSO Forum will emphasize expertise, ensuring governments see CSOs as technically proficient partners committed to fulfilling governmental undertakings in achieving SDG 16.2 by 2030. Governments will be encouraged to present this manifesto in the formal days of the conference.

Key Messages

3. Enhance Data Systems and Capacity for Data Collection, Use, and Management.
4. Strengthen Multi-Sectoral and Intergenerational collaborative Approaches.
5. Increase Funding and Transparency in Budgets to End Violence Against Children.


7. Engage Communities and Children in Their Protection.

The long version of the Key Messages is included in the Call to Action

**Agenda and Key Potential Speakers**

- **Opening**: Local CSOs reps and Coordinator of Global CSO Forum to EVAC
- **Interview with the Stakeholders**: Representatives from a government in the Latin America and Caribbean region, a government such as Uganda that has excelled in engaging CSOs in the National Preparatory Process, and a government that is a donor of EVAC.
- **Fishbowl discussions** with government representatives, national and global CSOs, children, survivors, faith actors, and women's groups.
- **Closing remarks** by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

**Key Methodologies**

The proposed methodologies of the side events are **Fishbowl Discussions** to facilitate open dialogue and exchange of ideas; **Interviews with stakeholders** to bring diverse and provocative perspectives; **Video presentations** showcasing successful initiatives and testimonies, that fighting child marriage is possible, and further commitments to address the gaps.

**Venue** Agora, Room B. Floor 2  
**Day and Time**: 05.11.2024; 0900 am-11:00am

**Registration Link** [HERE](#)

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