

UNICEF(United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund):

1.Prioritizing children's rights in the national and international development agendas:

As the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda remains high on the global agenda, the responsibility to recognize and uphold the rights of children has become a major priority throughout national and international development initiatives. Some of the basic rights of children laid out under international law include the right to development with dignity; a name and nationality; access to basic necessities such as food, housing, and medical care; special care if handicapped; love and understanding; a free education; protection in dangerous situations; and peace, love, and friendship “without distinction or discrimination on account of race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family.” Assisting children in achieving their full potential is also investing in the progress of humanity as a whole. It is in the crucial first years that interventions make the most significant differences in a child’s physical, intellectual, and emotional development. Investing in children means achieving development goals faster, as children constitute a large percentage of the world’s poor. Therefore, a focus on ensuring the inclusion of children’s rights and well-being in all spheres of life is vital to the success of the post-2015 development agenda. The promotion of such development policies can occur through a variety of methods including data collection and research; planning and policy-making at all levels of government; implementing and monitoring mechanisms such as specific targets and progress indicators; and forming partnerships with United Nations (UN) entities, non- governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and civil society. Organizations (CSOs). It is important to identify and address sources of marginalization and inequity by intervening at a young age before psychological or physical damage occurs from being raised in poverty. Preventing discriminatory cycles resulting from the economic and social stratification of society is imperative for children to reach their full potential and contribute to society as active, informed citizens regardless of their upbringing.

2.Advancing human development for adolescents:

The human development of adolescents, UNICEF is primarily focused on fulfilling children’s rights as stated in the 1989 Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC). However, this document, addressing the specific human rights for children, does not make specific concessions concerning the adolescent population. Adolescent populations are a relatively new area of discussion in UNICEF, without the legacy of policy that the area of children’s rights possesses. Over the last few decades, significant development in the creation of legal frameworks addressing issues of children, including humanitarian action in emergency situations, education and nutrition, has taken place. However, there is a lack of framework addressing the unique needs of adolescents, and there exists a major policy gap between individuals who fall between the areas of “adults” and “children.” Adolescents face similar issues to children, however the status of their mental, physical, and emotional development means that they face additional

challenges, further aggravated by social, economic, and cultural factors. There is insufficient policy addressing this age group, effectively making them a marginalized group within the international community. With the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to the post-2015 agenda, it is imperative to ensure that the specific needs of the adolescent group are fully addressed within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).