



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-first session

### Third Committee

Agenda item 64 (a)

#### **Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children**

##### **Armenia and Mexico: draft resolution**

#### **Protecting children from bullying**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [69/158](#) of 18 December 2014 on protecting children from bullying, all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council that are relevant to the protection of children from bullying,

*Emphasizing* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1</sup> constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein,

*Recalling* the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,<sup>2</sup> and noting the adoption of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Declaration of Principles on Tolerance,<sup>3</sup>

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup> in its entirety, underscoring the importance of its implementation in ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the child, and taking into consideration the commitments to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children contained therein,

*Welcoming also* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>5</sup> including in particular its conclusions and recommendations,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [66/137](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> [A/51/201](#), annex, appendix I.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>5</sup> [A/71/213](#).



*Noting with appreciation* the establishment of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and the “High time to end violence against children” initiative of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and noting that they constitute platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement that can contribute to the prevention and elimination of violence against children, including forms of bullying,

*Recognizing* that bullying can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of violence to social exclusion, that although rates differ from country to country, bullying, online or in person, is among children’s top concerns and that it affects a high percentage of children and compromises their health, emotional well-being and academic work and is associated with consequences that may continue on into adulthood,

*Recognizing also* the importance of generating appropriate statistical information on bullying,

*Concerned* about the occurrence of bullying in different parts of the world and the fact that children who are victimized by such practices may be at heightened risk for a wide range of emotional problems, as well as potential long-term effects on the individual’s ability to realize his or her own potential,

*Noting with concern* that children in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations, who face stigmatization, discrimination or exclusion, including children with mental and physical disabilities, children from disadvantaged backgrounds, children in poverty, migrant children, refugee children, displaced children, children seeking asylum, indigenous children, children belonging to ethnic, racial, linguistic, cultural or religious minorities, children facing discrimination because their appearance does not meet cultural preferences, children perceived as having a sexual orientation and/or gender identity different from what is seen as the norm and children unable to go to school or excluded from it, are disproportionately affected by bullying, both in person and online,

*Noting* the risks associated with the misuse of new information and communications technologies and applications, including increased vulnerability to bullying, while stressing that new information and communications technologies and applications can create new ways to enhance education and, inter alia, learn and teach about the rights of the child and can be useful tools to promote children’s protection,

*Noting also* the role that information and communications technologies play in reducing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, including by empowering children to report such abuses, and recognizing that States should promote access to digital media and information and communications technologies while protecting children from harm,

*Acknowledging* the obligations and commitments of States to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to prevent and address all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation against children, including, as appropriate, the implementation of educational measures to address behavioural practices that condone such violence,

*Recognizing* that parents, legal guardians, schools, communities and State institutions have a special responsibility for securing children's protection from the risks associated with bullying,

*Recognizing also* that teachers and other school professionals can play a crucial role in preventing bullying, such as by raising awareness of the rights of the child, organizing regular classroom discussions, supporting school mediation, promoting parents' involvement, strengthening children's participation in establishing principles and practices on prevention and response and uncovering and handling individual cases of bullying,

*Recognizing further* that evidence-based initiatives to strengthen children's positive values and life skills, including taking responsibility for their actions towards others, as well as whole-school and whole-community programmes that fully respect all human rights, constitute best practices that should be developed, strengthened and shared through international cooperation,

*Acknowledging* that children's participation and their contributions need to be at the centre of efforts to prevent and address bullying,

1. *Calls upon* Member States:

(a) To take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children, including in school, from any form of violence, including forms of bullying, by promptly responding to such acts, and to provide appropriate support to children affected by and involved in bullying;

(b) To continue to promote and invest in education, including as a long-term and lifelong process by which everyone learns tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring such respect in all societies;

(c) To generate statistical information and data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant variables at the national level, and to provide information on disability, with regard to the problem of bullying, as a basis on which to elaborate effective public policies;

(d) To implement significant measures to prevent and respond to bullying, including cyberbullying, in particular initiatives to mobilize support to prevent and address the phenomenon, efforts to inform and assist children, public policies to secure children's protection and restorative practices to repair harm, restore relationships and avoid recidivism;

(e) To adopt, as appropriate, clear and comprehensive legislation on children's protection from bullying, including prohibited conduct, safe and child-sensitive counselling and reporting procedures and safeguards for the rights of affected children;

(f) To raise public awareness, involving family members, legal guardians, caregivers, young people, schools, communities, community leaders and the media, as well as civil society organizations, with the participation of children, regarding the protection of children from bullying;

(g) To inform children of available support services, including safe, accessible, age- and child-sensitive, confidential and independent counselling and reporting

mechanisms, as well as of procedures in place to support them in this process, where they exist, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so to make such support services available;

(h) To share national experiences and best practices for preventing and tackling bullying, including cyberbullying;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to devise and initiate an international campaign, in collaboration with Member States and relevant mechanisms and agencies of the United Nations, with a view to bringing attention to bullying, including cyberbullying, and to promoting peaceful social interaction;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to organize an expert workshop, to be held in 2017, to share perspectives and best practices on the protection of children from bullying, including to pursue the objectives of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>1</sup> and invites Member States and relevant mechanisms and agencies of the United Nations to participate actively in the meeting;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the proposals contained in his report, as well as any other relevant elements, to submit a proposal for an international plan of action on the prevention of bullying that draws on expertise from the United Nations system and the contributions of Governments, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations in their advisory capacity and civil society actors;

5. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts, alongside the relevant existing statistical projects of the United Nations, to identify indicators and methodologies to support the design of evidence-based prevention and response programmes to protect children from bullying;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-second session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

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