



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: OHCHR/TESPRDD/Child and Youth Rights Unit/Tel: /+41 22 928 9310

Subject: Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child - Human Rights Council Resolution 56/5

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomes inputs from national human rights institutions regarding Human Rights Council resolution 56/5 on the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education.

In the aforementioned resolution, the Human Rights Council decides to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group of the Human Rights Council with the mandate of exploring the possibility of, elaborating and submitting to the Human Rights Council a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the working group with all the assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of its mandate and requests the working group to submit a report on progress made to the Human Rights Council for its consideration no later than at its sixty-second session.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful to receive relevant information for the preparation of the first session of the Working Group. In particular:

- 1) What are the main barriers to public pre-primary education available free to all in law, policy, and practice in your country and what is their impact on the rights of the child? Please consider the specific situation of marginalized children and those in vulnerable situations in your response.
- 2) What are the main barriers to public secondary education available free to all in law, policy, and practice in your country and what is their impact on the rights of the child? Please consider the specific situation of marginalized children and those in vulnerable situations in your response.
- 3) What are examples of innovative and sustainable financial mechanisms to support the full and effective implementation of public pre-primary and secondary education available free to all children in your country?
- 4) What steps is the Government taking to remove barriers and make public pre-primary and secondary education available free to all, including through the allocation of adequate resources and cross-

sectoral and international cooperation? Please provide examples of specific laws and regulations, measures, policies, and programmes.

- 5) Can you provide information on any programs or activities your organization has implemented regarding making public pre-primary education and secondary education free for all?

Information should be sent to Helen Griffiths, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (e-mail: ohchr-registry@un.org, cc: ohchr-children@un.org) by 18 May 2025. The information provided, which should not exceed 5 pages, will be made available on the OHCHR website.

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Geneva, 18 March 2025



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "H. Griffiths".