

**Consultation on the Global Partnership to End Violence
Against Children's Zero Draft Strategy**

Canadian Civil Society Response

Organized by the International Child Protection Network Canada (ICPNC)

March 15, 2016

Consultation Background

Name and job title of facilitators:

- Eleanor Hevey, International Policy Specialist, UNICEF Canada
- Cicely McWilliam, Director, Policy and Government Relations, Save the Children

Hosting organisation: UNICEF Canada

Date of consultation: Thursday, February 25, 2016

City: Toronto

Country: Canada

Number of participants: 21

Please describe the format of your consultation (for example: the structure, timeframe, type of participants, number and type of sessions):

The consultation took the format of a half-day workshop and facilitated discussion, with the majority of participants attending in person and additional participants joining via teleconference. Participants included ICPNC members representing international and Canadian non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, independent child protection experts and consultants, and academics.

A representative of Global Affairs Canada (Government of Canada) and member of the Interim Advisory Group of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children attended as an observer.

The consultation facilitators presented on the background and context of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (Global Partnership or Partnership), the outline of the Zero Draft Strategy and the format for the consultation.

The representative of the Interim Advisory Group provided an update on the status of the Partnership's strategy development.

Please note that the submission report reflects the general discussion and does not assign specific comments to participating individuals or organizations.

Participants:

- Simon Lewchuk, Policy Advisor, World Vision Canada
- Merissa Arokium, Volunteer Intern, International Policy and Programs, UNICEF Canada
- Eleanor Hevey, International Policy Specialist, UNICEF Canada **(Facilitator)**
- Ivette Fonseca, Child Rights|Child Protection Advisor, Plan Canada
- Ross Tanner, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, War Child Canada
- Carol Tisshaw, Senior Child Safeguarding Specialist, Save the Children
- Olivia Lecoufle, Technical Advisor, Child Protection, Save the Children
- Cicely McWilliam, Director, Policy and Government Relations, Save the Children **(Facilitator)**
- Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah, Acting Director, Education, Child Protection and Gender Equality, Global Affairs Canada **(Observer)**
- Lori Galway, Manager, Policy, Right to Play
- Faith Lee, Consultant, Child Participation, Right to Play
- Laura Wright, Child Protection Specialist, Right to Play
- Dr. Tara Collins, Assistant Professor, School of Child and Youth Care, Ryerson University
- Maggie Zeng, New Business Development and Grants Manager, Christian Children's Fund of Canada
- Alana Kapell, independent expert/consultant
- Jean-Sebastian Valle, Education Specialist, Equitas

1. Principles: Rights-focused, Child-centred and Universal

Q1.1 *what does the partnership need to do to live up to these principles in practice?*

Rights-focused:

- A rights-focused approach requires an interdisciplinary approach and should leverage the existing strengths of established international, national and local children's rights communities and advocates.
- Central to a principled and rights-focused approach is the concept of the 'best interest of the child,' and the acknowledgement of the tensions that exist between the realisation of rights (such as rights to protection, education and health, for example). Understanding the intersection between these rights must be underpinned by this 'best interest' approach. It will be of critical importance to stress the interdependence of children's rights and thus avoid a focus upon one right, to the exclusion of others.
- Furthermore, it is recommended that Partnership members work to ensure the right tools are in place to help practitioners evaluate and implement a 'best interest' approach in practice.
- There is a need for the Partnership and Partnership members to tackle assumptions that children's rights as human rights are understood as instruments of international law only. There is a need to support children's right from a pragmatic application lens – and support improved recognition that children's rights are involved in everything that we do as child protection practitioners in our work and interaction with children – and that the acknowledgement, respect for and promotion of the realisation of children's rights is central to our interactions and relationships with children and young people. A specific recommendation for the Global Partnership is to support communications to best ensure that all actors understand rights in the context of relationships.

Child-centred:

- The Global Partnership and its members should ensure, and help facilitate, the meaningful participation of children and young people and child-voice perspective across all levels of the mandate and work of the Partnership – as central stakeholders of the multi-stakeholder model. A key challenge will be in how to best operationalize and support the systematic inclusion of meaningful participation opportunities at all levels (including at the local/national level).
- The child-centred principle and principle of 'the best interest of the child' must be a core focus mainstreamed across all interventions and services, monitoring and evaluation.
- Child-centred approaches cannot be divorced from rights-centred approaches.
- The second central principle at the heart of a child-centred approach is the principle to 'do no harm.' The Partnership should seek to ensure that the protection sector does not cause direct or indirect harm to children and young people. A recommendation to the Partnership is to consider existing child safeguarding policies as tested best practices to be adopted.

Universal:

- Universality must be understood as a central principle both in terms of the universality of the application of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, the mandate and reach of the partnership across geographies, low-, middle- and high-income countries; and should also be understood in terms of the universality of children's rights. Participants conceptualized this principle as applicable to both the universality of the accountability of governments, communities, the private sector and other relevant actors and decision-makers in protecting children from violence; and the universality of the rights of children to protection from violence and of access to remedy.

- The concept and principle of universality should also be understood as universality within and across populations and communities – explicitly linked to equity and universal access to services and interventions. This should include a defined role for Partnership members in working to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized children.

A further suggestion for consideration put forward by participants, is that the Global Partnership seek to include gender as an additional stand alone principle – and/or expand on the mandate of the Partnership in addressing gender-based violence.

2. Principles: Inclusive, Results, Transparent, Learning

Q2.1 what does the partnership need to do to live up to these principles in practice?

Inclusive:

- The consultation participants explicitly linked the Global Partnership’s principle of inclusivity to the principle of universality.
- The Global Partnership and its members must work to ensure and promote the inclusion of vulnerable and/or marginalized children, including, but not limited to, children and young people who are economically deprived or disadvantaged; children on the move, including displaced, refugee and migrant children; children from rural areas and children with disabilities.
- The principle of inclusivity must be supported by meaningful participatory approaches that seek to engage children and young people directly. A recommendation to the Partnership is for the development and dissemination of clear guidelines on facilitating meaningful participation. These guidelines should be contextualised according to plural settings, to best enable meaningful input of children and young people according to their own context. Furthermore, as part of meaningful stakeholder engagement practices, children and young people should be fully supported to understand the processes and issues that they are participating in, or being consulted on – in order to be empowered to put forward solutions.
- Meaningful participation processes are further dependent upon the provision of adequate resources and timelines, and the avoidance of constraints in design that may prevent such processes being truly child- and youth-voice driven.

Results:

- The Global Partnership and its members are well placed to provide strong guidance and quality management, aligned to the SDG indicator framework, on the collection of data and evidence; and carrying out monitoring and evaluation.
- Research guidelines and capacity building should support child- and youth-centred agendas and ensure that research is impact-focused and conducted *with* and *for*, and not ‘on’ children.
- Existing research and knowledge should be leveraged as an evidence-base for policy recommendations and implementation models supported by the Partnership.
- The consultation participants noted the major progress achieved in recent years in the development of applicable monitoring and evaluation tools and indicators. A key role for the Partnership will be in supporting the capacity of different partners in the effective application and use of these tools – to enable comparisons at the global level of ‘apples with apples.’
- A results-focused approach should focus upon measuring the ‘things that make a difference,’ including societal or community norms and values – things that can be complex to measure and

evaluate. Thus a proposed focus for the work of the Partnership will be to support the capacity of partners and actors in effective impact-measurement.

- Guidance should be underpinned by, and aligned to, the International Charter for Ethical Research Involving Children.
- The Global Partnership should support the interconnections between researchers and academics, civil society and government actors - and actively seek to facilitate cross-sector collaboration in results-based approaches.

Transparent:

- Participants discussed the potential capability of the partnership to ‘embrace dissent’ and foster a plurality of viewpoints.
- One recommendation is for the Global Partnership to ensure the transparency of members’ and partners’ failures, as well as successes, and to ensure the transparency as to where research evidence may not support the approach of the Partnership or partners. Thus the partnership should embrace uncomfortable realities and challenges – to allow for open dialogue, facilitate constructive learning approaches and foster innovative and solutions-focused approaches to addressing issues.

Learning:

- A focus on learning should incorporate lessons from longer-term processes in order to best strengthen the movement – building on the established expertise and communities of practice that exist, at the international, national and local levels.
- The principle of ‘learning’ should recognise learning as a dynamic and iterative process – and include an emphasis on quality.
- One suggestion from participants is that the role of the Global Partnership be expanded to act as a global ‘hub of excellence’ that not only directly generates and disseminates learnings, but acts to collate and disseminate external learning and knowledge – including facilitating cross-sectoral learnings and best practices from complementary fields, beyond child-rights and protection (including education, psychology, economics, etc.). The Partnership could also look to facilitate horizontal learning among partners.
- A further recommendation would be for the Partnership to share learnings on successful models and approaches from other SDG Global Partnerships.
- Aligned to discussions regarding the principle of transparency, the principle of learning should also apply to the discussions of learnings from ineffective practice or failures, as well as best practices and successes.

3. Strategic Objective 1: Build political will to end violence against children

Q3.1 how do you think we can make ending violence against children a global policy priority?

- Participants discussed the potential to explore the linkages between the ‘end violence against children’ agenda, and the movement to ‘end violence against women and girls’.
 - Increased linkages may work to maximize limited resources for countries;
 - Help to build systems that are comprehensive; and
 - Spreads ownership/mandate across government.
- Participants recommend that the Global Partnership work to leverage the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and related campaigns and implementation plans.
 - Need to identify what is unique about the ‘end violence against children’ challenge;

- Need to consider how to distinguish the ‘end violence against children’ movement and campaign in a competitive landscape, in terms of competition for resources, and competing international and national policy priorities and advocacy campaigns, on issues such as health and climate change, among others; and
- Recognize cross-thematic linkages between ending violence against children, and the health, education, and humanitarian sector and advocates.
- The Partnership should work to build a solid investment case and demonstrate the financial and economic impacts of NOT addressing violence against children.
- Mainstreaming ending violence against children issue across government and political spheres and stakeholder audiences will be critical – at the international, national and regional/local levels.

Awareness evidence-based solutions:

- Critical to raise awareness and build support for evidenced-based solutions.
- Need to recognize that evidence-based solutions are inherently context specific – thus how they are deployed to raise awareness will also need to be context specific.
- There exists a need to recognize and acknowledge the challenges of gathering evidence in fragile/remote and conflict affected contexts.
- Given these caveats, it remains important that the Partnership works to develop and promote consistent standards of evidence – which will help to bolster the case for support with governments, decision-makers, influencers, and with public audiences.
- Where possible, globally applicable methodologies and lessons learned should be promoted and shared.

Q 3.2 Please review the overview of the package of evidence-based strategies available on the website. If you are currently working on one or more of these seven proposed strategies, what lessons have you learnt from your experience?

- Recommend that the Partnership look to connect across the development sector – for example, the Maternal, Newborn, Child Health sector has developed common and standardized indicators and that has helped to drive results, policy coherence, and support of political leaders and decision-makers.
- Participants expressed a concern that the global indicators for ending violence against children, as determined by the SDGs and associated targets, are not yet sufficiently refined or robust and are not supported by significant global buy-in required to drive results.

Working with policymakers:

- Civil society holds a dual role, particularly as it relates to child protection. Firstly, that of collaboration and working in support of government to build systems, and to improve both policies and practices.
- However, civil society organizations and representatives also have an obligation as protectors, defenders and advocates for and of children and their rights – as mandatory reporters we protect children from direct violence, and as advocates we protect their rights.
- We are very pleased that the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children has recognized and indeed embraced that dual role – we strongly urge that Pathfinder countries also be required to recognize that dual role.
- In order to protect children, civil society needs to be empowered to be able to deliver critical messages- and in many situations they may be the only ones who can.

- At the same time, civil society organizations and representatives have the expertise to support governments to deliver effective child protection programs.
- Civil society organizations and representatives need to be able to speak to and work with influencers (faith based and community leaders, private sector, etc.) not just governments, as key partners and stakeholders in delivering change for children.

4. Strategic Objective 2: Work with countries to accelerate action to tackle the violence children face

Q4.1 how should the partnership support Pathfinder countries to accelerate action to keep children safe?

- The Partnership and associated fund should look to provide direct funding as appropriate to the model, but also seek to leverage funding indirectly, through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building to increase domestic resource mobilization.
- Technical support and capacity building should also focus on building and strengthening systems, policies and legislation, and supporting training and capacity building programmes targeted at law enforcement and the judiciary.
- Both funding and technical support and capacity building should also be channelled into support for national public advocacy and communications campaigns focused on changing social behaviours, norms and attitudes.
- The Global Partnership model must ensure to recognize the different capacities of Pathfinder countries, in line with the SDG principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ and that Pathfinder countries will be starting out from different baselines.
- The Partnership should consider capacity building models based upon a capacity building model of ‘Nearest Neighbour’ in terms of drawing applicable lessons.
- While the self-selection of Pathfinder countries will be key to ensuring the political will is in place to build meaningful change and progress – the selection of Pathfinder countries should also take into account whether foundational systems exist on which to build long-term sustainability.
- The Partnership should look to support Pathfinder countries in developing and implementing specific plans for child and youth participation.
- The Partnership should seek to support the development of strong accountability mechanisms for the implementation of national action plans - that incorporate and reflect accountability to core stakeholders, including children and young people themselves, families and communities.

Expectations of Pathfinder countries

- Pathfinder countries should ensure national and local civil society organizations and representatives have an open space in which to operate and contribute.
- Pathfinder countries should commit to engaging with a diverse range of partners to effect change.
- Pathfinder countries should be open and committed to learning from peers that are demonstrating results in preventing and addressing violence against children.
- Pathfinder countries should look for intra-country learnings, and the ability and willingness to take proven approaches to scale.
- Pathfinder countries should commit to meaningful child and youth participation.

- Pathfinder countries should commit to supporting robust monitoring and evaluation that includes children and young people.
- Pathfinder countries should articulate a clear commitment to equity, as a central principle.
- Pathfinder countries should articulate a clear commitment to accountability, including to children and young people.

What does success look like at the five-year mark?

- The Global Partnership and Pathfinders, as appropriate, should articulate recognition that five years may not be sufficient time to demonstrate complete results – and indicators should take into account iterative progress towards 2030 targets.
- The first five years should focus on the delivery of ‘first phase’ change and progress.
- At a minimum, detailed and fully costed implementation and milestone plans should be defined and implementation underway. Supported by:
 - Analysis and mapping of relevant cross-sectoral linkages in the national context;
 - Detailed stakeholder engagement strategies for meaningful child and youth participation; and
 - Detailed monitoring and evaluation plans should be in place and implementation underway.
- For the Global Partnership – an expected measure of success at the five-year mark would be the clear consensus and articulation of priorities, to help ensure a roadmap to the achievement of results by 2030.
- Clear linkages should be defined between the efforts of the Global Partnership and other established international mechanisms and rights instruments – such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- One recommendation is for the establishment of incremental milestones, against which the Global Partnership as well as the Pathfinder countries must measure themselves – to ensure that progress is tracked and in order to maintain momentum.

Q 4.2 how should non-Pathfinder countries participate in the partnership?

- It was generally acknowledged by the participants that given the limited resources, as an approach to kick off the Global Partnership the Pathfinder model may be the most pragmatic, but participants did raise concerns about the sustainability and long-term effectiveness of this approach.
- These concerns related to the fact that lessons from this five-year model may not be timely enough to ensure that SDG targets related to child protection are met within the fifteen-year timeframe – consideration should be given to how globally/regionally applicable learnings can best be disseminated and actioned *during*, rather than following, the Pathfinder approach.
- Further consideration should be given to bringing new partner countries ‘online’ before the first five years of the Global Partnership have been completed.

5. Strategic Objective 3: Help countries to work together to tackle violence against children

Q5.1 how, in practice, can the partnership help share knowledge that will help strengthen standards and norms, and disseminate models and best practice?

- A suggested area of focus for the mapping and dissemination of best practice is specifically around child safeguarding standards.
- It will be important for the Partnership to take account of existing non-formal systems for the dissemination of best practice – strong examples may already exist but have yet to be taken to scale or shared beyond bilateral relationships. The Partnership should map, share and strengthen existing mechanisms.
- Consultation participants emphasised the importance of engaging and convening decision-makers alongside practitioners in the sharing learnings and best practice models.
- One key consideration is that the Global Partnership look to support and facilitate learnings from local-level partnership models that work well – as a capacity building model of successful national/local partnership approaches, complementary to best practice models for National Action Plans. These examples would be less issue-based and more relationships focused.
- One recommendation is for the Global Partnership to foster and facilitate exchanges between senior government officials of Pathfinder countries – as a model of Pathfinder-to-Pathfinder capacity building and both South-South, North-North, and North-South collaboration. For this approach to be most effective, exchanges would need to be facilitated at the decision-maker level, in order to ensure that learnings resulting from such an exchange programme could be mandated, implemented and appropriately and adequately resourced.

Q5.2 we are considering running a Solutions Summit in 2016 or 2017: lessons or recommendations to help make this forum most effective.

- The Global Partnership is well positioned to play a role in engaging and bringing together high profile communicators and influencers – to amplify Summit outcomes and ensure integration with Strategic Objective 1 (to build political will) and the Partnership’s work in ‘Building a Movement.’

6. Building a Movement

Q6.1 how can the partnership learn from existing campaigns to help empower a more effective movement?

- Children and young people must be consulted – the Partnership should draw on existing participation research, lessons learned and the development of practice standards that can be used to inform the development of next-generation campaigns.
- The Global Partnership should also look to the experience of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children.
- The international campaign around ending child, early and forced marriage, provides an excellent example of how a campaign can successfully raise awareness and increase both public and political engagement at both the national and global level.
- In order to succeed, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children must cultivate both cultural and political champions.

