



SRSG-VAC contribution to the 2025 Report of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - Response to questionnaire

14 November 2024

Executive summary

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) reports to the UN General Assembly (GA) and to the Human Rights Council (HRC) respectively, as well as prepares different other reports notably advocacy briefs on violence against children. Preparing these, she systematically consults with and reports back to children, ensuring that children from different backgrounds, origins and ethnicity including indigenous children participate in close cooperation with civil society and children's organizations at local, national, regional and international levels.

Moreover, the Special Representative routinely raises the issue of the protection of indigenous children from all forms of violence, where relevant, during country visits as well as stresses the importance of their participation during the regular meetings.

Furthermore, the protection of indigenous children and their consultation is mentioned systematically in the "leaving no one behind" perspective during the Special Representative's analysis of the Voluntary National Review's (VNR) process. Within the framework of the Special Representative support to these processes, she always highlights the importance of investing in all children including particular focus on the most vulnerable children such indigenous children. The SRSG-VAC reached out to all 38 Member States and one regional organization that presented VNRs at the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to offer support to their reporting processes.

Responses to the questionnaire

- The SRSG-VAC reports to the UN GA and to the HRC respectively. She also issues advocacy briefs on a variety of topics deemed critical to advance efforts to prevent and end violence against children. This year, as chair of the United Nations Task Force (UNTF) on Children Deprived of Liberty, she finalized the UNTF advocacy brief "End the deprivation of liberty of children in the administration of justice" that highlights access to child justice for all children without discrimination. In preparing such reports the Special Representative systematically consults with and reports back to children. In addition, the SRSG produces child friendly versions of the report prepared for and with children.
- The Office of the Special Representative ensures that, in these consultations, children from difference backgrounds, origins and ethnicity including indigenous children participate in close cooperation with civil society and children's organizations at local, national, regional and international levels. This has been particularly relevant in the context of her last reports to the GA and HRC on the issues of the impact on violence against children in travel and tourism; on the urgent need for protection of children on the move in times of crisis as well as on climate change and violence against children. In all these consultations indigenous children participated from a variety of countries and communities across regions. In addition to the importance of their participation, their voices confirmed the impact of climate change in their environments, lands and territories as well as in their health and access to education. Similar concerns were addressed regarding the impacts of displacement on indigenous children as well

as the specific challenges linked to travel and tourism activities. For example, in October 2023, the Special Representative presented a child-friendly version of her report to the UN GA which was presented to around 500 children from 80 countries. The series of events were entirely moderated by children including indigenous children. This year, on the margins of the UN GA, the SRSG engaged with approximately 1700 children around what governments should do to end violence against children, through an online consultation and through three online meetings. Children from diverse background were invited and participated, including children from indigenous backgrounds.

Please find the links to the reports and child friendly versions:

- Rethinking Travel and Tourism: [n2321574.pdf \(un.org\)](#);
 - violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/documents/child_friendly/unga2023/unga2023_cvf_english.pdf
 - The climate crisis: a threat multiplier for violence against children: [n2243737.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
 - violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/child-friendly-version-unga-2022-en.pdf
 - Protecting children on the move cannot wait: [g2326365.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
 - [Child friendly materials | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#)
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- The Special Representative has contributed to OHCHR’s Report presented to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session as requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 54/12, entitled “Human rights and Indigenous Peoples” in paragraph 15.
 - The Special Representative has contributed to the development of the UN Secretary-General’s “Guidance Note on child rights mainstreaming”, launched in July 2023. The Note provides practical guidance to all UN levels across development, human rights and peace and security on how to integrate children’s rights within management, programmes and operations. The Guidance Note includes a strong element on child participation, which can be used to push for more inclusive interaction with children including indigenous children in a safe, empowering and sustained way, and for meaningful child participation to make children's voices heard.
 - Based on her experience in preparing child friendly assets for and with children, holding consultations with children and promoting children’s participation, the Special Representative has launched two important guidance pieces which include particular reference to indigenous children. Both have been shared and continue being shared widely within the UN, partners and States:
 - “10 steps for reporting and engaging with children” (https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/10_steps_for_reporting_and_engaging_with_children.pdf) and;
 - Guidance for developing child friendly assets ([Guidelines for creating child friendly assets - Guidelines for creating child-friendly resources.jpg \(un.org\)](#)).
 - The Special Representative routinely raises the issue of the protection of indigenous children from all forms of violence, where relevant, during country visits as well as stresses the importance of their participation during the regular meetings. For example, in Fiji, she had a dedicated meeting with the

Minister for iTaukei Affairs, in Vietnam met with children belonging to indigenous groups and she discussed the situation of indigenous girls in Condorquanqui province in Peru. During a visit to Brazil in June 2024, the Special Representative discussed with indigenous leaders and national authorities challenges such as the barriers to accessing education, health, and protection services for indigenous children. In addition, the impact of illegal mining operations and the increase of violence against indigenous children in urban settings were a focus of the Special Representative’s visit. The Special Representative recalled the need to strengthen integrated, quality services for indigenous children and families that are culturally, economically and geographically accessible.

- Furthermore, the protection of indigenous children and their consultation is mentioned systematically in the “leaving no one behind” perspective during the Special Representative’s analysis of the VNR process. Within the framework of the Special Representative support to these processes, she always highlights the importance of investing in all children including particular focus on the most vulnerable children such indigenous children.
- A key aspect of a culture of meaningful participation is bridging the gap between children who are taking actions and decision makers, by facilitating access to information that can be used by children to input their own actions and initiatives, and that has been adapted to fit children's needs. The Office of the Special Representative has developed a digital map encouraging national initiatives for enhanced and meaningful participation. [Child Participation Map | United Nations](#)
- Concerning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
 - After every year HLPF, the Office of the SRSG-VAC undertakes a thorough reading of the VNRs using a set of guiding questions, as well as live presentations during the HLPF, using a child- and gender-sensitive protection lens and publishes an advocacy brief based on these reflections. Other UN Human Rights reporting mechanisms such as UPR and CRC is referenced in this process.
 - The information gathered in this process is used to draft the SRSG-VAC advocacy brief on VNR.
 - The latest brief explores how investment in a holistic approach to the SDGs can contribute to the prevention of – and response to – violence against children, illustrated with examples from the 2023 VNRs. The 2024 advocacy brief is currently being developed.
 - While the information included in the advocacy brief is generalized, the office is internally keeping track of the analytical information.
 - More information on SDGs for the SRSG-VAC can be found here: https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2030_agenda/vnr-report-2023-en.pdf