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Global Child Forum’s vision is a sustainable world where children’s rights are respected and supported by all stakeholders in society. By creating a global platform for informed dialogue and building partnerships between different sectors of society, we will inspire effective action on children’s rights.

Every third person on the planet today is a child. In some regions, almost 50% of the population is under 15 years of age. Therefore any serious company or government sustainability agenda must include a strong child rights perspective.

Our fourth international Global Child Forum took place on 11 April, 2014 at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. Some 300 participants from business, government, civil society and academia attended, representing 20 countries. This year’s theme was Partnerships for children’s rights – today and for the future. This Forum Report provides highlights from the presentations, panels and ActionLab discussions. Film recordings, interviews, presentations and full research reports are available on globalchildforum.org.

Findings from the global study on Children’s Rights – a benchmark for the corporate sector were presented and discussed. Through this and previous studies we are creating a benchmark, which enables the tracking of progress on how the global corporate sector addresses children’s rights over time. The study will also result in a repository of good practice where we share knowledge and ideas across sectors to encourage action.

Global Child Forum is also pleased to have launched three new strategic partnerships and work streams, which all will have a major impact over the coming years. First, together with UNICEF, we will develop a Global Risk Atlas for children’s rights. Second, we will join forces to prevent violence against children together with the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. One part of the collaboration is our new research area Children in a digital world. And last, but not least, we will work with a range of partners to advance knowledge and thinking on how cross-sector partnerships in practice can lead to improvements in children’s lives.

The Global Child Forum in Stockholm is our major international leaders’ summit for children’s rights. Our next key event is our first Regional Global Child Forum, taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 12-13 November 2014. Expanding the platform of dialogue into different regions will enable us to deliver greater results and broaden the range of partners we are working with.

On behalf of our Honorary Chairman, the Board of Directors and Staff of Global Child Forum I would like to thank all speakers, participants, partners, friends and supporters for helping us making the Forum in Stockholm such a success.

We look forward to continue a creative and effective collaboration with you and hope that our mutual actions will lead to positive and real improvement for children of the world.

Ulf Karlberg, Chairman, Global Child Forum
GLOBAL CHILD FORUM
Programme, 11 April 2014
The Royal Palace, Stockholm, Sweden
Partnerships for Children’s Rights, today and for the future

In the presence of H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf and H.M. Queen Silvia

Welcome by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf

Opening by Mr Ulf Karlberg, Chairman, Global Child Forum

Keynote address: Trade’s impact on children’s rights
Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General, World Trade Organization

Keynote address: Complementary roles for children’s rights
Ms Navanethem “Navi” Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Keynote dialogue: Children in a sustainable world
Ms Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
on Violence against Children
Mr Khalid Malik, Director, Human Development Report, UN Development Programme
Mr Martin Mogwanja, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
Professor Sheila Tlou, Director UNAIDS Regional Support Team Southern and Eastern Africa

Corporate engagement, a global benchmark
Ms Inger Ashing, Executive Director, Global Child Forum
Dr Magdalena Kettis, Research Director, Global Child Forum
Mr Johan Öberg, Partner & Managing Director, The Boston Consulting Group Sweden

Discussing the global benchmark
Mr Lars Rebien Sørensen, President & CEO, Novo Nordisk
Mr Mats Granryd, President & CEO, Tele2 Group
Ms Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson, President, Oak Foundation
Ms Hilary Parsons, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Nestlé
Mr Henry De Sio, Ashoka International/former Dep Assistant to President Barack Obama

Attention and action, examples of good practice
Ms Marie Busck, Senior Director Corporate Governance & Compliance, LEGO Group
Mr Nigel Chapman, CEO, Plan International
Mr Howard Taylor, Managing Director, Nike Foundation

Change is possible: three entrepreneurs
Mr Niclas Kjellström-Matseke, CEO, Novamedia Postcode Lottery Sweden
Dr Percy Barnevik, Honorary Chairman, Hand in Hand International
Mr Luke Dowdney MBE, Founder & CEO, Fight for Peace / LUTA

Networking Luncheon
ActionLab sessions

A) Partnerships, joined forces for action and impact
Ms Maria Larsson, Minister for Children & the Elderly, Government of Sweden
Mr Per Heggenes, CEO, IKEA Foundation
Mr Salvatore Nigro, CEO, Education for Employment Europe
Mr Fredrik Nilzén, CSR Lead, Accenture
Mr Lars Rebien Sørensen, CEO, Novo Nordisk
Ms Hilary Parsons, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Nestlé
Moderator: Dr Darian Stibbe, Executive Director, The Partnering Initiative
Host: Mr Henrik Holmqvist, Operations Director, Global Child Forum

B) The role and impact of investors and financial institutions
Mr Magnus Furugård, President and Co-Founder, GES
Ms Jeroo Billimoria, Managing Director, Child & Youth Finance International
Ms Anna Hyrske, Head of Responsible Investments, Ilmarinen
Ms Anna Pot, Senior Sustainability Specialist, APG Asset Management
Mr Will Oulton, Global Head of Responsible Investments, First State Investments
Mr Matt Christensen, Global Head of Responsible Investments, AXA Investment Managers
Ms Anna Nilsson, Head of Sustainability Analysis, SwedbankRobur
Moderator: Mr Rob Lake, Independent responsible investment advisor
Host: Ms Sofia Hagman, Head of Communications, Global Child Forum

C) Children in the digital world
Ms Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
on Violence against Children
Ms Marie Baumgarts, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Tele2 Group
Dr Joanna Rubinstein, Assistant Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University
Ms Anna Easton, Programme Director, BT Group
Ms Amma Lartey, Regional Director West Africa, Reach for Change
Ms Siobhan Reddy, Studio Director, Media Molecule
Mr Fredrik Lind, Partner & Managing Director, The Boston Consulting Group Sweden
Moderator: Mr Nigel Chapman, CEO, Plan International
Host: Ms Elin Wallberg, Head of Programmes, Global Child Forum

Perspectives for the future
Mr Yves Daccord, Director-General, International Committee of the Red Cross
Professor Kirsten Sandberg, Chairman, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Voices from children in Sudan
Ms Issraa El-Kogali, Filmmaker and Photographer, Sudan/UK

Summary & conclusions

Closing remarks by H.M. Queen Silvia

Concert at the Royal Chapel

Informal networking buffet at the Tessin Palace hosted by the County Governor of Stockholm
Your Majesty, Minister, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the fourth Global Child Forum in Stockholm.

As the Honorary Chairman of the Global Child Forum I am glad to see all of you at the Royal Palace for a day dedicated to the children of the world.

I am very pleased that so many people from all over the world, has chosen to participate at our Forum.

This year we are focusing on Partnerships for Children’s Rights, today and for the future.

Our hope is that we together will spend an effective day of inspiration, innovation and dynamic sharing experiences.

This very important day should also be the meeting point where you, as child rights organisations, should bring your ideas and experiences into the open. And of course meet old and new friends.

Let us share some of the challenges we face and discuss how these could be overcome.

Today I trust we will learn, and hopefully find new ways of working together and explore good models that could lead to quicker and better results for children’s rights.

If we share and learn from each other, hopefully new partnerships will develop.

Again, a warm welcome to all of you and good luck!
Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to be here.

I would like to thank Your Majesties for asking me to join you today – and also to congratulate you on this excellent initiative.

I’m going to talk about what trade can do for children. When people heard I was coming here to talk about these issues, some didn’t see the connection. But I think the connections are pretty clear. For a start, the World Trade Organization only began life in 1995 – so, actually, it is still a teenager.

But, more seriously, the global trading system is aimed at creating some of the essential socio-economic conditions that we need if we are to improve children’s lives and improve their prospects in the future.

Ultimately, when we come into work every day in Geneva, that’s what we’re trying to do. But let’s get a bit more specific. I want to use this time to identify three flash points where trade and children’s issues intersect – and where perhaps we can do a bit more to maximize our impact. One relates to developed countries, and two to developing countries.

THE FIRST POINT IS THIS: the crisis in recent years has hit many western economies hard – and one of the most worrying effects has been very high levels of youth unemployment.

Levels have topped 50% in some countries. The effects of this are very significant – and are much more damaging than simply the loss of productive capacity in the economy.

Surveys of young people highlight the corrosive effect that unemployment can have on their confidence, motivation, and their view of the future – raising the spectre of a “lost generation”.

Trade can be part of the solution, because one of the key differences that trade makes is through job creation.

The WTO reached a major multilateral trade deal in Bali last December which could make a big difference here – as economists predict that it could create 21 million jobs. Of course the relationship of cause and effect is complex. We conducted a major study on this issue with the OECD and others in 2012. The evidence shows that trade can play a powerful role – but to be effective, trade reforms have to be embedded in supportive policies.

COUNTRIES WHERE TRADE openness has failed to stimulate growth, commonly have unstable macroeconomic policies, inadequate property rights, a dearth of public investment in overcoming supply-side constraints, or other socio-political constraints. So for the positive effects of trade to be realised in tackling youth unemployment, we need to recognise the interlinkages to other areas of policy. And with the right approach, trade doesn’t just create more jobs, it is also a tool to create better quality jobs.

Export-orientated jobs typically pay higher wages to their workers. In western Europe those working in export-focused companies collect a 10–20 per cent wage premium over the average wage. (And, by the way, in sub-Saharan Africa that figure is even higher, at 34 per cent).

Of course there are challenges here too in ensuring that low-skilled workers are not left behind.

But the prize is that, because of their better prospects, as well as giving the young unemployed a chance to enter the workplace, these
export-oriented jobs can also provide a renewed sense of confidence and hope – which is priceless.

MY SECOND POINT, turning now to developing issues, is about the persistent tragedy of child poverty.

By supporting economic growth and poverty alleviation, trade can be an important engine for change – and therefore can make a significant difference to children’s prospects.

The leaders of the Young Lives survey conducted by Oxford University over 15 years in India, Ethiopia, Peru and Vietnam, found that it provides financial space for governments and families to invest in children and create improved infrastructure and opportunity.

The fact that the Millennium Development Goal to halve the rate of extreme poverty by 2015 was met well ahead of time was illustrative of this.

Take China, where the pursuit of an export-led growth model has led it to becoming the world’s second largest economy and now the world’s biggest trading nation. At the same time they have also reduced poverty levels from 60 per cent to 12 per cent between 1990 and 2010.

Other economies have followed a similar trajectory, using the trading system to rapidly expand economic growth and slash rates of extreme poverty.

Look at Vietnam or the recent graduates from Least Developed Country status – Samoa, Cape Verde and the Maldives. They show again the difference that trade and increased investment can make in achieving more inclusive socio-economic development.

However the rate of poverty reduction as a whole is not always matched in the area of child poverty. Again, the Young Lives survey argues that while economic growth is important – what matters more for children is the nature, or quality of that growth.

“By supporting economic growth and poverty alleviation, trade can be an important engine for change – and therefore can make a significant difference to children’s prospects.”

Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General, World Trade Organization
We have to harness growth more effectively and convert it into social change that benefits poor children and their families. This is an urgent challenge for policy makers…

• …at the international level to provide the right frameworks and mechanisms to support quality growth,

• and at the domestic level to ensure that no-one falls behind, particularly children.

SO THE DEBATE that is currently underway to design the successors to the Millennium Development Goals will be crucial here, not least as this will dictate the agenda until 2030. For the more than 300,000 babies born today, that period covers almost their entire prospective childhood and adolescence. So this is a pretty important conversation.

I met with Ban Ki-moon just a few weeks ago to discuss the process towards the proposed new “Sustainable Development Goals”. And I think some important questions remain in the current debate:

• How should we recognise trade’s role in cutting poverty and supporting growth?

• How we build linkages between the economic growth agenda and effective action on child poverty?

• And perhaps most importantly – how can we ensure that the voices of those affected are featured in the debate? How can we ensure that the voices of children and their families are properly heard?

THIS BRINGS ME to my third and final point, which is that lifting children out of poverty is essential – but it is not enough.

We need to look at children’s lives in a more holistic way.

Robert F. Kennedy warned of the narrowness of economic measurements. He said:

“The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”

Of course this is what the Human Development Index is all about – the need to place people at the centre of policymaking. And, as I suggested earlier, trade is not just about dollars and cents – or kroners and öre.

We need to look at the wider environment. I believe that trade can help to create the conditions in which children can lead better lives.

And at the most fundamental level, we can do this through supporting the family – by reducing the potential for conflict, helping to create a stable environment and predictable conditions, and supporting higher income levels.

This, in turn, can support better education and healthcare, while better connections through trade also support better access to medicine.

Amartya Sen, one of the creators of the Human Development Index, argues that true development comes through freedom. And I believe that by encouraging openness, cooperation and democracy, trade will support this as well.

IT IS CLEAR to me that while perhaps trade cannot transform children’s lives on its own, in the right combination with other policies, it can be a very important factor. So we should seek to maximize this potential. And I have just one final thought I’d like to share.

The purpose of creating a global trading system after the Second World War was never simply to support trade as an end in itself – it was as a means to an end. It was based on the belief that trade creates peace and stability, supports growth and development, and helps us to lead better, happier lives.

We would be betraying that mission if we did not always strive to ensure that children’s interests – particularly in the developing world – were properly reflected.

Thank you.
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to this gathering. I welcome your focus on a topic that goes to the heart of humanity’s future.

Twenty-five years ago, world leaders adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nelson Mandela, that most forthright advocate for human rights, called the Convention a “luminous, living, document that enshrines the rights of every child, without exception, to a life of dignity and self-fulfilment”.

The Convention promises every child equality, freedom from fear, and the right to take an active part in key decisions. Its guiding principles include non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; and the right to life, survival and development – which includes rights to adequate food, shelter, clean water, formal education, primary health care, leisure and recreation. Children also have a right to be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty. Two Optional Protocols to the Convention specifically address the protection of children in armed conflicts, and the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

A THIRD OPTIONAL Protocol will come into effect three days from now, on April 14. Children whose rights have been violated will now be able to take their cases directly to an international body, the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This is the United Nations expert body that reviews whether States are complying with their obligations under the Convention. In addition, the UN benefits from the work of the Secretary-General’s Special Representatives on Violence against Children and on Children and Armed Conflict; and a Special Rapporteur reports specifically on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

I HAVE OUTLINED the human rights standards and architecture; now let us look at outcomes. More children are better off today than ever before. More children receive vaccinations and drink clean water. More go to school – that key step towards development and freedom of choice. Many States have passed key laws protecting children.

But this tidal movement towards children’s rights has not been universal. Old obstacles – often entirely preventable ones – combined with new phenomena deprive many children of their rights. Globalisation, inequalities, migration patterns, the transformation of family structures, climate change, austerity measures that cut social welfare budgets: all these factors have tremendous adverse impact on children’s rights. Millions of today’s children face violence, abuse, poverty, homelessness and exploitation. Many are placed in institutional care, particularly children with disabilities who face dramatic human rights challenges on a daily basis.

According to the International Labour Organisation, 168 million children are involved in child labour, often in very hazardous conditions. One third of girls in the developing world will be married off before they turn 18 according to the UN Population Fund.

The statistics on child mortality are also deeply shocking, with very large numbers of children dying from easily preventable causes. Despite some improvements, in 2012, 6.6 million children under the age of five died – more than half of them due to illnesses that could...
Often business leaders are oblivious of the harm to children’s rights that is generated by their operations, products, marketing, or distribution practices.

Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
easily have been prevented, given access to basic medicine. Because mortality is higher among children from marginalized communities, my Office is working with the World Health Organization to include a human rights based approach to preventing child mortality.

These are clear violations of the rights of the child under the Convention.

Recent developments present new threats for children’s rights. The Internet and mobile phones bring new dilemmas; they boost information but multiply the impact of bullying and social pressure on children. They also provide a window for predators to reach out to them. We need new partnerships to deal with this: groups like the Virtual Global Task Force, an alliance of law enforcement agencies, NGOs and corporations, which identify sexual predators online and prompt investigations.

**THE CONVENTION ON the Rights of the Child** is addressed to States. Children have rights; States must promote and protect them. But the State must involve all sectors of society in this work. It must ensure that the private sector respects and fulfils children’s rights in partnership with the authorities. The Committee on the Rights of the Child made this clear in its well-known General Comment 16 on children’s rights and business. It notes, “While it is the State that takes on obligations under the Convention, the task of implementation needs to engage all sectors of society, including business, civil society and children themselves.”

Businesses can, and often do, operate in ways that strengthen children’s rights. New technology and investment create opportunities and drive economic and social progress, enhancing children’s health and other rights. Corporate social responsibility can drive projects to assist children. But business can also negatively impact children and their rights. Manufacturing can damage the environment, compromising children’s right to health. Businesses may drive local communities off the lands that they depend on for natural resources, creating malnutrition or even homelessness. Marketing to children of products such as cigarettes and unhealthy foods is profoundly damaging.

Often business leaders are oblivious of the harm to children’s rights that is generated by their operations, products, marketing, or distribution practises. When ill-paid mine workers are forced to live far from their families for months at a time, perhaps nobody realises that this means a generation of children could grow up fending for themselves. When a business requires adults to work long hours, the older children – particularly girls – may be obliged to leave school so they can take care of siblings.

But ignorance is no excuse. Due diligence is an obligation. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights require that business enterprises perform human rights impact assessments across all their activities.

Embracing social responsibility in this way is not only an obligation; it is an opportunity. A community that is equitable and harmonious, respectful of human dignity, is a stable one, with long-term prospects that are prosperous and peaceful. When corporations act as responsible social partners they generate greater wealth for all in the longer term.

**CHILDREN’S RIGHTS BUILD** peace and development.

“Children are the most vulnerable citizens in any society, and the greatest of our treasures,” said Nelson Mandela. A true focus on children’s rights and development is unquestionably the single best investment any economic actor can make.

With the Convention on the Rights of the Child now 25 years old, we need to partner together to ensure that children’s rights become a real priority, for every State and every business. Ladies and gentlemen, in that endeavour your considerable influence would be a real asset.

Thank you
While it is the State that takes on obligations under the Convention, the task of implementation needs to engage all sectors of society, including business, civil society and children themselves.

Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Keynote dialogue
Children in a sustainable world

The Global Child Forum 2014 took place when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are in the final year of implementation and the next set of goals are in development. During the session, the status of children’s rights and the future challenges facing children if their rights are not respected were discussed with representatives from UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS and the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children along with various child rights issues, including the need to focus on prevention, invest in early childhood development, fight discrimination and adopt cross-sector collaborations as a sustainability strategy.

Marta Santos Pais, the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence against Children initiated the discussion by saying that although the MDGs have made a great push for progress and significant measures have been taken to improve lives of children in general, children are still at risk from violence and exploitation. Modern technologies and the Internet bring significant advantages, but they are also a channel for abuse, bullying and stigmatisation. “When adults commit and conceal acts of violence, children start defining the world through a lens of fear, which is not the way we want the world to be,” she said.

To prevent violence from happening in the first place, five things need to happen according to Marta Santos Pais: “We need to make sure that every country has laws prohibiting violence against children. We must also create a culture of respecting the rights of the child, and keep a record of where abuse happens. Violence against children must be everybody’s business and we must turn words into action. Lastly, we cannot do it alone, we must come together.”

Martin Mogwanja, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF denoted, that in spite of many advances made in the past few decades, one out of four children living in developing countries is still suffering from undernutrition. Mogwanja stated that: “Cross-sector partnerships help balance private interests with those of society and move towards more inclusive and sustainable business models, and at the same time as injecting innovation, efficiency and sustainability into the current development aid interventions.”

Sheila Tlou, UNAIDS Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, pointed to HIV/AIDS as one on the main challenges for children in Africa: “There are 4.6 million young people globally living with HIV, and we are failing them when it comes to knowledge and resources. Particularly affected are young girls,” said Tlou. In Africa, only 24 per cent of girls know their HIV status, and just about 40 per cent have access to antiretroviral treatment. Underlining all this is gender-based violence. “Joining forces in introducing and
improving sexual and reproductive health education among young people, particularly girls, eliminating discrimination and violence against women and promoting gender equality are key factors in creating a world where every child is born healthy,” said Sheila Tlou.

Finally, in order to achieve sustainable development, human beings must be put at the forefront of every future action: “The basic idea of human development is that you look after people – the economy and the society looks after itself,” said Khalid Malik, Director of the UNDP Human Development Report.

As Malik pointed out, today’s world is a world where people are better educated and better connected than ever before, a world where governments are able to hear people’s cries for dignity and recognition. Human development begins in the early childhood phase, therefore investing in children early on can have a positive effect on their future life: “How you were treated as a young child might predict what your life will be like as a person over 60 years old. When investments in capabilities of people occur early, future prospects are better,” concluded Khalid Malik.

“
To realise your full development potential, we have to understand this issue of transitions and the foundational period is in early childhood. There is a window of opportunity to resolve early inequities and achieve inclusive and sustainable social and economic development.

Khalid Malik, Director of the Human Development Report, UN Development Programmes
The study is a first step to developing a children’s rights benchmark for the corporate sector and a baseline study. The aim is to repeat the study annually in order to track progress over time in sectors and geographic areas where companies are particularly exposed to children’s rights issues. “Together, we will be able to create a standard in order to see how much the lowest performing companies are improving over the years,” said Johan Öberg Partner and Managing Director of The Boston Consulting Group Sweden, who presented the findings of the study.

One result was that companies typically focus on child labour. “There is a strong focus on child labour. There is nothing wrong with that, but the survey shows that only 24 per cent of the companies address other child rights issues. Out of the total, one third does not have a child labour policy at all, which is quite surprising. Overall, 400 companies score very low, and this is disappointing,” Johan Öberg, continued.

Following the presentation of the findings a panel including the President and CEO of Novo Nordisk, the President and CEO of Tele2 Group, the Head of Corporate Responsibility at Nestlé and the President of Oak Foundation discussed the results.

“I find the benchmark very useful and I wish it had started ten years ago. Even if some of the findings could be disturbing, I believe things have improved significantly”, said Lars Rebien Sørensen, President & CEO of the pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk. For him the Global Child Forum is an opportunity for different stakeholders who would normally not meet to connect: “If we work together, I believe we have a good opportunity to improve the situation”, Lars Rebien Sørensen continued.

MATS GRANRYD, President & CEO of Tele2 Group, noted that the ICT sector came out well in the study. “The mobile internet business that I represent is only ten years old so we are still on a learning curve, but it is clear where we could act and influence, for example by banning child sexual abuse. Now we are working for legislation to make sure that all actors play by the same rules”.

KATHLEEN CRAVERO-KRISTOFFERSSON, President of the Oak Foundation, noted that many companies see the UN Convention on the
Rights of the Child as complicated and difficult to follow. For companies the guiding document relating to the General Comment No 16 on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children’s rights is important. The General Comment clearly states that the private sector has a responsibility for its impact on children’s rights.

“There is a lack of knowledge among businesses of how their operations may impact children. There is almost no one who deliberately hurts children with their activities, but we hurt children because we don’t think about them, because it is easier to give priority to other things. But children’s rights is the responsibility for all of us,” said Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson.

HILARY PARSONS, head of Corporate Responsibility at Nestlé described how the company is working with child rights issues: “We have introduced several commitments. Nutrition is one example. There is a strong built-in compliance function. We then link these commitments to transparency, but we cannot work alone, we need to be in consultation with other stakeholders. We have a strong code, but the key is stakeholder engagement and transparency. A strong commitment from the board also ensures that activities are implemented”.

Johan Öberg Partner and Managing Director The Boston Consulting Group Sweden
% of companies addressing children’s rights issues

- 24% of the companies address one or more child-related issues in addition to child labour.

- 14% of companies have child labour policy.
- 18% of companies have child-related issues policy in addition to child labour.
- 2% of companies conduct risk or materiality analysis on issues regarding child labour/children’s rights.
- 1% of companies have child-related policy.
- 1% of companies have separate child labour policy.
- 7% of companies address child-related issues such as product safety.
- 7% of companies address child-related issues such as responsible marketing.
- 5% of companies address child-related issues such as protection from sexual exploitation.
- 5% of companies address child-related issues such as ensuring security in conflict areas.
- 1% of companies address child-related issues such as support for children affected by community displacement.

% of all companies who refer to international standards

- 58% refer to the UN Global Compact 10 Principles.
- 41% refer to ILO Conventions.
- 28% refer to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 24% refer to ISO 26000.
- 12% refer to OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- 7% refer to UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights.
- 5% refer to UN Millennium Development Goals.
- 1% refer to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1% refer to Children’s Rights and Business Principles.
- 18% refer to Other.

Healthcare

Information and Communications Technology

Technology

Basic materials

Industrial goods

Food & Beverage

Oil & Gas

Consumer goods

Travel & Leisure

IN SCOPE: 1032 COMPANIES
**Indicators**

- Company has a child labour policy. Can be part of human rights policy, supply chain policy, group wide policy or separate child labour policy
- Company addresses child related issues in addition to child labour such as: product safety, responsible marketing, sexual exploitation, environment/ water/ sanitation impacting children
- Performance reporting on child related issues (e.g. non-compliance in child labour)
- Board of Directors or a board committee explicitly states that children's rights/child labour are part of their responsibilities
- Company conducts risk or materiality analysis on issues regarding child labour/children’s rights
- Company refers to international standards incl. children's rights (UN Global Compact, ILO, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ISO 26000, Children’s Rights and Business Principles etc.)
- Company collaborates with organizations with focus on children’s rights (e.g. UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, Ecpat)
- Company is driving own strategic programs or projects regarding children's rights (could be e.g. health or education focus)
- Company donates to charity related to children’s rights

Read the full report at globalchildforum.org
The LEGO Group has produced children’s toys for more than 80 years. Having reached more than 75 million children with their products, the company realised that such an impact also carries with it great responsibility. Their products may have an influence on the development of children in their early stages of life, which is why the LEGO Group decided to support the development of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles intended to guide companies on the actions they can take to respect and support children’s rights. The LEGO Group has also scaled up their work on child protection, will focus more on child participation and on engaging families and communities in the future. “Children are the future and we truly believe that they deserve the best from all of us,” said Marie Busck, Senior Director, Corporate Governance & Compliance at the LEGO Group.

The next example was presented by Nike Foundation and Plan International who highlighted The Girl Declaration, an example of a collaborative effort. When the last Millennium Development Goals were drafted, girls were left out of the process wherefore the Nike Foundation, together with Plan International and 25 other organisations brought together the thinking of more than 500 adolescent girls from 14 countries so their voices, opinions and solutions could be heard. This became The Girl Declaration. The initiative aims at empowering and including adolescent girls in education, health and economic investments: “We know that when a girl grows up educated, healthy, safe and economically equipped, she improves her own wellbeing and that of those around her. Multiply that by 250 million, you break the cycle of inter-generational poverty,” said Howard Taylor, Managing Director of Nike Foundation.

Attention and action, examples of good practice

The aim of this session was to provide practical examples to inspire the participants to advance their own work for children and youth, as well as to form partnerships. Representatives from the toy manufacturer LEGO Group presented their work on Children’s Rights and Business Principles and the Nike Foundation and Plan International gave an example of cross-sector partnerships, which was a direct result of the Global Child Forum 2013, aimed at strengthening the rights of girls.

2. www.girleffect.org/2015-beyond/the-declaration/
We know that when a girl grows up educated, healthy, safe and economically equipped, she improves her own wellbeing and that of those around her. Multiply that by 250 million, you break the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

Howard Taylor, Managing Director, Nike Foundation
The Global Child Forum 2014 brought forward various ways of addressing children’s rights, one being the role of social entrepreneurs. Three representatives from Novamedia Swedish Postcode Lottery, Hand in Hand International and Fight for Peace shared their experiences during this session. The aim was to give delegates different perspectives on how change can be achieved and that change is possible. The speakers gave insights into what can be accomplished for children through social entrepreneurship and some learnings which could inspire other delegates.

Initiating the session was Novamedia Swedish Postcode Lottery, a business enterprise in Sweden that donates part of its profit to charities and NGOs. The CEO Niclas Kjellström-Matseke told a story of a six-year-old boy in Uganda who was rescued from the Lord’s Resistance Army together with his mother, thanks to the efforts of civil society organisations that were supported by the lottery.

“The story is a living example of the difference we can make by combining business and a social concept. No matter how well written a declaration might be, it can never excuse us from doing real work. Remember, each one of you can influence businesses to act, not because you have to, but because you want to. I see our concept as a way of combining the business model with a community concept that contributes to society, creating a win-win-win situation.”

The second entrepreneur sharing his story was Percy Barnevik, from Hand in Hand International. He left a career in the private sector as he wanted to dedicate his time to making a positive difference. Although protecting children and providing education is necessary, Barnevik believes that more is needed to make change sustainable. Most importantly, the underlying causes of extreme poverty must be addressed, and this could be achieved through the creation of job and enterprises: “The root cause of child labour is not primarily a lack of schools, teachers or books, but extreme poverty. That is why the creation of jobs is essential. I believe this is a more sustainable and effective tool of change than traditional aid”.

The third example came from Luke Dowdney, founder of the organisation Fight for Peace in 2000. In the slum areas (favelas) of Rio de Janeiro, many young people are dying from gun violence in places that are not traditionally mapped as conflict zones. Young people are also involved in the drug trade or working for militarized structures. According to panellist Luke Dowdney, many more people have died because of everyday gun violence than in wars during the past 20 years.

Luke, himself being a former boxer, believed that boxing could be a meaningful
alternative for young people, keeping them away from drugs and violence: “Boxing teaches discipline and hard work. It demonstrates that nothing is given for free and shows you how not to be a victim. We are working to change values; it is not only what you do, but how you do it”.

Today, Fight for Peace is active in 16 countries, involving some 70,000 young people in different programmes. As boxing is seen as a predominantly male sport, efforts have been made to involve more women and girls and today 40 per cent of those engaged are female. Recently the organisation also started its own line of sportswear, LUTA. “This is what I call life changing sportswear. The idea is to return 50 per cent of our revenue to the project and the other 50 per cent to the investors. In this way, we believe we are creating a sustainable business”.

The root cause of child labour is not primarily a lack of schools, teachers or books, but extreme poverty. That is why the creation of jobs is essential. I believe this is a more sustainable and effective tool of change than traditional aid.

Percy Barnevik, Hand in Hand International
Cross-sector partnerships can be a possible strategy to address complex social problems and achieve more positive impact for children. Despite the popularity of partnerships there is little empirical evidence of its ability to produce impact and value. Business, governments and civil society all play a key role in the implementation of children’s rights. Yet developing cross-sector partnerships is not only about connecting people and organisations but rather of creating a collective agency that can take action and solve challenges in a better way.

The session was introduced by Maria Larsson, Sweden’s Minister for Children and the Elderly, who noted that the State has a responsibility for ensuring that state-owned companies are at the forefront of children’s rights: “As an owner of companies the State has a responsibility to ensure that enterprises operate in a respectful manner. Together with my colleagues I will meet a large number of state-owned companies to have a dialogue on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles,” Maria Larsson said in her introduction.

PER HEGGENES, CEO of IKEA Foundation, pointed out that IKEA always looks for ways to improve, innovate and make things better. This was the starting point when IKEA Foundation entered into cooperation with UNHCR in order to develop an alternative to the tents that are currently used in refugee camps. Far too often, refugees spend many years in the camp, but since countries do not want to make the camps permanent, they live in tents that need to be replaced every sixth months. This makes the camps very costly and not good places to live in. So based on their experience of producing and distribution furniture, IKEA Foundation started to develop a housing solution that would be less expensive while also giving the refugees a more dignified living. “We set up a small team and started to collaborate with UNHCR, which helped us understand what would and wouldn’t work. We then gathered some 30 different partners in the private sector to find a solution,” Per Heggenes explained. Today, IKEA and UNHCR have a solution different from a tent: it is a building with a light steel frame, solar lights on the roof and panels on

**ActionLab A: Partnerships, joined forces for action and impact**

The aim of the actionlab session was to contribute to a practical and action orientated partnership. Some of the dimensions discussed were why it is important to work together in equitable cross-sector partnerships? What are the key components to be successful in cross-sector partnerships? How is positive impact created for children in reality and how is it measured?

Participating speakers were representatives from IKEA Foundation, Education for Employment, Accenture Sweden, Novo Nordisk and Nestlé.
the outside. The houses are produced within the framework of a social business in order to make the production sustainable.

So, what are the partnerships lessons learned from the process? According to Per Heggenes, it is not easy for a company to work with a UN agency: “Innovation has to be a bottom-up process, decisions can’t be made in New York or in Geneva. You cannot work with a system; you need individuals so the key is to find the right people. We found people who had a strong passion for the project, both in the companies and in the organisations – and that made all the difference”.

At the 2013 Global Child Forum, Salvatore Nigro, CEO of Education for Employment Europe, met with Fredrik Nilzén, CSR Head of Accenture Nordics, and they started to talk about partnerships. The meeting led to a joint project that has already been rolled out in five countries with the aim of matching young people with companies to create job opportunities.

“As consultants, we develop people, and as a company we need to take a greater responsibility in ensuring that talent is developed everywhere. However, we don’t have the network and credibility to fully reach out everywhere, so for us partnership is essential. One billion young people will be out in the job market in the next 15 years, while only 400 million jobs will be created. The world will become crazy if we don’t create more jobs for them”.

HOWEVER, A PARTNERSHIP needs time to develop. If you do not spend time trying to understand each other it will not work. Salvatore Nigro noted how important it is that the persons who form a team get on well. “You need to be solutions-oriented and work with passionate people. A governance structure is also needed for this kind of partnership. We need top level engagement, while also building close relationships all way down. Otherwise it doesn’t fly”.

Darian Stibbe, The Partnering Initiative during Action Lab A in the Bernadotte Library.
LARS REBIEN SØRENSEN, President and CEO of Novo Nordisk, noted that you have to be extremely clear and open about the agenda in order for a partnership to work. “Arriving at social change is difficult, we need to work at multiple levels with both NGOs and governments”, he said.

Since 2003, Novo Nordisk has been engaged in improving diabetes treatment in developing countries with their own staff as the driving force. In Tanzania the company has cooperated with the Ministry of Health. “But how did you keep the shareholders on board?” one person in the audience wanted to know. “When we asked for financing we said clearly that we couldn’t guarantee a return, but that we would be extremely motivated and attract the right people for the initiative. I believe that acting in a responsible way is a good business model. And if you don’t like it, maybe you should invest your money in shares elsewhere.”

HILARY PARSONS from Nestlé noted that partnership is important, but in order for it to work you need to build capacity within the organisations involved: “For a partnership to be sustainable, you need to create shared value for both business and society. You should be able to defend what you are doing, both in front of shareholders and in front of NGOs.”

“You cannot work with a system; you need individuals so the key is to find the right people. We found people who had a strong passion for the project, both in the companies and in the organisations – and that made all the difference.”

Per Heggenes, CEO, IKEA Foundation
Children are directly and indirectly affected by the activities and operations of companies in a number of ways, and as community members and future consumers they form a stakeholder group with potentially concrete impacts to companies, and thereby investments. A business and human rights perspective is increasingly being addressed by the corporate sector, but the number of businesses that address children’s rights specifically is limited. Investors have been an important driver for the development of good corporate governance and practices regarding Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) issues. Through their responsible investment strategies investors have already to some extent addressed children’s rights related issues – for example child labour and responsible marketing.

To find out how investors integrate children’s rights in their investment policies and practices Global Child Forum together with GES conducted the survey “Investor Perspectives on Children’s Rights” which was presented at the forum. The response rate was low, only 11 percent of the investors who were invited to participate responded. However, almost all the respondents agreed that children’s rights have a potentially material impact on their investments (findings from the survey are presented on page 28-29). A panel made up of representatives from five investors pointed out that since they invest the money of others, exercising influence could potentially be a challenge, but that many of their clients see children’s rights as vital and that positive change is possible. APG Asset Management, an institution managing Dutch pension funds, highlighted their active engagement with companies that source cocoa. When talks started a few years ago about traceability of the product, the companies said that it was too complicated. But only a couple of years later their conduct had changed and the companies were working to make sure that there was no child labour in their supply chain. “Children’s rights are important for us as investors since respecting children’s rights ensure stable markets where we can invest”, said Anna Pot, Senior Sustainability Specialist at APG Asset Management.

Another way of supporting children’s rights can be to invest in companies that promote health and safety for children. AXA Invest-

ActionLab B: The role and impact of investors and financial institutions

The aim of this actionlab session was to discuss what investors and financial institutions can do to advance children’s rights. Some of the dimensions included were: How children’s rights are relevant to investors, beyond the financial risk, through impact on reputation and share price. How to safeguard financial interests without violating the rights of children, and the material impact that children’s rights can have on investments. How financial institutions can help increase the financial literacy among children and youth.
ment Managers is planning to invest in a fund for Indian hospitals that serve people with limited resources. The fund would get a financial return while also lowering child mortality rates and increase access to vaccinations. “We are sure that the chain of poverty can be broken with the help of financial tools”, said Matt Christensen, Global Head of Responsible Investments at AXA Investment Managers. Will Oulton, Global Head of Responsible Investments at First State Investments, emphasised that the clients’ interest in children’s rights is decisive for an investment company trying to make a difference. During his years working in the financial sector, however, very few clients have raised the issue of children’s rights. “We are shareholders on behalf of our clients, which is why it can be difficult to get management attention on issues that go beyond financial performance,” he said, and called for a greater diversity of age, gender and background among investors to help highlight the issue.

Anna Nilsson, Head of Sustainability Analysis at Sweden’s largest asset manager, Swedbank Robur, agreed that the concerns of clients are important. Five years ago Swedbank drew up a position paper on business and children’s rights together with Save the Children Sweden, to use as a basis for its engagement with companies. That was followed up by workshops that gave practical advice on how the rights perspective could be integrated into a company’s operations. “We know that it is not obvious for every company that this is an issue, so we ask them to think about how this can be material for them. Even if you’re a machinery company there are things you can do,” said Anna Nilsson. Anna Hyrske, Head of Responsible Investments at Ilmarinen, stressed that it is a mistake to try to solve social problems with engineering solutions, such as putting up protective fences around garbage dumps to stop child labour. “Instead we must have a wider perspective and use social solutions.” Speaking at the session was also Jeroo Billimoria, Founder and Managing Director of Child & Youth Finance International, which works to enhance the financial capabilities of children and youth. She called on banks to make it possible for children to open saving accounts. “Bank accounts help children to take their first steps into economic life. Every child that graduates primary school should have a bank account, because no matter how small the deposit by each child, it will still be a lot of money if millions of children get the chance”.

Panel discussion: Matt Christensen, AXA Investment Managers; Anna Nilsson, Swedbank Robur; Anna Hyrske, Ilmarinen; Will Oulton, First State Investments; Anna Pot, APG Asset Management and Rob Lake, moderator.
Have you developed a procedure for integrating children’s rights into your investment decision-making process?

- Yes: 21
- No: 1
- No such integration plans at this time: 11

Developed

- Yes: 8
- Plan to develop: 3

Do you consider children’s rights issues to have potentially material impact to investments?

Findings from the survey

Only 22 of 195 investors responded when investors in Europe and USA were invited to participate in the survey...
Have you developed a procedure for integrating children’s rights into your investment decision-making process?

Yes: 21
No: 11
Plan to develop: 13

Have you divested (or excluded from your investment universe) companies due to their misbehaviour in relation to children’s rights?*

Yes: 7
No: 3
Plan to divest: 1

Which of the following norms/guidelines do you consider to have direct relevance for investors?

- The ILO Conventions (especially No. 138 on minimum age and No. 182 on prohibiting and eliminating worst forms of child labour) 100%
- UN Global Compact Principle No. 5 on child labour 95%
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 86%
- Children’s Rights and Business Principles The joint set of principles by UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the Children 77%
- UN CRC General Comment No. 16 (2013) on State obligations regarding the impact of business on children’s rights 45%

Only 32 of 195 investors specifically mention children in their responsible investment policy (75 of the 195 have made their policy publicly available).

Read the full report at globalchildforum.org
ActionLab C: Children in the digital world, innovation, opportunities and risks

The panel was made up of representatives from the ICT sector, telecoms operators like BT, Tele2; game developers like MediaMolecule; content providers like Google. Active in the discussions were also UNICEF, ITU and UNSDSN. The basis for the discussion were two studies, one by the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children and one from The Boston Consulting Group. Some of the dimensions discussed were: Why is awareness about children in a digital world important? What is required to prevent harm and achieve positive change for children? How can we together make these changes possible, and what role can cross-sector solutions play?

Children are impacted by the digital world, both in positive ways but also the risks it may have. The aim of this actionlab session was to deepen the participant’s understanding of children’s rights in the digital world, while also inspiring to further action by providing new perspectives to opportunities.

In the next four years the number of children online will double from 600 million to 1.2 billion. The Internet may give children access to quality learning, health, and culture and it can help connect children even when they live continents apart. However, as children spend more time online, access Internet at a younger age, and often without adult supervision, the risk of abuse, bullying, child pornography and trafficking becomes wide open.

IN ADDITION THERE is a digital gender divide: “25 per cent fewer girls have access to Internet than boys. In sub-Saharan Africa, this divide is up to 40 per cent. If no action is taken, the Internet gender divide will almost double by the year 2017,” said Nigel Chapman, Chief Executive Officer at Plan International, who was moderating the session.

“One of the best vaccines to fight poverty is education, especially education of girls,” said Joanna Rubinstein, Assistant Director of the Earth Institute. Access to Internet can play a crucial role in a life of a girl who lives in a remote village of a developing country where no schools or books are available. Joanna Rubenstein noted however, that education of girls must go beyond the elementary school level: “If you find a way to use technology to get more girls educated and get access to health care, to learn new skills, you also impact the lives of families. There is a direct correlation with the economical growth of those countries where you educate girls”.

In order to efficiently reduce risks and utilise Internet access for positive developments, collaboration across all sectors of society is crucial, and must include governments, busi-
There is so much expertise and experience amongst the private sector, innovation, developments, reaching out to communities remote from urban areas: how can we capitalise and be ahead of development rather than trying to catch up?” reflected Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children.

One example shared at the session was a collaboration between Reach for Change and the telco companies Millicom and Tele2 which resulted in the creation of a group called “IT for Teens” that works in schools across Ghana. “Mobile phone companies, especially in emerging markets, have the opportunity to use their infrastructure. Their core business might not be protecting children or providing healthcare, but through partnerships with others, they can bring about a lot of good,” says Amma Lartey, Reach for Change’s Regional Director for West Africa.

Marie Baumgarts, Head of Corporate Responsibility at the telecom company Tele2 believes that change has to come from the top: “The work to integrate children’s rights in core business processes starts at board level and within the management team, where we first as a fundamental thing, need to understand what the challenges are for children’s rights. Once that is in place, the board and the leadership can unite in finding the most proper solutions.”

Some of the issues discussed were how to build a safe cyber environment for children? What role can decision-makers play in reducing online risks for children? Preventing abuse before it occurs is the best solutions. Regulation may be one way to prevent abuse, however the Internet undergoes such rapid transformations every day that any serious attempt at regulating it might turn out to be too slow. For example EU is currently working on a proposal for a new data protection regulation. However, companies themselves can go a long
If you find a way to use technology to get more girls educated and get access to health care, to learn new skills, you also impact the lives of the families. There is a direct correlation with the economical growth of those countries where you educate girls. Partly it is a magic bullet with certain challenges, but this is where we can employ the private sector.

Joanna Rubinstein, Assistant Director, UNSDSN/ The Earth Institute, Columbia University
Maria Larsson, Government of Sweden and Roberto Azevêdo, World Trade Organization.
The Global Child Forum 2014 took place when the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated 25 years. This afternoon session in plenary aimed to provide two different perspectives on the coming child rights agenda. Kirsten Sandberg, Chairman of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child gave her reflections on what the next 25 years might bring, highlighting the role to be played by businesses. Thereafter Yves Daccord, Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, gave a speech about the impact of the crisis in Syria and the importance of creating resilience, where children play a crucial role.

25 years have passed since states agreed to protect children’s rights to survival, to learn, to grow and to make their voices heard. The most extensively ratified human rights treaty in the world is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and most recently the General Comment No. 16 on State obligations regarding the business impact on children’s rights.

“We have just embarked on the journey towards the real involvement of the business sector in the implementation of children’s rights. There is reason to have great expectations on states, the business sector, and civil society. They are all important for realizing children’s rights,” said Kirsten Sandberg.

She noted that the newly adopted General Comment No. 16 provides a framework for the role of the private sector. The comment gives states guidance on how to ensure that the activities of businesses do not adversely impact on children’s rights.

“We expect state to put the legal framework in place for businesses to operate within. They should enforce laws and standards in all the different areas of children’s rights, including anti-corruption laws and taxation laws, to set the conditions for fulfilling children’s rights,” Kirsten Sandberg said, while also emphasizing the need for monitoring bodies and inspectors with the power to look into the abuse of children’s rights.

“And, not least, children must have complaint mechanisms where they can turn when there are abuses of their rights.”

AFTER HAVING participated in the Global Child Forum, Kirsten Sandberg said she had good reason to expect an increased awareness of children’s right within the business sector, as well as a willingness to act.

“Businesses should also undertake child rights due diligence when they do anything that may impact children’s rights to safety, health, education, a home, and protection from violence and exploitation.”

“I think there is great promise in this assembly today that things are going to move forward in the next 25 years of the convention.”
The next speech was by the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Yves Daccord. When taking the stand at the Global Child Forum, the moderator asked him if there is anything of what he has seen while traveling the world that particularly upsets him. The answer was unambiguous: the lack of international convergence.

"More than ever there is a need for an international convergence at a political level to deal with conflict, climate change and economic charges," Yves Daccord noted and singled out the civil war raging in Syria as the most pressing concern of the international community at this moment. A war which affects a large number of children.

"Our future will be deeply tainted by the conflict in Syria. I have never seen, and I am careful when I am saying this, so much hatred, violence and destruction in a country that used to have such a tight social fabric. The war will last for years and there is no international convergence to find a political solution."

Yves Daccord had a clear call for action for the delegates to do something about the crisis in Syria: “I have a sense that this is normally the last place you would start. Syria is so difficult and so complicated. But maybe you could use your connections, your creativity and your ability to do the work that you do, also in Syria. Otherwise, Syria will be lost and the impact on the region will be onerous.”

Children are one of the main victims of the conflict. More than 11,000 children have died and at least 5.5 million have been affected. But Yves Daccord noted that children are not simply an object in need of our assistance but also agents of change. “Children are not only ‘poor little children’, they sometimes control their life. They are very vulnerable but they are also people. In this age children are not only at the receiving end but will often lead the change.”

That is why building resilience among children cannot only be done through parents and communities, he concluded. “We have to look at what they can do themselves.”
Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank you all for coming to the Royal Palace in Stockholm to participate in this year’s Global Child Forum. And what an exciting day it has been, filled with fascinating and challenging ideas generated by a group determined to change the world for children.

It is an honour to be among you and to have had the opportunity to meet many of you personally. I am thankful for your commitment and touched by your idealism.

As many of you know, children’s rights are close to my heart and for many years I have followed and supported organisations that are fighting every day to make children’s lives better. How meaningful it is to me that more and more individuals and organizations are joining in this cause.

If I had to single out one idea, among so many good ones that have been offered here today, it would be that collaboration – working together and sharing experiences – is the key to the future. That’s why I hope that the Global Child Forum will continue to be not only a meeting point where we gather, where we launch fresh initiatives, but also a strong platform for studies, exchange of knowledge and practical experience. So that together, in different ways, we can more effectively protect and support children.

I ask for your continued support to make this happen. One step each of you can take, if you have not already done so, is to adopt the values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

So as we bring this year’s Forum to a close, I leave you with the thought that we should all ask ourselves: What can I do personally – something that I haven’t done before – that advances the cause of children? And how can we use our skills and influence in society to make real change, independent of which organisation or profession we are a part of.

Let us show the children of the world that we are working for them – together in a true partnership and that we intend to make a difference. For as John Kennedy once said: “It is not enough to utter words, we must live by them.”

Thank you.
I hope that the Global Child Forum will continue to be not only a meeting point where we gather, where we launch fresh initiatives, but also a strong platform for studies, exchange of knowledge and practical experience.

H.M. Queen Silvia
Parterships for children’s rights – today and for the future was the theme for the Global Child Forum 2014. Much of the discussion, both in plenary and in the ActionLabs, was focused on working together. There seems to be a strong willingness to do so. The questions are about how to create mutual value, impact and how to scale up.

Partnerships are not only about bringing people together but also about creating a collective agency for practical outcomes. They are about understanding the distinct but complementary roles of different sectors in relation to children’s rights. The Forum aimed to support and to bring clarity, inspiration and guidance into the discussion.

The findings of the study Setting a children’s rights benchmark for the corporate sector was an important component in this year’s programme. Still children’s rights are not addressed to the extent that Global Child Forum is aiming for.

We hope however to see great progress over the coming years.

The Global Child Forum is about creating a meeting and collective action place for stakeholders who may not normally meet.

We were pleased to hear about partnerships being formed as a result of the Forum and new connections being made. Our success will much depend on this. Together with our partners, participants, friends and supporters we want to create and communicate good practice, new thinking and knowledge, which leads to sustainable results for children in practice.
Children’s Rights and Business Principles

All Business should:

1. Meet its responsibility to respect children’s rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children.

2. Contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships.

3. Provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers.

4. Ensure the protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities.

5. Ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children’s rights through them.

6. Use marketing and advertising that respects and supports children’s rights.

7. Respect and support children’s rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use.

8. Respect and support children’s rights in security arrangements.


10. Reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children’s rights.

Developed by UNICEF, Save the Children, UN Global Compact: 2012
Source: childrenandbusiness.org
## GLOBAL CHILD FORUM 11 APRIL, 2014
### PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

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Refugees United
Retoy
Right to Play
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RobecoSAM
ROMONORR
Royal Falcon Fleet
Russell Reynolds
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Sahlgrenska University Hospital
SAP
Save the Children Sweden
SCA
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Sida
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The King Gustaf V:s 90th Anniversary Foundation
The New York Academy of Sciences
The Partnering Initiative
The Social Democratic Party
The Swedish Crown Princess Couple’s Foundation
The Varner Group
Third AP Fund
UBS Optimus Foundation
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
UN Global Compact
UNAIDS
UNDP
UNHCR
UNICEF
UNSRSG on Violence Against Children
Veteranpooelen
Volvo Car Corporation
WithoutViolence
World Childhood Foundation
World Trade Organization

Over 300 participants

From 20 countries

With 50% business leaders
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

193 states in the world have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention is the first international instrument establishing that its signatories, without discrimination in any form, must ensure that children:

- **Have access to** all the services required for their development, such as education and health care;

- **Can develop** their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential;

- **Are able to grow up** in an environment of happiness, love and understanding;

- **Can benefit from** special protection measures and assistance if they face difficult situations; and

- **Are informed about** and participate in all matters affecting them according to their evolving capacities as they grow and develop.

General Comment No. 16
States’ obligations regarding the impact of business on the rights of the child

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body of 18 independent experts mandated to monitor how the Convention on the Right of the Child is being put into practice by the signatories. In February 2013, the Committee adopted a document entitled the **General Comment No. 16. on States’ obligations regarding the impact of business on the rights of the child.**

The General Comment has a dual focus. It looks at how States can:

- Prevent negative impact on children’s rights and remedy this if it occurs
- Influence and engage with business to create an enabling and supportive environment for business enterprises to respect children’s rights.

The general comment describes the role that the State can and should play in regulating, influencing and engaging with businesses so that respecting children’s rights becomes the only way for all to do business.

The obligation of the State is to ensure that business enterprises do not adversely impact on children’s rights and is defined in international law as a duty to protect children’s rights from violation by third parties such as businesses. In addition, States must set a good example so that, when they themselves have a business role, they must not adversely impact on children’s rights.

Full version:
www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx
GLOBAL CHILD FORUM

Global Child Forum’s vision is a sustainable world where children’s rights are respected and supported by all stakeholders in society. We believe that by creating a platform for informed, global dialogue and building partnerships between different sectors of society we can inspire to cross-sector action on children’s rights. Our values are leadership, independence and knowledge.

Global Child Forum is a non-profit foundation initiated by H.M. the King and H.M. the Queen of Sweden in 2009.

Global Child Forum would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their partnership, cooperation and support in planning Forum 2014: