

# Media Update

23 May 2016

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## United Nations

### Note to the correspondents

Erroneous media reports made reference to the involvement of the United Nations in the Sports Pistol Shooting Competition planned in Islamabad on 22 May. The United Nations was not associated to the organizers of the above-mentioned event and no United Nations staff members were invited and/or had planned to attend the event. The primary objective of the United Nations is promoting peace and in no circumstances the organization will support events involving weapons.

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## United Nations

### Media Advisory

## UN Committee to review Pakistan's record on children's rights

GENEVA (23 May 2016) – Children's rights in Pakistan will be reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 25 and 26 May in sessions that will be webcast live. Pakistan is one of the 196 States that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and so is required to undergo regular examinations of its record by the Committee of 18 independent experts.

Committee members will hold discussions with a government delegation from Pakistan on how the Convention is being implemented. They will base their evaluation on the delegation's replies, as well as information from civil



society groups.

Among the possible issues for discussion are:

- Execution of people for crimes committed when they were under 18, children on death row;
- Gender-based crimes, including female infanticide, “honour” killings;
- Extremely low rate of birth registration;
- Protection of children from religious minorities from sectarian violence, forced marriage, forced conversion and prosecution under blasphemy laws;
- Torture and ill-treatment of children in police stations and prisons;
- High rates of malnutrition;
- Children working in slave-like conditions in bonded labour;
- Protection of schools in view of attacks, especially on non-religious and girls’ schools;
- Privatisation of education, growing number of private “madrassas” used by non-State armed groups to radicalize and recruit children.
- Prohibition and criminalization of recruitment of children under 18 by State armed forces; and by non-State armed groups, including for suicide bombing missions.

The full list of issues and Pakistan’s submitted written report can be found here:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=987&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=987&Lang=en)

The discussions will take place at Palais Wilson in Geneva on **Wednesday 25 May** from 15:00-18:00 (18:00-21:00 in Islamabad) and on **Thursday 26 May** from 10:00-13:00 (13:00-16:00 in Islamabad). The meetings are public and will be webcast here: <http://www.treatybodywebcast.org/>.

The Committee will hold a news conference at 12:00 on 9 June at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to discuss its findings on Pakistan and the other countries being reviewed – Samoa, Nepal, Slovakia, the UK, Gabon , Bulgaria and Luxembourg. The findings, officially known as concluding observations, will be published on 9 June here:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=987&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=987&Lang=en)



For more information and media requests, please contact Liz Throssell [+41 \(0\) 22 917 9466/ +41 79 752 0488](tel:+41410229179466) [ethrossell@ohchr.org](mailto:ethrossell@ohchr.org)

Media accreditation – please see:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpPages\)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpPages)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument)

#### Background

Members of the CRC are independent human rights experts drawn from around the world, who serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of States parties. The Committee's concluding observations are an independent assessment of States' compliance with their human rights obligations under the treaty. To learn more about the Committee on the Rights of the Child:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>

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# UNICEF

Press Release **EMBARGO: 13.30 GMT 23 MAY 2016**

## New fund launches to address global education crisis

***Education Cannot Wait aims to provide 13.6 million children and youth in emergencies and protracted crises with quality education over the next five years***

**ISTANBUL, 23 May 2016** – Global and national organisations today launch a new fund to better coordinate support for and drive investment in education for children and youth affected by humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises.

Today one in four of the world's school-aged children – nearly half a billion – live in countries affected by crises. Around 75 million of these children



and youth are either already missing out on their education, receiving poor quality schooling or at risk of dropping out of school altogether.

*Education Cannot Wait – a fund for education in emergencies*, announced during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, aims to reach more than 13.6 million children and youth living in crisis situations, such as conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks, with quality education over the next five years, and 75 million children and youth in desperate need of education by 2030.

Dubai Cares, the European Union, Netherlands, Norway, the UK Department for International Development, and the United States Government have all made financial contributions so far.

Across the world education systems are being destroyed by violent armed conflict, natural disasters and health emergencies, robbing children of the skills they need to build safe, strong communities and economies when they reach adulthood.

On average less than 2 percent of humanitarian aid goes towards funding education. Moreover, education systems equipped to cope with protracted crises cannot be built on the foundations of short-term – and unpredictable – appeals. *Education Cannot Wait*, which has a funding target of \$3.85 billion over five years, aims to bridge the gap between humanitarian interventions during crises and long-term development afterwards, through predictable funding.

"There is an urgent need to ensure that kids who are forced into refuge are not denied an education. Education Cannot Wait has the potential to chart the path forward by developing the tools we need to deliver education and offers the promise of unlocking new sources of funding," said **U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Gayle Smith**.

"Today, 37 million children living through conflicts or crises are out of school. A generation of young people is missing out on education, being cheated out of its future, and it is no foundation for a peaceful and stable future. Their education cannot wait – and neither should our support," said **UK International Development Secretary Justine Greening**. "The UK is leading efforts to respond to this global challenge, helping to set up the No Lost Generation Initiative with UNICEF and partners to educate Syrian refugee children, but they are just some of the millions of children affected

worldwide. That is why the UK is supporting the Education Cannot Wait initiative with a commitment of £30 million. The UK wants to see the international community step up efforts to reach every child with the schooling they need to make their futures brighter.”

“Action now has to happen urgently because of the sheer scale of numbers of children impacted. These young people are missing out on schooling and this is becoming a “full-blown global crisis” that will haunt the world for generations,” said **United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown**.

“The new fund will help to make the crucial link between humanitarian aid and long-term development ensuring that children’s education is not forgotten,” said **Julia Gillard, Chair of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**. “GPE strongly supports Education Cannot Wait and is committed to make it a success so children can continue going to school during times of conflict, emergencies and protracted crises.”

“Today 75 million children are denied their right to education because of humanitarian emergencies and crises. Education is crucial if we want to give these children a future. The launch of the ‘Education Cannot Wait’ fund couldn’t be more timely,” said **Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of the Netherlands Lilianne Ploumen**.

“This is the right initiative at the right time. We must step up our efforts to deliver quality education to children and youth in conflict zones and crises. We cannot afford a future with millions of children without education,” said **Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Børge Brende**.

“Children don’t need education *even* in emergencies; they need education *especially* in emergencies,” said **UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake**. “Without an education, how will they gain the knowledge and skills to chart their own futures – and to someday lend their hands to building more peaceful, stable futures for their societies? And how can we hope to reach our global *development* goals for education if we don’t focus on children trapped in *humanitarian* emergencies – who represent almost half of all children out of school today?”

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**Notes to editors:****About the Global Partnership for Education:**

The Global Partnership for Education works with more than 60 developing countries to ensure that every child receives a quality basic education, prioritizing the poorest, the most vulnerable and those living in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

The Global Partnership mobilizes financing for education and supports developing countries to build effective education systems founded on evidence-based planning and policies

Learn more at [www.globalpartnership.org](http://www.globalpartnership.org) and [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

**About UNICEF**

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children visit [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

Follow UNICEF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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# UNICEF

## Media Advisory

### UNICEF INTERVIEWEES - WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT, ISTANBUL, 23rd-24th May

The world is witnessing the highest level of humanitarian need since the Second World War. For the first time in the 70-year history of the UN, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has convened the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. He has put forward an *Agenda for Humanity*, calling on global leaders to commit to action and reduce humanitarian suffering.

#### UNICEF – the United Nations Children’s Fund - will be:

- **Launching a new fund with partners, *Education Cannot Wait*, to give access to learning to children in need in emergencies.** Nearly a quarter of the world’s school-aged children – 462 million – now live in countries affected by crisis. Around 1 in 6 children – or 75 million - from pre-primary to upper secondary age (3-18) in humanitarian crises worldwide are in desperate need of educational support. The fund aims to raise US\$3.85 billion over 5 years – to reach 13.6 million children in need of education, before reaching 75 million children by 2030.
- **Calling for action to make sure children are safe and protected in schools and hospitals. New analysis shows that every day four schools or hospitals are attacked or taken over by armed forces or groups. Governments and other actors must urgently protect schools and hospitals by upholding the provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. States must sign the Safe Schools Declaration.**
- **Working on a new agreement to stop children from suffering because the world doesn’t provide enough money to fund humanitarian responses. Only a quarter of UNICEF’s global**



humanitarian appeal for 2016 is funded. The “Grand Bargain” is designed to free up resources by making systems more efficient, and by securing long-term commitments from donors.

**Interviews are available with UNICEF representatives:**

- UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake
- UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Justin Forsyth
- UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Geeta Rao Gupta
- UNICEF Director of Emergency Programmes, Afshan Khan
- UNICEF Director of Public Partnerships, Olav Kjørven
- UNICEF Turkey Representative, Phillipe Duamelle
- UNICEF Chief of Education, Josephine Bourne

**For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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