



# PRINCIPLES

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for my protection, well-being  
and development as a girl, boy  
or adolescent with disabilities



United Nations



Disability Accessibility  
**Special Envoy**  
UN-SG



# PRINCIPLES

for my protection, well-being  
and development as a girl, boy  
or adolescent with disabilities

*Girls, boys and adolescents  
with disabilities  
should always be well treated,  
like other children and adolescents,  
protecting them from all forms  
of violence and abuse.  
A good treatment will produce  
positive effects  
on their physical  
and mental development.*

**Commit to me.**



United Nations



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**The Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility wishes to thank:**

- The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
- The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- The Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- The international civil society organizations of persons with disabilities.

**For the Campaign launching in the Asia and Pacific Region, we also wish to acknowledge:**

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Finally, we are grateful for the work of the illustrator, Michelle Koryzma R.

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## Foreword

The mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility is aimed at the general promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and accessibility, focusing on the guiding principles of Development Goals of the 2030 the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and on the Sustainable Agenda for Sustainable Development, mainstreaming awareness as a priority.

In this role, I am leading the global campaign “Good treatment for girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities in the world”, which will be launched in different regions of the world in successive events. This Decalogue, called “10 PRINCIPLES FOR MY PROTECTION, WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT AS A GIRL, BOY OR ADOLESCENT WITH DISABILITIES”, is the substantive content based on interdisciplinary work. It was prepared on the basis of interviews with children with disabilities and focus group of adults with disabilities in relation to their experiences of childhood and adolescence. We appreciate the broad response of international civil society and of United Nations agencies through comments and contributions to the document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by 'M', 'S', and 'R' in a cursive, overlapping style.

**María Soledad Cisternas Reyes**

Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General  
on Disability and Accessibility





# I EXIST AS I AM AND I AM A PERSON JUST LIKE YOU.

I deserve to be respected and have my diversity valued.  
I have the same dignity and  
human rights as you and everyone else.





I LIKE THAT YOU ARE KIND,  
YOU LOVE ME AND PLAY WITH ME.

You would like to be loved and treated equally too.  
Have my best interests at heart and enjoy life with me.







I LIKE THAT YOU  
TAKE CARE OF ME, PROTECT ME  
AND TEACH ME HOW TO PROTECT MYSELF.

I will also be there for you in my own way.





I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT ME AS I AM,  
HELP ME DEVELOP MY ABILITIES AND TALENTS  
AND GIVE ME A GOOD QUALITY EDUCATION.

I am happy when you see my strengths and help me to engage with others.





I LIKE THAT YOU LISTEN TO ME,  
EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT IS HAPPENING  
AND CONSIDER MY OPINION.

This makes me feel safe and helps me learn and develop.





I LIKE THAT YOU BELIEVE IN ME  
AND HELP ME GROW.

This strengthens my self-esteem, my capacity, and my autonomy.







I LIKE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND ME,  
SUPPORT ME AND REASSURE ME WHEN  
I AM UPSET, ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED.

Often it is in these moments that I need you most.





## I LIKE IT WHEN YOU INCLUDE ME.

I want to live in a friendly, peaceful and inclusive environment and for you to respect and support how I communicate best.





I WANT YOU TO RESPECT ME AND PROTECT ME  
FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE  
AND UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Just as anyone else, my body, my soul and my mind deserve to be protected.





IT MATTERS TO ME THAT YOU BELIEVE ME.

I need to be trusted just like you.



## FUNDAMENTALS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in its article 7 establishes that the States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

Article 3 h), regarding the general principles of the CRPD, establishes the respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

In its articles 15, 16 and 17 it grants freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, and protection of personal integrity (physical and mental), respectively.

For its part, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC, in addition to pointing out in its article 2 the principle of non-discrimination, article 19 protects children from all forms of violence. *"States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child"*.

Article 37 of the CRC expressly prohibits children from being subjected to torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER