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Children, constituting one-third of the global population, wield substantial influence over both the present and the future. Decisions made within the framework of the Summit of the Future will undoubtedly impact their lives in profound ways. As highlighted by the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism¹, children are unique in possessing a human rights treaty without a dedicated United Nations-wide strategy and the Summit must consider how to globally safeguard children's rights to food, health, and education. This needs to be done considering that 75% of children reside in the Global South². Reference is made to Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the most widely-ratified human rights treaty. This article emphasizes the

. Member States play a pivotal role in upholding this right, particularly in the context of a Summit that holds the potential to reshape the lives of children globally.

Furthermore, the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Child Rights Mainstreaming underscores that "children's rights are everybody's business across all three pillars of the UN" and stresses that "all entities must be mindful of the implications for children of any action taken." Also, the Guidance Note sets out specific recommendations on how to strengthen a child rights

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Available at: <<https://data.unicef.org/how-many/how-many-children-are-in-the-world/>>

accountability and redress for child rights violations. This reiterates the collective responsibility to ensure that the rights of children are acknowledged and protected throughout the multilateral system and the scope of the Summit of the Future, which is very aligned with the Statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Human Rights Day 2023 on how children should be recognized and involved as key actors in the Summit of the Future³.

We call on Member States to

To ensure a UN system that delivers on children's rights, we recommend to:

We note that the UN lacks a definition of youth and therefore, there is an overlap between the children and youth demographic. When expanding spaces for meaningful engagement of youth in all UN decision-making processes, including the establishment of the Youth Office, there is a need to ensure these mechanisms have the necessary expertise on child rights, child participation, and child safeguarding given the overlap between children and youth. Young people are uniquely placed to support children's meaningful participation through peer-to-peer methods. Intergenerational approaches to research are increasingly showing how youth-led research methods can provide a fruitful approach to enabling children to meaningfully take part in discussions about 'difficult questions' that adults may often assume are too complex for children.

Member States, UN agencies, and civil society organizations have placed strong emphasis on future