

DRAFT- RESOLUTION

ON THE ASSESSMENT OF 2018 WORK OF THE “FRIENDS OF CHILDREN” PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND THE 2019 ACTION PLAN

Parliament of Albania:

1. Assessing the engagement of the “Friends of Children” Parliamentary Group (FCHPG) in advocating and promoting the children's rights, in taking legal initiatives and developing effective policies on the rights and protection of children, as well as in strengthening parliamentary oversight over the implementation of these rights;

2. Supporting FCHPG for its commitment in the protection and empowerment of children and youth in Albania; the pro-active approach to set the highest interest of children and young people at the center of attention while discussing and adopting national laws, policies and programs in Albania, as well as undertaking initiatives at local, national, regional and international level in order to advance the children's rights, as reflected in the FCHPG 2018 Annual Report;

3. Considering the cooperation with state institutions and civil society organizations working for children, as well as the dialogue with children themselves, as an essential element to overcome common challenges for the protection of children's rights and to take all necessary measures in order to provide in the Albanian Parliament a supporting atmosphere for children;

Having reviewed the annual report of the “Friends of Children” parliamentary group, Parliament of Albania notices that during 2018:

4. FCHPG has continuously organized activities, meetings and information sessions with children and young people from all over the country, with a view to creating a supportive climate for children in the Parliament of Albania and identifying concrete issues related to children's rights. The Parliament of Albania welcomed 12,700 children;

5. The level of parliamentary oversight to the constitutional or law-based institutions and public agencies that have in the scope of their activity the protection and guarantee of children's rights is enhanced through the conduct of hearings and meetings of FCHPG committees with partners and collaborators.

6. The MPs, members of this group, along their commitment in the activities of FCHPG, have actively participated in the parliamentary standing committees' meetings on issues related to children. During 2018, the parliamentary standing committees have conducted 18 sessions in which are reviewed, discussed and approved draft laws on issues related to children's rights. Furthermore ministers, representatives of ministries and their dependant institutions and those established by law reported in these sessions.
7. FCHPG MPs undertook the legal initiative to address problems related to the registration of children in the civil status. The MP's proposal was drafted in cooperation with UNICEF, UNHCR, independent experts and in consultation with civil society. Parliament of Albania adopted the law no. 69/2018 "On some addenda and amendments to law no.10129, dated on 11.05.2009 "On the civil status".
8. FCHPG cooperates with public administration institutions, independent human rights institutions, international partners, civil society organizations, representatives of academics, business, media, children and youth groups and anyone interested in the field of children's rights, Due to cooperation with these actors, in particular with children, the public sensitivity in identifying and addressing concrete issues affecting children's rights is enhanced.
9. FCHPG organized hearings aiming to introduce reports, drafted by children and youth from various municipalities, on the level of respect and enjoyment of their rights, in particular by state institutions, as well as the role of children's participation in public decision-making.
10. FCHPG's committees were re-constituted, redistributing MPs in each of them, as a need to reflect the increase of the number of MPs – FCHPG members.
11. FCHPG reviewed and adopted its internal regulation and the Strategic Action Plan (2018-2021).
12. The FCHPG continued its activity in advancing the National Agenda on Children's Rights.

Parliament of Albania urges FCHPG to focus, during 2019, on the following directions:

1. Commitment, in co-operation with the parliamentary standing committees, to review initiatives that improve the well-being and health of each child, including the draft law "On the economic aid", and legal improvements regarding salt iodization and its impact on children's health, according to the calendar of proceedings of the Albanian Parliament;
2. Analyze the calendar of government legal initiatives focusing on laws / legal initiatives affecting children's rights, within June 2019;
3. Supervise, by means of various forms of parliamentary oversight, the implementation of amendments to law "On the civil status";

4. Discuss the official report of the Republic of Albania on the Children's Rights, prior to submission to the Committee of the United Nations Convention, as well as assess the fulfillment of the obligations arising from this Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals, related to children and systematically monitor the implementation of the Committee on Children's Rights recommendations, within April 2019;

5. Follow up, in co-operation with the parliamentary standing committees, the recommendations of the Ombudsman, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the Commissioner for the Information Right and Personal Data Protection on children's rights issues, as well as to hold at least one public hearing with these institutions to strengthen their role, improve the respect and guarantee of children's rights;

6. Hold hearings with the Minister of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) and the State Agency on Rights and Protection of the Child, for the de-institutionalization of Children, providing them alternative families and improving the adoption procedures, including the children's opinion, as well as implementing and budgeting the National Agenda for Children's Rights;

7. Continuous monitoring of minors' justice reform progress;

8. Have the opinion of children and teenagers through their regional forums and groups.

The Albanian Parliament urges the institutions in charge of protecting the children's rights to focus, during 2019, on the following directions:

9. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP) shall continue to work on mapping health care services and social care services for children at national level and their progressive budgeting. The MHSP shall inform FCPG, not later than September 2019, on its work performance;

10. MHSP shall complete children's de-institutionalization reform and take measures to locate and support families of origin or alternative families, and facilitate adoption procedures, taking into account the opinion and the highest interest of children. MHSP shall inform FCPG, not later than September 2019, on the progress of reform implementation;

11. Pursuant to the Convention on People with Disabilities (CPD), the MHSP shall ensure non-discrimination and access to services, in particular physical access to public and private institutions, access to public transport, provide online information accessible for children with disabilities. MHSP shall inform FCPG in September 2019 and in December 2019 on the progress of physical accessibility in the buildings of public and non-public institutions;

12. In order to enable comprehensive education, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) shall increase the number of supporting teachers and shall continue the training of teachers assisting children with disabilities, throughout the country for the academic year 2019-

2020. MEYS shall inform FCPG, no later than 15 September 2019, on meeting this recommendation;

13.The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) shall lead and conduct thorough sectoral analyzes, with the purpose of providing the necessary budget estimates, in order to support policies and services for the fulfillment of children's rights. The 2020 draft budget shall include concrete budget indicators for policies and services for children. The draft budget for children services should shall be consulted with civil society organizations, prior its dubmission for adoption in Parliament. The 2020 draft budget shall be attached a report of the addressed and unaddressed recommendations;

14.MEF shall arrange with priority the professional training of teenagers and young people and shall provide them the adequate opportunities for employment. MEF shall inform FCPG, no later than November 2019, on the progress of meeting this recommendation;

15.The Ministry of Justice shall provide and supervise the implementation of the legislation in the field of Juvenile Justice and State Aid Legal Assistance, train staff of the dependent institutions, and establish a database for juveniles in conflict/contact with the law. No later than September 2019, the MoJ shall inform FCPG on the progress of fullfilling this commitment.

16.The judiciary bodies responsible for drafting and approving the new judicial map shall take immediate measures to define the new judicial map, with the aim of establishing sections or specializing juvenile magistrates in any jurisdiction. No later than September 2019, the High Judicial Council and the High Prosecutorial Council shall inform FCPG on the fulfillment of this commitment;

17.The new local self-governance bodies should map the services for children and young people, plan the budget for appropriate services for them, and also take measures to accomplish their rights and needs in their own environment, especially those with special need. FCPG shall analyze, in November 2019, whether the sixty - one self-governance units have met this obligation.

Adopted on _____

SPEAKER
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