



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**at the 32nd plenary meeting
of the United Nations General Assembly at its 74th session**

**High-level meeting on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the
Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**20 November 2019
New York**

-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-general,

All protocol observed,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union.

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important high-level meeting, with objective to reflect and renew global and national-level commitments to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and we also welcome all the efforts by the secretary-general in these regards.

Rights of the child have always been very high on Slovakia's Human Rights agenda. As you may know, our commitment to this agenda was underscored also by our efforts of championing the adoption of the third Optional Protocol to the CRC, on communications procedure. The Protocol was approved by the UN General Assembly in December 2011, entered into force in April 2014, and so far, was ratified by 46 States. In this regard, let me encourage all remaining member states to ratify this Optional Protocol, allowing individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols.

As a candidate for the Human Rights Council, we pledged to support the rights of the children in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and fulfil the National Action Plan for Children. Now, as a member, and as an endorsed Vice-President of the Council for the year 2020, we are doing our utmost to further promote this agenda on a daily basis, both in Geneva and New York.

Two days ago, the Third Committee of the UN GA adopted the resolution on the Rights of the Child. Slovakia as a member of the EU, is proud to be among the cross regional group of main sponsors who presented this resolution. I would also like to emphasize that the resolution was adopted by consensus and was co-sponsored by 107 UN member states. This clearly confirms the importance that the UN membership pays to this agenda.

Protecting the children is natural for the mankind, and therefore it is natural that this topic is present in all three pillars of the UN work. In this regard, we welcome, that CAAC agenda has found its regular place in the UN SC Programme of Work. Slovakia co-sponsored all the UN SC resolutions concerning the protection of children, and endorsed numerous initiatives tackling this issue, such as the Paris Principles and Paris Commitments, the Vancouver Principles, as well as campaigns like Children Not Soldiers or Safe Schools Declaration.

Mr. President,

Today we are celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 30 years is a long period of time. The question is, how effectively we have invested in our future by protecting and promoting the rights of our children. Indeed, a lot has been done, but we can surely do better. The price of this investment will pay off.

Also as a father of two daughters, I'd like to express my hope that when my daughters or other children of today come to commemorate the 40th or 50th anniversary, we'll have achieved much further progress by then.

I thank you for your attention!