

## World Vision Side Event

**Title:** Children Speak out on the Sustainable Development Goals

**Date/Time/Venue:** Wednesday 25 March 2105, 1:15-2:30p.m., UNHQ, conference room B

**Partners:** Movimiento Mundial para la Infancia de America Latina y el Caribe and the Child Focused Agencies. Child Focused Agencies include: ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF and World Vision.

**Moderator:** Arellys Bellorini, Senior Advisor-Advocacy and Partnerships, World Vision International.

**Panelists:** Maria Antonia, Child Representative, Brazil; and Rodrigo, Child Representative, Chile.



**Child representatives: Rodrigo from Chile on the right, and Maria Antonia from Brazil in the middle.**

**Introduction:** The moderator introduced the panelists Maria Antonia and Rodrigo, and highlighted the child-friendly version of the Open Working Group (OWG) Report that Child Focused Agencies have developed. The moderator highlighted the importance for children to understand the OWG Report, as they are the owners of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and many children are already engaged in Post-2015 advocacy.

**Panelist - Maria Antonia:** Emphasized the importance of child and youth participation, and the need for them to be heard. Maria Antonia believes the eradication of poverty is a key priority, as many children have to stop their education in order to work to support their families. Similarly, the eradication of hunger should also be a priority. She shared the story of her parents having experienced hunger in the past due to poverty. She also emphasized the need to include the

elimination of discrimination and inequality (including race and sexual preferences) in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Panelist - Rodrigo:** Like Maria Antonia, Rodrigo also emphasized the importance of child and youth participation. He believes children and youth are not as concerned with politics or money, but are more focused on creating a better world. He believes children and youth need to be involved in the Post-2015 negotiations, as they will be the owners of the development agenda. On the issue of poverty eradication and hunger, Rodrigo believes education is essential to eradicate poverty and hunger. Quality education should be available to all; the same applies to quality healthcare. Rodrigo urged decision makers to avoid the mindset of "the rich shall live and the poor shall die." He also called upon governments to invest in children, and rethink how they can better allocate funding to benefit the world.

**Q&As:** World Vision took the opportunity to highlight World Vision's Child Health Now (CHN) campaign, and how World Vision has used this campaign to conduct extensive outreach to children. Through CHN, World Vision was able to engage children in raising awareness on child and maternal health and mortality. **ATD Fourth World** highlighted the need to overcome the stigma that is attached to people living in poverty. UNICEF believes the SDGs must be a force for positive change, and citizens must be able to use the SDGs to hold governments accountable. **The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN** reaffirmed Brazil's support for the inclusion of children in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and pointed out the fact that the SDGs can be translated into child-friendly language means that the agenda is "not too big" to be implemented. **The Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN** thanked Rodrigo for speaking up about children's aspirations, and affirmed children's engagement in the Post-2015 process. **Save the Children** highlighted the importance of including children and citizens in the Post-2015 conversation; these messages must reach people outside of the UN. **The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children** urged everyone to hold governments and themselves accountable for the achievement of the SDGs.

In conclusion, the moderator thanked the child representatives for their messages, and the partners for hosting this event, which enabled children to amplify their messages on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.