

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: Why is a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty needed?**

**A:** A growing number of children are deprived of their liberty each year, despite evidence that detention is costly, ineffective, and negatively impacts children's health and development. The exact number of children deprived of their liberty worldwide is unknown. A global study would gather comprehensive data on all forms of child detention, assess how international standards are being implemented on the ground, and identify recommendations and best practices going forward, including alternatives to detention that may be more beneficial for both children and society.

### **Q: What action is being asked of member states?**

**A:** Members of the General Assembly are urged to support a provision in the 2014 GA Resolution on the Rights of the Child that would request the Secretary-General to conduct a global study on children deprived of liberty and to appoint an independent expert to conduct the study on his behalf.

### **Q: What are the financial implications if the General Assembly requests a UN Study on Children Deprived of Liberty?**

**A:** The Study would be conducted with voluntary contributions. There would be no impact on the regular UN budget.

### **Q: Why is an independent expert important for the study?**

**A:** An independent expert will bring a high profile to the issue and ensure that all relevant UN agencies and stakeholders contribute to the study. Appointing an independent expert is also consistent with past practice. Two previous studies on children requested by the General Assembly were led by independent experts: Graça Machel conducted the Secretary General's study on children affected by armed conflict (1996) and Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro conducted the Secretary General's study on violence against children (2006).

### **Q: Does the Study require a new UN mechanism?**

**A:** No. An independent expert appointed by the Secretary-General to conduct the Study on his behalf would be a temporary position that would end when the study is completed. Only after the Study is completed will member states consider whether an ongoing follow-up mechanism might be desirable.

### **Q: Is the proposal for the Study linked to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

**A:** Yes. The Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges states to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and states that detention should only be used as a last resort. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention is an opportunity to accelerate progress in implementing these obligations.