

HRC11

EU General comment

L.13 Guidelines for appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council. The EU as a whole has endorsed this statement.

The EU is strongly committed to the full realization of the rights of the child. It is being repeatedly confirmed that the situation of children in all regions of the world remains critical and that a more effective national and international action is needed. The consistent implementation of the international human rights standards covering the area of the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, particularly the Convention on the rights of the child, constitutes a prerequisite of the fulfillment of this goal. We welcome the fact that the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children are intended to be a tool for the enhancement of the implementation of relevant international instrument. The purpose of the Guidelines, as stated in its first part, to serve as a set of desirable orientations for policy and practice, in private and public sector, is in compliance with our understanding of their use. We are pleased to note that the Guidelines have the ambition to contribute to the increase of effectiveness in the field of alternative care provision but at the same time pay attention to the efforts aimed at promoting parental care, family reintegration and preventing family separation.

We would like to thank Brazil for taking up and advancing the important issue of children without parental care. We appreciate their leadership in discussions on the Guidelines and their efforts for an inclusive approach. We thank all of those who have contributed to the Guidelines in the Human Rights Council, with special thanks to the civil society members for their expert contributions, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the UNICEF for the professional attitude and enthusiasm of its representatives who participated in the formulation of the Guidelines.

Thank you Mr. President.