

THEMATIC FOCUS  
AREAS OF THE  
SANCRC

**CHILD RIGHTS  
GOVERNANCE**

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# WHY IS CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE A THEMATIC PRIORITY?

Child rights governance is the bedrock of the coalition strategic plan

## Our vision

The rights of every child in South Africa, especially the most vulnerable, to survive, be protected, develop to their full potential and participate in decisions that affect them are realised

## Goals

South Africa has a child-centred rights-based national governance system that sustains a developmental national child-care and protection system that:

- Ensures compliance with child and human rights treaty obligations
- Ensures that children's rights are recognised as a national, rights-based development imperative
- Ensures government-wide action and accountability for realising the rights of every child, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, to survive,

Achieving the goals and ultimately the vision requires a robust, effective system of child rights governance

# WHAT IS A CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE SYSTEM?

- A system of public governance that ensures:
  - That children's rights (developmentally critical rights) are recognised by the whole of government / whole of society as a national rights-based development priority
  - Government-wide mandate and responsibility to engage in routine planning, provisioning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting to advance/realise children's rights
    - All levels of government
    - All ministers
    - All branches of government
  - Government-wide knowledge and capacity to engage in child rights planning, provisioning, resourcing and monitoring at all levels of government
  - Monitoring and accountability of all role players for delivery of their responsibilities for child rights governance and realisation of rights to civil society, the Presidency, the courts, Chapter nines, Parliament and treaty and development monitoring bodies at UN and AU etc.

# GOAL OF THE CRG THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

## To strengthen and secure a national child rights governance system:

- That is led at the highest political level by the President, Premiers and Mayors
- That explicitly recognises children's rights as a national development priority and documents this priority in all leading national development plans with associated government-wide mainstreaming responsibilities
- That is coordinated and supported through an effective office or department of the rights of the child institutionalized within the country's national, provincial and local governance machinery responsible for national priorities housed within the Presidency, Premiers and Mayoral Offices
- **That is supported by appropriate systems and institutional arrangements that obligate planning, provisioning and accountability by all organs of state for realising children's developmentally critical rights**
- That is inclusive and participatory to secure the meaningful engagement of the children's sector represented by civil society organisations, activists and children in all proceedings across the governance continuum.

**FOCUS FOR 2021:  
STRENGTHEN  
INSTITUTIONAL PILLARS  
OF A CHILD RIGHTS  
GOVERNANCE SYSTEM**

**IN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY**

WHAT ARE THE  
CRG  
INSTITUTIONAL  
PILLARS

- The institutional pillars are the mechanisms, arrangements and governance structures that will lead, coordinate, drive, oversee, and enforce the child rights governance agenda as a national priority
- Across and between the 5 – 10 year government planning / reporting cycles
- Depicted in the next slide



# OBJECTIVES

Advocate for an effective child rights governance leadership and coordination structure housed in the Presidency (not in the Department of Women) to ensure children's rights are recognised and actioned across the governance continuum as a national development priority

Advocate for an appropriately mandated, resourced and accountable structure and systems in the Presidency to play an effective leadership, coordination and oversight role

Advocate for replication of leadership and coordination structures at national and provincial levels

Advocate for children and their rights to be recognised as an explicit priority in the MTSF and measures are in place to ensure accountability

Strengthen capacity and partnerships with Parliament and Chapter nines to monitor and ensure compliance with child rights governance responsibilities by all organs of state

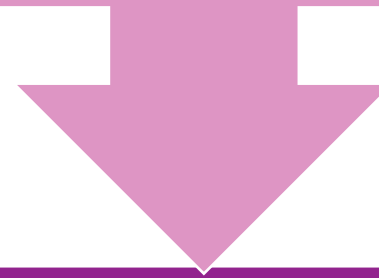
Facilitate effective engagement with treaty body monitoring, reporting and follow-up advocacy to drive improved child rights governance

Engage in follow-up advocacy on treaty body lists of issues and recommendations across the governance cycle to strengthen systemic weaknesses in the CRG system



# QUESTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS

Do we as members agree with this as a thematic focus area and recognise the strategic importance of the goal and objectives?



Do we have any questions and suggestions for additional priorities

- a. General members
- b. Children's organisations/representatives

**THANK YOU**

