



Govern d'Andorra

**STATEMENT OF H.E. Ms JUDITH PALLARÉS CORTÉS,
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, YOUTH AND EQUALITY OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF ANDORRA
(Rome, Italy, 07 April 2022)**

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"Beyond the horizon: a new era for the rights of the child"

High-Level Launching Conference for the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

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Thank you chair,

Excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

Allow me first to thank the Italian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for having organized this conference with the aim to launch the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child for the years to come.

However, my mind and my heart are with the Ukrainian children. Only yesterday, my country, together with Belgium, Luxemburg, Monaco, San Marino and Slovenia, have read in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe a declaration on behalf of (40) countries "on the consequences of the aggression of the Russian Federation for the children in Ukraine".

A timely declaration since we have seen with our own eyes that children have been specifically targeted with attacks on their homes, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, orphanages, care institutions. Children have been killed and maimed, injured and forced to flee their homes. Even now, as we speak, children continue to be exposed to be killed, injured, trafficked, abducted, exploited, and sexually abused. They need our immediate action and protection!

In this regard, the Andorran Government has already taken all the necessary measures to provide the assistance to those (304) Ukrainians, until today, mostly women and children, that have sought refuge in our little country. We are there for them!! And we will continue to be in the future.

Excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

Andorra welcomes the adoption of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child and I would like to underline the relevance of its strategic objective dedicated to children's rights in crisis and emergency situations, especially after the Covid-19 and the Russian aggression. The Strategy is the result of a broad and inclusive process including consultations and active engagement with different stakeholders, including 220 children. It could not have been otherwise!

Similarly, in Andorra, when elaborating the National Plan for Children and Adolescents, we decided to be even more ambitious. We wanted that all children and adolescents aged 6 to 18 living in Andorra could participate in the process, and let me tell you: we have been **successful**. Children involvement and contribution are the key elements that will make our National Plan realistic, feasible and close to those to which it is addressed. And through their participation, we make sure they also attain its ownership.

But this task would not have been possible without the unvaluable support, throughout the drafting process, high professionals from the Council of Europe and various international experts provided by the Council. Special personal thanks here today to: Regina, Jean Claude, Vanessa, Tara and Teresa.

The Strategy ultimate goal, like our National Plan, is to effectively promote and protect the rights of our children. There is nothing more precious than our children! As Nelson Mandela once said: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul, than the way in which it treats its children."

Thanks for your attention.