

CHILD PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

This Participation Agreement is to make sure that everyone can take part, have fun, be safe and enjoy their visit to [location] during the [conference]. Children from many countries are coming to the meeting. Many of you live in very different countries, with different ideas about children and how they live their lives. When you are at the meeting we ask that you respect the guidelines in this agreement. These guidelines have been written for your safety.

What we would like

- Your opinions, ideas and experiences
- To listen to and respect the opinions, ideas and experiences of others
- Respect for everyone and everyone's property
- Acceptance of all cultures and beliefs whether similar or different
- Your participation
- Everyone to enjoy themselves

What you can expect

- To have your opinions, ideas and experiences listened to and respected
- To be respected
- For your culture and beliefs to be accepted
- Support to take part
- To have a great time!

We ask you

- To accept that other people at the meeting will have a different religion to you. Some of their beliefs may be different from your own. It is important that we accept our differences as they make us individuals. We will try to provide you with an appropriate place to practice your faith if you wish to do so.
- To come together to share ideas, opinions and experiences. Political differences can cause disagreement, please respect the right of each person to hold their own political ideas.
- To accept there may be cultural differences between us, and to see the opportunity to learn about other cultures as a part of the meeting.
- To tell us if you have particular dietary requirements for religious, cultural, personal, or medical reasons. We will try to cater for your needs as best as we can.
- To respect other people at the meeting. Males and females may be viewed differently in other cultures. At this meeting males and females are viewed equally. They are due equal respect and opportunity. If you are unable to mix with the opposite sex or find it difficult for cultural or religious reasons, tell us.

Getting to know people

For most participants, the meeting will be in an unfamiliar place, with unfamiliar people, however we want you to enjoy your time in [location]. Please take an active part in the meeting, get to know other people, their cultures and build friendships.

Getting on

We ask you to remember that what is considered acceptable in one country may not be acceptable in another.

- Please be sensitive to the feelings of others at all times, your behaviour or language may cause offence to someone from another culture.
- Whilst nudity may be acceptable in some cultures, we ask that at all times all participants remain modestly covered, e.g. appropriate nightwear.
- Please be mindful that there may be cultural differences in dress. Whilst we are not asking you to dress in a particular way, we would ask you to be sensitive to the feelings of other in how you dress.

Your Chaperone

The chaperone who is accompanying you to the meeting is RESPONSIBLE for your welfare and safety AT ALL TIMES.

From the time that you leave your home to travel to [location], to the time that you return home, your chaperone is responsible for looking after you. The way in which he/she takes care of you should be appropriate for your age and maturity.

Your chaperone is responsible for:

1. Supporting you during your travel to and from [location], including transport to the airport, providing support at customs/immigration, check-in, boarding the plane, travel to your accommodation etc.
2. Accompanying you as you move from one place to another during the meetings.
3. Being physically near you and aware of your whereabouts at all times.
4. Being aware of your physical and emotional needs and assisting in meeting those needs as appropriate or making every effort to meet those needs in consultation with you.
5. Making sure that you are able to communicate with other groups of young people acting as a translator where necessary.
6. Making sure that you have the opportunity to participate in the discussions.
7. Telling the meeting organizers of any difficulties that you may be experiencing.
8. Giving you any other physical and emotional support that you might need. Your chaperone should have your medical and emergency information with them at all times, with written permission from your parents/guardians to act on your behalf for medical emergencies.
9. Supporting you to take the best possible advantage of the opportunities available.

Keeping safe and well

All Child Participants are welcome at the meeting. You should feel safe and well at all times. But sometimes it may be difficult to feel at ease in a strange place, with children and adults who come from different countries and speak different languages. As a Child Participant during the [conference] in [location], you may need to remember how to make sure you always feel comfortable, respected and safe.

Feeling comfortable

It is not correct for any Child Participant or Adult to:

- Hit you or hurt you in any way;
- Bully or tease you;
- Ignore what you say, including questions and requests;
- Insult you or make you feel stupid or embarrassed.

- Being respected

No Child Participant or Adult should:

- Treat one child or a group of children better (or worse) than others - everyone should be treated equally;
- Refuse to believe what you say, or suggest that you are not telling the truth;
- Try to make you say things that you don't want to say;
- Try to make you do things you don't want to do;
- Force or persuade you to do things that you shouldn't do, including activities that are:
 - >>> Illegal (such as drinking alcohol, smoking and taking drugs);
 - >>> Unsafe (such as swimming in the hotel pool on your own);
 - >>> Harm anyone else (such as hitting or unkind teasing).

Keeping safe

No Child Participant or Adult should:

- Take you outside the meeting or your hotel without your chaperone;
- Invite you to sleep in their hotel room, or to stay overnight at their house on your own;
- Sleep in your bed, or in your hotel room if this has not been agreed with your Chaperone;
- Make you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed by treating you as if you are their boyfriend or girlfriend;
- Do things for you that are personal, which you can do yourself, such as dress you or wash you.

Getting help

If you feel uncomfortable, or that you are not respected or that you are not safe, you have a right to get help from the organizers/facilitators of the meeting.

The organizers/facilitators of the meeting will be available day and night at the hotel and conference center.

They will try to make sure that the person you complained about changes their behaviour. If you are in real danger they may have to tell someone to help protect you, but they will talk to you about this first.

You can complain about something that has happened to you or about something that has happened to another Child Participant.

Statement of Agreement:

I have read, understood and agree to all points within the Child Participation Agreement. I understand that if I do not keep to this agreement then I may not be able to take further part in the meeting.

Participant's signature

Participant's name (please print)

Place / Date (DD/MM/YY)