Pathfinding Global Alliance
On Ending Violence Against Children

GLOBAL MEETING | BRIEF OVERVIEW

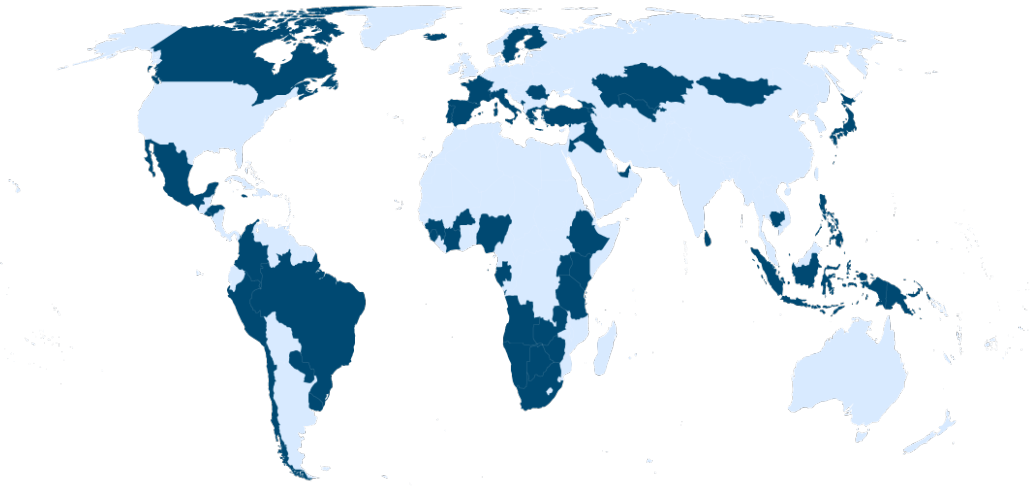
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

4-5 JUNE 2026 | TURIN, ITALY

Introduction

The Global Meeting of the Pathfinding Global Alliance (PGA) on Ending Violence Against Children was held on 4–5 June 2026 in Turin, Italy. More than 151 participants, representing the Alliance's Member States, attended in person and online, including its newest members, Italy and São Tomé and Príncipe, which joined in Turin.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Pathfinding Global Alliance.



This meeting, held under the Chatham House Rule, gathered ministers, senior government officials, national technical experts and focal points, representatives of United Nations entities, civil society organizations, and faith leaders, among others.

This global meeting builds on the outcomes of regional and national processes, including processes of implementation of commitments made at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children.

This interactive meeting provided an opportunity to showcase, to discuss common concerns, and to strengthen peer exchanges, networking, and multi-stakeholder and cross-border cooperation.

15
MINISTERS PARTICIPATED.

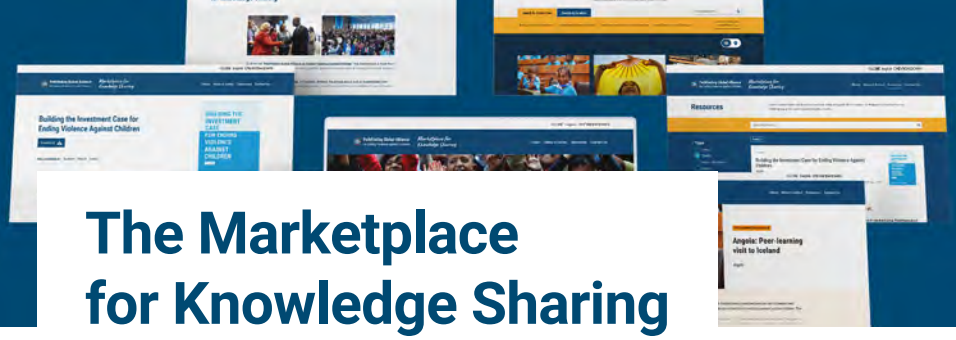
5
VICE-MINISTERS PARTICIPATED.

34
HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS AND HEADS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED.

151+
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE GLOBAL MEETING.

54
MEMBER STATES HAVE JOINED THE ALLIANCE*.
* As of July 2026.

2
NEW MEMBERS JOINED DURING THE MEETING.



The Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing

Scan the QR code to watch the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing video.

During this meeting, the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing, developed at the request of and together with Member States, was launched. The Marketplace is a practical and interactive platform designed to strengthen and optimize peer-learning, showcase Ideas in Action, and foster cooperation across all members of the Alliance.

Ahead of and during the meeting, Member States across all regions shared 107 Ideas in Action. Of these, 71 were showcased during the Global Meeting. Member States and partners are continuously contributing additional Ideas in Action to the Marketplace.

IDEAS IN ACTION IN THE MARKETPLACE

Showcased during the meeting **71**

Shared, ahead of and during the meeting **107**

→ Member States and partners keep contributing new ideas in action to the Marketplace.

IDEAS IN ACTION IN MARKETPLACE ARE STRUCTURED AROUND

7

PILLARS.

Member States presented some of their Ideas in Action, illustrating implementation of legal and policy reforms, child-friendly justice, costed national action plans, use of the investment case, child budgeting and expenditure tracking tool, integrated one-stop centers, hotlines, civil society, community and religious leaders engagement, child protection online, safe learning, early childhood development, positive parenting, social care/ alternative to institutionalization, child participation and involvement among others.

Beyond showcasing promising practices, the Marketplace generated new opportunities for peer-learning, technical exchanges and bilateral cooperation. It also helped initiate new partnerships among Member States and partners.

The Global Meeting marked an important milestone in the evolution of the Pathfinding Global Alliance. The launch of the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing reflects the Alliance's shift from political commitment to implementation. It provides Member States with a practical platform to exchange experiences, strengthen peer-learning and build new partnerships.

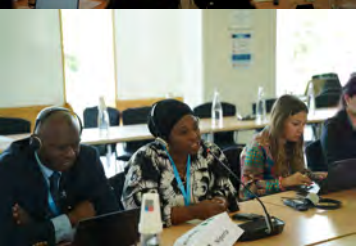
Participants agreed that the Marketplace should continue to evolve as a living platform in response to Member States' priorities.

A key message emerging from the discussions was the importance of documenting not only what was achieved, but also how change happened. Countries emphasized the value of capturing the implementation journey, how reforms were initiated, financed, coordinated, implemented and sustained at national and local levels, to help others adapt successful approaches to their own contexts. It should document not only Ideas in Action, but also the processes behind them.

Participants also encouraged countries to share challenges, lessons learned, and practical tools.

The Marketplace will continue to serve as the Alliance's collaborative platform for documenting experiences and processes, sharing innovative ways to overcome challenges, supporting peer exchanges, facilitating access to expertise, and connecting Member States.

Common Concerns and Shared Priorities



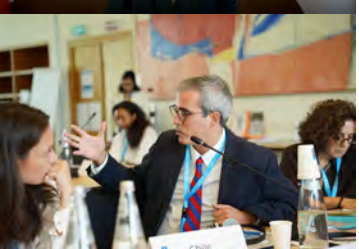
The discussions in Turin confirmed a set of shared priorities for the Alliance. While national contexts differ, Member States identified common challenges and opportunities where continued cooperation can accelerate progress.

Priority areas include protecting children in the digital environment, increasing investment in child protection and wellbeing, advancing family- and community-based alternative care, promoting child-friendly justice, and community engagement. Participants also emphasized the need to provide accessible, coordinated, and quality services for all children and their caregivers.

Participants further highlighted the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Better data, stronger evidence and improved measurement of progress also remain essential. Continued peer-learning and stronger South-South, North-South and South-North cooperation will be key to accelerating implementation.

CHILD PROTECTION ONLINE | INVESTING IN CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SOCIAL CARE AND ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION | CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE

1 Child Protection Online



Protecting children in the digital environment emerged as one of the Alliance's highest priorities given the widespread violence online due to the rapidly evolving and complex digital landscape, including AI. Participants agreed that despite many actions undertaken that were shared, we are still lagging behind. They also recognized that no single sector could respond alone and called for stronger collaboration across governments, regulators, the ICT industry, the UN, civil society, and children and youth.

They reaffirmed the need to bridge the digital gap, while also ensuring robust regulation and child safety and privacy by design across all digital providers. They stressed that online safety must be integrated into broader child protection systems. Key principles included platform accountability and shared responsibility among governments, the private sector, families, schools and children themselves.

The discussions highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation to address challenges that increasingly transcend national borders. Participants identified priority areas for peer exchange and learning, including age verification, digital literacy, child online protection standards, improved data and evidence, and greater accountability of digital platforms.

Participants expressed strong support for continued collaboration and joint advocacy through the Alliance.

As a result of this meeting, a thematic working group has been launched by States and will be dedicated to digital safety that will address the questions highlighted such as: approaches to age verification; strengthening platform accountability and algorithm regulation; regulating the tech industry; sharing common tools; improving data collection and evidence generation; addressing addictive design and harmful business models; ensuring integrated action across government; measuring progress; and promoting child-rights-based safeguards against online exploitation and abuse.

2 Investing in Child Protection and Wellbeing

Using the investment case to end violence against children emerged as one of the strongest areas of interest during the Global Meeting. An increasing number of Member States are using economic evidence demonstrating that investing in child protection and wellbeing has a high return and is key for human capital, people-centered development and social cohesion.

Countries shared experiences of using the investment case to assess the cost of violence, the return on investment in integrated services and in the social service workforce; as well as to develop costed national and decentralized action plans. Some Member States have been using the toolkit on investment case to measure the economic costs of violence and the high return, developed by the Office of the SRSG.

This also allowed some countries to engage ministries of Finance, Budget and Planning and to ensure child protection and wellbeing is considered as one of the top priorities in the national agenda under the leadership of the Head of Government. Countries also shared experiences of cross-sectoral budgeting and child budgeting and tracking.

A recurring message was the strong interest in understanding not only the findings of investment case studies, but also the process behind them. Member States sought practical guidance on how investment cases were developed, how evidence influenced decision-making, the challenges encountered, and how findings were translated into policies, budgets and implementation. Common challenges included measuring return on investment, tracking expenditure across sectors and strengthening financial accountability.

To support States further, the Pathfinding Global Alliance is developing a practical e-learning course from the current toolkit for building the investment case for EVAC. This will help countries apply investment case methodologies and strengthen investment in ending violence against children. The Pathfinding Global Alliance will also continue documenting country experiences and facilitating peer-learning to support Member States in adapting and applying these approaches in their own national contexts.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the toolkit on investment case.

3 Community engagement

A whole-of-society approach emerged as a cornerstone of effective child protection systems. Participants emphasized that accessible, integrated and quality services for all children and their caregivers begin at the community level. Local authorities, civil society organizations, faith and traditional leaders, communities, families and children all have a critical role to play in preventing violence, identifying early risks and connecting children to protection and support services.

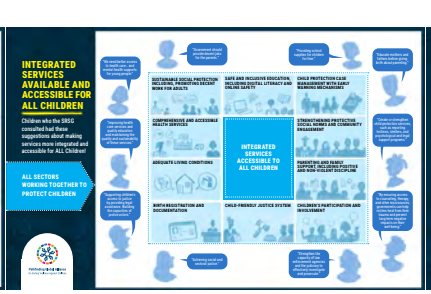
Communities should not be seen as the last link in the child protection chain, but as the first line of prevention, protection and support. Participants stressed that local actors have a unique understanding of children's realities and are often best placed to identify risks, build trust and respond early. Strengthening community engagement therefore improves both the accessibility and sustainability of child protection services.

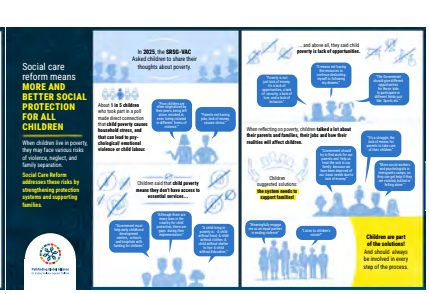
Countries shared many experiences demonstrating that community-based approaches are most effective when they build on existing local structures and meaningful partnerships. Community child protection committees, faith-based initiatives, child participation mechanisms and partnerships with civil society, and faith and traditional leaders have strengthened prevention and improved access to integrated services, particularly for the most vulnerable children and families.

Participants also highlighted the important role of faith and traditional leaders in addressing harmful practices and supporting the promotion of positive social norms, while emphasizing the need for child safeguarding within faith-based institutions.

A recurring message was that sustainable child protection depends on trust in institutions but also in communities, shared responsibility, and genuine partnerships. Empowering communities and all stakeholders, including children as active partners, is essential to translating national commitments into lasting change for all children.

> *Pathfinding Global Alliance will continue to document the involvement of communities, child- and youth-led initiatives, strong partnerships, and actions of civil society and faith-based organizations. The Alliance has already facilitated connection and peer exchange between civil society, faith-based organizations, local authorities, communities, traditional and religious leaders, and will continue.*





4 Social Care and Alternatives to institutionalization

Advancing family- and community-based alternative care emerged as a shared priority across the Alliance. Participants reaffirmed that every child has the right to grow up in a safe and nurturing family environment. They recognized that unnecessary institutionalization remains a form of structural violence with lasting consequences for children's development and wellbeing. With more than five million children still living in institutions worldwide, participants stressed the urgency of accelerating care reform.

Many Member States shared progress in strengthening families through family support, positive parenting, preventing family separation, kinship and foster care, family reunification and community-based alternative care. Participants agreed that institutional care should remain a measure of last resort. They also highlighted the need for common standards to guide care reform and ensure quality alternative care.

Participants emphasized that care reform requires a whole-of-government approach, bringing together child protection, social protection, justice, health, education and civil society.

Common challenges included the over-representation of children with disabilities in institutional care, the situation of refugee and migrant children, the transition to independent living, and funding models that continue to favor institutional care.

> *The meeting also highlighted the growing commitment of Alliance members to care reform. Fifteen Pathfinding Member States are already signatories to the Global Charter on Children's Care Reform, demonstrating strong leadership in advancing this agenda.*
>
> *Looking ahead, the Alliance will further strengthen collaboration with the Global Charter on Children's Care Reform through continued peer-learning and the exchange of experiences across and beyond the Alliance.*

5 Child-friendly Justice

Participants reaffirmed that child-friendly justice systems should prioritize protection, rehabilitation, and the best interests of all children in contact with law, including child victims or witnesses of violence as well as children in conflict with law.

The discussion underscored that child-friendly justice is an integral part of child protection systems. Justice responses must be closely linked with social welfare, education, health, and law enforcement/police services to ensure early intervention, coordinated referrals and comprehensive support for children and their families. Participants also emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary coordination, common standards and continuous training for professionals working with children.

Countries shared promising reforms, including child-friendly courts, Barnahús and child advocacy models, child-sensitive judicial proceedings and courts, diversion and restorative justice programmes. These initiatives have strengthened access to justice, reduced secondary victimization and promoted rehabilitation and reintegration.

A recurring message was that sustainable reform requires more than legislative change. It depends on adequate investment, trained professionals, effective coordination and strong accountability. Participants also stressed the importance of listening to children and involving them in the design and evaluation of justice services.

> *Continued peer-learning and cooperation across the Alliance will be essential to advancing child-friendly justice systems. At the request of States, a thematic group will be established to continue supporting peer-learning and cooperation across the Alliance.*

Multistakeholder and cross-border cooperation

79

BILATERAL MEETINGS FACILITATED OVER THE TWO-DAY MEETING.

One of the most tangible outcomes of the Global Meeting was the strengthening of cooperation among Member States and partners.

Beyond sharing experiences, the meeting created new opportunities for bilateral and multilateral collaboration, technical exchanges and peer-learning. A total of 79 bilateral meetings were facilitated over the two-day meeting, laying the foundation for sustained cooperation across regions.

The exchanges focused on shared priorities and concerns, including child protection in the digital environment, child-friendly justice, care reform, integrated child protection systems, child safeguarding, protection of children on the move, positive parenting, legal reform, child helplines and the investment case for ending violence against children. Participants also expressed strong interest in learning more about community engagement, measuring progress and strengthening child participation.

UN ENTITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED.

Several follow-up initiatives are already underway. Member States are organizing study visits, technical exchanges and peer-learning activities to adapt successful approaches to their national contexts. New thematic collaboration is emerging on child protection in the digital environment, care reform, child-friendly justice, integrated services and the investment case. These efforts will be supported by the Office of the Special Representative, United Nations entities and partners.

The Global Meeting has also informed subsequent national, regional and cross-regional dialogues, demonstrating the immediate value of the Marketplace and the Alliance's knowledge-sharing approach.

The discussions confirmed the Alliance's growing role as a platform for implementation. Through the Marketplace for Knowledge Sharing, peer exchanges and thematic collaboration, Member States are increasingly translating shared knowledge into practical cooperation, joint initiatives and collective action to end violence against children.

Conclusion

Scan the QR code to access the concept note, agenda and participants list.

The Global Meeting marked another step forward on the continuing consolidation of the Pathfinding Global Alliance. Following its establishment in Bogotá and the regional consultations held in 2025, Turin shifted the focus from building the Alliance to supporting implementation, peer-learning, and practical cooperation among Member States.

Coinciding with the twentieth anniversary year of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, the meeting reaffirmed the continued relevance of the Study's recommendations while recognizing the emergence of new and rapidly evolving challenges. Above all, it demonstrated the unprecedented momentum and wide mobilization generated by the Global Alliance.

UN General Assembly resolution 80/190 (15 December 2025), recalling that 2026 marks the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, takes note of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children, under the auspices of the Special Representative's Office, as both a contribution and an accelerator of the prevention and protection of children against violence and in following up on the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children.

The growing commitment of Member States and partners working and acting together and learning and building on each other's experiences provides compelling evidence that ending violence against children is both achievable and within reach.

The Alliance will continue to facilitate technical exchanges, study visits and joint initiatives among Member States. Regional and global meetings will provide opportunities to review progress, identify emerging priorities and strengthen cooperation. Practical resources, including guidance, toolkits and e-learning courses, will further support implementation.

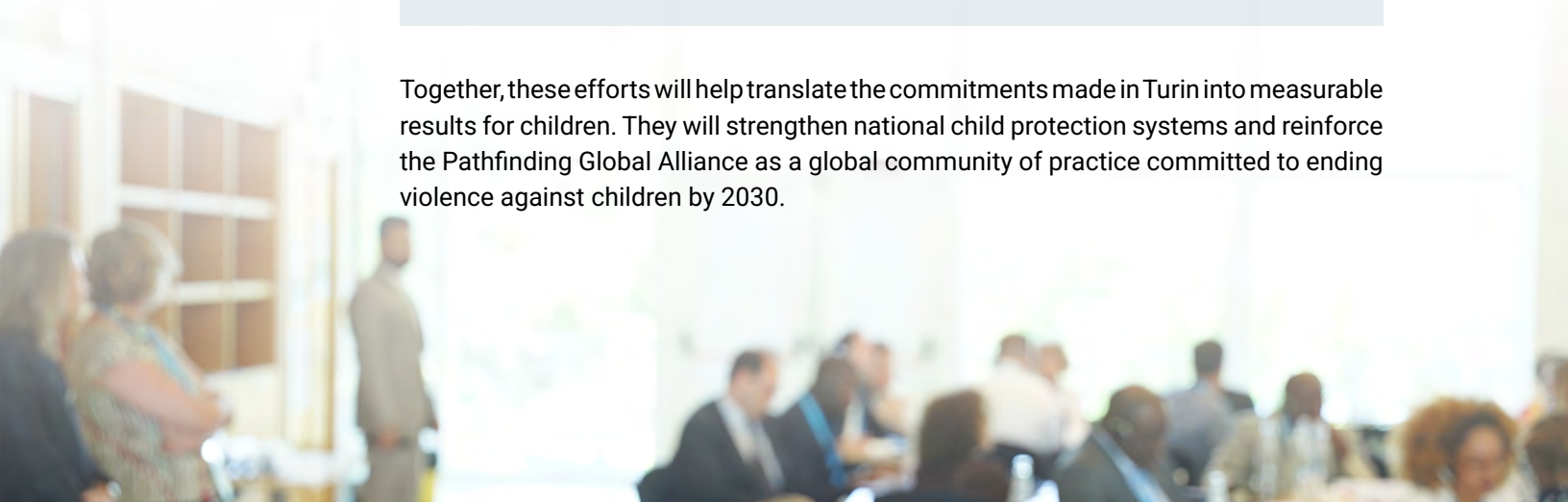
20 years

SINCE THE LANDMARK UNITED NATIONS STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.

4 years

REMAINING TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Together, these efforts will help translate the commitments made in Turin into measurable results for children. They will strengthen national child protection systems and reinforce the Pathfinding Global Alliance as a global community of practice committed to ending violence against children by 2030.



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS FOR PEER-LEARNING AND PEER-EXCHANGE.

MEMBERS OF THE PATHFINDING GLOBAL ALLIANCE

As of July 2026, 54 Member States have joined the Alliance.

Angola, Armenia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Pathfinding Global Alliance
On Ending Violence Against Children