



General Comment No. 15: Key Elements and Opportunities

Kirsten Sandberg

Chairperson

Committee on the Rights of the Child



Process in developing GC 15

- Recommendation by WHO, UNICEF, World Vision International and Save the Children
- Process formally started by the Committee February 2011
- Working Group of Committee members
- Assisted by the above Group of Partners
- Consultations with experts, stakeholders and the public
- GC 15 Adopted February 2013



Overview of GC 15

- Principles and premises: indivisibility, the four general principles, evolving capacities
- Normative content: interpretation, concrete guidance on each part of Art. 24
- Obligations and responsibilities of States and non-state actors
- International cooperation
- Framework for implementation and accountability



Some key elements

- **Children's right to control** their health and body, confidential counselling, participation in individual decisions, views on health services
- **Strong duty of action** on States
- Fulfil to maximum extent of **available resources**: Where demonstrably inadequate, still required to undertake targeted measures
- **Other actors** have responsibilities – parents, private service providers, companies, media
- **Community-based** efforts



Core obligations of States

- Review **legislation**
- Ensure universal coverage of **quality primary health services**
- Provide an adequate response to the **underlying determinants** of children's health
- Develop, implement, monitor and evaluate **policies** and **budgeted plans of actions**



Operationalization

- Action cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Criteria:
 - **Availability**: sufficient hospitals, community health workers etc
 - **Accessibility**: non-discrimination, physical accessibility, affordability, accessible information
 - **Acceptability**: respectful of medical ethics and children's needs, expectations, cultures, views and language
 - **Quality** of treatments, personnel, hospital equipment, drugs, care



Way ahead

- Committee will follow up through dialogues with States and Concluding Observations
- No specific follow-up procedures for GCs
- Dependent on States and partners (UNICEF, WHO, CSOs)
- That is why today's consultation and its outcome is so important!