

Ms. Helen Pinnock - Save the Children, UK second statement

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I would like to ask that the recommendations on language separate between language revitalisation and the use of minority language in education for children who are surrounded by minority language and who use minority language as their first language. For this latter, very large group of children the global research is very, very clear that mother-tongue based multi-lingual education is essential for children to learn effectively and including to learn the dominant language effectively. So it is incorrect for recommendation 50 to offer mother-tongue as a subject as a valid alternative to instruction through the medium of the mother tongue. I would suggest that this is changed; and that section 7 contain a clear recommendation that states must work towards delivering at least pre- and primary curriculum through the medium of the mother tongue with gradual introduction of second language for children who use minority languages a first language. This requires also section 6 to request for minority script development and literacy for adults and children and for section 7, sorry section 5 to provide for teacher training in mother-tongue based multilingual education in these settings.

Thank you.