

Brussels 2 May 2020

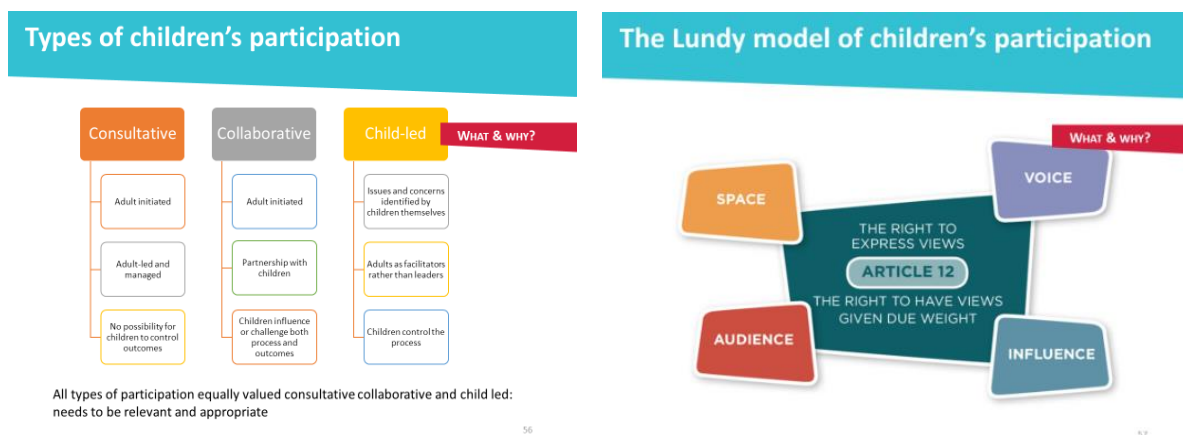
Dear Independent Review Panel,

On behalf of Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF) we thank you greatly for your feedback on our Accountability Report 2018. Let us first state again our deep appreciation for our collaboration with Accountable Now and how much this has led to improvements in our organisation.

The feedback of the Panel fits well with the current situation of TDHIF which has embarked in a strategic review process to build a stronger organisation rooted in strong understanding of common values and increased integration among TDHIF members and a Secretariat having a deeper role of coordination and monitoring. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a global world crisis which has also heavily impacted TDHIF and led to the reorientation of some of our activities to support those who are hardest hit by the COVID crisis. We are also well aware that in such times of crisis, accountability to our stakeholders is all the more important and gives all its sense to one of the guiding principles of the TDHIF which is at the core of the SDGs: “leaving no one behind”.

All the points of improvements raised by the Panel are well taken and you shall find hereafter initial short responses regarding the Panel’s observations in waiting for our 2019 Accountability Report which shall address them in a more comprehensive way. The TDHIF is currently striving to develop and implement its strategic review process together with its member organisations, with due regards to the needed adaptations due to the current COVID crisis, and we shall report about progress and setbacks in our next report.

Stakeholder involvement is at the core of TDHIF work and “A commitment to child and youth participation and stakeholder engagement” is inscribed among the seven key principles guiding our strategic review. TDHIF is also deepening its knowledge about how to ensure meaningful and respectful child participation and has created a dedicated internal expert group on this question which met in a workshop, where the *Lundy model* outlined below was taken as our conceptual framework.



With regards to **organisational effectiveness**, TDHIF is planning to review its governance model at the conclusion of the strategic review process so as to set up the model which shall best serve the mission of the organisation. For the complaints handling mechanisms several developments are under way to follow on the Panel’s advice and we shall report about their setting in our upcoming 2019 Accountability Report.

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An international non-governmental network in consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC, UNICEF, the ILO and the Council of Europe.

The TDHIF has also been awarded its *Keeping Children Safe Level 1 Recertification* in March 2020. Level 1 Certification means that the organisation has developed a child safeguarding framework that, when implemented, protects children from harm and if a child safeguarding incident should occur has the appropriate response mechanisms in place.

The International Secretariat has also taken good note of the different requests of the Panel for the next Accountability Report. Despite the major challenges and the changes brought forward by the current COVID-19 crisis, we trust that the Strategic Review process in which TDHIF has engaged will transform the organisation into a more agile structure, and increased ability to transform stakeholders feedback into policy developments. We trust that we will be able to report on further changes in our coming Accountability reports.

Delphine Moralis
Secretary General