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## **UN envoy welcomes new measure to stop violence against children**



Special Representative on Violence against Children Marta Santos Pais

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A United Nations envoy dealing with children's rights today [hailed](#) the decision of Member States to adopt a new protocol aimed at protecting children from abuse and violence.

The new protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted today by the General Assembly, will encourage State parties to develop national mechanisms enabling children whose rights have been violated to access a system through which their voices and complaints can be heard.

The protocol will enter into force three months after it acquires ratifications or accessions from 10 countries.

“I wholeheartedly welcome the historical adoption of this protocol which consolidates the international system of accountability for human rights and is of decisive relevance to children’s protection from violence,” said Marta Santos Pais, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

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The new protocol is the third one to the Convention and joins the Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict – both of which entered into force in 2002.

Established in 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding international instrument incorporating the full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – for people under the age of 18.

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