

For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of twenty-one years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

All parties to this accord recognize the following essential rights inalienable in every child:

#### Article I

1. Every Child has the right to life, from the moment of conception.
2. The parties to the accord pledge themselves to protecting the child's life both by laws protecting all human life and by making appropriate medical care available to the child and his or her mother during her pregnancy.

#### Article II

1. Every Child has the right, as far as possible, to be reared by both parents in a loving and stable environment.
2. The parties to this accord pledge themselves to facilitate the ability to exercise this right, in accordance with local law and custom, giving appropriate consideration to the family and community of the child.

#### Article III

1. Every Child has the right to be brought up in the faith and traditions of his or her family.
2. The parties to this accord pledge themselves to the protection of the free expression of faith and traditions, unless such expression would deprive others of their fundamental rights.

#### Article IV

1. Every Child has the right to a safe environment: - free of mental, physical, and spiritual abuse.
2. The parties pledge to use all the lawful power of their governments to ensure the safety of every child under their jurisdiction.

#### Article V

1. Every Child has the right to an education appropriate for his or her abilities.
2. The parties to this accord pledge to facilitate the ability to exercise this right in accordance with local law and custom, giving appropriate consideration to the family and community of the child, and the resources available.

#### Article VI

1. Every Child has the right to parental guidance and oversight in their formative years.
2. The parties to this accord pledge to hold the parents responsible for the proper guidance and oversight of their minor children, and to support them in this responsibility in accordance with local law and custom.

#### Article VII

1. Every Child has the right to know their own parents, and their cultural and physical background.
2. The parties to this accord pledge to assist the child and his or her family in making this information available to the child using age appropriate methods.