

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**1.** The Global Diplomatic Forum is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people it works with. This comprehensive safeguarding policy aims to provide a framework that reflects the specific safeguarding needs of children and young people and aligns with other key safeguarding and organizational policies, procedures, and standards. This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors, and partners associated with the Global Diplomatic Forum.

**2. Policy Statement:** The Global Diplomatic Forum is dedicated to creating a safe and secure environment for children and young people. We believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that protecting children from harm, abuse, and exploitation is a fundamental duty. Our policy ensures that appropriate measures are in place to prevent and respond to safeguarding concerns.

**3. Scope:** This policy applies to all activities and interactions involving children and young people engaged with the Global Diplomatic Forum, including but not limited to events, workshops, conferences, online platforms, and partnerships.

**4. Definitions:** 4.1 Child: A person under the age of 18 years. 4.2 Young person: An individual between the ages of 18 and 24 years who may be considered vulnerable or at risk.

**5. Key Principles:** The following principles guide our safeguarding approach: 5.1 Best Interest: The best interests of children and young people are paramount in all decision-making processes. 5.2 Non-Discrimination: All children and young people, regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics, have equal rights to protection and support. 5.3 Participation: Children and young people have the right to express their views, be heard, and participate in matters that affect them. 5.4 Confidentiality: Information regarding safeguarding concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, only shared with individuals who need to know or when required by law.

**6. Prevention and Risk Management:** 6.1 Staff and Volunteer Recruitment: All individuals engaging in activities involving children and young people will undergo a thorough recruitment process, including background checks and reference verification. 6.2 Code of Conduct: The Global Diplomatic Forum has a clear code of conduct that outlines expected behavior towards children and young people, including guidelines on appropriate physical contact and the use of language. 6.3 Training and Awareness: Staff, volunteers, and relevant stakeholders receive regular training and updates on safeguarding policies, procedures, and indicators of abuse. This includes awareness of online safety and the prevention of

cyberbullying. 6.4 Risk Assessment: Regular risk assessments are conducted to identify potential hazards and mitigate risks to children and young people during activities and events.

**7. Reporting and Responding to Safeguarding:** Concerns 7.1 Reporting Mechanism: The Global Diplomatic Forum provides clear channels for reporting safeguarding concerns. All individuals associated with the organization are encouraged to report suspicions, allegations, or incidents promptly and without fear of reprisal. 7.2 Responding to Concerns: Safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and addressed promptly. The Global Diplomatic Forum will ensure appropriate actions are taken, including conducting investigations, providing support to affected individuals, and reporting incidents to relevant authorities as required by law. 7.3 Support Services: Adequate support services, such as counselling and medical assistance, will be provided to children, young people, and affected individuals involved in safeguarding concerns.

**8.Partnership and Collaboration:** The Global Diplomatic Forum acknowledges the importance of collaboration with relevant agencies, local authorities, and child protection organizations to promote and enhance safeguarding efforts. We are committed to sharing best practices, learning from others, and improving our safeguarding measures.

**9:Monitoring and Review:** This safeguarding policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with evolving legal and ethical standards. Feedback from children, young people, staff, and other stakeholders will be sought and considered in the review process.

**10.Conclusion:** The Global Diplomatic Forum is dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment for children and young people. By implementing this comprehensive safeguarding policy and adhering to its principles, we aim to protect children and young people from all forms of harm, abuse, and exploitation. We will continue to foster a culture of vigilance, accountability, and continuous improvement in our safeguarding practices.