PREAMBLE
Children remain among the most socially and economically vulnerable groups in our region. The list of major child welfare and protection issues in this area is lengthy and includes: high numbers of institutionalized children; lack of preventive, early intervention and alternative services; weak systems to provide support to children who are victims of violence; non-functional juvenile justice systems; increasing numbers of working children, as well as children with disabilities and special needs; increasing numbers of street children; high numbers of children unregistered at birth; high numbers of refugee children living in inadequate conditions; increasing numbers of abandoned children; increasing numbers of school drop-outs; increasing numbers of children abandoned or ‘left behind’ by their migrant parents; increased child poverty, particularly among Roma and children living in rural areas; scarce access to services and protection of children from the so-called ‘non-recognised entities’.

In response to the pressing need to protect and empower our children today and for tomorrow, national civil society coalitions from around the region have come together to form ChildPact. Established at the 4th gathering of the Black Sea NGO Forum in 2011, ChildPact is a coalition of coalitions; its members are national networks of child-focused NGOs.

ChildPact is a civil society coalition committed to identifying and encouraging solutions that prevent and address child vulnerability. ChildPact envisions a landscape where countries not only protect their children but actively empower their children to reach the highest levels of their potential, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender or social background.

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Definition of ChildPact
The Federation ChildPact – Regional Coalition for Child Protection - called from now on ChildPact is a Romanian legal entity of private law with no patrimonial purpose, founded in accordance with the Governmental Ordinance no. 26/2000, taking into consideration also the modifications and further supplements. ChildPact is a federation of child-focused NGO federations from Romania and abroad. ChildPact members are involved in programs that address children’s rights and child protection.

The name of the Federation is ChildPact – Regional Coalition for Child Protection. This name or the abbreviation ChildPact will be used in all documents and in the relations with the national, regional and European institutions, organizations and any other persons or legal entities.
Article 2
Founding Members
Having in mind the constitutional right to association, the following founding members agree to found The Federation ChildPact – Regional Coalition for Child Protection:

1) The Association Child Protection Network, having its headquarter in Yerevan, 64 Karapet Ulñetsi St. 0069, Armenia legally registered in Armenia, registered in the Central Body of the State Register under the no. 211.150.64307 on the date of 27.01.2013 having Fiscal Registration Number: 00875756 represented by Mira Antonyan according to General Assembly decision of 12.09.2014.

2) The Association Together Against Child Traffiking, having its headquarter in Tirana, Blvd ”Gjerëg Fishta” Tower 5/3 No.9, Albania, legally registered in Albania, based on the Court of First Instance Tirana Decision of 19.02.2003 and having Fiscal Registration Number K41909012T issued by Ministry of Finance, Directorate General of taxes od Republic od Albania represented by Bozo Raimonda according to Board decision of 12.09.2014.

3) The Association National Network for Children, having its headquarter in Sofia, 58 Vitosha Blvd, 4th floor, Bulgaria, legally registered in Bulgaria based on the Sofia City Court Decision of 17.07.2006 and registered in the Register of non-profit legal entities under the company case no.6738/2006, having Uniform Company Number 2106067380 represented by George Vasile Bogdanov according to the Board decision of 2014.

4) The Association Alianța ONG-urilor Active în Domeniul Protecției Sociale a Copilului și Familiei having the headquarter in Str. M. Kogălniceanu 75, of.3, mun. Chișinău, Moldova registered in the State Registry of Noncomercial Organizations under the no. 6855 from 24.09.2014, having Fiscal registration number 1014620007304 represented by Mariana Ianachevici according to Board Decision no.2 of 27.10.2014.

5) Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Child – FONPC having its headquarter in Bucharest, Bulevardul Decebal, no.4, bl.S11, et.3, ap.9, District 3, registered in the Bucharest Registry of Tribunal under the no. 8 from 01.03.2007, having Fiscal Registration no.10044934, represented by Ionuț-Șerban Jugureanu according to Decision of General Assembly of 19.06.2013

Article 3
Headquarters
ChildPact has the social headquarters in Bucharest, Rotașului Street no.7, Sector 1. Any change to the headquarters will be decided by the ChildPact Steering Committee and communicated to the competent Court.

Article 4
ChildPact Outreach
ChildPact can found branches and / or it can open offices in Romania and abroad. ChildPact can become a member of other confederations or other structures of representation from Romania or abroad.

Article 5
Duration of Activities
ChildPact is founded for an undetermined period. Its dissolution and termination can be made according to legal provisions and the current statute.

CHAPTER II
MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Article 6
ChildPact Purpose
ChildPact advocates for children’s rights at national and international levels and works to prevent and address child vulnerability by promoting regional cooperation and strengthening civil society networks.

**Article 7**
**ChildPact Objectives**
In order to fulfill its’ mission, ChildPact will have the following objectives:

1. Monitor and influence child-related policies at regional and European levels by documenting child protection concerns and advocating for better policies to protect vulnerable children.
2. Strengthen the capacity of its members by actively supporting their expertise development, visibility and credibility at regional and European levels.
3. Advocate for regional cooperation at inter-governmental and civil society level, in order to identify best practices and solutions to common threats to children’s well-being.
4. Raise public awareness of child rights and protection issues at national, regional and European contexts.

**Article 8**
**ChildPact Activities**
To fulfill its objectives, ChildPact will carry out the following activities:

a) Strengthen members’ capacities to promote, monitor and influence child-related policies at national and regional levels;

b) Advocate for regional cooperation for child protection to be strengthened;

c) In relation to the EU: a) advocate for an EU standardized approach towards candidate and neighboring countries in what children’s rights and protection standards are concerned; b) advocate for the EU to target children’s rights as a specific policy area which is properly mainstreamed and adequately resourced;

d) Advocate for regional organizations and institutions to strengthen their child rights agendas;

e) Conduct regional child wellbeing studies and comparative analyses of child-focused laws, active measures and strategies;

f) Create peer education opportunities among members and facilitate regional learning through experience exchanges among governmental and non-governmental bodies;

gh) Coordinate with other organisations and institutions from Romania and abroad for promoting child rights, child protection and child wellbeing;

h) Promote the active participation of children and organise regional children’s summits where children, professionals and decision-makers meet and exchange knowledge

i) Pilot projects, programs and models of child protection services at local, national and regional levels;

j) Fundraise from private and institutional donors.

k) Create any type of platform to exchange knowledge and promote good practices and lessons learnt

l) Conduct awareness campaigns relating to child protection and child rights

m) Undertake any other activity aimed at fulfilling ChildPact’s purpose and objectives

**CHAPTER III – MEMBERS**

**Article 9**
**ChildPact as a Coalition of organizations**
ChildPact is a ‘coalition of coalitions’, accessible to all federations (coalitions) of NGOs that undertake activities in the field of child protection, child-wellbeing and children’s rights.
Individual NGOs are not direct members of ChildPact, but they can be involved in ChildPact’s activities in their capacity of members of ChildPact members.

**Article 10**

**Members and Associate Members**

ChildPact can have members and associate members.

**Article 11**

**Becoming a ChildPact Member. Membership Criteria.**

A federation (coalition) can become a ChildPact member following an expression of interest and the decision of the General Assembly. Any federation (coalition) of nongovernmental organizations that fulfills the following conditions can become a ChildPact member (provided the approval of the General Assembly):

a) It activates in the field of child protection, children’s rights and child wellbeing.

b) It is a registered entity in Romania or the country of origin.

c) It is not politically affiliated.

d) It observes the ChildPact purpose and objectives;

e) It is transparent and publishes its narrative and financial annual reports.

**Article 12**

**Rights and Responsibilities of the Members**

ChildPact members have the following rights:

a) to elect and be elected in ChildPact’s governing bodies, in accordance with the stipulations of this statute;

b) to participate in the ChildPact decision-making processes;

c) to take part in ChildPact’s activities and to freely express their opinions in all problems regarding ChildPact’s activities;

d) to be designated as ChildPact representatives;

e) to benefit from the projects and activities implemented by ChildPact; to be informed regularly or on demand about ChildPact’s activities.

**Article 13**

**Becoming a ChildPact Associate Member. Membership Criteria.**

A federation (coalition) can become a ChildPact associate member following an expression of interest and the decision of the General Assembly. Any federation (coalition) of nongovernmental organizations that fulfills the following conditions can become a ChildPact associate member (provided the approval of the Steering Committee):

a) It activates in the field of child protection, children’s rights and child wellbeing.

b) It activates (without necessarily being registered) in Romania or the country of origin.

c) It is not politically affiliated.

d) It observes the ChildPact purpose and objectives;

e) It is transparent and publishes its narrative and financial annual reports.

**Article 14**

**Rights of the Associate Members**

ChildPact associate members have the following rights:

a) to take part in ChildPact’s activities and to freely express their opinions in all problems regarding ChildPact’s activities;

b) to benefit from the projects and activities implemented by ChildPact;

c) to be informed regularly about ChildPact’s activities.

**Article 15**

**Responsibilities of the Associate Members**

All members have the following duties:
a) to participate in the ChildPact activities and contribute to its development;
b) to respect the ChildPact statute and the decisions of the General Assembly;
c) to refrain from undertaking any action in the name of ChildPact unless a clear mandate is provided, according to the statute;
d) to contribute to the fulfilling of the ChildPact objectives;
e) to refrain from any act that might damage ChildPact’s image and capacity to act in its field;

Article 16
Rejection of Membership Application
In case the membership request is rejected, the decision will be communicated to the applicant in a maximum of 15 days.

Article 17
Preservation of Autonomy and Independence
The members and the associate members will preserve their own legal entity, their decisional and organizational independence, their autonomy in executing their programs, according to their own statutes.

Article 18
Termination of Membership
A member or an associate member will loose its member or associate member status in the following cases:
  a) The member or associate member resigns through a notification addressed to the Steering Committee. The member will be suspended after 30 days from the notification date. ChildPact’s General Assembly will take note of the resignation;
  b) The member or associate member ends its activity;
  c) The member or associate members is excluded, by the General Assembly for the following reasons:
     i. not taking part in 2 consecutive General Assemblies;
     ii. lack of response to ChildPact requests of information;
     iii. lack of involvement in the ChildPact initiatives and activities for more than 1 years;
     iv. the violation of the Statute; causing any type of prejudice to ChildPact’s image. A member or associate member will be excluded from ChildPact upon a proposal from the Steering Committee by the decision of the General Assembly.

CHAPTER IV - GOVERNING, EXECUTIVE AND CONTROL BODIES

Article 19
Defining the Governing, Executive and Control bodies
ChildPact’s governing, executive and control bodies are:
  A. The General Assembly
  B. The Steering Committee
  C. Advisory Board
  D. The Secretary General
  E. The Censor.

A. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 20
Definition of the General Assembly
The General Assembly is ChildPact’s highest governing body. The General Assembly is made of all ChildPact members. Each member has one vote in the General Assembly. This is given by the legal representative of the member or an agent authorized by the legal representative.

**Article 21**

**Meetings of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly will meet once a year, physically or virtually, in an ordinary gathering, the latest in March. Extraordinary General Assemblies can be organized upon need.

**Article 22**

**Convening the General Assembly**

The General Assembly will be convened at the request of at least ¼ of the ChildPact members, at the request of the Steering Committee or at the request of the Secretary General. The General Assemblies will be convened in writing, by mail, e-mail, and/or fax, at least 30 days before the gathering.

**Article 23**

**Legal Constitution of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly is legally constituted in the presence of at least half+1 of the total number of the members and it will adopt decisions with the vote of at least half+1 of the present members. The decisions of modifying the statute, dissolution or closure will be taken with the vote of two thirds of the total number of ChildPact members.

Members may attend its meetings by teleconference, video conference or similar means of communication in which all persons participating can hear each other, and every member so participating shall be deemed present and entitled to be counted in the quorum and vote. In addition, members could express theirs vote in written form by letter or email.

If the quorum is not achieved a new General Assembly will be organized in 15 days and meeting is statutory indifferent number of participants

**Article 24**

**General Assembly Minutes**

The General Assembly minutes will be recorded by the ChildPact Secretary General and signed by the ChildPact President or, in his absence, by the ChildPact Vice-President. The minutes are communicated to all ChildPact members within 10 days, and all members that already participated or not, could submit objection. After 15 days after communication to the members decisions are applicable to all members.

**Article 25**

**Responsibilities of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

a) modifies the ChildPact Statute and any other constitutive document;
b) approves the ChildPact strategy and general objectives, based on a Steering Committee proposal;
c) approves ChildPact’s functioning regulations and other internal rules and regulations;
d) elects and revokes the Steering Committee members;
e) decides the inclusion and exclusion of the ChildPact members;
f) approves ChildPact’s annual budget, the balance sheet and the budgetary execution from the previous year, on the base of a report from the Steering Committee and a notice of the Censor;
g) approves the list of services to be granted by ChildPact to its members and associate members;
h) approves the report of the Steering Committee and the one from the Censor;
i) approves ChildPact’s dissolution and abolition and establishes the destination of the goods left after the abolition;
j) decides the affiliation, accreditation or membership to other organizations or institutions;
k) carries out any other attributions in order to achieve ChildPact’s mission, pursuing they are legal and in line with this statute;
l) any others attributions setup in the Statute or in the law

B. THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Article 26
Membership of the Steering Committee
The Steering Committee has 5 members: 1 President; 1 Vice-President, 3 Members. The number of Steering Committee members can be modified by a decision of the General Assembly.

Article 27
Role of the President and Vice-President
The roles of President and Vice-President will be held for 2 years. The President and the Vice-President will be elected by the Steering Committee.

Article 28
Meetings of the Steering Committee
The Steering Committee meets at least biannually, virtually or otherwise, or every time it is needed.

Article 29
Quorum of the Steering Committee
The decisions of the Steering Committee will be adopted with simple majority.

Article 30
Minutes of the Steering Committee
The minutes of the Steering Committee meetings will be taken by the Secretary General and they will be validated by the President or, in his / her absence, by the Vice-President. The minutes will be communicated to all ChildPact members within 10 days.

Article 31
The Responsibilities of the Steering Committee
The Steering Committee has the following responsibilities:

a) presents to the General Assembly the annual activity reports, the execution of the budget of incomes and expenses, the balance sheet, the budget forecast, ChildPact’ strategy and results;
b) ensures the realization of ChildPact’s objectives and implements the strategy approved by the General Assembly;
c) proposes to the General Assembly the admission or exclusion of ChildPact members and associate members;
d) carries out any other task decided by the General Assembly;
e) hires / appoints, revokes and verifies the activity of the Secretary General;
f) supervises the administration of ChildPact’s funds and makes proposals to the General Assembly on their use;
g) decides on the change of ChildPact’s headquarters;
h) can delegate its members with executive attributions;
Article 32
The Responsibilities of the President
The President will have the following responsibilities:
   a) leads the activity and the works of the Steering Committee;
   b) presides the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Steering Committee;
   c) signs official documents adopted by ChildPact;
   d) ensures the implementation of the ChildPact decisions, official documents and measures taken by the Steering Committee;
   e) exercises any other authority meant to ensure the realization of ChildPact’s mission;
   f) acts according to the strategy and the policies proposed by the Steering Committee;

Article 33
The Responsibilities of the Vice-President
The Vice-President represents ChildPact in internal and external circumstances, based on a clear mandate given by the President.

C. ADVISORY BOARD
Article 34
(1) The ChildPact Steering Committee, by resolution adopted by a majority of the members, must designate an Advisory Board.
(2) Such Advisory Board shall consist of persons who are interested in the purpose and principles of ChildPact.
(3) The Advisory Board shall include at least one person employed at World Vision International. World Vision International shall nominate at least 2 persons as candidates for Advisory Board membership.
(4) The ChildPact Steering Committee shall select at least one of the nominated persons identified by World Vision International.
(5) The Advisory Board shall advise the Steering Committee as to any matters that are put before it by the Steering Committee concerning ChildPact.
(6) The Advisory Board shall not have or purport to exercise any powers of the Board nor shall it have the power to bind ChildPact in any manner.
(7) The Advisory Board and each member thereof shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.
(8) Any vacancy in the Advisory Board may be filled and the Advisory Board may remove any of its members, either with or without cause.

D. THE SECRETARY GENERAL
Article 35
The Main Role of the Secretary General
The Secretary General supports the Steering Committee in executing its decision-making role.

Article 36
Staffing Rights of the Secretary General
The Secretary General can recruit the appropriate number of staff, volunteers and trainees to help with strategy implementation.

Article 37
The Responsibilities of the Secretary General
The responsibilities of the Secretary General are as follows:
   a) Develops drafts of policies and strategies, to be approved by the Steering Committee.
b) Oversees the implementation of approved policies and strategies, as well as the operational plans of ChildPact’s working groups.

c) Upon a clear mandate from the SC, represents ChildPact as a whole (but not its individual members) in relation to ChildPact’s stakeholders such as: NGO representatives and advocates, potential donors, government and EU officials, other coalitions, academic institutions and so on. These contacts are made with the exclusive aim of promoting ChildPact’s mission and objectives.

d) Proposes fund-raising solutions to the Steering Committee and implements the fund-raising decisions made by the Steering Committee. The Secretary General is aware and/or involved in coordinating and developing all fundraising activities and funding proposals made by a member or a group of members on behalf of ChildPact.

e) Develops instruments and protocols for testing the effectiveness and the impact of ChildPact’s strategies.

f) Coordinates and facilitates ChildPact’s meetings and communicates effectively with members to promote collaboration, negotiation, and problem solving.

g) Continually broadens expertise and contacts and serves as a resource person.

h) Prepares periodical reports of activity, to be approved by the Steering Committee.

E. THE CENSOR

Article 38
Role of the Censor
The Censor exercises the internal financial control and h/se is selected by the General Assembly for a period of 2 years. The Censor has the role of approving and enforcing the internal financial control system. The Censor can be an individual or a legal entity and will be nominated in case of the organization has more than 15 members. A commission of censors will be nominated when the organization will have more than 100 members.

Article 39
Independency of the Censor
The Censor is fully independent in exercising the activities he / she is bound to perform.

Article 40
Availability of ChildPact Documents
The Steering Committee and the Secretary General will make available any document and information required by the Censor and needed by the Censor to check ChildPact’s financial activity of the organization.

Article 41
The Responsibilities of the Censor
The Censor has the following responsibilities:
   a) verifies the way the ChildPact’s patrimony is administrated;
   b) prepares the financial reports and presents them to the General Assembly;
   c) carries out any other attribution established by the General Assembly;

CHAPTER V- PATRIMONY
Article 42
Scope of the Patrimony
The initial patrimony of ChildPact is formed by an initial contribution of the founding members of 1000 RON. The ChildPact patrimony will be preserved according to the Romanian legislation and it will be used exclusively to achieve its goals.

Article 43
The Income
ChildPact’s income will originate from:
   a) financial and in kind contributions from members and donors;
   b) interest rates resulting from deposits made according to legal provisions;
   c) fund-raising and fees applied for ChildPact events;
   d) donations or sponsorship;
   e) resources obtained from the state budget and/or local budgets, or nonrefundable funding;
   f) other income, according to legislation.

Article 44
Prohibition of Distribution of Profit
Donations that are made to ChildPact shall be used exclusively for the development and duration of the objectives of the organization. Every other act will be considered legally invalid.

CHAPTER VI - DISSOLUTION AND TERMINATION OF CHILDPACT

Article 45
Conditions for Dissolution and Termination
The dissolution and the termination of ChildPact will be done in the situations and the conditions according to the law, only by the decision of the General Assembly. The decision of dissolution and abolition can be taken only with a majority of two thirds of the total number of ChildPact members.

Article 46
Process and Procedures for Dissolution and Termination
The General Assembly decides on the process and procedures regarding the liquidation of the organization, the balance of the liquidation and the termination of the mandate of the liquidator(/s).

Article 47
The Remaining Goods after Dissolution and Termination
In case of dissolution, the remaining goods will be transferred, in equal quotas, to the founding members.

CHAPTER VII – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 48
Changes in the Statute
Any change of the Statute will be recorded in the special register, that can be found at the court clerk’s office in the circumscription the organization has the headquarter. The stipulations of the present statute are to be completed with the legal provisions.
Article 49

Number of Copies of the Statute
The present statute was written in 7 (seven) copies in English and Romanian, each of them with the value of original.

Sign the members of the General Assembly

Child Protection Network
Mira Antonyan

Together Against Child Trafficking
Bozo Raimonda

National Network for Children
George Vasilev Bogdanov

Alliance of active NGOs in the Field of Social Protection of Child and Family
Mariana Ianachevici

Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Child – FONPC
Ionuț-Șerban Juguereanu