Two main approaches are advocated for states to prevent children from entering the street or becoming more connected to the street. These are:

- Holistic Child Protection System strengthening on the basis of a child rights approach
- Building the capacity of parents, caregivers, communities and children, so the child does not need to work/live/or be connected with the streets.

**Draft Principles on Prevention from Children Entering the Street**

1. In order for the state to ensure context specific responses to prevent more children entering the streets, in partnership with civil society, states should ensure that research is carried out on a country scale on the push and pull factors for children to enter the street. This should build on the participatory consultations run to develop the UNGC and also include methodologies that count and reach children in differing street situations. If this is promoted by local actors, those children who are at risk of entering the streets can be identified during this process and supported through referral mechanisms.

2. Based on research, States must implement long-term child-focused strategies and policy to ensure that the needs of children at risk are met, through proper implementation of services directed at children. This long-term approach requires states to go beyond the typical 4 or 5 year political period of governments.

3. Frameworks need to go beyond paper, and be implemented with an adequate child friendly budgets in the national and county level. Allocating resources and logical distribution of these resources (people, training and money) for child protection is paramount.

4. A participatory budget needs to be in place which is informed by children in street situations, implementing the participation enrooted in the UNCRC. States must always consider the best interest and views of the child through children assemblies that represent children in street situations.

5. States must provide platforms for children and communities to hold the government to account, improve policy and budgeting, as citizen ‘ownership’ will increase the responsibility of communities and caregivers in regards to their children, and improve the engagement of children in areas that affect their lives.

6. To promote strong coordination of all actors, government and non-government organisations must work together to develop a coordinated Child Protection network which supports each other to reach agreed established aims. Resources are key and essential through collaboration, which also reduces duplication.

7. All services must be free and non-discriminatory. States must ensure that free also removes hidden costs, otherwise there is a risk that children will enter the street for work to be able to afford access to these services (for example, education).

8. States must abolish any provisions that charges or prevents children from attaining or replacing a birth certificate. This removes barriers for children to access services as they are now legally visible.

9. States must ensure that all services are child-friendly and safe, otherwise the child is at risk of entering the street as part of their own coping mechanism. Therefore States need to
provide all who engage with children with training in Child Protection to promote the best interest of the child throughout.

10. Children on the move are at high risk of entering the streets, so targeted measures should be put in place to provide immediate needs when they are identified. In cases of children migrating from another country, States must work together to ensure safe passage of the child if seeking refuge, or safe repatriation if, for example, they have been trafficked. States should work with agencies such as UNHCR with specific expertise in this area.

11. In partnership with civil society and corporates, community child protection committees need training to enhance child protection in their communities as this can be much more accessible for children in street situations. Communities need to know reporting processes and identifying risk factors for children to be on the street, and what needs to be done when such cases have been identified.

12. It is essential that each State ensures the sufficient number and quality of care of institutions or alternative care solutions for children without parental care or for those experiencing abuse or neglect from parents and temporarily need support away from their family due to the risk. A complaints and suggestions mechanism should be in place in all institutions so children’s voices and opinions are heard, so they feel empowered in making decisions about their own lives.

13. Each State should fund an independent commission that provides a quality check of services (for example juvenile remand homes, institutions etc.), provided by government or by NGOs, to ensure standards are met and checked regularly.

14. Public-private partnerships can improve access to technology that improve reporting mechanisms and also extend their accessibility for children.

15. Affordable housing needs to be provided by local, regional, and national authorities and can be supported through subsidies or government assistance through rent.

16. States must remove any laws or policies that allow for informal housing to be demolished unless other adequate housing is provided in its place.

17. States must support vulnerable parents and guardians to attain adequate and dignified work to reduce or remove the risk of children needing to enter the streets to work. The State can support the caregiver to provide at least for the basic needs of the child, through support in accessing skills training, loans (with low interest) or funds, and other economic programmes relevant to the local labour market, especially for marginalized groups.

18. States should move towards ensuring safety nets and benefits are in place for when economically poor families fall out of work, as generally they need to move to the street as their option to survive.

19. States should support violence prevention in the home and also employ an adequate number of well-trained social workers to support parents on how to care for their children.
Counselling services are paramount, not only for the child, but also the parents and caregivers, as abuse at home is a major reason for children leaving home. If there is no one for the children to turn to if there in an abusive situation, than the child is more likely to turn to the streets.

20. Children themselves need to understand their rights, through example through Child Rights Clubs in schools or the community, and where to report child protection issues.