

Speaker: Ms Diarra Diop



Save the Children

United Nations Human Rights Council  
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Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

## CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF SWEDEN

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sweden, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the Government's efforts to protect children's rights and the acceptance of UPR recommendations regarding incorporating the CRC into national legislation, prioritising children's rights, combatting discrimination of children, ensuring children's rights in judicial procedures.

However, we would like to highlight the following issues:

### *1. Access to Justice*

Save the Children regrets the Government's rejection of UPR recommendation 6.3-6.5 calling on Sweden to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure. In Sweden, children have no possibility to receive redress for rights violations without their guardian's consent and are not seen as legal parties in cases that concern them. Their right to be heard is often breached in Sweden. We call on the Government to ratify the Optional protocol and provide the Ombudsman for Children with the mandate to receive individual complaints from children, without the consent of the legal guardian.

### *2. Local differences in implementing the rights of the child*

Although no recommendations were put forward by the UPR Working Group with regards to the disparities between municipalities in the realization of the rights of the child and in terms of support available to the most vulnerable children at local level, this is an issue of concern and a major driver of inequalities between children. A child's chances in life and access to support services should not depend on where they are born or where they live in Sweden.

We call on the government to take on the recommendation from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to establish a high level mechanism with a clear mandate and the authority to ensure equal access to all rights at the regional and local levels, including sufficient human, technical and financial resources for its effective operation by the end of 2016.

Thank you.