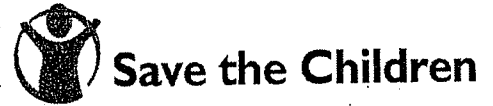


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United Nations Human Rights Council  
24<sup>th</sup> Session  
20 September 2013  
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports



CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF BANGLADESH<sup>9</sup>

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children speaks on behalf of the Child Rights Governance Assembly (CRGA), a civil society advocacy network of 17 organizations including children and youth organizations in Bangladesh. The CRGA welcomes the UPR report on Bangladesh and the Government's acceptance of UPR recommendations, particularly regarding commitments to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure, to increase resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights of vulnerable groups, to enact the integrated education act and to raise the age of criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders to at least 12 years in line with the CRC general comment.

Effective implementation of these recommendations will require sufficient allocation of resources for children in order to bring significant and positive changes in children's lives in Bangladesh.

CRGA particularly welcomes the acceptance of recommendation 129.28 to appoint the ombudsman in line with the 2009 CRC Committee's Concluding Observations. We urge the government to appoint an ombudsman for children with sufficient budget and human resources by 2013 to specifically deal with child rights violations and to provide remedies for such violations.

Increasing investment in children through national budget allocations and developing and practicing a monitoring and accountability mechanism for budgetary expenditure at different Ministry levels is one of the areas that needs more attention by the government of Bangladesh. Therefore we highly recommend the government to use a child rights approach in planning and implementing its national budget, including through the use of specific indicators the participation of communities including children in the budget making process and a tracking system that makes spending on children visible throughout the budget.

CRGA appreciates the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and is looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organisations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you.