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World Vision®

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Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF NEPAL

Mr President,

Save the Children is delivering this statement on behalf of Plan International and World Vision International.

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the UPR of Nepal, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the Government's efforts to protect children's rights and its acceptance of 42 UPR recommendations relating to children's rights, including on education and protection. Implementation of these recommendations, with allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children's lives in Nepal.

However, in view of the fact that the vulnerability of children has significantly increased due to the massive earthquake and political crisis of 2015/2016 we would like to highlight the following issues:

#### 1. Ratification of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure:

We regret the Government's rejection of UPR recommendation 124.3 that calls on the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Nepal has already accepted similar treaty provisions relating to civil and political rights, women's rights and rights of persons with disability. Children should also benefit from the possibility to make complaints, as do these other rights holders.

We call on the Government of Nepal to ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC without any further delay, while also allocating sufficient resources to strengthen national mechanisms which address child rights violations in child-friendly ways.

#### 2. Setting-up of an Independent Human Rights Institution for Children:

While it is praiseworthy that the Government of Nepal has provisioned for a constitutional Commission for Women, the position on setting up a mechanism for independent child rights monitoring is unclear.

UPR recommendation 124.8 calling for the setting-up of an independent Commission for Children was rejected. However, UPR recommendation 122.19 calling for the establishment of a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring was accepted.

Save the Children and our partners' program experience from around the world is that children's issues are best dealt with by a specialised body. We therefore call on the Government to set-up a separate independent Commission for Children.

Finally, we appreciate the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and we look forward to continued cooperation in follow-up.

Thank you.