

United Nations Human Rights Council  
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Item 6: UPR Outcomes  
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## Consideration of the UPR report of Zambia

Save the Children wishes to commend Zambia for accepting recommendations to enhance the respect and protection of children, during its UPR third cycle review. Save the Children particularly welcomes the acceptance of the recommendation on child participation and values the government of Zambia's commitment to promote child participation in formal consultative processes that require citizen's contribution. Save the Children further commends the government for its good working relationship/collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations in Zambia.

However, Save the Children recommends that the government of Zambia:

- Expedites the process of the enactment of the Children's Act, a legal framework that protects the rights of children. We hereby request the government to finalise and present the Child Code Bill in parliament in order to harmonise the various pieces of legislation and ensure the protection of children,
- Ratifies all three Optional Protocols on the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- Raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 years and provide adequate protection of children victims and witnesses of crime during trial, so as to ensure full protection for juveniles in conflict with the law,
- Combats Child Poverty and Malnutrition by strengthening Child Sensitive Social Protection programmes. Save the Children considers child poverty as a root cause of exclusion and therefore threatens the right to life and survival of children,
- Puts in place a systematic and organized process to empower all children to meaningfully engage in community, district and national decision-making processes.

There has been steady progress towards increasing allocations to funding of social services such as education and health. More efforts are however needed to reverse the down-ward budgetary allocations in these sectors in order for Zambia to meet the African thresholds set in the Abuja and Dakar declarations.

Thank you.