



CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF GUATEMALA

Thank you Mr President.

Plan International welcomes the report of the Working Group on the UPR of Guatemala, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the government's efforts to protect children's rights and the acceptance of many UPR recommendations.

The implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children's lives in Guatemala.

However, Plan International would like to highlight the following:

- Some of the UPR recommendations (99.19, 99.35, 99.36, 99.43, 99.80) call on the government of Guatemala to allocate adequate financial and ensure effective coordination among State institutions dealing with the rights of the child.
- Some recommendations (99.81, 99.82, 99.83, 99.84, 99.89, 99.91) call on the government of Guatemala to implement targeted sustainable and effective measures to reduce the alarmingly high rate of child chronic malnutrition, especially among the indigenous population, where eight out of ten children are affected.

Plan International welcomes the acceptance of such recommendations.

We would like to highlight that Guatemala is still the country with the least investment on children in all Latin America. Although there has been a raise in investments within the reporting period, budget allocation for children, which constitutes the 20% of the total national expenditure, continues to represent only 3.2% of the GDP.

We call on the Government of Guatemala to increase budget allocation for children and adolescents, in order:

- o To ensure that adequately trained personnel with expertise on children and adolescents' rights is appointed to the bodies integrating the child protection system; and
- o To fight against the chronic malnutrition of children and ensure that all children, including children living in rural areas, have access to quality health services.

Plan International 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 Mr President.