



**Save the Children**

United Nations Human Rights Council  
19<sup>th</sup> Session  
27 February – 23 March 2012  
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

## CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF ZIMBABWE

Madame President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children, on behalf of the Child Rights Coalition in Zimbabwe,<sup>1</sup> welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Zimbabwe, and the Government's acceptance of several recommendations relating to children's rights.

However, the Child Rights Coalition calls on the Government to address the following issues:

### *1. Child sexual abuse*

Recommendation 94.27 requires the establishment of a child-sensitive, accessible complaint mechanism, ensuring proper redress, rehabilitation and social reintegration, including for child victims of abuse.

The Child Rights Coalition calls on the government to ensure timely and appropriate support to child victims of abuse from case identification onwards; strengthen coordination mechanisms in responding to child abuse cases and undertake prevention programs on child abuse through the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

### *2. Birth registration*

Recommendation 94.30 requires the Government to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe, regardless of their parent's origin be issued with birth certificates.

The Child Rights Coalition calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to amend the relevant legislation and put an end to the problem of stateless children.

### *3. Access to quality education*

The Child Rights Coalition acknowledges and commends the government of Zimbabwe for accepting recommendations: 94.64; 93.66; 93.67; 93.68; 93.69; 93.70; 93.73 and 93.78 on improving the quality of education.

The Coalition calls on the Government to demonstrate its commitment through Action Plans and budgetary allocations to education to reach the poorest and most vulnerable children.

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<sup>1</sup> The Child Rights Coalition is chaired by Justice for Children with Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) being the secretariat. The other members of the Coalition are Save the Children, Plan International, Tusanani Cover Trust, Legal Resources Foundation, Child Protection Society, Childline, Streets Ahead, Children First, Traditional Medical Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe, CACLAZ, Chiedza Child Care Centre, Matthew Rusike Children's Home, Family Support Trust, SCOPE, Oasis Zimbabwe, REPSSI, Christian Care, Family Orphan Support Trust (FOST), Citizen Child, Justice AIDS Trust, ZICHISO, FCTZ, ZACRO and Scripture Union Zimbabwe.

#### *4. Children and the constitution*

The Child Rights Coalition welcomes the Government's acceptance of recommendation 93.4 regarding harmonization of laws and reiterate the importance of ensuring that children's rights are adequately articulated in the constitution.

Thank you.