

**United Nations Human Rights Council
22nd Session
March 2013
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports**

STATEMENT FROM WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF GHANA

Thank you Mr President,

World Vision International welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ghana. The recommendations from World Vision submitted in a report to the Ghana UPR process came from children themselves. A few key concerns include:

1) Protection of children

We welcome the recommendation from Luxembourg, calling upon the Government of Ghana to “Redouble efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of women and children”, as well as others in this respect. We would wish to highlight the need to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse, including social and economic exploitation. Whilst recognizing the limited access to technology, we call upon the Government to expedite efforts to establish a telephone hotline for child victims and informants in centralized areas, and to examine how this can eventually be established in the more remote areas of the country. We encourage the Government to implement the recommendation and allocate sufficient resources to this end.

2) Access to education

Mr. President, one of the children involved in the UPR process of Ghana was a 14 year-old girl from the north of Ghana. She told us that when she started school as a young child, her class was fifty percent female. By the time she was 10, only 4 girls were left in the class, the others having all been taken into domestic servitude. We welcome the recommendations made by Hungary and Bulgaria concerning equal access to education in all parts of the country, but consider that for the particular situation of girls in the north, it will be critical to address the cultural practice of fostering these girls into domestic servitude which effectively ends their education and leaves them in situations of exploitation and abuse.

World Vision would like to thank the Government of Ghana for taking the time to meet with the children involved and hearing their views, both here in Geneva and in Ghana. We look forward to the Government’s continued cooperation with us and other civil society organisations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you Mr President.