Save the Children

United Nations Human Rights Council
17th Session
30 May – 17 June 2011

Consideration of the UPR report of Mozambique

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Mozambique, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We call on the government to prioritise the following issues:

1. *Right to life/health*

Save the Children strongly supports recommendations 76 and 78 which call on the Government to disseminate and implement promptly the Plan to achieve MDGs 4 and 5, using a rights-based approach to maternal and child health. We call on the Government to take steps to implement the Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation to ensure that development cooperation is targeted towards programmes that can deliver quick and high impacts on implementing the rights of the child. These programmes should include social protection schemes, pursued immunization efforts, accelerated efforts to implement national breastfeeding policy and prenatal care.

2. *The right to be heard*

The Mozambican Constitution and the Government's 2010-2014 Five-Year Plan indicate and support child participation in the country. However, when it comes to the development of national plans such as the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan, children under the age of 18 are not involved, although they account for more than 50% of the Mozambican population.

Save the Children calls on the Government to take effective measures to ensure that all children's voices are heard, including those of children with disabilities, in accordance with Article 12 of the UN CRC, and that their voices are taken into account in the development of national plans, legislative and structural reform, and all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting children.

Save the Children appreciates and is looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you