

United Nations Human Rights Council
23rd Session
6 June 2013
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF ROMANIA

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 Romania and the acceptance of UPR recommendations, in particular on the establishment of an independent Ombudsman for Children, the prevention of infant mortality, the access to quality education, the support for children lacking identity papers and the protection of children against violence and discrimination.

1. The development of a clear and specific plan and the allocation of sufficient budget for the implementation of the UPR recommendations are crucial

Save the Children would like to highlight the importance to transform the UPR recommendations into realities for children. We thus call on the Romanian authorities to make all the necessary efforts to ensure the implementation of the recommendations and, in this regard, to develop a specific follow-up plan that sets clear, measurable and time-framed targets. The plan should clearly indicate the financial and human resources to be allocated for the proper implementation of the recommendations.

Among the commitments for the National Reform Programme made by Romania in front of the European Commission in April 2013 in the context of Europe 2020 strategy, there are several important policy developments concerning children that should be drafted before 2014. We thus urge the Government to ensure the incorporation of the UPR recommendations on children in the upcoming policy documents to be drafted, including amongst others the "National Strategy for protecting the child's rights 2014-2020", the "National Strategy on reducing early school leaving" and the "National Strategy for social inclusion and poverty reduction 2014-2020"¹. Special sections should also be developed within the upcoming "National Health Strategy 2014-2020" on "mothers and babies' health" (with focus on reducing infant mortality) and "mental health for children and adolescents".

The Government should ensure that the above mentioned strategies receive sufficient resources for their implementation and that not only the budgetary sources are enumerated, but also that the necessary amounts are clearly indicated, allocated and spent. In addition, these strategies should be developed in consultation with civil society organisations active in the area of children's rights.

¹ Romania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Main commitments for the national reform programme 2013; April 2013. Available online at http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nd/annex12013_romania_en.pdf

2. The appointment of a contact focal point for the UPR recommendations at national level is highly important

We call on the Government to appoint a national contact focal point for the UPR recommendations in order to strengthen the cooperation between public and nongovernmental sector in the UPR context, and to enhance the visibility of Government's actions and progress towards the implementation of UPR recommendations.

Thank you.