

**United Nations Human Rights Council
27th Session
18th June 2014
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports**

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF ALBANIA

Thank you Mr President,

World Vision International speaks on behalf of “Voice 16 +” and Peer Educator’s Group which are two Child Led Groups supported by Save the Children and World Vision. We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Albania in particular the recommendations relating to children’s rights.

We welcome the Government’s efforts to protect children’s rights and the acceptance of relevant recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children’s lives in Albania.

However, We would like to highlight the following key issues:

1. Inclusive Education

Concerning inclusive education, The child led groups welcome the acceptance of 8 relevant recommendations [104.91; 104.92; 104.102; 104.103; 105.5; 105.6; 105.34; 105.35], and notes that the Government is taking steps to address the education concerns such as approving the piloting in around 64 schools the Quality Standards for a Community School, out of the 1340 primary schools which do not currently meet quality requirements. However we would like to highlight that the government needs to allocate sufficient budgets to implement the recommendations, particularly through the need to increase the quality of teaching and the physical infrastructure in most of the schools to make them inclusive.

2. Protection against Violence

Concerning protection against violence including domestic violence, the child-led groups welcome the acceptance of 8 relevant recommendations [104.43; 104.44; 104.53; 104.65; 104.68; 105.6; 105.19; 106.10.] Again, whilst we welcome the developments of the National Action Plan to address Children in Street Situations, and the monitoring tool for the child protection unit, the government needs to allocate budgets for national awareness raising campaigns against violence and the need to report cases of abuse. In addition child protection services should be available all over the country. Emergency centers, rehabilitation and reintegration programs have to be budgeted and embedded in the social protection services as the Government of Albania is reforming its social protection services.

The child protection mechanism needs to be promoted, strengthened and made accessible for children. Currently these mechanisms cannot manage all cases due to the lack of resources.

We appreciate the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and we are looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you.