

### CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF NORWAY

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 Norway, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

However, Save the Children would like to highlight two issues:

***1. Signing and ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child***

UPR Recommendations 131.13, 131.15, 131.18, 131.20, call on Norway to sign and ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Save the Children regrets the Government's rejection of these recommendations. We believe that acceptance of these would significantly contribute to the overall protection of children's rights and strengthen the monitoring of the convention. Norway ratified the CRC in 1991 and it was incorporated into Norwegian national law in 2003. Signing and ratifying should be a logical and complementary step for the Norway to show its commitment towards children. We call on the Government to explain what Norway means by 'currently not being in a position to ratify OP3CRC' considering that the case is still under review.

***2. Protecting children from violence and sexual abuse***

UPR Recommendations 131.151, 131.158, 131.161 call on Norway to protect children from violence and sexual abuse.

Save the Children is concerned that the government did not make its position clear with regard to these recommendations that call on Norway to facilitate access to justice for children by making the services of the Children's Houses available and accessible to all victimized children up to the age of 18. Save the Children considers this child rights issue a priority in Norway as the annual reports of the Children's Houses and a 2012 national evaluation show that not all children who have been reported victims of violence or sexual abuse have access to or are referred to these Centres. One of the main barriers has been national regulations that limit the right to judicial examination to children below the age of 16. We call on the Government to ensure that the services of the Children's Houses will be available and accessible to all children regardless of age.

Thank you.