



United Nations Human Rights Council
29th session
25th June 2015
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF SPAIN

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children welcomes the Government's efforts to protect children's rights and the acceptance of UPR recommendations regarding child poverty and education. More than 2, 5 million children live under the poverty line and at risk of social exclusion in Spain. Policy reforms and budget cuts have had an adverse impact on children's rights, by limiting the capacity of State to provide basic services, including education, health and social services.

1. Child Poverty

We welcome the acceptance of Recommendations 131.122 and 131.123 related to impact assessments. We acknowledge that the draft Law on protection of children currently under debate at the Spanish Parliament establishes that all impact assessment reports accompanying any preliminary draft law or regulation will include the impact of the regulations on childhood and adolescence. Nevertheless it states that its entry into force will not entail an increase in the budgetary spending. We believe that a sufficient allocation of resources is crucial in order to allow an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the impact of regulations on children.

2. Right to Education

Save the Children welcomes the acceptance of Recommendations 131.142 to 131.145, related to the adequate funding of the education sector and the reduction of early dropouts. Under the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy, Spain has committed to reduce poverty and social exclusion. Initiatives to reduce early dropouts are an essential part of its efforts in this respect, and involve increasing the capacity of educational systems, ensuring an inclusive and high quality education for all children. The decrease of the budget of education and the measures of the Royal Decree-Law 14/2012 must be counterbalanced with an appropriate allocation of resources, and the European Social Fund can be resorted to for this end.

Moreover, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 131.146 to 131.151, on equal access to education for all children without discrimination, and call the Government to set up specific programs to ensure the full access and integration of children belonging to minorities and migrant children in the educational system.

Thank you