

UNICEF statement  
Adoption of UPR outcome for Ukraine  
16 March 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Mr. President,**

UNICEF welcomes recent progress towards the realization of child rights in Ukraine including the establishment of an Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Justice for Children and the current process of drafting a juvenile justice law in line with international standards. Recent efforts to reduce family separation and placement of children in residential care institutions are also to be commended.

However, UNICEF remains concerned with high numbers of children living in residential care (around 100,000 in 2016) as well as with the lack of safeguards to limit placement and insufficient quality services available to vulnerable families.

We are also concerned that children with disabilities represent an increasing proportion of children in institutions. The Government's initiative to support families of young children with special needs is therefore welcome and timely. We wish to point out however that it would need to be further linked with the promotion of inclusive education and other ongoing child welfare reforms.

Finally, while gender-based violence remains a major challenge, comprehensive measures to address violence against children are lacking.

**Mr. President,**

UNICEF remains fully committed to support the Government in addressing these challenges.

Thank you.