

**39th Session of the Human Rights Council
20th September 2018**

Consideration of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report of Bangladesh

Thank you, Mr President,

Save the Children is delivering this statement on behalf of the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh¹.

We welcome steps taken by the Government to realize the rights of all children in Bangladesh. To ensure full implementation of UPR recommendations on children, we encourage the Government to work closely with civil society in UPR follow-up. In particular, we call on the Government to take specific and time bound commitments under each UPR recommendation, to develop an action plan involving relevant ministries and to ensure space for civil society to engage in monitoring UPR implementation.

Moreover, we encourage the Government to prioritize the following UPR issues:

- Establishing a **comprehensive national system for the protection of children** to prevent and respond to violence against children (UPR recommendations 6.52);
- **Enacting legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings** (UPR recommendation 6.45,6.55);
- **Drafting Rules of Procedures for the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017** to clarify existing gaps in order to prevent misuse of the provision allowing marriage for children below the legal age in “special circumstances” (UPR recommendation 6.46);
- **Continuing to work with international community and Myanmar to find a sustainable solution enabling Rohingya refugees to return to their places of origin or preferred location in a voluntary, safe and dignified way** (UPR recommendation 6.166);
- Ensuring that all children in Bangladesh have their birth registered, including Rohingya refugee children in order to protect them from abuse, exploitation, abandonment, and other human rights violations (UPR recommendation 6.149);
- Increasing investment in **quality education for all** and extending compulsory primary school to at least 13 years of age (UPR recommendation 6.128, 6.129); and
- Implementing measures to eradicate **child labor** (UPR recommendation 6.150);

Thank you

On Behalf of Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh

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¹ Action Aid Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Child Rights Governance Assembly (CRGA), Education and Development Foundation-Educo, National Girls Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), Plan International Bangladesh, Save the Children in Bangladesh, Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH-NL), and World Vision Bangladesh.