



Philippine NGO Coalition on the UNCRC

United Nations Human Rights Council
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Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Madame President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children is making this statement on behalf of the Philippine NGO Coalition on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Philippine NGO Coalition welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Philippines, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome the Philippine Government's efforts to protect children's rights and the acceptance of UPR recommendations regarding extending the prohibition of corporal punishment in the home and family setting, provision of protective services and assistance to victims of trafficking especially young people, and measures to effectively implement the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. Implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources, will have a significant impact on children's lives in the Philippines.

However, the Philippine NGO Coalition also recognizes that there are other decisions which the government must take to secure the well-being of its children.

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol on a communication procedure

Recommendation 131.7 calls on the Philippine Government to consider an early ratification of the third optional protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

The Philippine NGO Coalition believes that the optional protocol will provide children in the Philippines full protection for their rights through an international mechanism that they can access when their rights are violated. We recognize the efforts of the government to put in place the necessary policy framework and mechanisms to protect children's rights. We believe that the communication procedure will complement the government's monitoring efforts and even further strengthen CRC implementation in the country. It is important to note that there are no other human rights complaints mechanisms that can sufficiently cover the whole range of children's rights and that have the expertise to look into child rights violations. The Philippine NGO Coalition believes that the optional protocol will contribute to raising international recognition of children as rights holders.