

## Human Rights Council

### Item 6 – General Debate

#### Mid-term UPR Report of the United Kingdom 19 September 2014

Mr President,

Save the Children welcomes the UK Government's decision to submit its mid-term report, engagement with stakeholders to date and the steps taken to address some of the UPR recommendations, for example, to reform the Children's Commissioner for England.<sup>1</sup>

However, we regret the report fails to offer a critical assessment of how far the UK has implemented recommendations in relation to children's rights.

For example, the UK accepted UPR recommendation 110.10 to take all measures necessary to fully implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It cites a number of steps taken but this does not present an accurate picture. The Ministerial commitment to give consideration to the CRC, for example, is welcome but implementation is patchy.<sup>2</sup>

For the CRC to be realised, children's rights and needs must be placed at the heart of government through an adequate institutional child rights infrastructure. In particular a senior Minister for children with responsibility for CRC implementation should be appointed and a mandatory, transparent system of child rights impact assessment should be introduced.

Mr President,

Save the Children welcome the acceptance of UPR Recommendation 110.41 to set out a clear path to end child poverty by 2020.

We are disappointed therefore that the UK does not take stock in the report of recent projections showing child poverty is set to rise.

The Child Poverty Strategy fails to adequately address the rising trends. Whilst it does contain some positive policy themes it is not cannot be considered a credible poverty reduction strategy.

We urge the UK Government to either recommit to the goal of ending child poverty by 2020 and develop a radical strategy or admit the target won't be met and outline what *can* be achieved by 2020

The UK Government must organise regular follow-up meetings with children's NGOs to ensure recommendations relating to children's rights are fully addressed before the UK's 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR in 2016.

Thank you Mr President.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 110.36: Adopt measures necessary to ensure the independence of the Commissioners in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica) and recommendation 110.38 Introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to give the Children's Commissioner for England an explicit role of promoting and protecting children's rights in line with the CRC and to make the Commissioner more independent from Government and more accountable to Parliament (Australia)