

United Nations Human Rights Council
25th session
20 March 2014
Item 6, Consideration of UPR reports

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF MEXICO

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Mexico, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

1. Constitutional and Legal Reform to strengthen the protection of children's rights

Save the Children welcomes the acceptance of recommendation 148.12, calling for the swift incorporation in the state and federal legislation of international instruments ratified by Mexico. We urge the Government to engage in a review and reform process of all legislation, including secondary laws, to ensure their compliance with international standards for children's rights, in line with the 2011 constitutional reform.

Save the Children is concerned that the government has not given a sufficiently clear position regarding the recommendation 148.3 on the ratification of the Third Optional to the UN CRC. We believe that this Protocol provides opportunities for children to be empowered and to seek international redress in cases where national systems fail. We call on the Government to take steps towards its speedy ratification.

2. Comprehensive System to Protect Children's Rights

Acceptance of recommendation 148.81 calling for a protection system for children's rights is critical to translate the commitments from the Mexican State for the protection of children's rights into reality. To effectively implement this system, Save the Children recommends the adoption of a Comprehensive Child Rights Act at federal level by 2016 to coordinate the actions across government ministries at all levels and to set clear roles and responsibilities of each competent authority. We also encourage the designation of a coordination body involving government officials and civil society in decision-making processes.

3. Institutions and Infrastructure strengthening for effective protection of children in migration contexts

Save the Children welcomes the acceptance of recommendation 148.146 which calls upon Mexico to improve conditions for vulnerable groups including migrants and children. We call on the Government to take the necessary measures to ensure that the rights of migrant children are fully respected through due legal process, identification of children and adolescent in need of asylum, independent guardians and lawyers accompanying children during the whole immigration procedure and implementation of open or semi open shelters, with special emphasis in avoiding detention of migrant children.

4. Reducing Maternal Mortality

UPR Recommendation 148.155 relates to the provision of quality prenatal, postnatal and obstetric quality health services in order to reduce maternal mortality rates. Save the Children considers this issue a priority since Mexico continues to face high mortality rates. In Guerrero and Chihuahua

states, mortality rates double the national average of 43 maternal deaths for every 100 thousand births and 54% of maternal deaths affect indigenous women in Oaxaca according to the Millennium Development Goals Information System. Save the Children calls on the Government to guarantee access to a universal health care service system prior to, during and after child delivery, especially for women and families with living conditions below the poverty line, to develop family planning policies and to ensure access to birth control methods.

Save the Children appreciates the Government's willingness to consult with civil society in the UPR process and is looking forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organisations in the follow-up to the UPR.

Thank you.