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Human Rights Council 10th Session

Agenda Item 6

UPR follow-up - Colombia

Joint Statement from World Vision International, Plan International, the International Save the Children Alliance and SOS Kinderdorf International

Thank you Mr. President,

World Vision International, Plan International, the International Save the Children Alliance, and SOS Kinderdorf International welcome Colombia's acceptance of many child rights recommendations.

Firstly, we note recommendation 65, which calls on Government to extend services for delivery of socio-economic and development aid into rural areas where particular concerns remain:

Limited State presence in rural areas limits identification and reporting of child sexual and physical abuse, therefore many cases go unrecorded and unpunished.

Recommendation 22 calls for increased efforts in this respect, to ensure effective data collection, and adequate reporting, policing & juridical measures, for these offences.

Colombia has accepted Security Council resolution 1612 on prevention and punishment of those who recruit children into armed forces. We call for immediate action on recommendation 19 requesting measures on the demobilization through to reintegration of child soldiers, and measures to address the underlying exclusion which make rural, indigenous, and other minority children vulnerable to recruitment.

We welcome Government commitments to MDGs on the health and education of children and acceptance of recommendations 57 and 58 on universal access to free and quality primary education, and call for measures to ensure access to health care and education in rural areas.

Colombia accepted recommendation 62 on ensuring effective national birth registration, through mobile registration units, and registration of those without documentation. We further recommend that registration fees be waived, and the possibility to register children in areas other than those of their birth be introduced. Communities must also be educated as to the importance of birth registration.

Lastly, we would request clarification on the rejection of recommendation 37c. This recommendation refers directly to CRC recommendations calling for an end to the participation of children in military training activities and school study visits to military bases. Considering the complementary relationship between UPR and Treaty Bodies, we question this rejection.

Thank you Mr. President