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**Save the Children**

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
17th Session  
30 May – 17 June 2011**

## **Consideration of the UPR report of Nepal**

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children is grateful to the Government of Nepal for accepting eight out of ten child rights related recommendations and welcomes the recent decision made by the Cabinet to declare all schools in Nepal as 'Zones of Peace', which, we believe, will be instrumental in keeping schools safe for children, and thus promote child rights, including child protection.

We call on the government to consider the following:

**1. Any form of violence against children and child recruitment to become punishable under domestic law**

Recommendation no. 107.18 calls on the Government to ensure that any form of violence against children and child recruitment becomes punishable under domestic law. The Government addresses this recommendation in its 'UPR Action Plan', stating that it will 'continue effectively implementing laws against violence against children and child recruitment'. Save the Children is, however, concerned that there does not exist any law that makes child recruitment a crime and hence punishable under the domestic legal system. We expect that this will be treated as a grave violation of child rights and will be made a punishable crime through the Children Related Bill that is in the drafting stage currently.

**2. Enactment of child policy legislations**

Recommendation no. 108.4 calls on the government to expedite the endorsement of long awaited child policy legislation and take necessary steps to ensure their full implementation. However, the government plan surprisingly does not mention the Child Rights Act in its UPR Action Plan, which we consider fundamental to guide all other policies. We are also concerned about the rather vague time frame for implementation of these plans as expressed in the wording 'due course of time'.

**3. Implementation of the recommendations**

Save the Children welcomes the frank attitude of the Government of Nepal towards child rights and the willingness it has shown to embrace child rights related policies and principles. However, in the past the government has not

been able to fully translate its pledges, policies and laws into practice, thus creating a significant gap between what exists on paper and what is actually delivered in reality. Save the Children would like to emphasise that the implementation of the plans and policies is as important as their formulation.

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

Thank you.