

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE UPR REPORT OF MONTENEGRO

Mr President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

Save the Children on behalf of the Informal Coalition of non-governmental organizations for Children's Rights in Montenegro welcomes the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Montenegro, and the Government's acceptance of UPR recommendations regarding: the strengthening of child rights institutions and strategies, the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law, the elimination of violence against children and corporal punishment and the improvement of the status of Roma children. Implementation of these recommendations, including through allocation of sufficient resources for their realization, will have a significant impact on children's lives in Montenegro.

However, the coalition would like to highlight the following key issues:

1. Birth registration

UPR recommendations n°119.10 and 119.11 call upon the Government of Montenegro to simplify the procedure for the birth registration of persons born outside health care institutions to contribute to the elimination of discrimination; and to guarantee that all children have access to it.

The procedure for subsequent entry in the Registry of birth of Roma children born outside a medical institution is burdened by complex procedures including the requirements for parents to provide proof of birth.

Criteria and regulations should be established in law to simplify the subsequent registration of children born outside of health facilities through a standardized process in all municipalities of Montenegro, building on best practices from the neighboring countries and on legislation and practices in the EU.

2. Child protection from violence in the family

The Coalition welcomes the government's acceptance of UPR recommendations n°117.41 and 117.42 on the issue of domestic violence.

Violence against children and among children continues to devastate the lives of many Montenegrin children and bold steps are needed to confront the challenge.

The coalition reiterates its call for a comprehensive child protection system, with monitoring mechanisms for cases of abuse, neglect and maltreatment against children in all settings. This should go alongside adequate investment in quality training and education on child protection of all professionals working with children and in the provision of continuous psychological support services and shelters for victims.

Thank you.