

## Defence for Children International (DCI)

Thank you Mr/Madam Chairperson,

We would like to thank the HRC for the chance to make this statement, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss substantive issues relating to violation of child rights in juvenile justice around the world:

- Public security and Deprivation of liberty

All children in conflict with the law should not be deprived of their liberty, in fact there is significant evidence that putting young people in lock settings thus not lead to safer communities. Studies indicate that youth who are locked up often become repeat offenders;

- Pre-trial detention

Judicial proceedings are often too lengthy and do not respect the due process of law and it is also reported that the majority of human rights violations occur during pre-trial detention;

- Conditions of detention

Detention conditions for children are often appalling: overcrowding, no separation from adults, no access to educational and vocational initiatives and situations of neglect and abuse

- The detention of migrant children

Despite the need to end the detention of child migrants, many children remain in immigration detention in unacceptable circumstances resulting in mental and physical health concerns, social isolation, and educational disadvantage

### **DCI would like to put forward some recommendations:**

- Deprivation of liberty must be a measure of very last resort and for the shortest period of time. Alternative measures must be enhanced and implemented by States with adequate resource allocations
- Extra-judicial procedures must be put in place on the ground and pre-trial detention must be avoided, along with arbitrary detention. The due process of law and free legal access must be guaranteed and the particular needs of children must be respected and seen to
- A justice system adapted to children must be put in place, to guarantee that the juvenile justice is built on a human rights based approach, whereby both children and adults are aware of their rights and apply them within the juvenile justice systems

- Detention of migrant children has no legal justification according to international standards and we urge States to reconsider their policies on this regard

Finally, the gulf between the CRC and the reality on the ground must be drastically reduced.

Thank you Mr/Ms Chairperson