

July 5, 2024

56th regular session of the Human Rights Council

Item 6: Adoption of the outcome documents of the UPR45 - Central African Republic

Mr. President,

Defence for Children International thanks the Central African delegation for its commitment to the UPR process and the approval of 238 out of 244 recommendations.

We applaud the government's efforts to implement recommendation 121.180, which resulted in the adoption of Law no. 20.014 of June 15, 2020 on the Child Protection Code in CAR. Notable advances have been made, such as the creation of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) and the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court.

However, we note that the national child protection policy is still awaiting validation. Furthermore, the functioning of the justice system is not in line with the provisions of the Child Protection Code. The Central African Republic must speed up the process of adopting the national policy once it has been updated, bring the Penal Code up to date in line with the provisions of the Child Protection Code, and build the capacity of those in charge of protection.

We urge the Central African State to implement all the UPR45 recommendations, in particular:

- No 114.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishing a communications procedure;
- Effectively implement the Child Protection Code, which provides the basis for resolving the challenges of birth registration and late registration;
- Accelerate operations aimed at the disarmament and demobilization of armed groups, and the reintegration of children into their families, while ensuring the best interests of these children;
- Ensure that all persons, including members of regular armed forces, who recruit children for use in armed conflict, are thoroughly prosecuted and that effective sanctions are imposed in practice, within the framework of national jurisdictions and the Special Criminal Court.

Thank you for your attention.