

Video Statement

55th regular session of the Human Rights Council 26 February 2024- 12 April 2024 Bangladesh- UPR Outcomes

Thank you, Mr. President,

Plan International delivers this statement on behalf of the Joining Forces Bangladesh and the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh¹.

We commend the Govt. of Bangladesh for accepting 211 recommendations out of 301 recommendations, particularly on strengthening the implementation of national action plans on gender-based violence, child marriage and disability, the elimination of child labour; adopting legislation to stop corporal punishment; operationalizing Child Marriage Protection Committees and establishing a monitoring mechanism; and equal access to and quality of education. We particularly applaud the State's commitment to allocating resources for some of these issues. We also take note of noted recommendations (90) on establishing a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up; developing and implementing comprehensive educational programmes on sexual and reproductive health; accelerating the drafting of a law on the rights of abandoned children; initiating legislative reforms that reduce existing inconsistencies in the definition of child labour; and amending the "special provision" under article 19 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act that are still pertinent to ensure children rights. We encourage the government to continue working on these issues.

We also acknowledge that the government has taken several initiatives to ensure child rights. However, we are concerned as children are still experiencing different forms of violence, their access to justice remains challenging and effective implementation of relevant laws and policies are not in place.

To ensure full implementation of UPR recommendations on children, we call upon the Bangladesh Government to publicly set out a comprehensive, measurable and time-bound action plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations, in cooperation and consultation with civil society and ensuring participation of children.

We thank you!

¹ Action Aid Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Child Rights Governance Assembly (CRGA), Education and Development Foundation-Educo, National Girls Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), Plan International Bangladesh, Save the Children in Bangladesh, SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh, Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH-NL), and World Vision Bangladesh