

45th Human Rights Council
Geneva, 14 September – 6 October 2020
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - General Debate

Madam President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau and its partner organizations from **Côte d’Ivoire**, **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine** take note of the candidacy of the 3 countries to the Human Rights Council for the period of 2021-2023. According to the General Assembly resolution 20/251 and the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, elections of members to the Council should take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and the Universal periodic review is based *inter alia* on their voluntary pledges and commitments as well as their dedication to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights¹. We encourage and call on **Côte d’Ivoire**, the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine** to take appropriate steps to implement previous UPR recommendations, and renew and extend their pledges towards the following issues:

Hence, we call on **Côte d’Ivoire** to:

- Relocate without further delay the Center for the Observation of Minors (COM) from the *Maison d’Arrêt et de Correction d’Abidjan (MACA)*;
- Effectively implement the newly adopted laws² aiming at improving the administration of justice, including juvenile justice;
- Ensure access to justice for children victims of sexual violence through a system allowing forensic expertise, psychological and legal support as well as the socio-economic reintegration of victims;

To the **Russian Federation**, we recommend to:

- Speed up the adoption process of a comprehensive law on domestic violence with prevention, care, support and counseling components as well as accessible and timely legal, psychotherapeutic, rehabilitation and reintegration services;
- Ensure access to inclusive education;
- Strengthen and speed up the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities process.

As for **Ukraine**, we call on the Authorities to:

- Take all necessary, practical and prompt steps to ensure the harmonization of the domestic legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), including the effective implementation of its article 35 on interviews of sexual abuse victims by developing interview rooms all over the country, specific training courses to professionals to conduct interviews, etc.);
- Develop long-term care, support, counseling and protection programs for families where children suffered violence, ill-treatment and neglect.

Thank you Madam President.

¹ Resolution 5/1 (Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council), Annex A para. 1 d) and Annex E para. 27 e).

² La loi n°2019-574 du 26 juin 2019 portant nouveau Code pénal (CP) et la loi n° 2018-975 du 27 décembre 2018 portant nouveau Code de procédure pénale (CPP) ; Loi n°2019-573 du 26 juin 2019 relative aux successions ; Loi n°2019-572 du 26 juin 2019 relative à la minorité ; Loi n°2019-571 du 26 juin 2019 relative à la filiation ; Loi n°2019-570 du 26 juin 2019 relative au mariage ; Loi n° 2018-975 du 27 décembre 2018 portant Code de procédure pénale (CPP) ; Loi n°2018-862 du 19 novembre 2018 sur l’état civil ; Loi n° 2018-863 de 19 novembre 2018 sur l’enregistrement des naissances.