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Geneva, 30 July 2014

RE: UN Treaty Event and 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you on behalf of Child Rights Connect, a network of 82 international, regional and national organisations with 30-year history of working for children’s rights in the United Nations. Starting in September 2013, Child Rights Connect launched “UP Child Rights”, a worldwide campaign promoting the universal ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its three Optional Protocols. Over the past year, thousands of people from more than 140 countries have come together in more than 10 languages to call for the universal ratification of all four of these UN child rights treaties.

As this year marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the CRC, we would like to call your attention to two opportunities for «statename» to publicly strengthen its commitment to children’s rights: the UN treaty event (23-25, 30 September and 1 October) and the high-level meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CRC (20 November). Both events will take place in New York.

We particularly acknowledge the commitment to promote and protect children’s rights that «statename» has already shown as a party to « treaty ratified and/or signed ».

While this is an important step, we urge «statename» to guarantee the complete range of rights for children by ratifying « treaty to be ratified/reservation to be removed ». By doing so «statename» will provide the full protection guaranteed in the four UN child rights instruments for children under its jurisdiction.

Both the annual UN Treaty Event, which is themed “Towards Universal Participation and Implementation”, and the high-level meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CRC will provide high exposure for States to show that they consider children to be a priority. We encourage «statename» to take advantage of these events to announce that it will take concrete steps to ensure that children fully enjoy their rights.

Child Rights Connect looks forward to hearing about «statename»'s plans of « ratification/withdrawal of reservation » and would be happy to provide more information on the four UN child rights instruments, the UN Treaty Event or the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, if needed.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Myers
Director
Child Rights Connect