

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE GHANA
DELEGATION, HON. ALIMAH MAHAMA (MP),
MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS
AT THE 41ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND, FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2006**

**The Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,
Members of the Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mr. Chairperson, before my presentation I wish to take this opportunity to render an apology for the late submission of the supplementary report. This was occasioned by a situation beyond our control.

I thank you for offering me the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of my country and I also congratulate you for the able manner you have steered affairs of this important Committee. I wish to thank the conference secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

I bring you and through you to this meeting warm greetings from the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor.

implementing programmes and projects, maintaining and collating data on women and children services.

The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs has also adopted measures to address women and children issues and these include:

- Strengthening the two policy-implementing agencies, Ghana National Commission on Children and National Council for Women and Development, to contribute meaningfully to issues concerning women and children.
- Drawing up programmes on child protection that will that is, building a solid knowledge of child protection situation programmes to integrate child protection concerns within the national policies, laws, regulations and activities, through capacity building of Gender Desk Officers of all Ministries and Departments.
- Promoting, advocating and supporting the enforcement of laws, formulation of policies and programmes that protect children from violence, abuse and neglect, exploitation and discrimination. One such initiative is the "Operation bring your child

A key institutional reform for the implementation of the CRC is the creation of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DVVSU) formerly WAJU in the Ghana Police Service. This unique Police Unit and the first of its kind in West Africa with branches in all the ten administrative regions of Ghana, was created solely to handle issues of children and women abuse and to bring the culprits to book while providing support to the victims.

The Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), a supra-ministerial and multi-sectoral body has also been established under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic to direct and co-ordinate programmes and activities of all stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This has made it possible to target services for children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. A new policy guideline on orphans and vulnerable children has been developed as part of the national response to HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are glad to report the following which are some of the activities towards the implementation CRC:

- Translation of the CRC and the Children's Act into six widely spoken local languages.

Police, Prisons, Teachers, etc.) and the issues incorporated in their training manuals.

- Introduction of psycho-socio counseling for child abuse victims.
- Establishment of career magistrate training institution with the objective of training quality judicial personnel to administer justice at the district courts, family tribunals and magistrate courts. This effort is expected to facilitate juvenile justice administration in the country.
- Active involvement of the communities in child rights promotion and protection through the establishment of Child Protection Teams. The community teams also engage in skills enterprises to build and develop the capacities of families and the communities as a whole for the care and support of their children.
- Operationalisation of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Policy through the setting up of an ECCD Secretariat and establishment of the National ECCD Coordinating Committee. The mandate of the Committee is to advise MOWAC on the effective implementation of the policy as well as

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Mr. Chairperson,

Ghana's achievement would not have been possible without the political commitment, support from all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and our development partners.

May I use this occasion to express Ghana's sincere appreciation for the support we have received from our partners especially, UNICEF, Save the Children UK, DANIDA, ILO-IPEC, UN systems operating in Ghana, and other bilateral and multilateral organizations, for their support which has brought us this far in our efforts to implement the CRC.

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you all for your attention.