

**Statement of Ms. Nina Karpachova  
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Human Rights Council Annual full-day meeting on the Rights of the Child  
Geneve, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Dear ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear children participants,**

Street children are children without the future. The street makes children a merchandise and subjects them to the gravest forms of exploitation.

The eyes of the children separated from their homes in the result of the military conflicts is a reproach to all of us. Despite internal problems my country – Ukraine – has accommodated such children from Afghanistan and Somalia.

But it is especially worrisome when street children become a common phenomenon in the peaceful conditions. First of all, this is the scourge of the countries in the periphery of the capitalism.

Over the past twenty years as a result of a liberal market reforms Ukraine has faced problems connected with poverty, unemployment, human trafficking and neglected children.

Ukraine has a Law for the protection of neglected children, an ongoing 6-year-old State Program and well founded centers of social protection of street children. However, despite the first positive signs of reducing the number of such children, the problem has been aggravated by the global financial and economic crises.

A comprehensive analyses of the mentioned problems and recommendations to address them have been included in the Special Report of the Ombudsman “The State of Observance and Protection of the Rights of the Child in Ukraine” dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Ukraine. The Report is based on the analysis of the applications by children to the Ombudsman of Ukraine, which allowed to take into account their views. The Report is available at the site of the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Council for Human Rights (A/HRC/16/NI/5).

We also have to think who is going to convey the voice of the street children, children without any voice? It gives a special importance to the role of the NHRIs on the national as well as international level.

I welcome the preparation of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the right to petition.

I believe it to be important to suggest as a recommendation of our meeting to include data on children living and/or working on the street to the state statistics of the Member States.

In the conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to the High Commissioner and the ICC for their active cooperation in protecting human rights, in particular the rights of the child.

Thank you for attention.