

## **Human Rights Council 13<sup>th</sup> session**

### **Statement by Norway**

**11 March 2010**

#### **Interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children, Marta Santo Pais.**

Norway wishes to congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on presenting her first report to the Human Rights Council.

We are aware that the setting up of the office of the SRSG has been challenging. In spite of this, the report confirms that Ms Santos Pais has been actively reaching out in this initial phase of her mandate – and building important alliances.

The key task ahead is to translate such alliances and partnerships into concrete action in key priority areas, based firmly on the recommendation of the Violence Study.

We welcome the strong emphasis that is put on advocacy work for the development of national legislation to protect children from violence. Prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment and harmful traditional practices is an essential step towards ending all forms of violence against children.

We encourage the SRSG to continue to work closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict, as well as with all relevant UN agencies. Continued cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child is of particular importance. The Committee plays a key role monitoring States' implementation of the Convention and the recommendations of the Violence Study.

Norway commends the SRSG for her strong emphasis on child participation. The involvement of children and young people is essential in the continued promotion of actions to address violence against children.

The successful fulfillment of the mandate of the SRSG depends on the scale of support provided, both financial and political. Having a sufficient level of financial support is a prerequisite for setting up an independent and efficient office. Again, we encourage all governments to provide contributions to the UNICEF administered Trust Fund so as to ensure the success of the mandate.

Thank you.