STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE MEETING ON
A.I. 65(A)(B) "PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN"
18 OCTOBER 2013

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Mr. Chairman,

Aligning itself with the statement made by the European Union earlier in the course of this debate the Delegation of Ukraine would like to intervene in its national capacity.

At the outset I would like to thank Anthony Lake for introducing the Secretary-General’s reports on “Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”; “The girl child”; “Collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection”; and “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children”. Our appreciation also goes to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for presenting their respective annual reports.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine strongly believes that full and effective implementation of the obligations undertaken by Member States in accordance with the basic documents in the field of children’s rights must be a priority on national, regional and international levels. We deem it necessary to increase Member States’ commitment through acceding to and effectively implementing relevant universal and regional instruments, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the three Optional Protocols thereto, the Council of Europe Conventions on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and on Cybercrime.

Ukraine undertakes efforts to bring the national child protection legislation in full compliance with international and European standards by accessing relevant international treaties and further adjusting and systematically reforming national laws on this matter.

In recent years, a number of State programs, aimed at enhancing the protection of the children's rights, have been implemented in Ukraine, in particular, on overcoming children's homelessness and neglect; family support; combating human trafficking; reforming the system of
institutions for orphans and children, deprived of parental care. These measures have significantly improved the situation with children’s homelessness, neglect and deprival of parental care.

There has been an increase in the number of such children being adopted by Ukrainian citizens in foster families and family-type homes. In August 2011 the Office of the Ombudsman for Children was established in Ukraine to ensure the proper execution of the Constitutional powers by the President of Ukraine in the field of securing children’s Constitutional rights, as well as consistent implementation of the international obligations in this sphere. Another body - the Public Advisory Council on Child Protection, was created at the Administration of the President of Ukraine with the status of the consultative working group, which is now contributing to the proper protection of children’s rights in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the priorities of the Government of Ukraine is the creation of favorable conditions for the full development of children and their social and legal protection, including by means of the "National Action Plan to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child" for the period up to 2016, as well as follow-up tasks to the concluding observations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation by Ukraine of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

According to the Presidential Decree, 2013 is the Year of Children’s Art in Ukraine. The purpose of the events and activities organized in this framework is to encourage creative, intellectual, spiritual and physical development of children and support talented and gifted kids. Another Presidential Decree adopted this year on additional measures to ensure the realization of the rights of children pays special attention to orphans; children form incomplete families and families with low income.

Ukraine attaches great importance to the intensification of common efforts by the UN and regional organizations aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of children. As the OSCE 2013 Chairmanship, Ukraine makes protection of the rights of the child one of its priorities. In that context, the OSCE Youth Summit, organized by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship was held in the International Children’s Center “Artek” in Crimea, Ukraine in July - August 2013. The event contributed to promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, respect for diversity, peaceful development and friendship among more than 500 young people from across the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine commends the work of the UNICEF and other specialized UN agencies in the field of promotion and protection of the rights of children. We highly appreciate the support being provided by the UNICEF to Ukraine aimed at creating favorable environment for children, especially for those in need.

Ukraine stays further fully committed to this highly important matter on the UN agenda.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.