20 November - Day of the rights of the child

A new milestone for children's rights

Terre des Hommes welcomes the ratification by the German Parliament of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Osnabrück 19, November 2012 - The international child rights/children’s aid organisation welcomes the rapid ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the German Parliament as a milestone for children’s rights. As third state to ratify the Protocol, after Gabon and Thailand, Germany opens the opportunity for children to submit complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding violations of their rights, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"By ratifying the protocol Germany strengthens the position of children as rights holders and hopefully sends a strong signal to other states to ratify the Protocol" explains Danuta Sacher, CEO of Terre des Hommes Germany. The protocol will enter into force for Germany three months after the tenth state has ratified it. "The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its implementing mechanisms should have a central place in law education as well as in schools. This is an important task for the Federal, State and local governments, " she added.