

20 December 2013
Ref. ALB/13/072

Mrs. Elma Tërshana
Executive Director
Observatory for Children's Rights

Subject: National Council for Protection of Children's Rights

Dear Mrs. Tërshana,

I wish to confirm UNICEF's strong support for the application by the Observatory for Children's Rights to become a member of the National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights.

UNICEF has been supporting the Observatory for Children's Rights as a specialist structure in the twelve regions of Albania for many years. The Observatory assembles and analyses local and regional data, to aid the decisions of local, regional and national government institutions. In our view, the Observatory has made significantly contributed to creating evidence for improved policy making for the benefit of children. We believe that the National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights will greatly benefit from the experience and the work of the Observatory, and its professionalism in handling and analysing data related to children's wellbeing.

For the last years, the Observatory has been producing studies or reports of high quality. Importantly, the studies reflect local knowledge of virtually all communes in the country. This has been made possible by the professionalism and diligence of its staff, including the excellent relationship that Observatory staff enjoys with the government counterparts within the regions and districts. Your presence in all regions and local knowledge is a strength that will help the National Council to focus on where the biggest issues related to children are.

The Observatory has managed to demonstrate that children's rights are everybody's business, and that the concern for children must transcend administrative and political boundaries. In this regard, UNICEF has appreciated your always constructive and balanced engagement. We trust that your contributions to the development of social protection and child protection policy will be well recognized also in the National Council.

UNICEF has supported the Observatory first as a project under the Albanian Children's Alliance (ACA). Because of its successful work, the Observatory has transformed in an entity in its own right, allowing it to fully focus on the analysis for child wellbeing throughout Albania.

Yours sincerely,



Detlef Palm
UNICEF Representative