



**IDA's Compilation of Disability
Related Extracts of Concluding
Observations of the Committee on
the Rights of the Child**

**CRC Committee's 90th session
(03 May 2022 - 03 Jun 2022)**

Committee on the Rights of the Child - 90th session - 2022	
Total number of Concluding Observations	12
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	12
Percentage of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	100%
Number of recommendations including explicit references on disability	128

CAMBODIA - CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6

CANADA - CRC/C/CAN/CO/5-6

CHILE - CRC/C/CHL/CO/6-7

CUBA - CRC/C/CUB/CO/3-6

CYPRUS - CRC/C/CYP/CO/5-6

DJIBOUTI - CRC/C/DJI/CO/3-5

GREECE - CRC/C/GRC/CO/4-6

CROATIA - CRC/C/HRV/CO/5-6

ICELAND - CRC/C/ISL/CO/5-6

KIRIBATI - CRC/C/KIR/CO/2-4

SOMALIA - CRC/C/SOM/CO/1

ZAMBIA - CRC/C/ZMB/CO/5-7

Official versions of Concluding Observation are available on the website devoted to the session [here](#).

CAMBODIA - CRC/C/KHM/CO/4-6

Allocation of resources

9. Recalling its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations¹ and urges the State party to:

(c) Conduct regular assessments of the distributional impact of government investments in sectors supporting the realization of children's rights and identifying measures to address any disparities between girls and boys, with particular attention to children with Disabilities, children belonging to minority groups and children living in poverty;

Data collection

10. The Committee welcomes the creation of the child protection information management system in 2019 and recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure that data collected on children's rights covers all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, disaggregated by age, sex, Disability, nationality, geographic location, ethnic origin and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, especially in the areas of violence, children with Disabilities, health, children in street situations, child labour and child justice;

Non-discrimination

15. The Committee remains deeply concerned about the persistence of disparities in the enjoyment of rights among children in vulnerable situations and discriminatory gender stereotypes, as reflected in the code of conduct for women (*Chhap Srey*). Taking note of target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations² and urges the State party to:

(a) Address disparities in access to all public services by girls, children in rural areas, children with Disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, children without parents, children living in poverty, children in street situations, children belonging to minority or indigenous groups, children of Vietnamese origin, Khmer Krom children and children with HIV/AIDS, and regularly evaluate the enjoyment by these children of their rights;

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

24. The Committee remains deeply concerned about reports of abuse and ill-treatment, including "shackling", of children with Disabilities and children in detention, including in drug rehabilitation and youth centres. Drawing attention to target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recalls its previous recommendations³ and recommends that the State party:

Children deprived of a family environment

¹Ibid., para. 17.

²Ibid., para. 29.

³Ibid., para. 39.

31. While welcoming the measures taken to replace institutionalization with family-based care and monitor the quality of care in residential settings, the Committee remains deeply concerned about the large number of children living in residential care.

32. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Phase out institutionalization and support and prioritize family-based care for children wherever possible, including for children with Disabilities, and strengthen the foster care system for children who cannot stay with their families;

G. Children with Disabilities (art. 23)

35. Noting with deep concern the discrimination and violence faced by children with Disabilities and the potential negative impact of draft legislation on their rights, and with reference to its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with Disabilities, the Committee recalls its previous recommendations⁴ and further urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure that draft legislation affecting children with Disabilities, including the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with Disabilities and the draft public order law, are based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and prohibit all forms of discrimination and violence against children with Disabilities;

(b) Establish monitoring mechanisms to enforce laws, regulations and policies that protect the rights of children with Disabilities, including from discrimination;

(c) Develop an efficient system for early detection, intervention and support for children with Disabilities, including those with psychosocial Disabilities and migrant children, in all provinces;

(d) Intensify awareness-raising campaigns targeted at government officials, families and the general public in order to combat stigmatization and discrimination against children, including girls, with Disabilities, and to promote a positive image of children with Disabilities as rights holders;

(e) Expeditiously establish a national database on children with Disabilities.

Health and health services

36. The Committee welcomes the progress in reducing the under-5 mortality rate but is concerned about regional disparities in child mortality rates and access to health services. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Prioritize measures to improve access to quality health services, in particular in rural areas and for children with Disabilities, children belonging to minority groups and migrant children, and ensure that all health facilities have adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities;

Education, including vocational training and guidance

41. The Committee is deeply concerned about the following:

(c) That the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with Disabilities proposes segregated classes for some groups of children with Disabilities;

⁴Ibid., para. 52.

42. Recalling its previous recommendations,⁵ the Committee takes note of targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (d) Amend the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with Disabilities, with a view to guaranteeing the right of all children with Disabilities to inclusive education, and ensure their access to quality inclusive education in mainstream schools with individual support by specialized staff and reasonable accommodation for their educational needs;
- (e) Combat bullying, including cyberbullying, in schools, especially of children in disadvantaged socioeconomic situations, children belonging to minority groups, children with Disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and ensure that such measures encompass prevention, early detection mechanisms, the empowerment of children and intervention protocols;
- (g) Ensure that education, including vocational training, is accessible to children with Disabilities, children in street situations, children belonging to minority groups and early school-leavers;

CANADA - CRC/C/CAN/CO/5-6

Allocation of resources

10. The Committee welcomes the introduction of gender budgeting at the federal level. Recalling its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights and taking note of target 16.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee **recommends that the State party**

(c) Define budgetary lines for all children, with special attention to those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures such as children of Indigenous, African-Canadian, or other minorities and children with Disabilities, and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters, or other emergencies

Data collection

11. While noting the existence of thirteen unique data regimes using different techniques, definitions and technologies making aggregation and comparison of data difficult and recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve its data collection system at the federal level in order to allow nationwide comprehensive monitoring of the rights of children and ensure that such data covers all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, with data disaggregated by age, sex, Disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;

Non-discrimination

17. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

⁵ Ibid., para. 66.

(b) The apparent disparities in the treatment of children and their rights within the different regions and territories, especially with regards to children with Disabilities, migrant children, children of ethnic minorities and others

18. Taking note of targets 5. 1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party put an end to structural discrimination against children belonging to Indigenous groups and African-Canadian children and address disparities in access to services by all children, including those in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, such as Indigenous children, children with Disabilities, migrant children, children of ethnic minorities and others.

F. Children with Disabilities (art. 23)

3. Recalling the Committee's general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with Disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to continue its efforts to implement a human rights-based approach to Disability, and ensure that inclusion of children with Disabilities is prominent in its work towards a barrier-free Canada through the implementation of the Accessible Canada Act and:

(a) Continue to compile data on children with Disabilities to inform policies and programmes for them and develop an efficient and harmonized system for Disability assessment in order to facilitate access for children with all types of Disabilities to accessible services, including to education and health, social protection and legal services, in particular those living in rural areas and on reserves;

(b) Strengthen measures for ensuring inclusive education across all provinces and territories, including by adapting curricula and training and assigning specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes;

(c) Strengthen support provided to children with Disabilities and their families, in particular in Indigenous communities, with all necessary services and quality care in order to ensure that financial constraints are not an obstacle in accessing services and that household incomes and parental employment are not negatively affected;

(d) Strengthen measures to ensure that children with Disabilities, in particular in Indigenous communities, have access to available, accessible and quality health care, including early detection and intervention programmes within their communities;

(e) Ensure the meaningful participation of Indigenous children with Disabilities, in particular those living on reserves, in the design and implementation of standards and programmes, and provide with the necessary human, technical and financial resources for its application.

Health and health services

34. Noting with concern that in some provinces children's eligibility for public healthcare is linked to the immigration status of their parents, recalling its general comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and taking note of targets 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take steps to

(b) Promptly address the disparities in health status of Indigenous children, African-Canadian children, children with Disabilities, children living in remote or rural areas and children in alternative care

Standard of living

38. The Committee welcomes the steps taken to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for First Nations communities and to work more closely with the communities to address the issue, but regrets that there remain many Indigenous children that lack access to sustainable safe drinking water. In addition, the Committee notes with concern that:

39. Taking note of targets 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Strengthen measures, including time-lines and priorities to achieve its targets to end homelessness of children and to progressively guarantee all children from low-income families stable access to adequate and affordable long-term housing that provides physical safety, adequate space, protection against the threats to health and structural hazards, including cold, damp, heat and pollution, and accessibility for children with Disabilities;

Education, including vocational training and guidance

40. In line with its previous concluding observations and taking note of targets 4.1, 4.6, 4.a, 4.b and 4.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, **the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(d) Collect data disaggregated by race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, ethnicity, immigration status, Disability, and socioeconomic background on disciplinary measures across provincial and territories, in order to monitor and track the impact of measures to reduce discriminatory effects of disciplinary procedures and develop targeted measures to address systemic discrimination in all levels of compulsory education;

CHILE - CRC/C/CHL/CO/6-7

Data collection

9. While noting improvements on the availability of statistical information concerning children including in the Law of Guarantees, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a co-ordinated and integrated system of childhood statistics, with comprehensive and disaggregated data. The Committee reiterates its previous observation and recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, disability, socio-economic situation, nationality, ethnic origin, indigenous descent, rural/urban context, migration status and geographical location for all areas of the Convention;

Non-discrimination

13. Recalling target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Ensure that children can effectively in practice access education and health services, particularly children with disabilities, indigenous, asylum-seeking, migrant and LGBTI children;

Children deprived of a family environment

24. While noting the closure of some large residential centres, the increase in the number of children under the care of a family, and the actions taken by the State party to address the systematic violations of children's rights in its care, the Committee remains deeply concerned about:

(g) The quality of care provided in residential centres, particularly concerning health and mental health care and care for children with disabilities

25. The Committee recalls its previous recommendations and urges the State party to:

(a) Speed up the establishment of the new Child Protection Administration based on a new model of recruitment, selection, continuous training of all staff and managers who work in residences and in detention centres;

(b) Prioritise resources to close large residential centres and allocate adequate funds towards families to promote and support care in a family environment and family reunification;

(c) Implement clear management of the individual cases of children in need of care giving priority to the best interests of each child, including during judicial proceedings;

(d) Further strengthen its system of foster care, with a view to ending the institutionalization of young children;

(e) Ensure that children in residential care and mental health institutions have access to justice, including quality legal assistance that considers them as subjects in judicial proceedings and that decisions made about them can be reviewed;

(f) Strengthen the complaints mechanism to ensure its confidentiality and the anonymity of complainants; and publish the number of complaints received, outcome of investigations and the penalties applied;

(g) Investigate and redress the systematic violations made by public officials and workers of private organisations subsidized by the State against children;

(h) Prevent frequent transfers of children in alternative care settings, provide timely mental health care and regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of care in alternative care centres;

(i) Adopt a plan of action (with diagnosis, identification of coverage gap, special case management processes, remedies and deadlines) to address the waiting lists of outpatient programs for children under care;

(j) Promptly implement the recommendations made by the Committee in its inquiry report to Chile (CRC/C/CHL/IR/1, paras. 119-132) and inform the Committee of the measures taken up to now; (k) Strengthen, including through increased funding, measures aimed at providing education, skills and opportunities for independent living for children leaving alternative care

G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

28. While noting the inclusive education act of 2015, the Committee is concerned about its lack of implementation and the high level of children with a disability that remain out of school. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including mental health, early detection, intervention programmes and orthopaedic and other assistive devices;**
- (b) Enact strict regulations to prohibit forced sterilization of girls with disabilities and put systems in place to ensure it does not take place in the future;**
- (c) Ensure that all children with disabilities, including those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, have access to and benefit from inclusive education at all levels;**
- (d) Implement a plan and develop measures for ensuring inclusive education at all levels, including by adapting curricula and training and assigning specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes so that children with learning difficulties receive individual support and due attention;**
- (e) Collect and publish disaggregated data on the situation of children with disabilities;**
- (f) End the practice of institutionalization of children with disabilities.**

Education, aims of education and human rights education

33. Welcoming the increased public spending on education and the first National Public Education Strategy 2020-2028, the Committee is concerned about the high share of students having no access to online schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic and, recalling its previous recommendations, recommends that the State party;

- (b) Provide free education and further improve accessibility and quality of education, and provide quality training for teachers, with particular emphasis on students with disabilities and in rural areas**

CUBA - CRC/C/CUB/CO/3-6

Respect for the views of the child

20. The Committee welcomes the recognition of children as subjects of rights in article 86 of the 2019 Constitution and notes the instruction 216/2012 of the People's Supreme Court on hearing children's views during judicial proceeding. Recalling its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (c) Promote the meaningful participation of all children within the family, communities and schools and include them in decision-making in all matters related to children, including legislative processes, with a particular attention to girls, children living in poverty, and children with disabilities.**

G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

37. Noting the prohibition of discrimination based on disability in article 42 of the 2019 Constitution, recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, including those placed in the alternative care system and medical institutions;

(b) Put in place specific legislation, appropriate policies and programmes to protect children with disabilities and to facilitate access for children with all types of CRC/C/CUB/CO/3-6 9 disabilities to inclusive education and health services, social protection, sports facilities and programmes and to the arts and culture.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

43. The Committee commends the State party for its commitment to free universal education, which is reflected in a literacy rate of 99.8 per cent. However, the Committee remains concerned about the still high number of children with disabilities in the special education regime; the limited measures taken by the State party to promote inclusive education as the main education model as well as the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

44. Recalling its previous recommendations and taking note of target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Set up comprehensive measures to promote inclusive education and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools, ensuring that schools are equipped with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities;

(b) Train and assign specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes providing individual support and tailored assistance to children with disabilities;

CYPRUS - CRC/C/CYP/CO/5-6

Allocation of resources

10. The Committee notes the explanation by the State party about the difficulties and delays in the implementation of budget reforms providing for allocations for children by 2021. Recalling its general comment No. 19 (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party take advantage of its new financial framework to

(b) Define budget lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities, children belonging to minorities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies

Data collection

11. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) and previous recommendations (para. 18), the Committee urges the State party to establish a centralised comprehensive system for data collection on children's rights that covers all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, and

to strengthen data collection and analysis with regard to children with disability, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, child victims of crimes and in relation to access to social, welfare and healthcare services.

Independent monitoring

12. The Committee welcomes the appointment, in 2019, of the Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and the Law Commissioner, and the creation of four posts and a separate budget line for the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2002), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure that all relevant professionals receive mandatory training on the rights of the child and the rights of the children requiring special protection, including children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, and child victims of crime;

Dissemination, awareness-raising and training

13. The Committee, while noting the awareness-raising efforts and training targeting professionals in various areas, recommends that the State party

(b) Ensure that all relevant professionals receive mandatory training on the rights of the child and the rights of the children requiring special protection, including children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, and child victims of crime;

Cooperation with civil society

14. The Committee welcomes the State party's support to civil society, including the Grants-in-Aid Scheme, **and recommends that the State party systematically involve all children's groups and NGOs working for children, including children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children and reporting to the Committee.**

Non-discrimination

17. The Committee welcomes the adoption and implementation in schools of the Code of Conduct against Racism and Guide for Managing and Recording Racist Incidents and the measures taken to improve access to education and healthcare for children in situations of vulnerability. However, it remains concerned about the lack of:

(d) Access to inclusive, mainstream and non-segregated education for children with disabilities, children belonging to minorities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families, children in alternative care, Roma children and other children in situations of vulnerability.

18. Recalling SDG targets 5.1 and 10.3 and its previous recommendations (para. 22), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Collect data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, to assess the magnitude of discrimination against children on various grounds;

(f) Intensify its measures to ensure that children with disabilities, children belonging to minority groups, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families, children in alternative care, Roma children and other children in situations of vulnerability have access to healthcare, social services and inclusive and mainstream education, and ensure regular and systematic monitoring and impact assessment of the measures taken

Children deprived of a family environment

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a legal framework on child protection;
- (b) Insufficient capacity of Social Welfare Services to address the needs of children in the context of family separation;
- (c) The lack of data on children in alternative care;
- (d) The possibility for the parents to place their children in “private foster care” without proper assessment of the foster family by the Social Welfare Services and the determination of the child’s best interests;
- (e) The lack of regulation and monitoring of institutional and family-based childcare facilities;
- (f) Insufficient support of foster families;
- (g) The lack of support programmes for children in care, including for children with behavioural difficulties;
- (h) Insufficient information on children leaving care.

28. Drawing the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (c) Collect data on children in alternative care, including “private foster care,” disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability and form of care, and, based on its assessment, develop a deinstitutionalisation strategy and action plan, including systemic transformation of the childcare, welfare and protection systems, and allocate adequate resources for its implementation;**
- (e) Ensure that children are only separated from their family if it is in their best interests and after a comprehensive assessment of their situation and that poverty, disability or ethnic origin are never the sole justification for family separation;**

G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

30. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) The medical approach to disability in the legislation and practice, including the New Assessment Procedures of Disability and Functionality (ICF), which leads to the exclusion of children with disabilities, including from mainstream education, and perpetuates stigma;
- (b) The absence of a uniform definition of disability which makes children undergo several assessments, with ensuing distress, and limits access to financial assistance;
- (c) High rates of institutionalisation among children with disabilities, while parents lack support to care for their children;
- (d) The lack of access to public healthcare, including early detection and rehabilitation, forcing parents to cover the costs of private healthcare services;

(e) Barriers to participation for children with disabilities and the absence of an organisation representing them;

(f) Insufficient data on children with disabilities to assess the enjoyment of the rights under the Convention.

31. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006), the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

(a) Harmonize national legislation with the human rights model of disability and revise the assessment procedures of disability accordingly;

(b) Adopt a uniform definition of disability in compliance with the CRPD Convention;

(c) Strengthen support for the parents of children with disabilities and ensure the right of those children to grow up in their family environment, including by increasing the availability of early care, home nursing and relief services, providing timely and adequate socioeconomic support to all children with disabilities, regardless of the type of disability, and improving outreach to parents about the services available;

(d) Ensure access to timely and affordable healthcare, including by providing early detection, intervention and rehabilitation programmes, creating a network of community and outpatient health-care services, training and ensuring an adequate number of healthcare personnel;

(e) Ensure and promote opportunities for children with disabilities to express their views on matters affecting them, including at school, and have their views taken into account; tackle stigma affecting the participation of children with disabilities; and support the establishment of an organisation representing them;

(f) Organize the collection of data on children with disabilities, with a view to informing its policies and programmes and facilitating access for children with disabilities to services, including education, health, social protection and support.

Standard of living

34. The Committee notes with concern the increased child poverty and risk of poverty and social exclusion as a result of the 2013 economic crisis and its lasting effects. Recalling SDG targets 1.1-1.3, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure that children and their families in situations of vulnerability receive adequate financial support and free, accessible services without discrimination, with particular attention to children with disabilities, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children and single-parent families, and review its legislation, including the Guaranteed Minimum Income Law, social and welfare policies and support accordingly;

Education, including vocational training

36. The Committee welcomes the efforts undertaken to strengthen the quality of and access to education for all children and to promote tolerance and respect for diversity, including the Strategic Plan for the Inclusion of Children of a Migrant Origin and the National Strategy for Preventing and Addressing School Violence (2018-2022). Recalling SDG targets 4.1-4.5 and 4.a and its previous recommendations (paras. 39, 45), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Continue to ensure access to quality, holistic and non-segregated education at all levels for all children in situations of vulnerability, including children with disabilities, Roma children, children belonging to ethnic minorities, asylumseeking, refugee and migrant children, children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and children in alternative care;

(c) Collect and analyse data on school dropout and children out of school, disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, geographic location and socio-economic situation, with a view to informing its policies and strategies;

(d) Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools, including by aligning the legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enshrining the right to education for children with disabilities, adopting a targeted and adequately funded action plan; providing pre-service and in-service training to teachers; and ensuring reasonable accommodation in terms of infrastructure, teaching support, materials and methods and individualised education plans;

(h) Monitor and evaluate its educational reforms, on a regular basis and with the participation of children, and ensure that children's views are heard and taken into account in accordance with their age, the level of maturity and development, and provide other meaningful opportunities for children to participate in matters relating to education, including disciplinary and complaints procedures, with particular attention to children with disabilities, refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children;

DJIBOUTI - CRC/C/DJI/CO/3-5

Data collection

10. The Committee regrets the lack of public and updated disaggregated data on children's rights, with most information provided in the State party report referring back to 2012-2014. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the National Institute of Statistics to expeditiously improve its data collection system and ensure that data collected on children's rights covers all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;

Non-discrimination

15. Taking note of targets 5. 1 and 10.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/DJI/CO/2, para. 27), the Committee urges the State party to strengthen its measures to guarantee in practice the principle of non-discrimination to all children, in particular girls, children without birth registration, children with disabilities, children in street situations, refugee and migrant children, child victims of violence and abuse, and children in the justice system, paying particular attention to ensuring their equal access to health, education, social protection services and freedom from violence.

G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

32. With reference to its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and further urges to:

(a) Continue to compile disaggregated data on children with disabilities to inform policies and programmes and develop an efficient and harmonized system for disability assessment in order to facilitate access for children with all types of disabilities to accessible services, including to education and health, social protection and legal services, in particular the children living in rural areas and those living in refugee camps;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities receive an inclusive quality education in mainstream school settings, including children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and with visual or hearing impairment, and ensure that schools are equipped with specially trained teachers and professionals, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities;

(c) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of them as rights-holders;

(d) Ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities is included into policies and programmes on the rights of the child;

(e) Take measures to ensure that children with disabilities exercise their right to express their views freely on matters affecting them, and to provide them with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize this right.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

39. While taking note of targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.a and 4.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide equal access to free quality primary and secondary education to all girls and boys, especially nomadic, migrant and refugee children and children with disabilities;

(d) Address inequalities generated by the COVID-19 crisis during home schooling, including by ensuring the availability of computer equipment and sufficient Internet access, giving particular attention to children in rural areas and children with disabilities;

(e) Allocate sufficient financial resources from the national budget for the effective implementation of the Djibouti Education Framework Act for early childhood development, paying particular attention to ensuring access to preschool education for children living in poverty, children in rural areas and children with disabilities.

GREECE - CRC/C/GRC/CO/4-6

Non-discrimination

17. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Law 4443/2016 and Law 4285/2014, the establishment of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance, the adoption of the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (2020-2023), the National Strategy (2021-2030) and Action Plan for Roma Inclusion (2017-2021), as well as legislative and policy measures taken to facilitate access of children in situations of vulnerability to education, healthcare and sanitation. However, the Committee remains concerned about the:

(a) Persisting discrimination against and negative attitudes towards Roma children, children with disabilities, children belonging to the Muslim minority in Thrace, asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, children of single and/or undocumented migrant parents, which impacts on their access to education, limits their access to socio-economic rights and services and keeps them poor;

18. Recalling the SDG target 10.3 and its previous recommendations (para. 27), the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Intensify its measures to ensure that Roma children, children belonging to the Muslim minority in Thrace, children with disabilities, refugee and asylumseeking children, children in situations of migration and children of single and/or undocumented migrant parents have effective access to food security, healthcare, education, housing, water, sanitation, social services and a decent standard of living, and ensure regular and systematic monitoring and impact assessment of the measures taken;

CROATIA - CRC/C/HRV/CO/5-6

Data collection

10. The Committee welcomes the SocSkrb database, which improved child protection and social protection data on children and families. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party links various data systems and develop an integrated data collection system for persons under 18, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, residence, ethnic and national origin, and socioeconomic and migration background.

Non-discrimination

15. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

(a) De facto discrimination against children of ethnic minorities, particularly children of Serbian and Roma background, children with disabilities, and migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children, particularly with regards to education and health-care services;

(b) Discrimination and harassment of LGBTI children in educational settings. 16. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure full implementation of relevant existing laws prohibiting discrimination, including by strengthening public education campaigns to address negative social attitudes towards children of ethnic minorities, particularly Serbian minority and Roma children, children with disabilities, refugee, migrant and asylum-seeking children, and LGBTI children;

(b)Continuously monitor the implementation and the impact of the National Anti-Discrimination Plan for 2017-2022 and the National Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2019-2024;

(c)Systematically undertake awareness raising and education on the issues of discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against children belonging to ethnic groups, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children, children with disabilities and LGBTI children;

(d)Ensure systematic training of professionals working with and for children's protection from discrimination and introduce compulsory classes on tolerance, non-discrimination and diversity in school curricula.

Best interests of the child

17. Recalling its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Consistently apply the right of the child to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and all decisions concerning children, including in custody disputes, in placing unaccompanied migrant and refugee children in institutions, and regarding children labelled as having behavioural problems and child victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children;

(b)Develop procedures and criteria to provide systematic training and guidance for all relevant professionals to assess and determine the best interests of the child in every area, particularly regarding education, disability, alternative care, migration and asylum, and justice and to give this principle due weight as a primary consideration;

(c) Establish compulsory processes for ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments of all laws and policies relevant to children on the realization of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as primary consideration.

Children deprived of a family environment

28.While concerned about the low progress in deinstitutionalisation and transformation processes in the past 10 years, the Committee draws the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt a clear strategy to expedite the deinstitutionalization of children, particularly children with disabilities and children under seven years of age by strengthening the development of relevant community-based services;

(b)Expedite the deinstitutionalisation of children labelled as having behavioural problems who are placed in institutions;

(c) Ensure sufficient alternative family-based and community-based care options for children who cannot stay with their families, including by allocating sufficient financial resources for foster care;

(d)Extend and strengthen support for the family foster care system in all regions, particularly in urban areas;

- (e) In line with the new Foster Care Act of 2018, provide adequate support for specialized foster care for children labelled as having behavioural problems, children with severe disabilities and seriously ill children;**
- (f) Regularly monitor and review placement in institutions and foster care, and facilitate the reunification of children with their families when possible or seek other options to promote permanency;**
- (g) Develop transparent and efficient adoption procedures to ensure that best interests of children are paramount and where suitable, adoptions are concluded without undue delay.**

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

30. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Managing Authority for Early Childhood Interventions in 2019 and a new National Plan for the Equalization of Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2021-2027. It is however concerned about:

- (a) Insufficient family and community-based care options for children with disabilities;**
- (b) Inadequate and unequal access to health care, inclusive education and social services by children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, smaller towns and islands;**
- (c) The high rate of child abandonment and subsequent institutionalization of children with disabilities;**
- (d) The slow rate of de-institutionalisation of children with disabilities taking place;**
- (e) No disaggregated data collection taking place at the central level on children with disabilities.**

31. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

- (a) Strengthen family and community-based care, services and support to children with disabilities and their families, and accelerate efforts for de-institutionalisation;**
- (b) Take immediate measures to ensure that all children with disabilities, in particular those in rural areas, smaller towns and islands have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes, specialised health care and age-appropriate rehabilitation;**
- (c) Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools and early childhood education, that schools and early childhood education are equipped with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities;**
- (d) Prevent abandonment and subsequent institutionalization of children with disabilities;**
- (e) Consider adopting national protocols or guidelines for cross-sectoral collaboration in health, education, and social services to facilitate early-detection of disabilities;**
- (f) Organize the systematic and comprehensive collection of data on children with disabilities.**

Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31) Education, including vocational training and guidance

38. While welcoming that the State party's spending on education is above the European Union average and that the number of children in early childhood education has increased, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient capacities of staff in the ministries and agencies tasked with providing support to the teachers and inadequate training of teachers;

2.(b) Persistently high drop-out rates of Roma children, in particular girls;

3.(c) Lack of guidelines for the civic education in primary and secondary schools;

4.(d) The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the access to distance learning and learning outcomes, particularly for children from poor households, children with disabilities, children labelled as having behavioural disorders and Roma children;

(e) The number of hours of preparatory lessons of Croatian language for asylum seekers being considered inadequate;

(f) Increasing inequalities in access to quality early childhood education, particularly for children of unemployed parents, Roma children and children with disabilities;

(g) The fact that attendance rate at pre-schools has not improved in recent years;

(h) Geographical disparities in access, prices and subsidies, as well as the criteria for enrolment in early childhood education, due to full dependency of pre-school programmes on local budgets.

39. Taking note of target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the capacities of staff in the ministries and agencies responsible for education, support teachers and improve the quality of teachers' training;

(b) Ensure full integration of Roma children into mainstream education and introduce effective measures to prevent early dropout, particularly of Roma girls in high schools;

(c) Conduct systematic teacher training on civic education as a cross-cutting theme and prepare the guidelines for the preparation of quality teaching content;

(d) Undertake efforts to address the shortcomings on learning outcomes that have been experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for children from poor households, children with disabilities, children with labelled as having behavioural problems and Roma children;

(e) Review the adequacy of the number of hours of preparatory lessons of Croatian language for asylum seekers which is considered inadequate;

(f) Expand the availability of early childhood education, particularly for children of unemployed parents, Roma children and children with disabilities;

(g) Strengthen the role of the central government in reducing regional inequalities in early childhood education, including by setting up an effective organization of networks of kindergartens.

Children victims and witnesses

46. Welcoming the National Strategy for the Development of Support Systems for Victims and Witnesses (2016-2020) and the amendments to the Criminal Procedure

Code to transpose the Directive 2012/29/EU, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Allocate adequate resources and training of all professionals involved in the criminal justice system for the implementation of the new legislation;
- (b) Ensure that child witnesses or victims are promptly and adequately informed about the judicial process, and receive all appropriate psychological, social assistance and other support;
- (c) Ensure that all interviews, examinations and other forms of investigation involving children are conducted by trained professionals who proceed in a child sensitive and respectful manner, in a language that the child uses and understands, in a suitable environment that accommodates the special needs of children, according to their abilities, age, intellectual maturity and evolving capacity and that the necessary procedural accommodations are in place to enable children with disabilities to participate in the judicial process.

ICELAND - CRC/C/ISL/CO/5-6

Allocation of resources

9. With reference to its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, the Committee recommends that the State party incorporate a child rights-based approach into the State budgeting process to:

- (a) Elaborate and implement procedures for the allocation, use and monitoring of resources for children throughout the State party, and assess how investments in all sectors serve the best interests of the child;
- (b) Ensure transparent and participatory budgeting processes at State and municipal levels in which civil society, the public and children can participate effectively.

Data collection

10. The Committee notes with appreciation the establishment of a government steering committee on a children's welfare dashboard in 2020 and that a national dashboard on the well-being, health and rights of children will be established in 2022. Recalling its previous recommendations, the **Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Ensure that the dashboard collects both qualitative and quantitative indicators encompassing all areas of the Convention, and that the data are disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background;
- (b) Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on discrimination against children, children with disabilities, mental health and violence against children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse;
- (c) Ensure the effective coordination and sharing of the data among relevant ministries and entities, including Statistics Iceland, the Ombudsman for Children, the Directorate of Health and relevant educational institutions, as well as among professional groups and civil society, and used for the evaluation of policies and projects on children's rights.

Non-discrimination

15. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Act on Equal Treatment irrespective of Race and Ethnic Origin in 2018 and the action plan on immigrant matters in 2016, but is concerned about the lack of information on the forms of discrimination against children in the State party. **Taking note of target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Eliminate disparities between municipalities regarding children's access to services, including by ensuring that the objectives of the Local Authorities Equalization Fund are aligned with the national policy and strategy on children's rights;

(b) Ensure that the legal framework on discrimination, including the Act on Equal Treatment, protects children from discrimination; that children know how to report cases of discrimination; and that cases of discrimination against children are investigated by a competent authority;

(c) Conduct a study on the extent and forms of discrimination against children, including discrimination based on residence and against migrant children, children belonging to minority groups, children of a parent with an irregular residence status, children living in poverty, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and children with disabilities.

Violence against children, including neglect and sexual exploitation and abuse

24. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to combat violence against children, including the revision of the General Penal Code and Children Act, the abolishment of the requirement of double criminality for sexual offences against children, the adoption of the national action plans against, respectively, violence 2019-2022 and sexual and gender-based violence and harassment 2021-2025, and the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention and Istanbul Convention. However, the Committee is concerned about the following:

(a) The lack of reliable statistical information on violence against children, although research indicates a high prevalence of violence against children, including sexual exploitation and online violence;

(b) The lack of information on the investigation and prosecution of cases of sexual abuse and exploitation concerning children;

(c) Insufficient funding allocated for the implementation of the national action plan against violence;

(d) The particular vulnerability of children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and migrant children and children belonging to minority groups to violence;

(e) That many services, including Barnahus, have relatively long waiting lists, which delay access to adequate support.

25. With reference to its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and targets 5.2, 16.1 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the effective investigation of and intervention in all cases of violence against children, including neglect and sexual abuse, in and outside the home, and in the digital environment, and that perpetrators are brought to justice;

(b) Strengthen measures for ensuring that children who are victims or witnesses of violence, including children with disabilities and asylum-seeking children, have prompt access to child-friendly and multisectoral remedies and comprehensive support, including in a Barnahus, with the aim of preventing the secondary victimization of those children;

(c) Ensure that mechanisms for supporting child victims of violence, including the child protection services and regional child protection boards that will replace the child protection committees in 2023, are adequately resourced;

(d) Strengthen measures aimed at preventing violence against children, with an emphasis on children in particularly vulnerable situations including children with disabilities, children living in poverty, asylum-seeking children and children belonging to minority groups;

Harmful practices

26. Noting with concern that the Act on Sterilization Procedures of 2018 allows for the sterilization of children if continued fertility is considered to have negative effects on their lives and health, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Prohibit the sterilization of children, particularly girls with disabilities, without their informed consent;

(b) Ensure that the performance of unnecessary medical or surgical treatment on intersex children are safely deferred until children are able to provide their informed consent, in line with the prohibition of such procedures under the Act on Gender Autonomy, and provide reparations for children who received unnecessary treatment;

(c) Provide adequate social, medical and psychological services, counselling and support to intersex children and their families.

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

29. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Act on Services for Persons with Disabilities in 2018, which provides for specific protection and support for children with disabilities, but is concerned about long waiting times for children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to receive diagnoses and adequate support.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen support provided to children with disabilities, in particular migrant children with disabilities, for their social integration and individual development, including by ensuring that they have prompt access to early detection and early intervention programmes, and by allocating sufficient resources for the implementation of the Act on Services for Persons with Disabilities;

(b) Decrease the waiting time for diagnoses by increasing the number of professionals and by ensuring the availability of quality services for children with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that families of migrant children know how to seek necessary support, and address the overrepresentation of migrant children who are referred to services for intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Ensure that, in cases where custody is shared, parents of children with disabilities who are separated or divorced can both benefit from relevant support under the national health insurance scheme;

(e) Ensure the accessibility of public and private buildings for children with disabilities, including all diverse groups of children with different needs.

Mental health

31. The Committee welcomes the adoption of a policy and action plan on mental health in 2016, but is concerned about:

- (a) Rising rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm and sleep deprivation, and the large number of children on prescription medication for these and other issues as well as for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder;
- (b) Long waiting lists for children seeking mental health services, partly due to a shortage in specialized staff;
- (c) Reports of children with mental health issues being placed in detention due to a lack of space at the psychiatric ward for children and adolescents at the national hospital;
- (d) The fact that comparable comprehensive mental health promotion, screening for mental health issues and early intervention services are not being offered in all upper secondary schools.

32. Taking note of target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen mental health services and programmes for children, including by:**
 - (i) improving coordination between municipalities and relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Ministry of Education and Children, to provide therapeutic mental health services in schools at all levels and within communities;**
 - (ii) ensuring that the number of qualified medical professionals, including child psychologists and psychiatrists, is sufficient to meet children's mental health needs in a timely manner;**
 - (iii) providing mental health services that are tailored to address the specific needs of migrant children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and children with disabilities; and**
 - (iv) having a better overview of the waiting list to improve the efficiency of interventions;**

Standard of living

36. Noting with appreciation the measures taken to address child poverty, the Committee takes note of target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Further strengthen its policies to ensure that all children have an adequate standard of living, including by increasing social benefits for single-parent households, providing support for childcare prior to the start of pre-school and providing adequate and long-term social housing for families in need;
- (b) Ensure that measures include a particular focus on children from disadvantaged families, especially children of single parents, children of parents with disabilities and migrant children;

Education, including vocational training and guidance

37. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to improve the quality of education and address bullying, including through the adoption of the education policy 2021-2030, the establishment of the new Ministry of Education and Children and initiatives such as the Reykjavik City Child-Friendly Education Policy. However, it is concerned about the following:

(a) The prevalence of dropouts and absenteeism from schools, particularly at the secondary level and among migrant children and children with mental health problems or learning difficulties;

2. (b) Insufficient resources and teacher training for inclusive education;

3. (c) Inadequate educational outcomes in literary, mathematical and scientific understanding;

(d) Reports of bullying of children, particularly children with disabilities, in schools.

38. Taking note of targets 4.1, 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Continue its efforts to reduce and prevent school dropouts and absenteeism, based on an analysis of the root causes, including by:

(i) providing financial support for socioeconomically disadvantaged children to complete upper secondary school;

(ii) establishing the proposed database for registration of compulsory school students; and

(iii) developing guidelines for identifying, registering and responding to cases of school absenteeism;

(b) Strengthen measures for ensuring inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, such as by:

(i) increasing the resources allocated for the implementation of the policy on inclusive education;

(ii) adapting curricula and training and assigning specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes so that children with learning difficulties receive individual support and due attention;

(iii) providing assistive technologies and devices; and

(iv) ensuring reasonable accommodation in school infrastructure and transportation;

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

40. The Committee welcomes the 2018 guidelines for the quality of work in after-school activity centres for children between 6 and 9 years of age, and the action plans on, respectively, sports and leisure and social activities for children and young people. With reference to its general comment No. 17 (2013) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts, **the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Develop guidelines for ensuring the quality of leisure and after-school activities for children over 9 years of age;

(b) Strengthen support for initiatives aimed at promoting children's right to leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts, including youth centres, sports clubs, youth associations and the Children's Cultural Fund, and ensure that they meet quality standards, including with regard to accessibility and staffing;

- (c) Ensure that sporting, recreational, leisure, cultural and artistic activities are available and accessible for children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and migrant children, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and children living in rural areas;
- (d) Fully involve children in planning, designing and monitoring the implementation of policies and programmes relevant to leisure, play, recreation, cultural life and the arts.

KIRIBATI - CRC/C/KIR/CO/2-4

Non-discrimination

19. The Committee welcomes the legislative measures to eradicate discrimination, such as the Education Act of 2013 that prohibits discrimination against pregnant girls in schools. The Committee is concerned, however, about:

- (a) De facto discrimination experienced by children living in marginalised and disadvantaged situations, including children living in poverty, girls and children with disabilities;
- (b) Criminalisation of homosexuality and lack of protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children from discrimination, stigma and violence.

20. Taking note of target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take active measures to end all forms of discrimination against children, in particular children living in marginalised and disadvantaged situations, including children living in poverty, girls and children with disabilities;
- (b) Repeal the criminalization of homosexuality and other discriminatory provisions in its legislation to ensure respect for the rights set forth in the Convention and take active measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children from discrimination, stigma and violence.

Respect for the views of the child

23. The Committee is concerned about the limited recognition of the right of the child, particularly of girls and children with disabilities, to be heard and have their views given due consideration in law and in practice, including on climate change issues, owing to the prevalent of traditional attitude regarding the lesser and limited role that children can exert in society.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that children are heard and that their views, including on climate change, are given due consideration in relevant administrative and judicial proceedings in respect of all rights covered by the Convention;
- (b) Combat negative societal attitudes which hinder children's right to be heard and promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, communities and schools and include children in decision-making on all matters related to children, including environmental matters.

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

38. The Committee takes note with appreciation of the adoption of the Inclusive Education Policy in 2015, the National disability policy and action plan 2018-2021 and effort to include children with disabilities into mainstream schools through the piloting of “model schools”. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited access of children with disabilities to inclusive education, transportation, public spaces, rehabilitation and service delivery in all areas;
- (b) The lack of funding and technical support provided to parents and service providers for children with disabilities or the parents of such children.

39. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and:

- (a) Update and strengthen the rights and protection for children in the National disability policy and action plan;**
- (b) Strengthen health-care services for children with disabilities and ensure that all children with all types of disabilities enjoy inclusive education;**
- (c) Improve access for children with disabilities to all public and private buildings, spaces, service delivery and transportation, in all areas, especially in the outer islands;**
- (d) Ensure that all mainstream schools have adequate facilities to meet the special needs of children with disabilities and have specialized teachers and professionals providing individual support and that teaching staff are adequately trained;**
- (e) Expand community-based rehabilitation, early identification and referral programmes to cover all children with disabilities and provide the necessary human, technical and financial support to service providers and families of children with disabilities.**

SOMALIA - CRC/C/SOM/CO/1

Data collection

16. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party in relation to data on children affected by the conflict, asylum-seeking and refugee children and trends concerning immunization of children. The Committee is, however, concerned about the absence of a data collection system and data on the situation of children in all areas, as well as about the lack of updated population data, which hinders the assessment of the current situation of, as well as policy and investment impacts on children.

17. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a data collection system both at the federal and member states levels and ensure that data collected on children’s rights covers all areas of the Convention, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin, clan affiliation, and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;
- (b) Ensure that data on children’s rights are regularly updated and shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention independently from political and clan influences.

Non-discrimination

24. The Committee welcomes that the Provisional Constitution provides for the equality of all children and prohibits discrimination. It is, however, deeply concerned about the structural discrimination against girls due to restrictive social, cultural and religious norms and practices that are harmful for their wellbeing and development. The Committee is also concerned about the persistence of discrimination against children with disabilities, internally displaced children, children deprived of a family environment, children from minority clans and other children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations.

25. Taking note of targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Put an end to discrimination against girls in all areas of life both by law and in practice, including by putting in place an awareness-raising strategy, which is able to combat social and cultural norms and representations that enshrine discrimination, and ensure that girls are provided with equal rights and opportunities as boys;

(b) Amend its legislation and practices in order to prohibit any forms of discrimination against children with disabilities, internally displaced children, children deprived of a family environment, children from minority clans and other children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations.

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

48. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts, including the development of the Disability Bill, the adoption of the National Special Educational Needs Disability and Inclusive Education Policy and rapid assessment of children with disabilities in some areas. The Committee is concerned, however, that the bill has not yet been approved. It is also concerned that children with disabilities have very limited access to education due to stigma, discrimination, lack of trained teachers and costs of education, among others.

49. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

(a) Accelerate the adoption of the Disability Bill and ensure that it is in line with international standards and encompasses the human rights model of disability;

(b) Expand the assessment of children living with disabilities to the entirety of the country and develop an efficient system for diagnosing disability, which is necessary for putting in place appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities;

(c) Set up comprehensive measures to develop inclusive education, including by operationalizing and providing adequate resources to the implementation of the National Special Educational Needs Disability and Inclusive Education Policy, including through international cooperation and assistance;

(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights-holders.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

58. The Committee notes the adoption of the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2018-2020 and the increase in budget expenditure for education. The Committee is, however, seriously concerned that:

- (a) The national gross enrolment rate for primary and secondary levels of education are extremely low;
- (b) Inadequate investment and discrimination limit access to education for girls, children from rural areas, internally displaced persons, refugees and children with disabilities;
- (c) School infrastructure, materials and number of certified teachers remain insufficient, especially in rural areas;
- (d) Fees make school unaffordable for poor families, particularly those in rural areas;
- (e) High incidents of attacks on schools, students, and personnel often linked to non-acceptance of al-Shabaab's curriculum;
- (f) There is a lack of monitoring and information on education provided in Qur'anic schools.

59. Taking note of targets 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.a and 4.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes;
- (b) Strengthen the quality of education, including by ensuring the availability of qualified teachers and of female teachers and by ensuring that schools are fully and safely accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure, sanitation and educational technologies, especially in rural areas;
- (c) Implement the Safe Schools Declaration in a gender-responsive manner;
- (d) Establish monitoring of the curriculum of education and conditions in Qur'anic schools.

ZAMBIA - CRC/C/ZMB/CO/5-7

Data collection

10. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Statistics Act in 2018, the establishment of the Integrated National Statistical System, the creation of the Zambia Statistics Agency and the setting up of sectoral specific management information systems. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, **the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Continue strengthening its data collection system and ensure that data collected on children's rights covers all areas of the Convention, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;**

Non-discrimination

18. The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations and recommends that the State party:

(a) Intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against children in marginalised and disadvantaged situations, including girls, children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, children with no legal identity, children with albinism, migrant and unaccompanied children and LGBTI children;

(b) Systematically undertake awareness raising and education on the issues of discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against children in marginalised and disadvantaged situations, particularly LGBTI children.

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

31. The Committee notes the development of the Inclusive Education Guidelines in 2016. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

(a) Operationalise the 2012 Persons with Disability Act by finalising and implementing the statutory instruments on education, health, labour and transportation;

(b) Ensure that the disability focal points in the ministries have adequate, ongoing training, are coordinated and that adequate resources are allocated to mainstream disability issues effectively;

(c) Fully implement the Inclusive Education Guidelines in all schools, ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools and Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, guaranteeing that schools and ECE centres are equipped with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities;

(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights-holders;

(e) Create social protection programmes to fully fund assistive devices and other rehabilitation needs for children with disabilities, in particular provide sustainable and adequate funding for the National Vocational and Rehabilitation Centre;

(f) Ensure that children are not placed in institutions due to their disability and strengthen family and community-based care;

(g) Strengthen measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes, specialised health care and age-appropriate rehabilitation, particularly in rural areas;

(h) Develop and systemize comprehensive collection of data on children with disabilities.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

38. While noting the rollout of the Free Education Policy guaranteeing free primary and secondary education, the 300 percent increase in the disbursement of school grants for primary schools, the expansion of early childhood development through the low-cost community centres, the provision of funds for bursary support to vulnerable children for secondary school boarding facility fees, and free secondary education due to the provision of compensatory grants to schools to compensate for the school fees

and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) contributions, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Persistently high drop-out rates of children, in particular girls, due to teenage pregnancy, child marriage, discriminatory traditional and cultural practices and poverty;

(b) The enrolment and retention rates disparities between boys and girls in primary and secondary school, particularly in rural areas;

(c) The limited infrastructure, poor quality of education and low level of basic literacy and numeracy skills;

4.(d)Reported sexual abuse in schools by teachers;

5.(e)The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the access education, particularly for children from poor households and children with disabilities;

(f) Disparities in access, quality and cost for early childhood education, and insufficient budgetary support for a long-term development and expansion of early childhood education.

39.Taking note of targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recalls its previous recommendation¹¹ and recommends that the State party:

(a)Ensure that all positive reforms, namely school grants for primary education, bursary support to vulnerable children for secondary schools, expansion of early childhood development through low-cost community centres and free secondary education, are effectively implemented;

(b)Strengthen support and assistance to pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers to continue their education in mainstream schools, including by overcoming discriminatory traditional attitudes impeding girls' education;

(c) Address disparities in the enrolment and retention rates between boys and girls in primary and secondary school;

(d) Strengthen the quality of education and learning outcomes, also through the review of the National Curriculum Review in 2023; including by ensuring the professional development of teachers and ensuring that schools are fully and safely accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure and educational technologies;

(e) Investigate all cases of sexual abuse in schools by teachers, end impunity, and sanction the perpetrators accordingly; and ensure that children have accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels for such violations and that they do not face reprisals for reporting the abuse;

(f) Ensure recovery from set backs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen new methods of learning by providing better IT infrastructure in schools and at homes, particularly for children from poor households and children with disabilities;

(g)Expand access to age-appropriate, quality, affordable and inclusive early childhood education in order to meet the demand and strengthen the use of qualified and licenced community-based volunteers for early childhood development.

Ratification of international human rights instruments

48. The Committee recommends that the State party consider ratifying the following core human rights instruments:

(e) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.