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International
Disability Alliance

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

**CRC Committee's 93rd session
(08 May– 26 May 2023)**

Committee on the Rights of the Child – 93rd session - 2023	
Total number of Concluding Observations	6
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	6
Percentage of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	100%
Number of recommendations including explicit references on disability	81

FINLAND - CRC /C/ FIN/CO/5-6

FRANCE – CRC/C/FRA/CO/6-7

JORDAN– CRC/C/JOR/CO/6

TURKIYE – CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE – CRC/C/STP/CO/5-6

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND – CRC/GBR/CO/6

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

FINLAND - CRC /C/ FIN/CO/5-6

Allocation of resources

9. Recalling 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 and:

(b) Define budgetary lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities, children belonging to minority groups, children living in poverty, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children;

Data collection

10. While the Committee welcomes the development of indicators to assess trends in the realization of children's rights, the Committee recalling its previous recommendations, recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure that the data are disaggregated also by disability, migration status, socio-economic background, minority (e.g. Roma), indigenous (Sami), and children in vulnerable situations, such as those of imprisoned parents, in situation of violence or in alternative care in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children;

Non-discrimination

15. The Committee welcomes the action plans for Combating Racism and Promoting Good Relations between Population Groups and the one for combatting bullying, as well as the National Roma Policy (2023-2030) and the Action Plan on Persons with Disabilities , but is deeply concerned about the persistent discrimination against children and adolescents based on gender, age, language, and national or ethnic origin, migratory background, children with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex children, and bullying.

16. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(c) Adopt measures that include awareness campaigns that promote equality, and that in the media promote messages that can contribute to changing conduct and behaviour of people, for the transformation of social norms that contribute to discrimination, in particular based on ethnicity, immigration status, disability, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others.

The right to life, survival and development

18. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to prevent suicide among children, including children with disabilities, children who do not identify with the gender assigned to them at birth, transgender children and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and set up inter-agency child death review teams with the aim of strengthening preventive measures. The Committee also recommends that the State party continue to act with a sense of urgency to repatriate all children of Finnish nationals in armed conflict areas.

Violence against children, including sexual exploitation and abuse

22. The Committee welcomes the Non-Violent Childhoods: Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children (2020-2025), the national plan to prevent bullying, violence and harassment in schools and educational institutions (2021), the Barnahus project and the amendments to the Criminal Code on sexual abuse, but is deeply concerned about the:

(b) Particular vulnerability of girls, children with disabilities, children in alternative care, migrant and refugee children and children in socioeconomically disadvantaged situations;

23. The Committee urges the State party to:

(b) Ensure that strategies and plans include targeted measures for girls, children with disabilities, children in socioeconomically disadvantaged situations, migrant children and children belonging to minority groups (Roma and Sami), and that it is adequately resourced and comprehensively addresses sexual exploitation and abuse;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

29. While welcoming the Second National Plan on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Children with disabilities not being successfully included in general education;
- (b) Long-term placements of children with intellectual disabilities in institutions;
- (c) Views of children with disabilities not sufficiently taken into account;
- (d) Social barriers to the inclusion of children with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen measures for ensuring inclusive education in mainstream schools for all children with disabilities, including by adapting curricula and training, providing adequate resources and competence, and assigning specialized teachers and professionals so that children with disabilities and learning difficulties receive individual support and due attention;

(b) Prevent and reduce long-term placements of children with intellectual disabilities in institutions and prioritise family and community-based services for such children;

(c) Ensure the right of children with disabilities to receive all necessary information to form their opinion, to be heard and to receive appropriate communication support in all decision-making that affects them;

(d) Reinforce the support for social inclusion and individual development of children with disabilities.

Mental health

32. Welcoming the National Mental Health Strategy and Suicide Prevention Agenda and noting with concern the prevalence of depression, anxiety and self-harm among children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Strengthen mental health services and programmes for children, including by ensuring: (i) the availability of therapeutic mental health services in schools, detention facilities and within communities in all regions; (ii) a sufficient number of qualified professionals, including child psychologists and psychiatrists, to meet children's mental health needs in a timely manner; and (iii) that such services are tailored to address the specific needs of girls, asylum-seeking and refugee children, low-income households, children with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, in particular services for preventative and early intervention;

Standard of living

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Further strengthen its policies to ensure that all children have an adequate standard of living, including by improving the financial situation and increasing social benefits for children with disabilities, asylum-seeking children, and children with an irregular residence status

Education, aims of education and human rights education

36. While noting the principle of inclusive education promoted by the State party, the Committee remains concerned about disparities in access to quality education, the large gap in knowledge between children of immigrant origin and children in general and discrimination, harassment, and high incidence of bullying in schools. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the equal access of children from disadvantaged groups, including Roma children, children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children in alternative care and children from socioeconomically disadvantaged families, to quality education, including by: (i) allocating resources to ensure the high quality and accessibility of public education and regulating and monitoring private schools and home schooling with the aim of addressing inequality in the education system; (ii) offering children with migrant background high-quality preparation for basic education and (iii) making primary and secondary education compulsory for all children in Finland and Åland, including asylum-seeking children, children with an irregular residence status and children with temporary resident permit;

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

37. Recalling 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) Ensure that sporting, recreational, leisure, cultural and artistic activities are available, safe and accessible for girls, children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and migrant children, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and children living in rural areas;

FRANCE – CRC/C/FRA/CO/6-7

Data collection

11. While noting the State party's information that the INSEE and the statistical services of the ministries are the main sources of data for assessing demographics and public policies relating to children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its data collection system by ensuring that the data covers all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic or national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;

Non-discrimination

16. The Committee recalls its previous recommendations and urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to foster a culture of equality, tolerance and mutual respect, to prevent and combat persistent discrimination and to ensure that all cases of discrimination against children in all sectors of society are effectively addressed. The Committee also recommends that the State party take specific measures to combat discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, in particular children living in squats, and informal living places, Roma children, children with disabilities, LGBTI children, asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children and children belonging to racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

Cruel or degrading treatment or punishment

23. With reference to its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, and taking note of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals on ending all forms of violence against children, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Continue its efforts to end violence against children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and establish monitoring of psychiatric services provided to children with disabilities and include it into the next National Autism Strategy, which expired in 2022;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

35. The Committee notes the Act No. 2019-791 of 26 July 2019 on Trusted Schools, which provides for strengthened inclusive education for children with disabilities, and the Cap école inclusive (Towards an Inclusive School) platform, which has been online since the start of the 2019/20 academic year. Nevertheless, despite the increase in the number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools, the Committee remains seriously concerned that

(a) The number of professionals to support and accompany children with disabilities in their education in schools remain insufficient;

(b) Despite the recent freeze, a number of children continue to receive assistance in neighbouring countries;

(c) Children with disabilities continue to suffer from discrimination, including in education due to the insufficient reasonable accommodation, in particular in overseas territories and rural areas;

(d) Children with disabilities, in particular children with autistic spectrum disorders, continue to be institutionalized;

(e) Early diagnosis of children with disabilities, especially those with autistic spectrum disorders, remains insufficient.

36. With reference to 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 the training and increase the number of specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes providing individual support and all due attention to children with learning difficulties, including through extension of the Cap Ecole Inclusive platform throughout the State party's territories;

(b) Take measures to promote and provide for inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, and improve accessibility of inclusive schools, in particular in overseas territories and in rural areas;

(c) Take measures to decrease placement of children with disabilities in institutions and ensure regular monitoring of such institutions;

(d) Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities, in particular children with autistic spectrum disorders, have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes.

JORDAN– CRC/C/JOR/CO/6

Allocation of resources

10. Recalling its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, the Committee welcomes the increased budget allocations for

children since 2020 and the prioritization of spending on social sectors, and recommends that the State party:

(b) Define specific budget lines for all children, paying special attention to those in disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities;

Data collection

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

(a) Establish a central data collection system encompassing all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols and covering both qualitative and quantitative indicators, and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality, and socioeconomic background

(b) Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on children with disabilities, children in alternative care, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children and children in street situations;

Non-discrimination

17. The Committee welcomes the prohibition of discrimination in the Children's Rights Act but remains deeply concerned about the remaining lack of a legal prohibition of discrimination on the basis of all grounds prohibited under the Convention; discriminatory classifications of children in legislation; and persistent discrimination against girls and children in disadvantaged situations.

18. Recalling targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations⁶ and further urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure that its legal framework on discrimination adequately protects children in disadvantaged situations, including girls, from all forms of discrimination by amending article 6 of the Constitution and/or adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination on all grounds, in line with article 2 (1) of the Convention, including on the basis of sex, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;

(b) Abolish all discriminatory classifications of children, such as "illegitimate" children in the Civil Status Code; repeal all laws and eliminate all practices that are discriminatory against all children in disadvantaged situations, including girls, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children of Palestinian origin, children without a regular residence status, children of unmarried parents, children with disabilities, children in alternative care and children in socioeconomically disadvantaged situations; and ensure their access to health services, education and a decent standard of living;

(e) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat stigmatization and discrimination against children in disadvantaged situations, in particular children of unmarried parents, children with disabilities and children living in informal settlements;

Respect for the views of the child

20. The Committee remains concerned that children's views are still not systematically taken into account in decisions affecting them. Recalling its previous recommendations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children in disadvantaged situations, including girls and children with disabilities, within the family, the community and schools, by developing adapted toolkits for consulting children on national and local policy issues and conducting awareness-raising activities to combat negative societal attitudes that hinder children's participation in society;

Children deprived of a family environment

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Ensure that disability, divorce, migration status, or marital status of the mother are never the sole justification for family separation, including from single mothers, and that children are separated from their family only if it is in their best interests after a comprehensive assessment of their situation;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the strategy on deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities and the development of family-based care options for children with disabilities;

(b) Address any derogatory terms and descriptions used in law and/or policy in respect of persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities 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 education, health, social protection and support services;

(d) Update its 10-year strategy which seeks to enrol only 10 per cent of the total number of school-age children with disabilities by 2031;

(e) Ensure the accessibility of public spaces, buildings, services and information for children with disabilities, and develop regulations for the application of the Persons with Disability Act, including with regarding to reasonable accommodation;

(f) Strengthen support for parents of children with disabilities and ensure the right of those children to grow up in their family environment, including by: (i) increasing the availability of early detection and early intervention services; (ii) ensuring the referral of children with disabilities to support services deemed necessary, including specialized and accessible health-care services; and (iii) providing supplementary income and social services for all children with disabilities;

(g) Strengthen support for the social integration and individual development of children with disabilities, including by providing capacity-building to child protection professionals on the rights and specific needs of children with disabilities and ensuring their access to personal assistance, rehabilitation and assistive devices;

(h) Take urgent measures to prevent abuse, neglect and violence against children with disabilities, and ensure access for victims to child-friendly reporting channels, reparation and free assistance of interpreters, including in sign language;

(i) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of children with disabilities and promote a positive image of them as rights-holders.

TURKIYE – CRC/C/TUR/CO/4-5

Data collection

12. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve expeditiously the data-collection system managed by the Turkish Statistical Institute and ensure that data collected on children's rights cover all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, and are disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin, religious affiliation and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, especially those in particular situations of vulnerability;

Non-discrimination

18. The Committee is deeply concerned that discrimination persists against children in situations of particular vulnerability, including children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children of ethnic and religious minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and children whose parents are accused of links to terrorist organizations, noting in particular their restricted ability to benefit from basic services, including education, health and protection from violence, and to enjoy an adequate standard of living. It also remains deeply concerned that no urgent and systematic efforts have been carried out to combat and change the persistence of adverse and traditional attitudes and norms that drive the discriminatory attitudes and practices.

19. Recalling its previous recommendations¹ and taking note of targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, upholding the constitutional principle of equality, combat discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including by:

(a) Collecting and analysing data on the disparities experienced by such children and developing a strategy to confront the barriers to and measure the progress achieved in respect of improving outcomes for them;

(b) Strengthening legislation, institutional arrangements and programmes to address negative social norms and stereotypes and promote attitudinal change in society, and by monitoring and combating discrimination and ensuring accountability and redress;

(c) Taking measures against stigmatization and discrimination of children on the ground of their parents' political or other opinions and provide remedies to these children.

Children deprived of a family environment

32. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children,² the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Ensure sufficient alternative family and community-based care for children who cannot stay with their families, including children with disabilities and unaccompanied children in situations of migration;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

¹Ibid., para. 29.

²General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex.

34. The Committee is concerned that, despite the existence of a legislative and policy framework to advance the rights of children with disabilities, they do not benefit from sufficient services and assistance; an adequate allowance allotted by objective assessment criteria; early identification and treatment of developmental risks; and physical and transportation accessibility, in particular in rural and remote areas.

35. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,³ the Committee recommends that the State party fully integrate and implement a human rights-based approach to disability in its policies and adopt a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

(a) Strengthen implementation of Law No. 5378 on Persons with Disabilities, in particular with regard to the accessibility of public spaces and services, and allocate adequate resources to the provincial accessibility monitoring and auditing commissions, including for regular publication of their activity reports;

(b) Allocate sufficient resources to ensure implementation of the National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2023–2025) and achievement of the goals in the 2030 Barrier-Free Vision, prioritizing the access of children with disabilities to early childhood development programmes and inclusive education and ensuring increased classroom resources and trained school personnel, access to health care, including early detection assessment and intervention, social protection and community-based support services;

(c) Strengthen 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;

(d) Establish and facilitate access to a confidential complaints mechanism for children with disabilities to report violations of their rights in all settings;

(e) Strengthen the collection and publication of disaggregated data on children with disabilities to inform policymaking and monitoring of policy objectives.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

42. The Committee notes the substantial improvements in educational performance in recent years and the efforts of the State party to integrate refugee children in its national education system. It is concerned, however, about:

(f) Insufficient resources allocated to early childhood education, disproportionately affecting children with disabilities and children in situations of poverty.

43. In line with the recommendations accepted during the third cycle of its universal periodic review,⁴ and taking note of targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Assess the effectiveness of the measures taken, including the information programme for children, to increase the enrolment and attendance rates, especially in upper secondary education, of all children, in particular asylum-seeking and refugee children and Roma children;

(iv) Step up investment for the development and expansion of early childhood education and improved primary school readiness, focusing on children in marginalized and vulnerable situations;

(b) Strengthen efforts to address the shortcomings in learning outcomes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, targeting children with disabilities, from poor households, in rural areas and from Roma communities;

³ CRPD/C/TUR/CO/1, paras. 14, 16, 43 and 47 (b).

⁴ A/HRC/44/14, paras. 45.205, 45.207 and 45.211–45.214.

Non-discrimination

17.Noting that children in vulnerable situations are subjected to discrimination that persists throughout their life course and that perpetuates high rates of poverty, illiteracy, adolescent pregnancy and violence, the Committee, recalling target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party take all measures, including policy, legislative and awareness-raising measures, necessary to prevent and combat discrimination against children from economically disadvantaged families, girls, children with disabilities, children from rural and remote areas and other children in vulnerable situations and ensure access for such children to birth registration and high-quality health care, education and all basic social services, transport, clean water and sanitation, with particular attention given to Principe island.

Respect for the views of the child

21.The Committee notes that hearing a child above 7 years of age in proceedings concerning adoption, parental authority, guardianship and parental separation is provided for under article 7 of the Family Act. It also notes that the Children and Youth Parliament meets regularly. Recalling its general comment No.12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b)Promote and enable the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, in particular girls, children from rural and remote areas and children with disabilities, within the family, in schools and in communities in all matters that affect them and ensure that their views are given due weight;

Children deprived of a family environment

32.The Committee notes the adoption, in 2018, of the Code of Organization of Guardianship for Minors, which recognizes, among other things, the importance of the prevention of abandonment and the strengthening of family skills. However, the Committee is concerned about the following:

(a)The lack of data on the number of children deprived of parental care and the causes thereof;

(b)The absence of a mandated body responsible for alternative care, while the social protection system is not equipped to address such issues;

(c)The informal placement of children with relatives or neighbours, which is a common practice, when parents consider that they do not have the economic and social conditions necessary to care for their children;

(d)The State party's reliance on institutionalization and its reluctance to develop policies and programmes, including a social service infrastructure and community-based services, to prevent family separation and to protect children deprived of parental care;

(e)The absence of a foster care system;

(f)The lack of information on reports of violence against children in institutions, on the monitoring of care, especially in private shelters, and on the support available to children leaving care.

33.Recalling the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and the Committee's previous recommendations,⁵ the Committee urges the State party:

(a)To strengthen the collection and analysis of data on children left without parental care, including those in kinship care and informal care arrangements, disaggregated

⁵Ibid., para. 41.

by age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, geographical region, socioeconomic status and form of care, and conduct a study to determine the root causes of child abandonment;

(e) To ensure that poverty, disability or divorce are never the sole justification for the placement of children in alternative care and ensure that children are only separated from their family if it is in their best interests, after a comprehensive assessment of their situation by the competent authorities, including national courts, and that placement decisions are subject to periodic review;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

36. The Committee notes that, despite the measures taken, including the adoption of Law No. 4/2018 on specialized education and the creation of four classrooms for children with disabilities, the State party acknowledged in its report the urgent need for a change in approach and tangible action to address disability issues.⁶ **Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities and the Committee's previous recommendations,⁷ the Committee urges the State party:**

(a) To adopt a human rights-based approach regarding children with disabilities and review its legislation and policies accordingly, including by adopting an intersectoral action plan with a comprehensive rights-based approach, with clear roles and responsibilities, dedicated funding and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism;

(b) To improve the collection and analysis of data, disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, geographical region, socioeconomic status and form of care, conduct a study on the situation of children with disabilities and, on the basis of the results of the study, develop a policy and a strategy on children with disabilities, with the participation of children;

(c) To establish a system for disability assessment and the referral of persons with disabilities and ensure its uniform and harmonized application across different sectors, including health-care, education and protection and social support mechanisms, and ensure access to information about prevention and available services, including for children with visual and hearing impairments;

(d) To 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 community-based services and providing adequate socioeconomic support to parents;

(e) To ensure access to high-quality health care, including by providing early identification, intervention and rehabilitation programmes and training, ensuring an adequate number of health-care personnel throughout the country, strengthening referral pathways and specialized services and developing and ensuring access to community-based and outpatient health-care services, including through international cooperation and assistance;

(f) To allocate adequate financial, human and technical resources and seek international cooperation and assistance to develop an inclusive education system, with specific objectives and timelines, and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education, in mainstream schools, that schools are physically accessible and equipped with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities and that children with disabilities have equal access to childhood development and preschool as other children;

⁶[CRC/C/STP/5-6](#), para. 186.

⁷[CRC/C/STP/CO/2-4](#), para. 45.

(g) To address cases of violence and abuse and strengthen awareness-raising activities to combat stigmatization and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights holders.

Education, including vocational training and guidance

43. The Committee welcomes the increases in enrolment in early childhood and secondary education, the adoption of the education policy charter, 2018–2022, and the education policy, 2012–2022, aiming to improve the quality of education and teaching, and the repeal, in 2021, of the regulations prohibiting pregnant adolescents from attending school with their peers. However, the Committee is seriously concerned about the following:

(a) Disparities in enrolment, retention and completion rates, at all levels of education, depending on birth registration, gender, disability, region and family income;

44. The Committee, recalling targets 4.1 to 4.7, 4.a and 4.c of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Committee's previous recommendations,⁸ urges the State party:

(a) To strengthen its measures to ensure equal access to and retention in high-quality education, including preschool and upper secondary education, for all children, with particular attention paid to girls, children from economically disadvantaged families, children in rural and remote areas and children with disabilities, and address regional disparities;

Economic exploitation, including child labour

49. The Committee welcomes the fact that the worst forms of child labour have been defined in the legislation and that the State party pledged, in the national action plan against child labour of 2013, to completely eradicate child labour by 2020. However, the Committee is concerned about the following:

(a) Inadequate data collection on child labour;

(b) Persisting reports of child labour, including in domestic and agricultural work, in the informal economy and in hazardous conditions, in particular in the north-western and south-eastern regions;

(c) The lack of enforcement of child labour laws, in particular in the informal economy, and of accountability in the case of violations;

(d) The Labour Code allowing for children under 14 years of age to work under certain circumstances, which is inconsistent with international standards.

50. Recalling target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Committee's previous recommendations,⁹ the Committee urges the State party:

(b) To collect and analyse data on child labour, disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, region and socioeconomic status, and conduct a comprehensive study to assess the prevalence, causes and forms of child labour, including in the informal sector of the economy;

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND – CRC/GBR/CO/6

Comprehensive policy and strategy

9. Noting with appreciation the adoption of action plans on children in the overseas territories, the Committee recommends that the State party:

⁸[CRC/C/STP/CO/2-4](#), para. 55.

⁹*Ibid.*, para. 57.

(c) Ensure that the action plans include a special focus on children in disadvantaged situations, including asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children belonging to minority groups, children with disabilities, children in care, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and so-called young carers, or children with caregiver responsibilities.

Data collection

12. Recognizing the large body of data available on children's rights, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its data-collection system with regard to both qualitative and quantitative indicators to encompass all areas of the Convention and ensure that the data are disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background;

(b) Improve the collection and analysis of data, including in the overseas territories, on violence against children, mental health, food insecurity, malnutrition, education and the situation of children in disadvantaged situations, including children in alternative care, children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and migrant children and children of incarcerated parents;

Non-discrimination

19. The Committee remains deeply concerned about persistent discrimination, such as through expressions of racism and bullying, against children in disadvantaged situations, including children belonging to minority groups and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children; insufficient progress in ensuring the protection of all children under 18 years of age against discrimination on the grounds of their age; and the overrepresentation of children of Asian and African descent and Muslim, Roma, gypsy and traveller children in the criminal justice system and the large proportion of these groups of children who are living in poverty.

20. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations¹⁰ and urges the State party:

(a) To implement targeted policies and programmes to combat racist and xenophobic activities and to eliminate discrimination against children in disadvantaged situations, including children belonging to ethnic minority groups, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, Roma, gypsy and traveller children, children with disabilities, children in alternative care, children of incarcerated parents, children of unmarried parents, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and children in the justice system;

Right to life, survival and development

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urgently reduce infant and child mortality rates, including the reportedly high rates among boys in the overseas territories, and address the underlying determinants, especially poverty, discrimination and disability;

Respect for the views of the child

23. Noting with concern that children's views are not systematically taken into account in decisions affecting them and in national and local decision-making, and underscoring the importance of the availability of age-appropriate information to facilitate child participation, the Committee recommends that the State party:

¹⁰Ibid., para. 22.

(a) Ensure the right of all children, including younger children, children with disabilities and children in care, to express their views and to have them taken into account in all decisions affecting them, including in courts and relevant judicial proceedings and regarding domestic violence, custody, placement in alternative care, health care, including mental health treatment, education, justice, migration and asylum;

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

30. The Committee notes with appreciation the information provided by the State party on the regulations governing the use of electrical discharge weapons, pain-inducing techniques and seclusion on children, but remains deeply concerned by the large number of children who continue to experience such treatment, particularly children belonging to ethnic minority groups and children with disabilities. **The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations¹¹ and urges the State party:**

(c) To investigate all cases of abuse and ill-treatment of children in alternative care and health-care settings, particularly among children with disabilities, adequately sanction perpetrators and provide reparation to victims.

(e) To develop measures aimed at preventing violence against children in alternative care, children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children and children belonging to minority groups;

Children with disabilities (art. 23)

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Assess the impact of welfare changes on children with disabilities and their families and increase social welfare payments accordingly to ensure that policies do not have a discriminatory effect on them and that such payments are sufficient to ensure their right to an adequate standard of living;

(b) Reduce waiting times and strengthen the system for early detection and intervention, including for children with autism and developmental disorders, in order to facilitate access for children with all types of disabilities to education, health care, social protection and support services;

(c) Strengthen support for the social integration and individual development of children with disabilities, including by providing capacity-building to professionals working with and for children on the rights and specific needs of children with disabilities and ensuring the access of such children to personal assistance, rehabilitation and assistive devices;

(d) Ensure the right of children with disabilities to be heard in all decisions that affect them.

Mental health

42. The Committee is deeply concerned about the long waiting lists for children seeking mental health services and the large number of children with mental health issues, learning disabilities and autism placed in detention and adult psychiatric wards under the Mental Health Act 1983.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urgently reform the Mental Health Act, in line with its previous commitments and the policy position set out in the 2021 white paper, and ensure that it: (i) explicitly prohibits the detention or placement in adult psychiatric units or police stations of children with mental health issues, learning disabilities and autism; (ii) guarantees children's right to be heard in decisions regarding their mental health care, to access

¹¹Ibid., para. 40.

therapeutic mental health services and to receive support from independent mental health advocates; and **(iii) establishes standards for determining the duration of inpatient mental health care and for appropriate follow-up, with a view to preventing unnecessary and prolonged stays in inpatient mental health care;**

(e) Develop adequately funded mental health services tailored to the specific needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, migrant children, children with disabilities and young carers, including through sufficient investments in specialist services;

(f) Address the overrepresentation of children belonging to minority groups, children with autism and children with learning disabilities in inpatient mental health care;

Standard of living

46. Noting with deep concern the large number of children living in poverty, food insecurity and homelessness, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Ensure that measures to combat poverty comply with a child rights-based approach and include a particular focus on children in disadvantaged situations, especially children of single parents, children with disabilities, Roma, gypsy and traveller children and children belonging to other minority groups, asylum-seeking and refugee children, children in large families and children leaving care.

Education

47. Noting with concern inequalities in educational attainment and outcomes for children in disadvantaged situations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen measures to address inequalities in educational attainment and improve educational outcomes for children in disadvantaged situations, including children in socioeconomically disadvantaged situations, children belonging to ethnic minority groups, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children with disabilities and young carers, by, inter alia: (i) providing financial and other support for such children to finish school; (ii) developing guidelines for responding to cases of school absenteeism; and (iii) collecting and analysing data disaggregated by ethnic origin, educational outcomes and other relevant indicators on completion rates and exclusions to inform policies and programmes;

(b) Ensure inclusive education in mainstream schools for all children with disabilities, including by adapting curricula and training and assigning specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes, so that children with disabilities and learning difficulties receive individual support and due attention;

(d) Monitor the use of exclusions and ensure that they are prohibited in primary schools and used in secondary schools only as a measure of last resort, prohibit the use of informal exclusions and so-called off-rolling, provide for appropriate alternatives and develop measures to address their overuse, in general, and their disproportionate use for children belonging to ethnic minority groups and children with disabilities;

(f) Increase efforts to eliminate discrimination and bullying, including cyberbullying, especially on the grounds of race, sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics, disability, migration or other status in the school context and ensure that such measures: (i) are adequately resourced and developed in consultation with children; (ii) address the root causes of bullying; and (iii) encompass prevention, early detection mechanisms, the empowerment of children, mandatory training for teachers, intervention protocols, consistent and robust recording and monitoring of bullying behaviour and awareness-raising on the harmful effects of bullying;

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Strengthen measures to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, young children, children in rural areas and children with disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, have access to accessible and safe public outdoor play spaces;