



**IDA**  
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 94<sup>th</sup> session  
(04 Sep – 22 Sep 2023)**

<b>Committee on the Rights of the Child – 94<sup>th</sup> session - 2023</b>	
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	76

**ALBANIA - CRC /C/ ALB /CO/5-6**

**ANDORRA – CRC/C/AND/CO/3-5**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC– CRC/C/DOM/CO/6**

**KYRGYZSTAN – CRC/C/KGZ/CO/5-6**

**LIECHTENSTEIN – CRC/C/STP/CO/5-6**

**TOGO – CRC/TGO/CO/5-6**

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

## **ALBANIA - CRC /C/ ALB /CO/5-6**

### **Data collection**

**10. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:**  
**(a) Expediently improve the data-collection and data-sharing system managed by the Institute of Statistics and ensure that data collected on children's rights cover all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin, religious affiliation and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate the analysis of the situation of children, in particular those in situations of vulnerability, with due regard to privacy laws;**

### **Non-discrimination**

**16. The Committee is deeply concerned that:**

**(a) Discrimination against children in disadvantaged situations, including children from Roma, Egyptian and other minority groups, children with disabilities, girls, children living in rural areas and LGBTI+ children, persists, noting in particular the limited ability of children in disadvantaged situations to benefit from basic services in such areas as education, health care and protection from violence, including hate speech, and to enjoy an adequate standard of living;**

**17. Recalling its previous recommendations and targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party combat discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including by:**

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

**(b) Investing resources in the implementation of existing cross-sectoral strategies and action plans relating to children, gender equality, disability, minorities and LGBTI+ persons;**

### **Children deprived of a family environment**

**30. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recalls its previous recommendations<sup>1</sup> and recommends that the State party:**

**(b) Adopt regulations to incentivize municipalities to provide a minimum package of childcare services and prevent the unnecessary separation of children, paying particular attention to low-income families and families with children with disabilities;**

### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

**32. Noting the positive developments that have taken place in the legal and regulatory framework in advancing the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recalls its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities and recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Implement the human rights-based approach to disability and increase political attention to and investments for children with disabilities;**

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<sup>1</sup>[CRC/C/ALB/CO/2-4](#), para. 55.

- (b) Promptly evaluate and scale up the social disability assessment pilot scheme and increase financing and capacities for the early identification of developmental difficulties;**
- (c) Increase budgets to cover not only cash allowances but also inclusive, community-based and school-based services with a focus on preventing institutionalization;**
- (d) Establish a policy for the provision of assistive devices and technology to facilitate access by and the inclusion of children with disabilities;**
- (e) Ensure the accessibility of schools, health-care centres and public spaces, buildings, services and information to children with disabilities;**
- (f) Strengthen the capacity of professionals to work with and support the families of children with disabilities.**

#### **Education, including vocational training and guidance**

38. The Committee notes the improvements in the regulatory framework for and quality of education and the efforts made to include children from Roma and Egyptian minority groups in education and to increase the quality of early childhood education. It is concerned, however, about:

- (a) The quality, relevance and delivery of education on an equitable basis for all children in the State party, with poorer educational performance disproportionately affecting groups of children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities;**

**39. Recalling targets 4.1–4.7 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (b) Ensure inclusive education in early childhood education settings and mainstream schools for all children with disabilities by adapting curricula and training and assigning specialized teachers and professionals to integrated classes, so that children with disabilities and learning difficulties receive individualized support and due attention, providing transportation and ensuring reasonable accommodation in schools;**
- (c) Take targeted measures to address school dropout rates and their causes, paying particular attention to girls, children with disabilities, children from Roma and Egyptian minority groups and children in disadvantaged situations, including by ensuring that all children, including pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers, remain in and finish school;**
- (e) Strengthen efforts to address shortcomings in learning outcomes due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, targeting children with disabilities, from low-income households, in rural areas and from Roma and Egyptian minority groups;**
- (h) Ensure equal access to preschool education for children living in poverty, children in rural areas, children with disabilities and other groups of children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations;**
- (i) Ensure that leisure, sporting and artistic activities and green spaces are available and accessible in all municipalities, in particular for girls, children with disabilities, children belonging to minority groups and children belonging to other marginalized groups;**

**ANDORRA – CRC/C/AND/CO/3-5**

#### **Data collection**

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

**(a)Ensure that the Andorran Observatory for Children’s Affairs has sufficient human, technical and financial resources to collect data encompassing all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, including data on nutrition, breastfeeding, mental health, abortion, substance abuse, school absenteeism and dropout rates, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background;**

#### **Non-discrimination**

16.The Committee notes with appreciation the protection of children from discrimination under relevant legislation and the awareness-raising campaigns on disability, but is concerned about persistent discrimination against girls, children with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children.

**17.Recalling targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a)Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat stigmatization and discrimination against girls, children with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and to address discriminatory gender stereotypes;**
- (b)Monitor strategies and measures to combat discrimination against girls, children with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children;**

#### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

**28.The Committee commends the State party for the measures taken to ensure the access of children with disabilities to early intervention services, inclusive education and leisure activities, and recommends that the State party:**

- (a)Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the Act on Social and Socio-Health Services and other legislative or policy frameworks aimed at supporting children with disabilities and their families;**
- (b)Strengthen support for parents of children with disabilities, such as through supplementary income and social services;**
- (c)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.**

#### **Education, including vocational training and guidance**

36.The Committee welcomes the measures taken to ensure the access of all children to education and address truancy and bullying in schools, but is concerned about the lack of data on school dropout rates and absenteeism, and the prevalence of bullying, including cyberbullying, and violence in schools.

**37.Recalling targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (c)Continue to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to and benefit from inclusive education, including through adapted curricula and training, specialized teachers and professionals and individual support and attention.**

#### **Rest, play, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities**

**38.The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken to promote all children’s access to sports and cultural activities, including through its regulation on reserving at least 10 per cent of available places for children with disabilities, and recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Strengthen measures to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, have access to accessible and safe public outdoor play spaces;**

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – CRC/C/DOM/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**

10. With reference to its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

**(a) Expediently improve its data-collection system. The data should cover all areas of the Convention and should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, racial/ethnic origin, nationality, migratory status and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly children in situations of vulnerability, including girls, children with disabilities, migrant children, children without legal documentation and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children;**

### **Non-discrimination**

15. While noting progress in normative and public policies on social inclusion and equal opportunities, the Committee is seriously concerned about:

**(a) Racial discrimination, in particular against Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent;**

**(b) Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;**

**(c) Bullying in schools of pregnant girls and adolescent mothers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and migrant children;**

**(d) Multiple gender-based discrimination from the earliest stages of girls' life and throughout their childhood.**

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

**(a) To expediently approve the draft general law on equality and non-discrimination and ensure its full alignment with the Convention and Act No. 136-03 to protect all children against discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, age, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, national, ethnic or social origin, migration status, sexual orientation and gender identity;**

**(d) To implement affirmative actions with a gender perspective and with sufficient resources to tackle intersecting discrimination and reduce inequalities affecting the most marginalized and excluded groups, paying particular attention to poor, rural and less educated girls, children with disabilities, migrant children, children without legal documentation, children of Haitian descent and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children;**

### **Children deprived of a family environment**

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

**(a) Urgently review its practices and alternative care policies, which continue to promote family separation and institutionalization of children, particularly in cases of violence, sexual abuse, poverty, disease and disability, and adopt a plan to deinstitutionalize children;**

#### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

**31. 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, to develop a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:**

**(a) To organize the collection of data on children with disabilities and develop an efficient system for diagnosing disability, which is necessary in order to be able to put in place appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities;**

**(b) To take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care, including early detection and intervention programmes;**

**(c) To develop a comprehensive national policy for the prevention, care, rehabilitation and social inclusion of children with disabilities, devising indicators and establishing monitoring mechanisms to measure progress, and to develop public policies and programmes that effectively include children with disabilities in practice;**

**(d) To guarantee the establishment at the highest level possible, including by legal provision, of the national fund for children and adolescents with disabilities;**

**(e) To ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in integrated classes and that they have access to and benefit from quality, inclusive and accessible national and local services for health, birth registration, social protection, early childhood development, childcare and protection from violence;**

#### **KYRGYZSTAN – CRC/C/KGZ/CO/5-6**

##### **Data collection**

**11. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to strengthen the collection of data on the Sustainable Development Goals but is concerned that varying methodologies and software between the National Statistics Committee and the relevant ministries do not allow for efficient sharing. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, and its previous recommendations, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Address the incompatibilities in the software used by the relevant actors, such as by establishing a central data-collection system encompassing all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, 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 the Sustainable Development Goals, including by expanding the range of indicators, and ensure that data are collected on the situation of children with disabilities, children in alternative care, children belonging to minority groups, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children;**

##### **Non-discrimination**

**17. The Committee remains deeply concerned about persistent discrimination against girls and children in disadvantaged situations. Recalling targets 5.1 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:**

**(a) Implement targeted policies and programmes to eliminate discrimination against all children in disadvantaged situations, including girls, children with disabilities,**

children belonging to ethnic minority groups, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, children without a regular residence status, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, children in alternative care and children left behind by parents working abroad;

(d) Conduct media campaigns to change social norms and behaviours that contribute to discrimination, to raise public awareness of the prohibition of discrimination, particularly on the basis of gender and disability, and to combat stigmatization against children in disadvantaged situations;

#### **Respect for the views of the child**

19. The Committee notes with appreciation the Decree on Participatory Local Governance, but is concerned about the lack of mechanisms in place to ensure the right of children to express their views and have these taken into account in all decisions affecting them. 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 by conducting awareness-raising activities to combat negative societal attitudes that hinder children's participation in society and ensuring the training of teachers and other relevant professionals on the right of the child to be heard;

#### **Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

23. Recalling its previous recommendations and target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Investigate all cases of abuse and ill-treatment of children in detention and in alternative care settings, including among children with disabilities, adequately sanction perpetrators and provide reparation to victims;

#### **Children deprived of a family environment**

30. The Committee notes the introduction of digital case management of children in vulnerable situations and the ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. Nonetheless, it remains deeply concerned about: (a) the large number of children living in institutions; (b) the insufficient measures to prevent the placement of children into residential care; and (c) reports of deaths of children and violence against them in alternative care.

31. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations and urges the State party to:

(b) Ensure that disability or migration status are never the sole justification for family separation, and that children are separated from their family only as a measure of last resort and if it is in their best interests after a comprehensive assessment of their situation;

(g) Urgently investigate and prosecute cases of deaths of children and violence carried out against them in alternative care, especially children with disabilities, and ensure access for victims to child-friendly reporting channels, to reparation and to free assistance by interpreters, including in sign language.

#### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

33. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken to revise the law on disability in line with international human rights standards but remains deeply concerned about persistent and widespread discrimination against and



institutionalization of children with disabilities, and about reports of abuse and violence, including sexual violence, against children with disabilities.

**34. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations and further urges the State party to:**

- (a) Adopt the draft amended law on disability and allocate sufficient resources for the development of family-based care options for children with disabilities;**
- (b) Facilitate access for children with all types of disabilities to accessible services, including education, health, social protection and support services, by developing regulations for reasonable accommodation and ensuring the accessibility of public spaces, buildings, services and information for children with disabilities;**
- (c) 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;**
- (d) Invest in measures to support 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;**
- (e) Take urgent measures to prevent and investigate cases of abuse, neglect and violence against children with disabilities, including sexual violence against girls, and ensure their access to remedies and the necessary support services;**
- (f) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of children with disabilities and to promote a positive image of them as rights holders.**

#### **Standard of living**

**38. Noting with deep concern the large number of children living in poverty, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (c) 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 belonging to ethnic minority groups, children with disabilities, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children.**

#### **Education, including vocational training and guidance**

**40. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken to improve access to education for all children, including the Education Development Programme 2021–2040, but is deeply concerned about:**

- (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;**
- (c) The low proportion of children with disabilities enrolled in mainstream schools;**

**41. Recalling targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:**

- (a) Strengthen measures for ensuring equal access to and retention in quality, inclusive education for all children, with particular attention to girls, children with disabilities, children in rural and remote areas, children belonging to ethnic minority groups, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children;**
- (g) Ensure inclusive education in early childhood education and in mainstream schools for all children with disabilities by providing training to teachers and**

**educational administrators on the minimum standard for the accessibility of school education for children with disabilities, ensuring reasonable accommodation within the school infrastructure, and 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;**

#### **LIECHTENSTEIN – CRC/C/STP/CO/5-6**

##### **Data collection**

**11. While noting the data provided by the State party on school enrolments, the Committee refers to its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention and recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Strengthen its data-collection system to ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention and that the data collected are disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, geographical location, national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, in particular those in situations of vulnerability, with due regard to the right of children to privacy;**

##### **Non-discrimination**

**16. While taking note of paragraph 283 of the Criminal Code, which contains a prohibition of discrimination on multiple grounds, including gender identity, and recalling target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive law against discrimination, continue strengthening the implementation of its existing legislation and combat discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, children of same-sex parents, children with disabilities, children in situations of migration and children from single-parent and/or low-income families.**

##### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

**28. The Committee notes that the Disability Equality Act of 2006 and the Education Strategy 2025 are aimed at combating discrimination against and promoting inclusive education of children with disabilities. The Committee regrets, however, the lack of information on the number and situation of children with disabilities in the State party in general and those who receive education in mainstream schools, special schools and in vocational schools in Austria and Switzerland. The Committee is concerned that the concept of reasonable accommodation is not incorporated into relevant legislation, which may contribute to de facto discrimination against children with disabilities, and that there is a lack of reasonable accommodation provided in mainstream schools for children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.**

**29. With reference to its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party:**

**(a) To adopt a human rights-based approach to disability;**

**(b) To set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities;**

**(c) To organize the collection of data on children with disabilities, which is necessary for putting in place appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities;**

**(d) To continue its efforts towards ensuring that children with disabilities have access to education in mainstream schools, in which reasonable accommodation and individual supports should be given as necessary;**

**(e)To further train and assign specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes providing individual support and all due attention to children with learning difficulties;**

**(f)To promote the acquisition of competencies and skills by children and young people with disabilities in order to enhance their work opportunities and facilitate their transition from school to employment, including by providing educational opportunities not far from their homes.**

**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;**

**(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.**

#### **Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities**

**37.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:**

**(b)Provide children, including those with disabilities and children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, with safe, accessible and inclusive outdoor spaces for play and socialization and public transport to access such spaces;**

#### **TOGO – CRC/TGO/CO/5-6**

##### **Data collection**

**10. Noting the Child Protection Dashboard (Tableaux de Bord de Protection de l'Enfant) and sectoral databases, the Committee recalls its general comment No.5(2003) and urges the State party to consolidate an integrated data collection and management system, ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention and includes**

data on the situation of children with HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ children, CRC/C/TGO/CO/5-6 3 children without parental care, children victims of trafficking and violence, including violence in institutions, and sexual exploitation and abuse, and other children in vulnerable situations, and that it is publicly available online and regularly updated.

#### **Non-discrimination**

17. The Committee notes with concern persisting discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ children, children living with HIV/AIDS, children in conflict with the law and other children in vulnerable situations. Recalling SDG target 10.3 and its previous recommendations, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Formulate a comprehensive and long-term anti-discrimination strategy with clear targets and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to modify and eliminate negative attitudes and practices and change deep-rooted stereotypes against children in vulnerable situations;
- (b) Ensure the implementation and impact assessment of such a strategy in coordination with children's and women's organisations, traditional and religious leaders and the media;
- (c) Expedite the revision of article 248 of the Children's Code to secure the recovery of maintenance for all children without discrimination, including for children who have not been formally recognized by their fathers.

#### **Respect for the views of the child**

21. The Committee notes positively the establishment of the children's advisory councils at the national, regional and prefectural levels. Recalling its general comment No.12(2009), the Committee recommends that the State party:

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

#### **Children deprived of a family environment**

32. The Committee notes the foster-family pilot project and the evaluation of the residential institutions in 2015-2016. However, it is deeply concerned about the following: (a) Around 40 per cent of children do not live with their two biological parents, particularly in urban areas; (b) The lack of support to prevent family separation and to protect children deprived of parental care; (c) The lack of resources is the main reason for placement of children in institutions, which is prioritised by judges over community and family-based solutions; (d) Over one third of institutions do not meet the operating standards, including on child protection, and some continue to operate despite the recommendation to close;

33. Recalling the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (b) Ensure that the lack of material and financial resources, poverty, disability or divorce are never the sole justification for the placement of children in alternative care;
- (e) After assessing the foster-family pilot project, develop a foster-care system to care for children who cannot stay with their families as an alternative to institutionalisation, allocate adequate financial, technical and human resources for its implementation, conduct a recruitment campaign for and build the capacity of foster carers, establish emergency family-based care options and respite care, with

particular attention to abandoned children, children with disabilities and children in street situations;

(f) Develop a deinstitutionalization strategy and action plan with dedicated resources for its implementation, including the systemic transformation of the childcare and protection systems, harmonisation and coordination of child-related policies and programmes with social protection interventions with particular attention to children in street situations, children living in institutions, abandoned children and children with disabilities

#### **Children with disabilities (art. 23)**

36. The Committee notes the inclusion of children with disabilities in the National Strategy to Protect and Promote People Living with Disabilities (2013-2017) and the Education Sectoral Plan (2014-2025) and projects promoting the rights of children with disabilities through community-based rehabilitation.

**37. Recalling general comment No.9(2006) and its previous recommendations, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Adopt a human rights-based approach regarding children with disabilities and review its legislation and policies, accordingly;

(b) Conduct a study on the situation of children with disabilities, including on the violence and deprivation affecting them, and, on that basis, develop a policy and a strategy on children with disabilities, with the participation of children, allocate adequate resources to its implementation and establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism;

(c) Ensure the Directorate for Child Protection has adequate competence as well as human and material resources for protection of children with disabilities;

(d) 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) Ensure access to 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 and providing and promoting assistive devices to support children with disabilities to independent life;

(f) Develop an inclusive education Strategy and Action Plan, 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;

(g) Appropriately address cases of violence and abuse, strengthen awarenessraising activities to combat isolation and stigmatization and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights holders

#### **Education, including vocational training and guidance**

41. The Committee welcomes the increased coverage of preschool, particularly among girls. The Committee, recalling SDG targets 4.1-4.7, 4.a and 4.c, recommends that the State Party: (a) Ensure equal access to and retention in quality preschool, primary and secondary education for all children, with particular attention to girls, children with disabilities and children from rural and remote areas;