

## Domain 5: Child Rights Environment Scoretable 2020

#	Country	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child (BI)	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
1	Afghanistan 2011	(1) para. 25: grave concern about gender-based discrimination of girls.	(1) para. 27: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not adequately applied by legislative bodies and is therefore absent from most of the legislation concerning children, as well as from the judicial and administrative decisions and policies, and programmes relevant to children.	(1) para 31: concerned that traditional societal attitudes towards children limit, and often totally prevent, children from expressing their views; the right of children to be heard in any judicial or administrative proceedings affecting them is rarely respected.	(1) para. 7: Concerned that child rights continue to be negatively affected by the application of different sources of law, namely codified, customary and sharia laws, and that legislation contradictory to the CRC remains in force.	(1) para. 15: information about budget allocation for implementing the rights of children is extremely limited, and there is no effective mechanism for tracking and monitoring the allocation and impact of resources from national and international sources.	(1) para. 19: concern about the absence of a comprehensive data collection system, which allows disaggregation and further analysis of data on the living conditions of children, particularly girls, children in poverty, or children with disabilities; para. 59: budgetary allocations to the education sector remain insufficient.	NA

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2	Albania 2012	(2) para. 8: urge to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to non-discrimination; para. 27: While welcoming the enactment of Law No. 10221 .. and the appointment of the Commissioner for the Protection against Discrimination ... the Committee is concerned about serious discrimination of girls, minorities, Roma.	(1) para. 29: While noting the full incorporation of the best interest principles in the Family Code, the Committee expresses concern that major pieces of legislation ( the Penal Code, the Code of Penal Procedure and the Code of Administrative Procedures) do not uphold the best interests principle. Also concerned about disregard of the best interests of the child in adoption procedures and in dealing with children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 33: welcomes the creation of Youth Parliaments and a National Youth Strategy; ... The Committee is however concerned about limited effects and exclusion of minority or disabled children and about traditional and cultural attitudes limiting space for child participation.	(2) para. 8: urge to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, including on legislation; para. 9: notes the adoption of numerous child-related laws ...; concerned about inconsistencies between the new and remaining unreviewed old laws .	(1) para. 9: no specific budget for the Action Plan for Children 2012-2015; para. 15: concerned that the proportion of the budget allocated to areas of direct relevance to children has decreased in the reporting period; no budgetary allocations for critical social services; para. 71: need to increase budget for education.	(2) para. 17: noting the collection of data on children by the National Statistics Institute (INSTAT), concerned that INSTAT has not established a comprehensive data-collection system; para. 82: welcomes creation database on victims of trafficking.	(2) para. 15: the State party relies excessively on civil society for budget; para. 83: calls for supporting CSOs who assist victims of trafficking; para. 89: calls for making available the CRC reporting documentation to civil society.

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3	Algeria 2012	(2) para. 8: urge to to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to non-discrimination; par. 29: notes with satisfaction the measures taken to increase girls' school enrolment; but also persistence of legal provisions that discriminate against girls and women such as in the 2005 Family Code. Concerned that limited measures have been taken to change societal discriminatory and patriarchal attitudes and behaviours as well as stereotyping of gender roles; and concerned about persistent de-facto discrimination of specified groups.	(2) para. 31: notes with satisfaction that the principle of the best interests of the child was included in the Family Code in 2005; concerned that the general principle of the best interests of the child has not been incorporated in all legislation concerning children and is therefore not applied in all administrative and judicial proceedings, nor in policies and programmes relating to children.	(1) para. 35: ad hoc initiatives to develop youth participation, but limited sustainable actions were undertaken to change societal attitudes; limiting effect of obligation to get guardian's authorization; right not to be heard remains largely ineffective.	(2) para. 11: notes as positive legal reforms and harmonization with CRC, in particular as regards nationality and civil registration. The Committee is however concerned about: lack of progress in the adoption of the Child Protection Code and gender discrimination in Family Code.	(1) para. 15: concerned about the lack of specific budgetary allocations for the National Plan of Action for Children (2008-2015); para. 19: concern that while the State party has a flourishing economy, the budgetary allocations for social sectors and especially for the health sector remain extremely limited; corruption remains pervasive continues to divert resources that could enhance the implementation of the rights of the child; concerned about the high level of military expenditure in contrast to allocations to the health sector; para. 57: budgetary allocations to the health sector remain greatly insufficient.	(1) para.21: notes with concern the limited progress made to establish a national, comprehensive and centralized data collection system; particularly concerned that data by geographic location, socio-economic status and groups of vulnerable children as well as data on violence, abuse and exploitation is completely lacking and that policy makers often use unreliable national data; para. 73: since 2008 no data collected on children in the streets.	(1) para. 8: urge to to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to cooperation with civil society; para. 27: concern that members of non-governmental human rights organizations, including those monitoring the situation of child rights as well as journalists are often subjected to intimidation, harassment and arrests; and about legal limitations on receiving international funds; para. 77: civil society is prohibited from operating shelters for victims of trafficking because they would be penalized for harbouring undocumented migrants.

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4	Andorra 2012	(2) para. 24: welcomes the establishment of the National Equality Commission in 2010 to address anti-discrimination issues and the initiative to develop a National Action Plan for Equality; concern about non-prioritization of the work of the Commission since its establishment though and that little progress has been made; concerned about the existing patriarchal attitudes, practices and stereotypes that discriminate against girls and children with disabilities.	(2) para. 26: noting that different governmental bodies, such as the Technical Commission for Children and Young People take into account the best interest of the child in all of its decisions and proposed measures for children, the Committee is concerned that the principle of the best interest of the child is not systematically or sufficiently integrated in legislation, policies, programmes and decision-making processes; para. 45: Act on Immigration does not take the best interests into account.	NA	(1) para. 9: notes with concern the absence of specific legislation dedicated to child protection covering basic provisions of the CRC; para. 23: call for raising minimum age for marriage to 18 in legislation; para. 31: call for legislation banning corporal punishment; para. 34: need to strengthen the legislation on child pornography; para. 43: lack of domestic legislation on asylum seekers and refugees, and absence of measures to protect unaccompanied and refugee children.	(2) para. 15: notes the economic grants provided by the State party during the economic crisis through different ministries to families in vulnerable situations; concerned about lack of specific budget allocated for the implementation of the CRC para. 16: more budget needed for vulnerable children; para. 41: more budget required for children with disabilities.	(2) para. 8: urge to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to data collection; para. 17: notes the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Andorra Foundation to develop a joint national database; reiterates its previous concern at the lack of data on children and the absence of a centralized and comprehensive data collection system to analyse the situation of children, including the impact of the economic crisis; recalls that the absence of data on children severely restricts effective and systematic monitoring of children's rights as well as the designing and planning of policies and programmes.	NA

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5	Angola 2010	(2) para. 28: welcomes new Constitution article on non-discrimination; concerned about ongoing discrimination against children with disabilities, children with HIV/AIDS and San children due to traditional attitudes in society.	(1) para. 30: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not well understood in the family or by State authorities, and that it is not consistently applied in practice; para. 8 notes inclusion best interests in new Constitution.	(2) para. 32: notes the State party's indication that children have the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings; regrets the absence of information on children's participation in student parliaments or school councils and in provincial and municipal bodies, and on the weight that is given to children's voices in these institutions; concerned that children's views are not given weight in the development of policies, action plans and strategies.	(2) para. 8: notes with interest the entry into force in February 2010 of the new Constitution that, inter alia, makes specific reference to the rights of children.	(2) para. 7 notes lack of action on previous COs; para. 16: notes that budget allocations for health, education and child protection have been increased in recent years; remains concerned that allocations are still low and it is not clear to which extent these allocations are spent on children; concern about corruption.	(2) par. 18: notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to increase capacity for data collection and analysis; notes, however, that the lack of capacity and resources hinder the development of a central system for comprehensive data collection in the State party.	(3) para. 22: takes notice that NGOs are strongly represented in the National Council for Children and participated in the drafting of the State party's report under review, and welcomes the State party's indication that it closely cooperates with civil society in the implementation of children's rights at all levels of the country.

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6	Antigua and Barbuda 2017	(2) para 20: welcomes the revised Status of Children Act (2015) as a means of eliminating stigma against children born out of wedlock. (...) remains concerned that the grounds for constitutional protection from discrimination do not fully comply with CRC art. 2 and that no additional legislation exists that explicitly prohibits all forms of discrimination. (...) concerned that some groups (CWDs, children living in poverty, children of migrant parents and informally adopted children) suffer from discriminatory attitudes and disparities in accessing basic services.	(2) para. 22: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the BIs of the child in new legislation such as the Child Justice Act (2015) and the Children (Care and Adoption) Act (2015). However, (...) concerned that the principle may not be fully implemented in practice.	(2) para. 24: notes as positive the progress in establishing mechanisms allowing students to voice their views at school (student councils) and the efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child, e.g. the establishment of a youth parliament. (...) concerned about the limited recognition in the legislation of the child right to be heard and that there are no general mechanisms promoting this right. (...) concerned that e.g. children in administrative care and CWDs are often not consulted in matters concerning them.	(2) para. 4: (...) welcomes the efforts made to carry out a comprehensive review of existing laws to ensure compliance and harmonization with the provisions of the CRC and notes as positive the adoption of the Status of Children Act (2015), the Child Justice Act (2015) and the Children (Care and Adoption) Act (2015). (...) concerned (...) that some legislation remains to be harmonized with the CRC.	(2) para. 10: takes note of the use of a programme-based budget. However (...) remains concerned at the lack of targeted budgetary allocations for the implementation of the CRC, particularly for those provisions affecting children in marginalized and vulnerable situations. (...) also concerned at the decline in the total budget allocated to the education and health sectors.	(2) para. 12: notes as positive the efforts being made to establish a systematic mechanism of data collection, but (...) concerned that currently the collection of data on the status of children's rights remains weak, particularly data disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, geographical and socioeconomic background, which are pivotal for devising strategies and policies for the full implementation of the CRC and for assessing progress achieved towards that objective.	NA

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7	Argentina 2010	(2) para. 31: notes national plan against discrimination; and welcomes efforts of the State party to attend to the needs of disadvantaged children, as well as to establish programmes indigenous children; nevertheless concerned at persistent reports of discrimination, social exclusion and physical, sexual and psychological abuse of indigenous children.	(1) para. 34: notes with concern that the principle of the best interests of the child may be used to evaluate if a child should be deprived of his/her liberty under the Juvenile Justice Act, which has not yet been reformed to conform to the CRC; further concerned that this principle may not be taken into account in all decisions, administrative and judicial procedures and programmes concerning children.	(2) para. 36: welcomes the introduction in Act No. 26061 of the right of the child to be heard and the obligation of the authorities to guarantee that right in all proceedings that concern a child; concern about making the hearing subject to the child's own request, which may give rise to discrimination and inconsistencies in practice; concern at the absence of formal procedures; praise for new legal provision on free birth registration.	(3) para. 13: welcomes the legal reforms of the State party to bring its legislation into line with the provisions of the CRC, and in particular Act No. 26061 (2005) on Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents.	(2) para. 17: no budgetary allocations National Plan; para. 21: welcomes the sustained increase since 2002 in social investment; however notes with serious concern that disparities between provinces remain, and are as extreme as 500 per cent between the poorest and richest provinces.	(2) para. 23 welcomes efforts made but remains concerned that the absence of a systematic approach to data collection and analysis is lacking.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the consultations by the State party with civil society in the preparation of the report of the State party and the responses to the list of issues, though it regrets that such consultations did not take place in the provinces.

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8	Armenia 2013	(1) para. 18: concerned at the prevalence of discrimination on the basis of gender ... particularly concerned about sex-selective abortion in rural areas ... remains concerned at the de facto discrimination against categories of children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities, children living with HIV, children from poor families, children living in rural areas, children in street situations and children living in institutions.	(1) para. 20: notes the inclusion of the "legitimate interests of the child" principle in the Family Code of 2004, but ... considers that the "legitimate interests of the child" is not equivalent to "the best interests of the child" in its scope. ... regrets the lack of information on guidelines and procedures for ensuring that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is applied consistently throughout the State party's policies, legislation and programmes.	(2) para. 22: notes that the right to be heard is included in a number of laws, but is concerned that children's views are not taken into account on a regular basis in all matters that affect them and regrets that the existing Youth Parliaments are not functioning effectively. ... also concerned that consent to medical intervention for children under the age of 18 is given only by the child's representative.	(2) para. 8: notes the adoption of several child-related laws over the reporting period, in particular amendments to the Law on the Rights of the Child of 1996. ... also notes that numerous legislative initiatives aimed at improving the situation of children's rights are pending approval by the Parliament. ... regrets that adoption of some of this draft legislation has been delayed for several years, which has impeded the full and effective realization of children's rights in many areas.	(1) para. 10: notes the adoption of the National Programme for the Protection of Children's Rights for 2013-2016 and many other strategies and plans covering different areas of the CRC. However ... regrets that the programme and strategies lack adequate financial resources and mostly rely on funding by international organizations.; para. 14: concerned about the significant decrease in budget allocations, in particular in the areas of health and education ... and regrets the lack of information on a child rights based perspective in the budgeting process.	(1) paras. 6 and 7: need to address previous CO and develop a comprehensive system for the analysis of data collected in order to assess progress achieved in the realization of children's rights and to help design policies to implement the CRC.	NA

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9	Australia 2019	(1) para. 19: recalls previous COs (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 30) and urges the State party: (a) To address disparities in access to services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, CWDs, children in alternative care and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, regularly evaluate the enjoyment by those children of their rights and prevent and combat discrimination; (b) To strengthen its awareness-raising and other activities aimed at preventing discrimination, including through school curricula, and take affirmative action for the benefit of the groups of children mentioned above.	(1) para. 20: recalls previous COs (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 32), and recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that procedures and criteria guiding all relevant persons in authority for determining the best interests of the child and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration are coherent and consistently applied (...); (b) Make publicly available all judicial and administrative judgments and decisions regarding children, specifying the criteria used in the individual assessment of the best interests of the child. Para. 44: The best interests of the child are not a primary consideration in asylum, refugee and migration processes.	(1) para. 22: recalls previous COs (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 34); recommends to: (a) Amend the Family Law Act (...) to provide all children, in accordance with their age and maturity, the opportunity to have their views heard (...), including in "non-court-based family services"; (b) Amend the Migration Act (...) to guarantee respect for the views of the child at all stages of the migration process; (c) Provide training and support to independent children's lawyers; (d) Enhance children's meaningful and empowered participation in the family, the community and schools, paying particular attention to girls, CWDs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; (e) Develop toolkits for public consultations with children (...) including on climate change and the environment.	(1) para. 7: recalls previous COs on legislation (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 12) and again recommends, also as proactive measures, that the State party: (a) Enact comprehensive national child rights legislation fully incorporating the Convention and providing clear guidelines for its consistent and direct application throughout the states and territories of the State party; (b) Ensure that the resources of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights are adequate and sufficient to effectively examine, including in consultation with the National Children's Commissioner and other interested parties, all proposed legislation and its impact on children's rights; (c) Guarantee that all proposed legislation is fully compatible with the Convention.	(1) para. 10: recalls previous COs (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 20); recommends to: (a) Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources (...) for the implementation of all policies, plans, programmes and legislative measures for children and implement a system for tracking the (...) use of resources (...); (b) regularly assess the distributional impact of government investment on (...) children's rights (...) to address the disparities in child rights indicators [with] particular attention to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; (c) Establish appropriate (...) inclusive processes through which civil society, the public at large and children specifically may participate in all stages of the budget process.	(2) para. 11: welcomes the creation of the Office of the National Data Commissioner; recalls previous COs (CRC/C/AUS/CO/4, para. 22) and recommends to: (a) Ensure that data collected (...) cover all areas of the CRC, in particular those relating to violence, alternative care, natural disasters and children in conflict with the law, (...) disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin, and socio-economic background, and that they identify children in situations of vulnerability, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, CWDs and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are shared among the ministries and used (...) [for] policies, programmes and projects.	(1) para. 15: recommends that the State party strengthen its support to: (a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organizations, including through capacity-building initiatives and increased resource allocation, and that it prioritizes them as service providers; (b) Organizations working with asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, as well as organizations working on climate change and environmental issues.

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10	Austria 2012	(2) para. 7: urge to address COs of the initial report that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to non-discrimination; para. 24: noting the specialized and legislation, remains concerned about instances of hate speech by politicians and manifestations of Neo-Nazism, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.	(2) para. 3: welcomes that the Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of Children protects the best interests of the child; para. 26: and in other relevant legislation too; concerned that in practice, this principle is not always duly taken into consideration in decision-making processes and in the allocation of resources; para. 42: insufficient in intercountry adoptions.	(2) para. 28: noting that the voting age was lowered from 18 to 16 years in 2007 and that the right to participation is protected in article 4 of the Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of Children; recommends research to monitor the impact of the lowering of the voting age and educate children on the exercise of the right to vote in an effective manner.	(2) para. 10: welcoming the Federal Constitution Law on the Rights of Children of 16 February 2011; notes with concern that it does not include all the rights protected under the CRC, in particular social and cultural rights of children; notes with concern that despite the State's efforts to harmonize the youth protection laws of all Länder, in line with the principles and provisions of the CRC, most continue to have divergent standards; para. 52: lack of legislation on inclusive education.	(1) para. 16: regrets the lack of information on the level of resources allocated to children as well as on mechanisms for the identification tracking and protection of strategic budget lines.	(2) para. 18: notes that the Austrian statistics institution publishes data disaggregated by age, sex and geographic location on the population, labour market, youth employment, education, culture, health and social affairs on a regular basis; concerned that such data is not sufficiently disaggregated for all areas covered by the CRC, e.g. on migrant children, refugee and asylum-seeking children, and other vulnerable children; para. 40: no adequate statistical data available to ensure the quality control of alternative care institutions and family type alternative care.	NA

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11	Azerbaijan 2012	(1) para. 30: deeply concerned about the discrimination frequently experienced by children in vulnerable situations, particularly by children with disabilities, children without parental care, and children in economically disadvantaged households, see also paras. 56(a).	(2) para. 32: While noting that the State party's legislation does make reference to the best interests of the child, concerned by the inadequate application of the principle. In the context of judicial proceedings, ... concerned at the lack of capacity among law professionals in understanding and representing the child's perspective and best interests.	(2) para. 36: notes the positive steps taken to establish a Children's Parliament and introduce, on a limited scale, a pilot project on "child-friendly" schools; notes with concern that in the majority of schools, the opportunity for children to participate in decision-making affecting them, remains limited; further concerned that in judicial proceedings, the views of children are not taken into account, having regard to age and maturity.	(2) para.7: previous COs on legislation not addressed; para. 9: noting that the Constitution of the State party accords priority to international ratified treaties over domestic laws and, in principle, allows for the direct application of international treaties.	(2) para. 17: noting the increase in financial allocations for health, education, and addressing the needs of children in an internally displaced situation; concerned that the overall level of resources allocated for social services remains low; is further concerned at the absence of a child-rights approach to allocations in the State party's national, regional and local budgets.	(2) para. 21: noting as positive the publication of a statistical overview of children in Azerbaijan, and recently established databases; reiterates its previous concerns about the general continued absence of data necessary for the implementation of the CRC; remains particularly concerned at the lack of an effective system for collecting disaggregated data on infant and child mortality, child malnutrition, children with disabilities, sexual abuse and exploitation.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the 2011 Law on social services, which facilitates government collaboration with NGOs in the provision of social services as well as the establishment of a State Council for support to NGOs; notes that NGOs continue to lack adequate support and cooperation from the State party and are not sufficiently consulted on legislative processes.

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12	Bahamas 2005	(1) para. 28: concerned that societal discrimination persists against vulnerable groups of children, including children living in poverty, Haitian immigrant children and children with disabilities and that the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of disability.	NA	(1) para. 31: concerned that, due to certain traditional attitudes in the society, children have limited opportunities to freely express their views.	(2) para. 10: notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken to harmonize its legislation and the reform of the Constitution which intends to include children's rights in the Constitution; However, concerned that the existing legislation does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC.	(2) para. 18: noting the substantial budgetary allocation in social services and infrastructure, particularly in the area of health and education, the Committee is nevertheless concerned that budgetary allocations are insufficient.	(1) para. 20: concerned at the lack of disaggregated and analytical data on persons under the age of 18 years in all areas covered by the CRC, including the most vulnerable groups, children living in poverty, children with disabilities and immigrant children.	(2) para. 24: noting the significant steps taken to facilitate the establishment of NGOs; remains concerned that insufficient efforts have been made to systematically involve civil society, particularly in the area of civil rights and freedoms.

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13	Bahrain 2019	(1): para. 16: remains deeply concerned about persistent de facto discrimination against girls, CWDs, Baharna and Ajam children and children born to foreign or stateless fathers, the lack of comprehensive legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination, and girls not having inheritance rights equal to those of boys.	(2): para. 18: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the BIs in the Child Act and the Family Act; recommends to: (a) Ensure that this right is consistently applied in all judicial proceedings and decisions, including with regard to custody and children in institutions; (b) Develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration; (c) Ensure that all professionals working with and for children receive training on those procedures and criteria.	(2) para 20: noting with appreciation the participation of children in the development of the national strategy for children, as well as the "Your voice is heard" programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs; recommends to: (a) Develop toolkits to standardize public consultations with children on national policy development, and ensure a high level of inclusiveness and participation of children (...); (b) Conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote meaningful and empowered participation of children in the family, community, school and in all judicial and administrative procedures.	(2) para. 6: noting with appreciation the adoption of the Child Act in 2012 and the Family Act in 2017; recommends to: (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of existing legislation, in line with the previous COs (CRC/C/BHR/CO/2-3, paras. 9 and 48), to ensure that all laws (...) and all established interpretations thereof are harmonized and in full compliance with the CRC; (b) Introduce a child rights impact assessment procedure for all new legislation adopted at the national level; (c) Expediently pass into law the correctional justice bill, (...) and other measures aimed at harmonizing the legislation of Bahrain with the CRC.	(2) para. 3: welcomes the increase in budgetary resources, including for the National Committee for Childhood; In view of the recognition by the State party of the challenges in identifying and assessing the impact of budget allocations for children, (...) recommends the State to utilize a child-rights approach to the State budget, including by: (a) Specifying clear allocations to children (...) with priority to health, education and child protection (...); (b) a tracking system for the allocation and the use of resources for children in the budget.	(2) para. 10: notes with appreciation the efforts to improve data collection, and recommends to: (a) Ensure that the data and indicators cover all areas of the CRC, including health, education and child protection, and are shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the CRC; (b) Take into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in the guidance of the OHCHR entitled Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation (...).	(1) para. 13: concerned about reports of restrictions on CSOs and HRDs, including those working on children's rights; the increasing number of reports of intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention of HRDs; and the absence of alternative reports received (...) from national CSOs (...); recalls previous COs (CRC/C/BHR/CO /2-3 para. 27). Recommends to: (a) Ensure the autonomy and independence of CSOs and HRDs in promoting children's rights (...); (b) (...)investigate all cases of violence committed against (child) HRDs, and ensure their adequate (...) protection); (c) Systematically engage CSOs (...) in (...) CRC related policies, plans and programmes.

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14	Bangladesh 2015	(2) para. 24: While noting the State party's efforts to combat discrimination ... reiterates its previous concern that discrimination against certain groups of children, particularly girls, children with disabilities, children of ethnic and religious minorities, in particular Dalit and indigenous children, children living in rural areas, refugee and asylum-seeking children and children in street situations still exists in practice (see CRC/C/BGD/CO/4, para. 32).	(2) para. 28: welcomes the explicit inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the National Children Policy and the Children Act. ... however, concerned that despite this legal recognition, the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is not adequately and systematically interpreted or applied by administrative, legislative and judicial bodies.	(2) para. 32: While noting the positive steps taken ... to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, such as the Children's Opinion Poll 2013 ... remains concerned about the lack of information regarding the practical implementation of the right of the child to express his or her views in judicial and administrative proceedings and to participate in the preparation and implementation of policies and programmes affecting him or her. ... further concerned that the persistence of such practices may impede the consideration of the views of child within the family and alternative care settings.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the enactment of the Children Act in 2013 and notes that a number of child-related bills are still in the process of discussion and study. ... however concerned about the considerable delay in adopting the Education Act. It is also concerned about the limited implementation of child-related laws.	(2) para. 12: notes the State party's progressive increase of budget allocations for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the establishment of public child-focused budgeting. However, ... concerned about the mismanagement of the allocation of resources, which is exacerbated by corruption, and the lack of effective monitoring and evaluation systems.	(2) para. 14: notes the State party's initiatives to improve data collection mechanisms, including the project to collect data in the nine districts using smart phones and mobile applications. ... however, remains concerned at the lack of reliable disaggregated data necessary for effective evaluation of the implementation of the CRC .... also reiterates its previous concern about the lack of coordination and collaboration among government agencies in data collection and the inadequate technical capabilities for data collection, analysis and reporting.	(2) para. 20: notes the State party's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with civil society. ... however, concerned that coordination remains weak, limiting the participation of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations in formulating and monitoring policies and strategies to implement the CRC.

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15	Barbados 2017	(2) para. 21: notes that the Constitution provides for non-discrimination on the grounds of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex (...) [but] concerned at the persistent discrimination against migrant children and CWDs.	(2) para. 23: notes that the principle of the BIs of the child is enshrined in some of the State party's legislation and the information provided by the delegation that it will be further incorporated through the ongoing legislative reform. However, (...) concerned that it will still not be an overarching rule to be applied in all areas of the law. (...) further concerned that this rule will not be adequately implemented in practice, owing to the absence of any mechanism to determine and assess the BIs of the child where children's interests are at stake. (...) also concerned that, in cases of divorce or separation, there is no specific mechanism to protect the BIs of the child.	(2) para. 25: notes with appreciation the progress made in establishing mechanisms for students to voice their views at school through student councils. (...) still concerned, however, at the limited recognition of the right of the child to be heard in the legislation and the absence of general mechanisms for the exercise of the right to be heard.	(2) para. 5: appreciates the State party's ongoing efforts to reform national legislation pertaining to the rights of the child. (...) however, concerned at the delay in the adoption of the new legislation and that some parts of the State party's legislation remain to be harmonized with the CRC, in particular, legislation related to the definition of the child, administration of juvenile justice, violence against children and custody.	(2) para. 11: takes note of the use of a programme-based budget and of the systematic evaluation of expenditures by semester. Nevertheless, (...) concerned that there are no specific budgetary allocations for implementation of all the provisions of the CRC. (...) also concerned at the lack of assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of the budget.	(2) para. 13: While appreciating a noticeable development with regard to improving the collection of data on the situation of children, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, (...) concerned that the collection of data on the status of children's rights remains weak, including in the areas of education, trafficking and juvenile justice, and does not allow for disaggregation and analysis.	NA

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16	Belarus 2011	(2) para. 27: welcomes the 2008–2010 National Plan of Action on gender equality; remains concerned at the extent of gender-based discrimination and the absence of legislation specifically prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex; concerned at harassment and discrimination of Roma children.	(1) para. 29: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not systematically reflected in the State party's legislation.	(1) para. 31: concerned that the views of the child on decisions affecting them are rarely given due weight, especially in the home; further concerned that children are not provided with the opportunity to be heard in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them; c concerned at the high age (14 years) required for children to file a petition with a court of law without the consent of the parents and seek legal assistance.	(1) para. 7: previous COs on review legislation not or insufficiently implemented; regrets that the State party has not undertaken a complete review of its legislation in order to harmonize it with the CRC; further concerned that children's rights in the State party seem to be governed mainly by Presidential decrees, rather than laws enacted by the Parliament.	(2) para. 16: welcoming the intention to increase the proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) allocated for children in the plans for 2011–2015; regrets that the budgeting process in the State party does not allow clear identification of the resources allocated to children.	(2) para. 18: appreciates the efforts to strengthen data collection in areas concerning children, notably through the creation of a national social and economic database, BelarusInfo; however, concerned at the lack of information on e.g. the situation of children belonging to minority groups, in particular Roma children, and stateless children and violence against children.	(1) para. 23: takes note of the closure of the commission for registrations (and re-registrations) of civil society organizations and the transfer of its functions to the Ministry of Justice; remains concerned that CSOs experience difficulties in registering, due among other reasons, to the high fees required to register; also concerned at the difficult working conditions for NGOs.

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17	Belgium 2019	(1) para. 16: remains concerned that children living in poverty and CWDs remain subjected to discrimination, in (...) access to health care, education, housing and leisure; also concerned at the prejudice, stereotypes and hatred of children with a migrant background witnessed, (...) reiterates its previous COs (CRC/C/BEL/CO/3-4, para. 32) and calls upon the State party to adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination (...).	(2) para. 17: concerned that, although the (...) BIs is integrated in newly adopted laws, it is still not systematically considered in decisions regarding children in vulnerable situations. (...) recommends to: (a) Strengthen its efforts to ensure that the (...) BIs is consistently interpreted and applied in decisions concerning migrant and refugee children, and children in alternative care, and in education and health measures; (b) (...) provide guidance for determining BIs	(1) para. 19: recommends that the State party: (a) Improve participation of all children (...) by abolishing any age limit on the right of children to express their views in all issues concerning them in legislation, and ensure that due weight is given to their views (...); (b) Ensure that children in schools and in situations of migration are given (...) opportunities to express their views, and that these views are taken seriously; (c) Continue to involve children (...) in local public consultations (...).	(3) para. 7: welcomes the adoption of the 2018 code on prevention, assistance to and protection of young persons in the French community; also welcomes the fact that the new legislation and regulations regarding children in the Flemish community are subjected to a child rights impact assessment (JoKER) and poverty tests, and recommends that this practice be implemented systematically countrywide, for all laws and regulations that affect children directly or indirectly.	(2) para. 10: welcoming the State party's efforts to introduce "child budgeting"; regrets that this (...) is not used systematically; concerned that budgetary allocations to children remain inadequate, specifically with regard to children in vulnerable situations, and lack transparency. (...) also concerned at the (...) high level of child poverty, marked by regional disparities; (...) urges use of a child-rights approach in the preparation of the State budget (...).	(2): para. 11: welcoming the establishment of 40 national indicators on children's rights; regrets that data collection remains fragmented and that children in the most vulnerable situations, such as children in poverty, CWDs and children separated from parents, have not been included in indicators; encourages the State to: (a) improve its centralized data-collection system (...) (b) ensure that data and indicators are shared among the ministries, and used.	NA

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18	Belize 2005	(2) para. 25: appreciating that some measures have been taken to promote the principle of non-discrimination against children; concerned at the persistent discrimination faced by girls, children with disabilities, migrant children, children living in poverty, children belonging to minorities, indigenous children, children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, children living in rural areas, and pregnant students and teenage mothers in schools.	(1) para. 28: this principle is not fully reflected in the State party's legislation, policies and programmes at the national and local levels.	(2) para. 30: despite some good examples of the implementation of article 12 of the CRC and of child participation, (...) concerned at the persistence of traditional and authoritarian attitudes in the State party which limit children's right to participate.	(2) para. 3: takes note of the adoption of several laws; para. 9: appreciates the ongoing efforts to bring its domestic law into conformity with the provisions and principles of the CRC, resulting in recent legislative reforms and amendments; para. 50: flaws as regards laws on children with disabilities; para. 68: idem for sex offence legislation; para. 71: idem for juvenile justice.	(1) para. 6: that a limited number of human, financial and technical resources have impeded progress; para. 15: while noting the devastation caused by hurricanes and the budgetary burden of reconstruction, concerned that there are no budget allocations for children, that resources are insufficient to meet the needs of all children and that there are regional disparities, particularly between urban and rural areas, with regard to a range of social indicators.	(2) para. 17: takes note of the establishment, in 1996, of the Social Indicators Committee, which supervises the national social sector statistics and monitors the quality of such statistics. However, ... regrets the lack of adequate resources allocated to the Social Indicators Committee and the interruptions in its work. ... concerned at the insufficient data in some areas covered by the CRC.	(2) para. 19: noting with appreciation the efforts to strengthen cooperation with NGOs; concerned that the State party has shifted some of its responsibilities and duties with regard to the implementation of some provisions of the CRC to NGOs without providing them with adequate resources, policies and guidelines.

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19	Benin 2016	NA	(2) para. 24: welcomes the incorporation of the best interests of the child in the current Children's Act. However, (...) concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is frequently not upheld in cases of disputes involving children, which are often resolved in line with traditional beliefs and customs, with a view to preserving social cohesion.	(2) para. 26: notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child through the Children's Parliament and the Youth Parliament, but remains concerned that the State party has not taken the measures necessary to overcome traditional societal attitudes which limit children from freely expressing their views in schools, in courts or within the family and the community.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the enactment of the Children's Act. However (...) remains concerned that the Act and other legislation protecting the rights of the child are not fully and effectively implemented.	(1) para. 7: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on resources for children; para. 14: While the budget allocation to social sectors (health, education and social development) was expected at a rate of 36% of the State Budget in 2014 in the context of the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2011-2015) (...) concerned that the budget allocation to social sectors remains low, at only 29% of the State budget, and that the Ministry for Family Affairs is one of the ministries with the lowest budgets in Benin.	(1) para. 7: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data; para. 16: concerned that there is insufficient child-centred and disaggregated data, and that available standard data is neither updated nor published in a timely manner.	(2) para. 22: welcomes the cooperation between the Government and the civil society, but remains concerned that it is mainly informal, and that civil society is not sufficiently heard or consulted.

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20	Bhutan 2017	(2) para. 15: While noting that discrimination is prohibited by law, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Take prompt measures to end instances of discrimination in practice against girls, CWDs, children of ethnic Nepalese origin and of single parents, and undocumented children, in particular regarding the right to a nationality and education; (b) Establish accessible and effective mechanisms and procedures to monitor, receive and address complaints of discrimination, in particular in circumstances of denial of school enrolment, as previously recommended (see CRC/C/BTN/CO/2, para. 26 (b)).	(1) para. 16: recommends that the State party: (a) Amend the Marriage Act to ensure that child custody decisions are made on the basis of the BIs of the child; (b) Finalize and adopt promptly the standard operating procedures and guidelines being developed by the National Commission for Women and Children; (c) Ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions and in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children.	(2) para. 17: welcomes the efforts made by the State party to promote children's participation, including the creation of the Bhutan Children's Parliament. (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Strengthen its efforts to reach all children, in particular girls, CWDs, children living in remote areas, children from all ethnic origins and children who are out of school (...); (b) Provide appropriate training to the relevant professionals (...) to give the child the opportunity to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings affecting her or him.	(1) para. 5: recommends that the State party review the Child Care and Protection Act of 2011 to include all the rights enshrined in the CRC and encompass all children, not only those considered to be in "difficult circumstances". It also recommends that the State party review its legislation to harmonize child rights-related provisions, in particular the Child Adoption Act of 2012, the Penal Code as amended in 2011, the Marriage Act as amended in 2009 and the Citizenship Act of 1985.	(2) para. 8: commends the State party for allocating resources adequate for children's rights, particularly regarding education and health; (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Increase the budget allocated to child protection measures and utilize a child-rights approach in the elaboration of the State budget by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and the use of resources for children throughout the budget; (...) (c) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF in the implementation of these recommendations.	(2) para. 9: welcomes the progress achieved in collecting data on child rights issues (...) including the studies on the status of vulnerable children and violence against children in Bhutan and (...) recommends to: (a) Incorporate child rights indicators into periodic data-collection systems; (b) Ensure that the data (...) are shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects (...); (c) Disaggregate data by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background (...).	(1) para. 12: recalls its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/BTN/CO/2, para. 16 (a)) and recommends that the State party involve civil society organizations working with and for children more systematically through all stages of implementation of the CRC.

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21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 2009	(2) para. 28: welcomes the broad definition of discrimination in the new Constitution, the creation of the National Office; concerned about the non-existence of coherent institutional and legal mechanisms to respond to the challenges of discrimination, and about the reported increase in acts of racism against indigenous peoples and afro-descendants; concerned about the significant disparities in the implementation of the rights enshrined in the CRC, reflected in a range of social indicators.	(2) para. 30: notes with appreciation that BI is incorporated in the State party's legislation, notably in article 60 of the new Constitution; concerned that children are not fully treated as subjects of rights and regrets that BI is still not reflected as a primary consideration in all legislative and policy matters affecting children; further concerned that this principle is not adequately implemented by all professionals, including the judiciary.	(2) para. 32: notes that the principle of the respect for the views of the child is incorporated in legislation and that the Children's Plurinational Legislative Assembly is an interesting process of democratic elections by children themselves; concerned that the views of the child are sometimes not duly solicited or taken into account, including in judicial proceedings, at school, and in public debates; concerned that the participation of children is weak.	(2) para. 7: welcomes the new Constitution which includes a section on child rights; regrets that national legislation is not in conformity with the CRC in certain areas; notes difficulties with the dual legal system and certain incompatibilities between positive law and the indigenous customary law.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the efforts to improve the allocation of resources for children, such as the conditional cash transfers in the areas of health and education, but is concerned that budget allocations for children may need a longer-term perspective; concerned at the difficulty to track investment on children across sectors, departments and municipalities, as well as at the fact that areas such as child protection and justice are not yet prioritized.	(2) para. 19: notes efforts made to further improve data collection mechanisms as demonstrated by recent surveys on children in school; concerned at the lack of a comprehensive system of data collection and analysis and at inadequate data on specific groups of children.	(2) para. 24: takes note with appreciation of the importance that the State party gives to the participation of civil society; concerned at the lack of a strategy to ensure civil society participation in relation to the rights of the child; regrets that the State party's report was not prepared on the basis of a wide consultation.

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22	Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019	(2) para. 6: refers to previous COs (CRC/C/BIH/CO/2-4) that have not (sufficiently) been implemented, in particular, those relating to non-discrimination (para. 30); para. 18: welcoming the adoption of the revised Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (2016) (...); recommends to: (a) Continue efforts to effectively implement the Law at all levels, including by disseminating information on where children can report discrimination and harmonizing the legislation at all levels within the State party; (b) Address the negative impact of stereotyping and discriminatory attitudes on children's rights and ensure that the media is sensitized to this stigmatization of children, particularly children in disadvantaged situations, including by encouraging the media to adopt codes of conduct.	(2) para. 19: welcoming the promotion of the guidelines for determining the BIs in all areas; concerned that the principle of the BIs is not applied in practice at all levels in the State party; para. 20: urges the State party: (a) To disseminate the guidelines for determining the BIs to all relevant professionals who make such decisions; (b) To ensure that the principle of the BIs is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects at the national, entity, district and cantonal levels, in particular in relation to those children deprived of a family environment.	(2) para. 6: recommends to address previous COs (CRC/C/BIH/CO/2-4) that were not (sufficiently) implemented, in particular, those relating to respect for the views of the child (para. 34); para. 21: urges the State party to: (a) Support the activities of the Council for Children in promoting child participation in developing policies and decisions concerning child rights at all levels; (b) Strengthen programmes and awareness-raising activities to remove all barriers to children expressing their views at all levels and ensure the meaningful participation of all children within the family, community and schools (...) and in decision-making in all matters related to children, with particular attention paid to children in vulnerable situations.	(2) para. 3: notes with appreciation the legislative, institutional and policy measures adopted to implement the Convention, in particular the amendments to the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in 2016 and the adoption of the Action Plan for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2015–2018) in 2015. para. 7: recalls its previous concluding observations (para. 10) and recommends that the State party enact a comprehensive child rights act, which fully incorporates the principles and provisions of the Convention and its Optional Protocols and provides clear guidelines for their consistent and direct application at the national, entity, district and cantonal levels.	(1) para. 11: recalls its previous recommendations (para. 16) and further recommends that the State party: (a) Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including specific indicators and a tracking system, for the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of resources allocated to the implementation of the CRC; Ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated to programme budgeting, using a results-based and child rights approach, and regulate equitable funding for children throughout the budget at the national, entity, district and cantonal levels.	(2) para. 12: While welcoming the population census conducted in October 2013, remains concerned about the fragmented approach to data collection, which does not cover all areas of the CRC, and the methodological differences across sectors (...). recommends the State to: (a) Expediently improve its coherent data-collection system across administrative units, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, migration and socioeconomic status, ensuring that it covers all areas of the CRC to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, including Roma children; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are shared among the ministries concerned (...) and used; (...).	(2) para. 8: recommends that the State party provide the new action plan with sufficient human, technical and financial resources in a consistent manner throughout the territory of the State party, with the full participation of children and CSOs; para.15: While noting the information provided by the State party on an initiative for governments at the entity and cantonal levels to introduce lower tax rates to civil society, recommends that the State party provide adequate support for services delivered by CSOs related to the promotion and protection of the rights of children and ensure the effective functioning of the advisory body of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen cooperation with CSOs.

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23	Botswana 2019	(2) para. 21: notes the prohibition of discrimination in the Children's Act but is concerned that some groups of children suffer from discriminatory attitudes and disparities in accessing basic services.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the explicit recognition in the Children's Act of the right of the child to have his or her interests taken as a primary consideration, and the positive application of the right in High Court judgments. Nonetheless, it remains concerned that this right is not fully implemented in decisions affecting children, particularly in the lower courts and by professionals who work with and for children.	(2) para. 27: While welcoming the establishment of the Children's Consultative Forum and village child protection committees to facilitate child participation at the national and village levels, as well as school councils in secondary schools (...) concerned that such mechanisms do not facilitate meaningful and empowered participation of children in matters that concern them. (...) also concerned about the lack of procedures or protocols to ensure respect for the views of the child in administrative and judicial proceedings.	(2) para. 6: welcomes the adoption of the Children's Act in 2009 and amendments to the Penal Code in 2018 to align it with the Convention but remains concerned that several laws relevant to children, including the Adoption of Children Act, the Marriage Act, the Affiliations Proceedings Act, the Deserted Wives and Child Protection Act and the Wills Act, are not in line with the Convention.	(2) para. 11: commends the State party for the substantial resources allocated to the social sector, including child and family benefits, but (...) concerned that budget allocations do not match the needs; regrets the insufficient resources allocated to health and primary education, and the lack of a tracking system for the allocation and use of resources to implement children's rights. Furthermore, while the Committee notes the efforts of the State party to combat corruption, it is concerned about incidences of corruption and illicit financial flows that divert resources necessary for the implementation of children's rights.	(1) para. 13: Recalling previous COs (CRC/C/15/Add.242, para. 22), recommends to: (a) Expediently establish the social registry and ensure that it functions as a comprehensive data-collection system that covers all areas of the CRC, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, nationality, geographic location and socioeconomic background (...); (b) ensure the effective coordination and harmonization of data collection by the ministries concerned, CSOs and development partners to avoid duplication and discrepancies in data, including by widely sharing the data and indicators available; (c) Ensure that data is used (...); (d) Strengthen its technical cooperation with, among others, UNICEF.	(2) para. 17: notes that the State party cooperates with civil society through formal agreements. It is concerned, however, that civil society is not sufficiently consulted in aspects of children's rights beyond those that involve service delivery.

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24	Brazil 2015	(1) para. 23: concerned about the structural discrimination against indigenous and Afro-Brazilian children, children with disabilities, LGBTI children, children in street situations, and children living in rural, remote, and marginalized urban areas, including favelas. ... also seriously concerned that strategies aimed at eliminating discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and race have been removed from the education plans of several states. Furthermore, it is concerned about the patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that underpin discrimination against girls and women.	NA	(2) para. 29: takes note of efforts made to promote the right of the child to be heard and to participate in councils for the rights of children and adolescents. However, it is concerned that children's participation in school councils is still low, that children do not regularly participate in decisions that affect them and that their views are seldom taken into account.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures including an Act on sexual exploitation of children (May 2014); para. 49: takes note of Act No. 11.942 of 2009 governing minimum assistance services for incarcerated mothers and their children. However ... concerned that this legislation has not been implemented effectively; 79d: deeply concerned about the delay in the ... enactment of legislation to facilitate the demarcation of land, which has negatively impacted indigenous children.	(1) para. 11: concerned about the lack of dedicated mechanisms at the national and subnational levels to monitor resource allocation for children's rights. Furthermore ... concerned about recent budget cuts, which among other things have affected the budgets for the social sectors and for human rights and have had a negative impact on the implementation of programmes for the protection of children's rights.	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 13: concerned about the insufficient data on children in street situations, children with disabilities and indigenous children, as well as the inadequate data on violence against children, including sexual violence and trafficking in children; para. 47: concerned about the lack of statistical data on domestic and inter-country adoption; para 51e: concerned about lack of disaggregated data on the abuse and neglect of children with disabilities; para. 53: concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on health.	(2) para. 19: welcomes the creation of the Protection Programme for Human Rights Defenders in 2004 and the launch of the Information System on Threatened Human Rights Defenders in 2014. However, ... concerned that the Protection Programme ... is not operational in all states, that resources allocated ... are insufficient and that the lack of coordination with State officials is hampering its mandate. Furthermore ... seriously concerned about the numerous cases of death threats, physical attacks, disappearances and killings carried out against journalists and children's rights and human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues concerning children's rights.

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25	Brunei Darussalam 2016	(2) para. 25: While noting the State party's efforts to combat discrimination, (...) reiterates its previous concern (see CRC/C/15/Add.219, para. 24) that discrimination against certain groups of children, particularly girls, CWDs, children belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI children and stateless children, still exists in practice.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the explicit inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Children and Young Persons Order 2006. (...) however, concerned that despite that legal recognition, the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is not adequately interpreted or applied by administrative, legislative and judicial bodies.	(2) para. 29: While noting the positive steps taken by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, such as the adoption of specific provisions (sect. 49) in the Children and Young Persons Order 2006, (...) remains concerned about the lack of information regarding the practical implementation of the right of the child to express his or her views in judicial and administrative proceedings as well as to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes affecting him or her.	(1) para. 9: deeply concerned about the State party's restrictive interpretation of Sharia law and about the adverse impact on human rights in general, and on children's rights in particular, of the recently adopted Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, which, under its second and third phases of implementation, will impose capital punishment, hand-cutting and whipping of children for several crimes.	NA	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO; para. 15: remains concerned at the lack of reliable disaggregated data necessary for the effective evaluation of the implementation of the CRC. (...) also concerned at the lack of coordination and collaboration among government agencies in data collection and the inadequate technical capabilities for data collection, analysis and reporting.	(2) para. 21: notes the State party's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with the civil society. (...) however, concerned that coordination remains weak, limiting the participation of non-governmental organizations in the formulation and monitoring of policies and strategies for the implementation of the CRC.

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26	Bulgaria 2016	(2) para. 19: While noting as positive the introduction of a National Strategy (...) for Roma Integration 2012 – 2020, (...) remains deeply concerned at the persistent discrimination against Roma children. Of particular concern are reports indicating that existing discrimination against Roma in all areas of life is among the principal reason leading to their placement in institutions. Further concern is expressed that Roma children, as well as CWDs, asylum seeking and refugee children, minority children and children living in remote areas, continue to face discrimination with regard to access to education, health care and adequate housing.	(2) para. 21: welcomes the amendments to the Child Protection Act in 2009 to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, and notes the general framework established by the State party to ensure that the best interests of the child are upheld as a fundamental principle of child protection. However, (...) concerned about the continuing misunderstanding with respect to its meaning and the responsibilities it entails, particularly among the judiciary, child protection professionals and social workers.	(2) para. 25: welcoming the ongoing efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child, incl. its consideration as one of the priority areas in the National Strategy for Children 2008-2018 (...) concerned that implementation remains at the discretion of professionals involved in each case. Traditional practices and cultural attitudes in the family, schools and certain social and judicial settings further impede the full realisation of the rights of children to express their views freely. (...) recognises the State's efforts through awareness raising campaigns but remains concerned that children in vulnerable situations, such as in administrative care and CWDs, are often not consulted.	(2) para. 6: welcomes the progress made by the State party in harmonizing its domestic legislation with the principles of the CRC through the adoption of a new Family Code in 2009 (and amendments to the Child Protection Act, Family Allowance Act and Social Assistance Act), (...) remains concerned at the lack of consistency between other key child related legislation, in particular the Persons and Family Act, and the Child Protection Act. Concern is also expressed at gaps in implementation as a result of vague interpretation of laws due to the insufficient capacity and awareness of child rights on the part of the judiciary.	(1) para. 11: concerned that the State party's budgeting process fails to stipulate budget allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including indicators and tracking systems at all levels, as well as targeted budget allocations for children in marginalized and vulnerable situations, such as Roma children, CWDs, migrant children and children of refugees and asylum seekers. (...) further concerned that Bulgaria continues to have the lowest rate of GDP allocated to public education in the European Union.	(2) para. 13: While noting the efforts that have been undertaken to develop a data collection system under the auspices of the State Agency for Child Protection and the National Statistical Institute, (...) remains concerned that the lack of a unified centralised database, has resulted in a scarcity of disaggregated data on children, particularly on CWDs, children living in marginalised situations and Roma children.	NA

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27	Burkina Faso 2010	(1) para. 26: reiterates the concern previously expressed at the persistence of de facto discrimination against children belonging to the most vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities, children living in rural areas, girls.	(2) para. 28: noting that the principle of the best interests of the child is reflected as a general principle in some legislation concerning children, the Committee expresses concern at the insufficient information provided by the State party on how it is taken into consideration and effectively applied in State party legislative, administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in policies and programmes relevant to children.	(2) para. 32: while noting the Child Parliament, expresses concern at the lack of information provided by the State party about respect for the views of the child and at the absence of legal recognition of this right, specifically in schools and communities.	(2) para. 8: commends the State party for the significant legislative reform undertaken in the field of child rights and the elaboration of a child code as previously recommended; concerned that the draft code does not include all the principles and provisions of the CRC and is restricted to children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 7: previous COs not sufficiently implemented; para. 16: noting that an increasing part of the State party budget is devoted to education and health; remains concerned at the low proportion of budgetary resources devoted to implementation ; concern that the sector of social action and national solidarity receives less than 1 per cent; absence of specific allocations for children; concern about corruption.	(2) para. 18: noting the establishment of a permanent data collection system in 2002; concern that this system is not yet operational, as reflected by the lack of up-to-date, comprehensive and disaggregated data and information in the report of the State party on all the areas covered by the CRC; also concerned that the population census of 2006 was not used to collect data on children.	(2) para. 22: commends the assertion of the State party as to the necessity to better coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders working on child rights; notes that the Permanent Secretariat of the National Action Plan for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children lacks a comprehensive view of all the organizations / associations working in this field.

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28	Burundi 2010	(2) para. 8: previous COs on discrimination Batwa minority not sufficiently addressed; para. 29: notes as positive that article 22 of the Constitution incorporates the principle of non-discrimination; remains concerned that de facto discrimination of children vis-à-vis girls, children born out of wedlock, albino children, children belonging to the Batwa minority and those placed into kafala families.	(2) para. 31: welcomes the recognition of BI in article 44 of the Constitution and the Family Code in relation to parental responsibility; remains concerned that BI is neither incorporated into all current legislation concerning children, nor sufficiently applied in practice, in particular in judicial and administrative decisions.	(2) para. 35: taking note of the State party's commitment to establish a children's forum; concern at the fact that children from poor households, out-of-school children, orphans and children in street situations are deprived of their right to participation in decision-making processes including in civil, penal, judicial and administrative proceedings.	(2) para. 9: welcoming the efforts made to harmonize legislation with the CRC; concerned that plans to adopt a comprehensive legal instrument gathering all provisions relating to the rights of children have not yet been completed; concerned that customary laws and practices are not in conformity with the CRC.	(2) para. 18: while noting efforts to reduce military expenditure, is concerned that the percentage of total budget allocated to social infrastructure and social services including health, education, water and sanitation remains insufficient.	(2) para. 20: noting the establishment of the socio-economic database developed by the Burundi Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies; concerned at the inadequacy of the existing database on children in general, and in particular data in relation to children in vulnerable situations.	(2) para. 26: noting the State party's information on the involvement of civil society in the elaboration of national policies regarding children's rights; nevertheless concerned that CSOs have not been involved in the follow-up to the Committee's previous COs or afforded adequate opportunities to present their views during the preparation of the State party's second periodic report.

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29	Cambodia 2011	(1) para. 7: previous COs on non-discrimination insufficiently addressed; para. 28: concern about increasing inequities and disparities in the enjoyment of rights among children living in rural areas, children belonging to ethnic minorities are in a particularly disadvantaged situation as regards access to health, education and welfare; gender.	(2) para. 30: welcomes progress made to incorporate the general principle of the best interests of the child into domestic legislation; concerned about the lack of concrete information on how the best interests of the child are taken into consideration into policies and programmes.	(2) para. 34: notes with appreciation that numerous consultations with children were organized during the preparation of the State party's report and the drafting of the National Plan of Action on Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2005-2013); concerned about the persistence of traditional attitudes which limit children's rights to express their views in decision-making procedures affecting them and about the absence of a policy and supportive mechanism to promote child participation.	(2) para. 8: welcoming the Constitutional Council Decision that the courts must consider the CRC when interpreting Cambodian law and deciding cases; notes the adoption of numerous child-related pieces of legislation and the indication given during the interactive dialogue that the State party is developing a comprehensive child-protection law; para. 40: there is legislation prohibiting corporal punishment, but not by parents and not for disciplinary purposes.	(1) para. 16: limited human, technical and financial resources are devoted to child protection and social welfare, with most of the current services being financed by development partners; concerned that in spite of the significant economic growth in the State, the budget devoted to social sectors has only increased half as much as in other areas since 2007, and the budget dedicated to education is only 1.9 per cent of GDP; further notes with serious concern that corruption remains pervasive and continues to divert resources.	(2) para. 18: commends the State party for the significant efforts made to develop databases, notably on child victims of trafficking and children in alternative care settings; concerned that insufficient data have been collected in some areas covered by the CRC (children with disabilities), and that data collection mechanisms remain fragmented; further concerned that there is insufficient coordination among the relevant ministries to ensure the setting up of a systematic and comprehensive disaggregated database covering all areas of the CRC.	(1) para. 24: expresses deep concern over threats, harassment, physical attacks and arrests of human rights defenders in the State party, especially those who defend the right of families and children to housing; CSOs often remain excluded from the development of policies, laws and strategies on children.

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30	Cameroon 2017	(2) para. 4: insufficient follow-up previous CO; welcomes the (...) amended Penal Code prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, sex or health status. (...) concerned (...) about the persistent discrimination against children in marginalized (...) situations, including girls, children born out of wedlock, CWDs, children with HIV/AIDS, children with albinism, indigenous children, children in street situations, children suspected of association with Boko Haram, refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children, and the lack of an overall strategy to combat such discrimination. (...) deeply concerned about the State party's rejection during the dialogue of the identity of LGBTI children and the stigmatization and discrimination experienced by such children.	(2) para. 16: recommends that the State party: (a) Strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated, consistently interpreted and systematically applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, 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 guidance to all relevant persons in authority at the national, regional and local levels for determining the best interests of the child in every area and for giving it primary consideration.	(2) para. 17: welcomes the regular organization of the Children's Parliament and encourages the State party to enact legislation, in line with its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/CMR/CO/2, para. 32) to reinforce the Children's Parliament and ensure that it is provided with a meaningful mandate and adequate human, technical and financial resources, in order to facilitate children's effective engagement, particularly children in vulnerable situations, with national legislative processes on issues affecting them.	(1) para. 5: recalls its previous recommendation (CRC/C/CMR/CO/2, para. 10) and urges the State party to finalize the revision of the Civil Code, which incorporates the proposed Child Protection Code and Persons and the Family Code, ensuring that the provisions related to children's rights are harmonized with the CRC. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of legislation providing for the rights of children are adequate and sufficient.	(1) para. 8: recommends that the State party: (a) Allocate adequate budgetary resources for the implementation of children's rights and, in particular, define budgetary lines for ministries and local government departments dealing with child protection and welfare, progressively increasing the proportion of national resources allocated to those budget lines; (b) Take note of SDG target 16.5 to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, take immediate measures to combat corruption and strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect and investigate and prosecute cases of corruption, including by strengthening the public financial management system in order to avoid diverting resources from CRC implementation.	(1) para. 9: reiterates its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/CMR/CO/2, para. 20) and furthermore recommends that the State party: (a) Allocate sufficient resources to build the capacity of statisticians throughout the national administration in the collection and processing of data; (b) Collect and share among all relevant ministries and agencies data on all areas of the CRC, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, (...); (c) Take into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in the guide issued by the (...) OHCHR when defining, collecting and disseminating statistical information.	(1) para. 11: Noting the difficulties faced by civil society organizations, including those working on children's rights, in obtaining legal status, which in turn limits their access to funding (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Streamline the requirements for registration and ensure more frequent meetings of the technical commission responsible for granting legal status; (b) Strengthen its collaboration with civil society organizations, including through their involvement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to children's rights.

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31	Canada 2012	(2) para. 8: urges to address previous concluding observations that have not been or insufficiently implemented including on non-discrimination; para. 32: welcoming the State's efforts to address discrimination and promote intercultural understanding, such as the Stop Racism national video contest, nevertheless concerned at the continued prevalence of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender, socio-economic background, national origin and other grounds.	(1) Para. 34: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not widely known, appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and in policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children; not appropriately applied in asylum-seeking, refugee and/or immigration detention situations (cf. para. 73).	(2) Para. 36: welcomes the Yukon Supreme Court decision (2010) which ruled that all children have the right to be heard in custody cases; concerned that there are inadequate mechanisms for facilitating meaningful and empowered child participation in legal, policy, environmental issues, and administrative processes that impact children.	(2) para. 8: urges to address previous COs that have not been or insufficiently implemented including on legislation; para. 10: welcoming numerous legislative actions related to the implementation of the CRC; remains concerned at the absence of legislation that comprehensively covers the full scope of the CRC in national law; notes that given the State party's federal system and dualist legal system, the absence of such overall national legislation has resulted in fragmentation.	(2) Para. 16: Bearing in mind that the State party is one of the most affluent economies of the world and that it invests sizeable amounts of resources in child-related programmes, the Committee notes that the State party does not use a child-specific approach for budget planning and allocation in the national and provinces/territories level budgets, thus making it practically impossible to identify, monitor, report and evaluate the impact of investments in children and the overall application of the CRC in budgetary terms.	(1) para. 8: urges to address previous COs that have not been or insufficiently implemented including on data; Para. 20: notes with concern the limited progress made to establish a national, comprehensive data collection system covering all areas of the CRC; notes that the complex data collection systems utilize different definitions, concepts, approaches, and structures across provinces and territories, which makes it difficult to assess progress to strengthen the implementation of the CRC; also see paras. 57, 59a and 79 for gaps.	NA

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32	Cape Verde 2019	(2) para. 25: welcomes the adoption of the Special Law on Gender-Based Violence in 2011 and the training and awareness-raising activities conducted; (...) concerned, however, about the prevalence of discrimination against girls rooted in patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes concerning the roles of women and men.	(2) para. 27: notes with appreciation that the Statute of the Child and Adolescent recognizes the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration but is concerned about its effective implementation in practice.	(2) para. 29: concerned that the Statute of the Child and Adolescent does not ensure the respect for the views of children in all matters concerning them; welcomes the six sittings of the Child and Youth Parliament created in 1999 to foster child participation in public affairs but is concerned about how the conclusions and recommendations put forward by children were taken into consideration by public authorities.	(2) para. 5: welcomes the adoption in 2013 of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (Law No. 50/VIII/2013); concerned, however, about provisions, such as those regarding health and work, that provide different protection to children depending on their age and the delay in adopting the regulatory framework for the Statute.	(2) para. 11: notes with appreciation that the implementation of children's rights is funded by the State budget and welcomes the resources allocated to health and education, which have contributed to significant progress in children's rights; (...) however, concerned about the absence of a child-rights approach in the elaboration of the State budget.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the studies conducted, including on sexual abuse and exploitation, child labour, child participation and the child protection system. While noting that the Child and Adolescent Observatory within the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship is in its implementation phase, (...) remains concerned about the absence of the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated data on the rights of the child.	(2) para. 19: appreciates the relationship the State party has established with civil society organizations in the areas of awareness-raising, participation, advocacy and reporting, including through the signing of protocols and cooperation agreements; (...) concerned about the insufficient coordination of such efforts.

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33	Central African Republic 2017	(2) para. 5: regrets limited implementation previous CO (2000); para. 24: notes that discrimination is prohibited but concerned about the persistent discrimination in practice against children, based on religious affiliation, and against girls, pygmy, albino and Fulhani children, CWDs, children from disadvantaged backgrounds, orphans, children with HIV/AIDS and children accused of witchcraft.	(1) para. 26: concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as primary consideration is not well known among government officials, the judiciary and personnel working for and with children.	(2) para. 30: welcomes the participation of children in the Bangui forum, but is concerned about traditional attitudes that limit children from expressing their views on issues that concern them and from having their views duly taken into account within the family, schools and communities.	(2) para. 6: notes the draft law on the protection of the child but is concerned about some provisions not being fully aligned with the CRC.	(1) para. 12: notes the fragile economic situation of the State party but concerned about: (a) insufficient resource allocation to fulfil children's rights obligations; (b) non-prioritization in the allocation of resources to children, resulting in a decrease in 2014-2016; (c) overreliance on international donor funding; (d) The lack of a rights-based budgetary analysis, despite the availability of data.	(2) para. 14: notes with appreciation the recent surveys conducted, which have helped to update child-related indicators, but is concerned about weaknesses in the information management systems of the relevant ministries, which do not allow for the regular and up-to-date collection of data on children's rights, and about the limited analysis of the data available.	NA

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34	Chad 2009	(2) para. 30: welcomes that Chadian legislation accords the same juridical status to children born in and out of wedlock; welcomes that the draft law provides for the registration of all children born on the State party's territory, including children of refugees; notes with regret that while articles 13 and 14 of the Constitution affirm the principle of non-discrimination, including equality between the sexes, de facto discrimination between boys and girls exists, particularly in the areas of education and succession and inheritance.	(2) para. 33: welcomes that the principle of the "best interests of the child" is taken into account in the draft child protection code and by the court, in some instances such as divorce proceedings, in its decision making; notes with regret that there are only a few references to this principle in legislation, projects and programmes relating to children.	(2) para. 35: notes that children of a certain age/maturity have the right to express their point of view on certain questions, such as adoption or custody issues; notes with appreciation the Children's Parliament; welcomes the State party's indication that children are involved in the elaboration and implementation of policies and programmes concerning them; regrets that the Chadian legal system does not impose a systematic obligation to hear the views of the child when a decision is to be taken in matters affecting him/her; notes with concern that children do not have the right, under Chadian law, to initiate legal proceedings.	(3) para. 11: notes with interest that many laws and regulations have been elaborated by the State party in order to ensure the harmonization of its legislation with the CRC, such as the draft child protection code, the draft code on the person and the family and the draft penal code; welcomes the promulgation of an Act on reproductive health, which, inter alia, provides protection against FGM, early marriage, domestic violence and sexual violence.	(1) para. 20: notes that, in real terms, budget allocations to the health and education sectors may have increased only marginally, if at all; concerned that these allocations may still not be enough to achieve the MDGs related to child health and education; that the transfer of funds to the decentralized levels of government remains a challenge and that the Ministry for Social Action and the Family, which is responsible for the implementation of the CRC does not receive adequate financial and human resources to carry out its work.	(2) para. 22: recognizes that considerable efforts were put into a demographic and health survey in 2004, but data were not updated; concerned that the National Institute of Statistics is not adequately staffed and financed in order to systematically collect data needed to assess progress achieved in the implementation of child rights, in particular with regard to children from vulnerable groups.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the state's collaboration with NGOs and international donors in the delivery of services and programmes for children and notes the state's indication that civil society is often represented or consulted in actions taken by the government; concerned about reports that some human rights advocates have experienced intimidation, threats and violence at the hands of government agencies.

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35	Chile 2015	(2) para. 24: welcomes the legislative and policy measures taken by the State party to address discrimination. However ... concerned that girls continue to be subjected to gender-based discrimination, owing to the persistence of adverse and traditional attitudes and norms. ... also concerned about persistent discriminatory attitudes and practices against indigenous children, children with disabilities and immigrant children. ... further concerned about continuing negative attitudes against and discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children.	(2) para. 26: notes that the best interests of the child is a fundamental principle in the legal system of the State party and that it is integrated into some laws. However ... concerned that it does not apply in all areas, including in decisions sentencing parents to long terms of imprisonment, and that the reasoning of the court does not always explain the criteria used for determining the child's best interests. ... further concerned that the best interests of the child is not a cross-cutting consideration in all areas of policymaking.	(2) para. 28: welcomes the participatory processes carried out by the State party ... and commends the decision to involve children in the process of constitutional reform. ... however concerned that: (a) The legal system does not explicitly recognize children's right to be heard and to have their views taken into account ... in particular in education, health and family matters; (b) Children are not considered rights holders in the 2011 Act on associations and civic participation in public affairs; (c) There is an absence of formal structures for children's participation in the development of national, regional and local policies on children.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the ... legislative measures taken to advance children's rights and the information that a law on the comprehensive protection of the rights of children has been submitted to Parliament. However ... concerned that the Juvenile Act of 1967 has a tutelary approach which is incompatible with an appropriate legal framework that recognizes and guarantees the rights of all children. ... also concerned that the attempts made in 2005 and 2012 to change that law were unsuccessful; para. 22: concerned that Chilean legislation provides the possibility for children to get married at the age of 16, with the authorization of their parents or legal representatives.	(1) para. 14: concerned about the continuing lack of a mechanism to track the budget in order to monitor budget allocations from a child-rights perspective and to ensure a balanced distribution of resources with a view to alleviating disparities. ... also concerned about the difficulties encountered in identifying expenditures relating to children's rights among the different budget items, which does not enable an assessment of the impact of budgetary adjustment measures on the rights of children nor guarantees a specific and progressive budget for children's rights policies.	(2) para. 7: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 16: welcomes the creation of the statistical information system on children and adolescents by the Children and Youth Observatory and the Ministry of Social Development, but is concerned about the delay in its implementation and the lack of indicators to monitor and assess respect for children's rights; concerned about the lack of updated and disaggregated data on children with disabilities and about asylum-seeking and refugee children (paras. 56 and 75).	NA

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36	China 2013	(1) para. 25: deeply concerned at the continuous violations of the rights of and discrimination against Tibetan and Uighur children and children of Falun Gong practitioners in mainland China, including their right to freedom of religion, language and culture. ... further concerned about the persistence of discrimination against children with disabilities, children of migrant workers, refugee and asylum-seeking children, and children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in relation to education, housing, health care and other social services; para. 27: deeply concerned about the pervasive discrimination against girls and women in mainland China.	(2) para. 31: concerned that the best interests of the child is not always fully reflected and incorporated in key child-related acts and policies in mainland China, Hong Kong, China and Macao, China. While welcoming the statement that in Hong Kong, China the best interests of the child are necessary considerations which are paramount in all relevant decision-making ... concerned about the lack of general legislation providing for the best interests of the child; para. 53: concerned that the best interests of the child are not sufficiently considered in family crisis situations.	(2) para. 37: notes the establishment of child participation forums, concerned about the lack of effective and broad mechanisms ... to promote and facilitate respect for the views of all children and children's participation in all matters affecting them; para. 53: concerned that ... the right of the child to be heard are not sufficiently considered in family crisis situations.	(2) para. 3: welcomes the adoption of certain legislative measures; para. 53: concerned about the absence of procedures for regular review of the placement of children in care ... and the lack of legislation on the termination of parental rights when necessary; para. 96: regrets that the efforts to ensure measures to protect child victims and witnesses are insufficient and not properly reflected in the State party's legislation.	(1) para. 12: seriously concerned about inadequate resources allocated to local governments for the implementation of children's rights; para. 13a: concerned that budget allocations from the central Government and funding for policies and plans concerning children's rights ... are inadequate (gross domestic product allocation to health and education is 1.4 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively) and depend on provincial and lower-level resources, resulting in sharp inequities in public resource allocations; para. 62: gaps in the allocation of health resources between urban and rural areas.	(1) para. 15: reiterates its concern about the limited public accessibility to reliable and comprehensive statistical data in mainland China in all areas covered by the CRC ... particularly concerned that due to laws and regulations on guarding State secrets in mainland China, disaggregated data and important statistics critical for effective implementation and monitoring of the CRC are often not available in the State party; para. 17: While noting some progress in Macao ... reiterates its concern that a comprehensive and reliable data collection system is still not in place there, nor in Hong Kong; data concerning children is scattered among different departments; and there is a lack of disaggregated data on children under 18 years in some areas of the CRC.	(1) para. 8: concerned about the lack of participation of independent experts and NGOs in the assessment and evaluation of plans and policies on children; para. 21: deeply concerned about the obstacles faced by NGOs and the limited scope for human rights defenders and journalists to report, inter alia, on children's rights violations in mainland China due to continuous threats, police harassment, enforced disappearances and arrests of human rights defenders. ... further notes with serious concern reports of government persecution of families, including children of human rights activists and dissidents, and retaliation against and harassment of families advocating for children's rights.

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37	Colombia 2015	(2) para. 19: While noting the measures taken to eliminate discrimination against children in marginalized or disadvantaged situations, ... deeply concerned about: (a) the structural discrimination against indigenous, Afro-Colombian and displaced children, children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and children living in rural, remote and marginalized urban areas, ... (b) the persistent patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that discriminate against girls and women, resulting in an extremely high prevalence of violence against girls.	(2) para. 21: notes the legal recognition of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration. Nevertheless, ... concerned at reports that this right has not been consistently applied in practice owing to a lack of conceptual clarity regarding its content.	(2) para. 25: notes that the State party has made some efforts to promote the right of the child to be heard and participate, such as by establishing children's forums. It is concerned, however, about reports that children are rarely consulted in relevant administrative or judicial proceedings and that children's participation in schools is not effective as their proposals are rarely implemented, and about delays in implementing the Protocol on the participation of children in the implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Act.	(2) para. 7: welcomes the adoption of the Children and Adolescents' Code. (...) concerned, however, about its effective implementation.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the increased budget allocated to early childhood development. ... concerned, however, that insufficient resources are allocated to the adequate implementation of all children's rights under the CRC. ... also concerned about the information ... about alleged mismanagement of funds allocated to children's rights, and that in spite of numerous investigations, no trial has yet been concluded; para. 51: remains concerned about: (a) The low quality of education, insufficient and deficient infrastructure and lack of qualified teachers, resulting from an inadequate budget allocation.	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; lack of (disaggregated) data on: violence against children; on children whose families benefit from assistance, and on children deprived of a family environment; children with disabilities; children in street situations (paras. 28, 33, 37 and 62).	(2) para. 15: notes that the State party has condemned attacks against human rights defenders, ... concerned that defenders involved in the promotion of children's rights continue to suffer violence and that extensive impunity persists in this regard. ... also concerned that women human rights defenders are the victims of attacks or threats of attack against themselves or against their children, or are the victims of sexual violence. ... further concerned that protection measures for defenders are not sufficient and lack a differentiated approach.

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38	Comores 2000	(1) para. 7: concern about non-accession to CERD; para. 23: expresses its concern at patterns of discrimination on grounds of gender, religion, ethnic origin, disability and birth or other status (e.g., children born out of wedlock).	NA	(1) para. 25: seriously concerned at the way in which the principle of respect for the views of the child is interpreted in the State party; concern about the insufficiency of the measures taken to promote the participation of children in the family, in the community, at school and in other social institutions, as well as to ensure the effective enjoyment of their fundamental freedoms, including freedom of opinion, expression and association.	(2) para. 9: aware that a study on the compatibility between the CRC and domestic legislation has been undertaken, remains concerned about the lack of harmonization between domestic legislation and the CRC; concerned about the difficulties experienced in finalizing the adoption of new or amended legislation, including the draft family code; para. 21: lack of a uniform and clear definition of the age of majority in the Comoran legislation is a matter of concern.	(1) para. 14: expresses concern at the lack of information on the current allocation of resources in favour of children, particularly in a context of widespread poverty.	(1) para. 15: recommends that the State party develop and implement a data collection system relevant to the implementation of the CRC.	NA

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39	Congo 2014	(2) para. 28: welcomes measures taken by the State party to strengthen national legislation guaranteeing the principle of non-discrimination, including the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, concerned by the slow implementation of such legislation and regrets that the Constitution has yet to be amended to prohibit discrimination on any grounds covered by the CRC... expresses its strong concern about the lack of systematic efforts to combat and change discriminatory attitudes and practices.	(1) para. 30: concerned about the lack of information on the State party's efforts to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, and to apply that right in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in policies and programmes relating to children.	(1) para. 32: recalls its concern that the general principle of respect for the views of the child is not fully respected and applied ... notes with concern the lack of progress in adopting the law on the inclusion of the Parliament of the Congolese Child in the parliamentary process.	(2) para. 10: takes note of the efforts by the State party to review its legal framework on the rights of the child with the aim of bringing national legislation into line with the CRC ... notes with concern that the CRC has still not been fully domesticated in national legislation and that the draft law on the modernization of the justice system has not yet been adopted.	(1) para. 16: notes with concern that, despite earnings from the country's oil sector, the State party's social indicators have not improved and investment in the social sectors continues to be insufficient for all children to fully exercise their rights ... noting the increased spending earmarked by the Ministry of Social Affairs for children belonging to vulnerable groups ... concerned that the measure is benefiting only children from the capital. ... also notes that corruption remains pervasive, despite efforts by the State party to eliminate it.	(2) para. 18: welcomes the State's efforts to improve the availability of data ... regrets the absence of a comprehensive system for data collection in the State party ... notes with concern that reliable, disaggregated data on important areas of the CRC are not available and that there is insufficient coordination and collaboration among government agencies regarding data collection.	(2) para. 24: notes with appreciation the contribution of CSOs to the implementation of activities related to the rights of the child. While welcoming the overall provision of services for children by NGOs, ... concerned that the State party appears to delegate the provision of services to NGOs as contractors or in its place ... expresses its concern that, even though they serve the public interest, many civil society organizations face challenges, as they are not recognized as State-approved organizations.

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40	Cook Islands 2012	(1) para. 25: concerned that due to geographical constraints and limited allocation of funds, only a minimum of services in the areas of health and education is provided to children living in the Outer Islands; while noting the ongoing reforms, concerned about the existence of various discriminatory provisions in the present Crimes Act relating to girls with disabilities and boys victims of sexual abuse and in the Cook Islands' Act 1915 related to the adoption of children of non-Cook Islands' origin.	(2) para. 27: notes with appreciation the envisaged inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Family Law Bill; concerned about the lack of reference to the principle of the best interests of the child in most of the laws concerning children, in judicial and administrative decisions, and policies and programmes relevant to children.	(2) para. 29: notes the State's efforts to encourage children to have their opinions and views expressed, but concerned about the traditional societal attitudes towards children, in particular children with disabilities and child victims of sexual abuse that hamper the realization of this principle; concerned about the limited opportunities for the child to express his/her own views in the family and in the community and in particular about the lack of effective children's councils in all schools.	(2) para. 5b: welcomes the establishment of a ministerial working group in 2006 that works together with the Law Commission on aligning domestic legislation with the CRC and CEDAW; para. 8: notes the steps undertaken to bring national legislation in compliance with the CRC, including through the ongoing legal review carried out by the Law Commission; remains concerned at the slow progress of the legal review and at the fact that some pieces of domestic legislation remain inconsistent with the principles and provisions of the CRC; para. 41: inadequate legislation on intercountry adoptions; para. 51: lack of legislation concerning drug trafficking.	(2) para. 15: appreciates the steps taken to allocate higher investments in health promotion and early childhood education; concern at the limited resources allocated for the Outer Islands; notes the limited information provided on overall allocations to children and the lack of capacity to monitor the allocation and impact of resources from a child rights perspective; para. 16b: recommends to develop capacity to utilize a child rights approach in the elaboration of the national budget by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and the use of resources for children throughout the budget, thus providing visibility to the investment in children.	(2) para. 17: noting the information provided by State party's delegation during the dialogue concerning its plan to consolidate all data available on children; the Committee expresses its concern about the absence of an effective system of data collection covering all areas of the CRC; para. 53: notes with concern the lack of data on school drop-out and absenteeism rates in secondary schools; para. 55: lack of data on the number of teenage pregnancies that derive from incest or rape.	(1) para. 21: concerned that the State party delegates many of its training obligations under the CRC to the civil society, including NGOs who may lack the necessary capacities or financial resources to carry out these training; para. 39: while appreciative of the State's cooperation with CS actors and with the church with regard to housing children in distress, alarmed about the State's over reliance on non-State actors for offering protection of abused children.

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41	Costa Rica 2011	(1) para. 8: urges state party to address previous COs on discrimination against indigenous children and children belonging to other minorities; para. 29: remains concerned about continued discriminatory attitudes and prejudices against indigenous children, children of African descent, Nicaraguan and other migrant children.	(1) para. 32: urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings as well as in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children; legal reasoning of all judicial and administrative judgments and decisions should also be based on this principle.	(1) para. 33: notes with concern that the views and special linguistic requirements of children and adolescents are not adequately taken into account in judicial and administrative decision-making processes, including at the municipal level and within the local Protection Boards established by the Children and Adolescents Code.	(2) para. 9: notes the efforts made towards strengthening the legal and normative framework related to the implementation of the CRC; para. 52: inadequate legislation on adoption; para. 55: notes with concern that it has not adopted any implementing legislation or an integrated policy to protect the rights of children with disabilities; para. 73: welcoming the recent legislation adopted by the State party to protect children from the worst forms of child labour.	(2) para. 16: the National Child Welfare Agency (PANI) was exempt from recent budget cuts affecting all public institutions; remains concerned that the continued lack of an adequate and stable budget for all public institutions dealing with the comprehensive promotion and protection of child rights, both at the national and local levels, may undermine their effectiveness; para. 67: welcomes art. 78 of the Political Constitution which increases the budget for education to 8% of GDP; takes note of the efforts made by the State party to provide financial subsidies; no dedicated budget for combatting child labour.	(2) para. 8: inadequate follow-up to previous COs on data collection; takes note of the current efforts to strengthen Statistical Information System on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, with a view to obtaining disaggregated statistical data on all areas covered by the CRC, and the establishment of an Observatory for analysis ...; regrets the lack of disaggregated data on the implementation of children's rights with particular attention to children at risk, such as children with disabilities, indigenous children and children affected by migration; para. 73: absence of updated statistical data on the number of child and adolescent workers.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the general cooperation with civil society organizations but takes note of the State party's observation that coordination between the public and private sectors needs to be improved, including in the report preparation process.

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42	Côte d'Ivoire 2019	(1) para. 19: deeply concerned about persistent de facto discrimination, inter alia, against girls, children living in rural areas and children living in poverty, particularly with regard to literacy, access to education, vocational training, health care and sanitation, as well as development measures. It also notes that girls, children with disabilities and children with albinism are subject to multiple forms of discrimination.	(1) para. 21: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not integrated into the legislation of the State party.	(2) para. 23: noting legislation that ensures that the views of the child are taken into account in some areas and the (...) new children's parliament (...); recommends to: (a) establish the right of the child to be heard without discrimination due to age, disability or any other circumstance, in any administrative and judicial proceedings and ensure that the child's opinion is taken into account in accordance with the child's age and maturity (...).	(2) para. 6: While noting the ongoing efforts to revise relevant laws, including the Acts on minority, marriage and the Act amending the Criminal Code, strongly recommends to: (a) Conduct a full review of existing legislation to ensure that all laws are in full compliance with the CRC; (b) Adopt a comprehensive law on children's rights; (c) Refrain from applying customary law in cases where its application would be contradictory with the CRC.	(1) para. 9: recommends to: (a) Increase the budget allocations for the implementation of all policies, plans, programmes and legislative measures in favour of children (...) with priority given to the areas of social protection, primary health care and education, ensuring that children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations benefit from the allocations; (b) Use a child-rights approach in the budgeting process (...); (c) Ensure transparent and participatory budgeting.	(2) para. 10: While noting the establishment of the Integrated Information System on the Protection of Children by the Ministry of Women, the Family and Children as a pilot project, (...) regrets that data collection remains fragmented and that neither indicators nor a centralized system of disaggregated data collection have been developed.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the adoption of Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders. (...) however, concerned that human rights defenders, particularly women human rights defenders who address child marriage and female genital mutilation, are reportedly subject to intimidation and that the Act does not refer specifically to child human rights defenders.

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43	Croatia 2014	(2) para. 20: welcoming the adoption of the Act against Discrimination and the Act on Gender Equality, in 2008, and other efforts undertaken to counter discrimination, such as amending the Penal Code to include hate crimes ... concerned that de facto discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations continues to be prevalent and that the number of complaints received by the Ombudsperson for Children relating to discrimination against children, in particular Roma children in the field of education, has risen.	(2) para. 22: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the State party's legislation and policy documents, as well as its consideration by judges in decisions affecting children ... remains concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not applied consistently and that there is a lack of systematic training and guidance for relevant authorities.	(2) para. 24: notes that the right to be heard is included in a number of laws, ... and that Children Town and County Councils have been established. However, ... concerned that: (a) children's views are not adequately taken into account in practice in all matters that affect them, including judicial and administrative proceedings; ... (c) traditional societal attitudes towards children continue to place restrictions on respect for their views in the family, schools, other institutions and society at large; (d) existing National School Students Councils and Youth Councils are not functioning effectively; (e) consent to medical intervention for children under the age of 18 can only be given by the child's representative.	(2) para. 6: ... welcoming the progress made by the State party in harmonizing its legislation with the CRC, ... remains concerned about the lack of effective and full implementation of all legislation relevant to the CRC. In particular, ... concerned that: (a) Laws are frequently changed, which leads to inconsistent implementation and legal uncertainty; (b) Insufficient time and space is provided for public debates and the involvement of all stakeholders, before the adoption of laws; ... (d) The adoption of subsidiary legislation necessary for implementation is often protracted.	(2) para. 12: While welcoming the State party's commitment, expressed during the dialogue, that, in times of fiscal and budgetary constraints, efforts are made to sustain social investment for, and the social protection of, children, ... expresses its concern at the negative effects of austerity measures on public spending, which affect benefits and services provided to families with children, especially the Roma, as well as the high level of corruption. ... reiterates its concern about the lack of disaggregated data with regard to resources allocated for children at the national and local levels.	(2) para. 14: While noting that some progress has been made with regard to statistical data collection, ... reiterates its concern that data available through official statistics are not representative of the situation of all children, especially children belonging to different ethnic groups and children living in vulnerable situations. In particular ... concerned that data are not disaggregated and are presented in age groups that do not correspond to the definition of the child, as provided for in the CRC, or they focus on adults; some of the data relevant for understanding the situation of children ... are not systematically registered, such as data on school dropouts; and challenges regarding consistency and reliability of data remain.	(1) para. 7: In the light of its previous recommendations ... recommends that the State party Promote and facilitate regular public debates and the active involvement of children and civil society organizations, before adopting draft laws.

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44	Cuba 2011	(2) para. 24: while welcoming the initiatives taken to combat patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted gender stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family, concerned that such attitudes are still widespread and persistent, leading to domestic violence against women and children.	(2) para. 26: acknowledges the reference in the report of the State party that the principle of the best interests of the child is incorporated in the administrative and judicial components of the national legislation, but concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not duly integrated in the legislation as it does not fully consider children as persons entitled to individual rights, in conformity with article 3(1) CRC.	(2) para. 28: welcoming the adoption of Instruction 187/07 (2008), which provides for the views of children over 7 years to be heard in family proceedings on parental authority involving them; concerned at the lack of information on whether the children's views are systematically sought and taken into consideration with regard to other decisions that might affect them, including judicial and administrative proceedings, policy-making processes, as well as in schools and care institutions.	(2) para. 6: taking note of the information ... regarding the efforts to undertake a revision of domestic legislation to harmonize it with the CRC; reiterates its concern about the national legislation in force in the State party, which was enacted before the CRC, in particular the Family Code (1975), the Child and Youth Code (1978) and the Law on Adoption, Alternative Care Settings and Foster Families (Decree-Act No. 76 of 1984); concerned about the difficulties adopting new or amended legislation, including the draft Family Code; para. 16: remains concerned that because the principles of the CRC are not fully integrated in the legislation currently in force.	NA	(2) para. 14: takes note of the efforts currently undertaken to strengthen its Statistical Information System on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, in particular the development of a statistical application using the DevInfo 6.0 platform; regrets the lack of disaggregated data on e.g. children in alternative care institutions, children in conflict with the law, children deprived of their liberty, as well as children engaged in prostitution.	(2) para. 18: takes note of the information provided during the dialogue about the existence of over 2,200 registered civil society organizations in Cuba; but concerned that CSOs are often viewed as being strictly linked to the government; concerned that Cuban civil society is not fully independent and has not been sufficiently involved or consulted in policy formulation and programme development on children, nor in the reporting process to the CRC.

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45	Cyprus 2012	(2) para. 21: notes the draft Law for the Welfare, Care and Protection of Children, which incorporates the principle of non-discrimination as a general principle in all legal proceedings, including administrative and/or judicial proceedings; remains concerned that there continues to be discrimination against children of Turkish origin and other minorities.	(1) para. 23: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not widely known, appropriately integrated or consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children.	(2) para. 27: commends the State party for establishing an effective and active children's parliament; welcomes the establishment of the Cyprus Youth Board, which allows youth to provide advice on policies affecting them and supports the implementation of youth-related programmes that have been approved by the Council of Ministers; concerned that the Youth Board has not been allocated adequate funding and resources; the views of children are not always taken into account in judicial proceedings; respect for the views of children in the general context of Cypriot society is not well understood and respected.	(2) para. 8: call to implement previous COs on legislation; para. 9: notes that progress has been made in a number of areas; but concerned that the State party's draft Law for the Welfare, Care and Protection of Children has yet to be implemented. In that context, there continues to be prolonged and serious gaps in the protection of child rights.	(2) para. 15: significantly increased the financial resources allocated to programmes and services benefiting families in general; but regrets that the State party has been unable to provide information on the budget and adopt a budgeting process that takes into account child rights.	(1) para. 8: inadequate follow-up previous CO on data collection; para. 17: remains deeply concerned that the State party has no centralized national registry for the collection of data, with individual ministries and services implementing separate data collection systems which are not interlinked or coordinated; also concerned at the severe lack of disaggregated data with regard to, inter alia, urban/rural residence, membership of minority group, ethnicity, religion and disability; para. 35c: lack of statistical data on violence in the family.	NA

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46	Czech Republic 2011	(2) para. 7: call to implement previous COs on non-discrimination; para. 30: notes with appreciation the State party's acknowledgement of the severity of the discrimination faced by the Roma population in its territory and also welcomes the various non-discrimination awareness-raising campaigns and projects undertaken; deeply concerned that there continue to be serious and widespread issues of discrimination, particularly against the minority Roma children in the State party, including the systemic and unlawful segregation of children of Roma origin from mainstream education.	(2) para. 32: notes with appreciation the State party's assurance, during its dialogue with the Committee, that it was applying the principle of the best interests of the child in various programmes, including the National Action Plan to Transform and Unify the System of Care for Vulnerable Children (2009) and the National Action Plan for Inclusive Education (2010); concerned about the continued lack of reference to the principle of the best interests of the child in most of the legislation concerning children, as well as in judicial and administrative decisions, and policies and programmes relevant to children.	(2) para. 34: noting that the State party has implemented elements of the right of the child to have his/her views considered in, inter alia, its Civil Procedure Code and Education Act, ... concerned that traditional perceptions of children as objects rather than subjects of rights is widespread; concerned that not all legal and administrative proceedings, including in asylum cases, allow for the views of the child to be heard directly and independently of his or her legal representative or guardian; concerned that, in practice, on matters such as custody and/or withdrawal from existing family environment, the views of the child are not taken into account.	(2) para. 10: welcoming Amendment No. 134/2006 Coll. to the State party's Social and Legal Protection of Children Act (Act No.359/1999 Coll.); concerned that a comprehensive review of all its legislation in order to accord children their rightful status as rights holders and ensure the full compatibility of its domestic law with the CRC has yet to take place; para. 39: notes with concern there that is still no legislation which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the family; para. 59: notes that the State party does not have legislation providing for social housing.	(1) para. 18: regrets that its previous recommendation on the allocation of resources has not been adequately implemented; remains concerned that the State party's budget continues to lack an allocation of resources that is clearly and specifically designated for the implementation of all the rights of children under the CRC.	(1) para. 7: call to implement previous COs on data collection; para. 20: reiterates its concerns on the need for the State party to further strengthen its data collection system.	(2) para. 26: notes the opportunities for civil society to participate in the implementation of the rights of the child; concerned that there is no consistent, timely and transparent system for allocating grants and subsidies to relevant civil society organizations; concerned that the current system does not allow for adequate dialogue with civil society on issues relating to resources, policies and priorities for children.

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47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2017	(2) para. 15: recalls its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, para. 20) and recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to monitor the implementation of the legal provisions against discrimination (...) in compliance with CRC article 2 (...) also recommends that the State party: (a) Take prompt measures to end discrimination against children based on the social status or political views of their parents; (b) Make information regularly available on the implementation of anti-discrimination laws, particularly regarding girls, children in rural and remote areas, children of non-nationals and CWDs.	(1) para. 16: recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions (...) as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to or have an impact on children; (b) Develop procedures and criteria to guide all relevant persons in authority in determining the BIs of the child in every area and in giving them due weight as a primary consideration; (c) Establish compulsory processes for ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments on children's rights of all government policies and practices, including in the area of security.	(2) para. 18: notes the State party's efforts to involve children in matters related to their education and in celebration of the CRC. (...) recommends that the State party conduct research to identify the issues that are most important to children and the mechanisms available to them to participate in and influence all matters concerning children in individual decisions at the local and national levels and, based on those findings, develop guidance to ensure that children's views are effectively taken into account.	(2) para. 6: welcomes the adoption in 2010 of the Act on the Protection of the Child and recommends that the State party make the text of the Act and information regarding its implementation publicly available, and seek technical cooperation from, among others, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assist with its implementation and share international best practices and lessons learned.	(1) para. 8: recommends that the State party: (a) Strengthen economic mechanisms (...) and policies that can protect the budget allocations to children's rights and needs over time (...); (b) Substantially increase the allocations in the health, education and social sectors (...) ensuring equitable distribution among urban and rural areas; (c) Define budgetary lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic scarcity, natural disasters or other emergencies.	(2) para. 9: notes the State party's recent efforts on data collection. (...) remains concerned about the overall absence of published information and the limited availability of official data, which prevents the systematic and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved and assessment of the impact of policies adopted with regard to children. (...) seriously concerned about the lack of availability of data disaggregated by age, gender and location on child poverty, violence, abuse and neglect, stateless children, CWDs, adolescents, children deprived of a family environment, juvenile justice, children in street situations, education, health and the impact of climate change and disasters on children.	(1) para. 13: recalls its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4, paras. 13 and 14), and encourages the State party to create an enabling environment for the development of an independent civil society and to systematically involve organizations working on children's rights in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children's rights.

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48	Democratic Republic of the Congo 2017	(1) para. 15: noting the persistent discrimination against children (...) including CWDs, children with HIV/AIDS, children accused of witchcraft, children with albinism, indigenous children, LGBT children, demobilized child soldiers and internally displaced children(...) recommends to adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discriminatory behaviour on any grounds. (...) urges the State party to: (a) Take all measures (...) to ensure the implementation of such legislation; (b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination on any grounds and against all vulnerable groups; (c) Conduct studies to identify and act on causes of discrimination, carry out awareness-raising activities (...) and train professionals working with and for children.	(2) para. 16: that there are gaps in the implementation of article 6 of the Child Protection Code, which provides for the BIs of the child to be considered in all decisions concerning him or her, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that this right is integrated appropriately and applied consistently in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, 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 guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration.	(1) para. 20: In view of the low level of comprehension in society of the right of children to express their views and to have them taken into account and the limited support provided for organizing child parliaments throughout the country, the Committee draws the State party's attention to general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard. (...) recommends that the State party conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community and schools (...) paying particular attention to children in vulnerable and marginalized situations.	(1) para. 7: Noting the insufficient implementation of legislation, in particular of the Act of 10 January 2009 on the protection of children (Child Protection Code), (...) recommends that the State party take all measures necessary for implementing its legislation in compliance with the CRC, in particular by expediting the adoption of the decrees to establish mechanisms for the implementation of such legislation. (...) also recommends that the State party ensure that the human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of legislation providing for the rights of children are adequate and sufficient.	(1) para. 10: recommends that the State party set up a budgeting process that includes a child rights perspective and specifies clear allocations to children (...) including specific indicators and a tracking system to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated to CRC implementation including by: (a) Setting performance targets linking child-related programme goals to budget allocations and actual expenditures (...); (b) Developing disaggregated budget lines and codes for all (...) expenditures that directly affect children; (c) Using budget classification systems that allow for expenditures related to the rights of the child to be reported, tracked and analysed; etc. up to (g)	(1) para. 11: recommends that the State party establish a centralized data collection system, and reiterates its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/COD/CO/2, para. 21) that the State party use the data collected as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights and to help design policies to implement the CRC. The State party should ensure that the information collected can be disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex and geographic location and that it contains up-to-date data on a wide range of vulnerable groups, including former child soldiers, children living in poverty, street children and working children.	(1) para. 13: Noting the difficulties faced by non-governmental organizations in obtaining legal status, which in turn limits their access to funding, (...) recommends that the State party facilitate the work of such organizations by ensuring their registration. (...) also recommends that the State party strengthen further its collaboration with civil society organizations, including by providing support necessary to their activities in all areas related to the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

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49	Denmark 2017	(2) para. 12: noting that discrimination is generally prohibited by law (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that all children (...) have access to the standard educational system (...); (b) In view of discrimination based on disability or sexual orientation being prohibited solely in relation to employment, adopt specific anti-discrimination legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination in all areas against CWDs and LGBTI children; (c) Continue taking awareness-raising measures to combat all forms of discrimination against children from ethnic minorities, asylum-seeking, refugee or Roma children, CWDs, and LGBTI children.	NA	(2) para. 13: While noting with appreciation that many relevant pieces of legislation have strengthened the participation of children in decision-making (...) recommends that the State party ensure that legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard applies to decision-making at all levels of education, notably at private primary and lower secondary schools, and that these schools are also made to adhere to the Public Administration Act as regards consulting the parties.	(2) para. 7: While noting the explanation of the State party that children's rights are mainstreamed as a result of the principle of sectoral accountability, (...) concerned that this is insufficient in terms of legal security and accountability.	(1) para. 10: In view of recent spending cuts, including, inter alia, a 5% cut to child benefits, which will have a potentially negative impact on CRC implementation (...), in particular for children from low-income families, (...) recommends that the State party refrain from implementing further cuts without having first carried out an assessment of the impact that austerity measures would have in areas that are directly and indirectly related to children's rights and repeal those measures that have a negative impact as soon as possible.	(2) para. 11: urges the State party to strengthen statistical systems and analysis on CRC implementation in the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and to ensure that data is systematically collected and used to inform policy and programmes in relation to poverty, violence and abuse. In general, it recommends that the State party continue to strengthen its capacity for the systematic collection and analysis of data disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex and ethnic background for all areas covered by the Convention throughout its territory.	NA

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50	Djibouti 2008	(2) para. 26: welcomes efforts to ensure that all children have access to education, health and other social services, in particular, through the construction of schools and health centres in rural localities, awareness-raising campaigns for equal access to schools of girls, and the repeal of provisions reserving school for children born of Djiboutian parents; regrets that disparities remain, in particular with regard to children living on the streets, migrant children, refugee children and children with disabilities; para. 58: discrimination against persons affected by HIV/AIDS remains widespread.	NA	(2) para. 31: notes with appreciation that the Family Code recognizes the right of the child to express himself/herself freely and calls on all persons to respect this right; notes that measures have been taken to allow children to express their views in the education sector and that child delegates have been given the opportunity to express their views and concerns to the President. However, ... notes that this right is not systematically applied in administrative and judicial proceedings.	(3) para. 10: notes that the State party has made efforts to harmonize its legislation with the CRC, in particular through the adoption of the Family Code, the Labour Code, the Nationality Code and laws on the orientation of educational and health policies.	(2) para. 18: welcomes the increase in budget allocations to the social sectors, including education and health; notes with interest that social spending in favour of children has increased since consideration of the State party's initial report; notes with regret that these allocations are insufficient, particularly in the health sector and in the area of advancement of children and women.	(2) para. 20: welcomes the surveys that have been carried out in a number of areas, including poverty, education, and health; notes that gaps exist in these surveys and that there is a lack of capacity to centralize and analyze data on the population; expresses regret that its recommendation to establish a data collection system for all areas covered by the CRC, made in its previous concluding observations on Djibouti's initial report, has not been addressed.	(2) para. 24: welcomes the State party's indication that it provides support to civil society through training and encouraging activities of these organizations; but notes that there is often a high degree of dependency on civil society to provide social services to children.

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51	Dominica 2004	(1) para. 21: concerned that societal discrimination persists against vulnerable groups of children, including Carib Indian children; para. 36: concerned about children with disabilities who often suffer from societal discrimination.	NA	(2) para. 24: taking note of the establishment of the National Youth Council, the Youth Parliament and the Youth Division; remains concerned that, owing to cultural norms and societal attitudes, children have limited opportunities to freely express their views within the family, in schools and in the courts.	(2) para. 5: noting the efforts undertaken by the State party to harmonize its legislation with regard to children, nevertheless concerned that the existing legislation does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the various measures taken to improve the economic growth of the country such as debt restructuring, diversification of agriculture and the creation of various funds; remains concerned that budgetary allocation is still insufficient for the implementation of the CRC, particularly in the areas of health and education.	(2) para. 15: taking note of the efforts made in the collection of statistical data by the various ministries; nevertheless concerned about the lack of an integrated, analytical and disaggregated data-collection system which cover all areas of the CRC.	NA

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52	Dominican Republic 2015	(2) para. 17: While noting as positive the criminalization of discrimination and the adoption of some relevant policies ... remains concerned about: (a) the low rate of implementation of ... policies and the lack of strategies targeting particular groups of children; (b) persistent discrimination against and gender stereotyping of women and girls ...; (c) the prevalence of discrimination against children of Haitian origin ...; (d) continuous discrimination and/or violence against children with disabilities, children living with HIV/AIDS, children in marginalized urban and rural areas, children in street situations, LGBTI children.	(2) para. 19: welcomes the inclusion in the Constitution of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration. ... nevertheless concerned that in practice this right is not adequately protected and that public officials have not received adequate guidance on its application.	(1) para. 23: concerned about the insufficient measures taken to ensure that the opinions of children are duly considered in all relevant administrative and judicial processes, and about the low rate of implementation of measures taken to ensure that children participate effectively in all spheres of life. It is also concerned that the Children's Consultative Council has not yet been established.	(2) para. 7: While noting the legislative initiatives taken to protect children's rights, such as the constitutional recognition of some children's rights in 2010, ... remains concerned about the low rate of implementation of laws. ... also concerned about the legal reforms relating to nationality and juvenile justice that contravene the principles and rights enshrined in the CRC and about the lack of transparency in the reform process for the Family Code. ... further regrets that accountability for children's rights violations is not systematically ensured.	(2) para. 11: notes the increase in the budget allocated to education. ... nevertheless remains concerned that investment in health continues to be the lowest in the region and that insufficient resources are allocated to implementing laws and policies relating to children's rights; para. 49: low budget allocated to health, especially at the regional level.	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 34b inadequate data on child sexual exploitation and abuse.	(1) para. 15: concerned about reports of hostility and harassment faced by human rights defenders advocating for the rights of Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian descent, including children, or denouncing child exploitation and trafficking.

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53	Ecuador 2017	(1) para. 16: recommends that the State party ensure full protection against discrimination on all grounds and in coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, including girls, and (a) Adopt strategies, including affirmative action programmes, to address disparities in access to education, health services and a minimum standard of living by children belonging to indigenous peoples and nationalities, Montubio, Afro-Ecuadorian children, CWDs and children of families living in poverty (...); (b) Design and implement a strategy with a clear definition of targets and a monitoring mechanism aimed at eliminating patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that discriminate against girls in all areas of life, paying special attention to education. (...) etc. (c) to (e).	(2) para. 17: noting that the State party's Constitution recognizes the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions (...). The State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for determining the BIs in every area; etc. (b) up to (c)	(2) para. 19: noting that the State party's legislation includes mechanisms for official consultation with children at the national and cantonal levels (...), recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure the implementation of the General Code of Procedure in a manner that is consistent with the child's right to be heard throughout all stages of administrative and judicial procedures, the right to access one's own files and procedural accommodation for CWDs (...) etc. (b) to (d)	(2) para. 6: noting the adoption of various laws in relation to children's rights and the legislative process to reform the Code on Children and Adolescents, (...) recalls its previous recommendation (CRC/C/ECU/CO/4, para. 10) and further recommends that the State party: (...) (b) Ensure that any legal reform maintains the speciality of the legal framework concerning the rights of the child and protects children as right holders of all the rights set forth in the CRC, irrespective of their compliance with particular duties; (c) Conduct a review of and bring into line with the CRC its normative framework (...)	(2) para. 10: noting the information concerning the increase in social investment as a proportion of the general State budget, (...) recommends that the State party: (1) Implement a child-rights approach in the elaboration of the State budget through a tracking system covering all child- and adolescent-related expenditures, including impact assessments with gender disaggregation on how investments in any sector may serve the BIs; (b) Allocate resources for the rights of all children, including for the eradication of multidimensional poverty in early childhood, eradication of child malnutrition, comprehensive protection of children, and actions to tackle violence against children; etc. (c) to (f).	(2) para. 11: noting the measures taken (...) in relation to information gathering on the rights of the child (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Continue to strengthen its data-collection system, in particular by ensuring that data cover all areas of the CRC and are disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis on all children, including children in vulnerable situations; etc. (b) to (d)	(1) para. 14: strongly recommends that the State party: (a) Give legitimate recognition to human rights defenders and their work, and build a climate of trust and cooperation with civil society; (b) Systematically and meaningfully involve non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights, including children's organizations, organizations representing indigenous peoples and other nationalities and LGBTI children, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes relating to children's rights.

BIs = Best Interests of the Child  
 COs = Concluding Observations  
 CRC = The Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSOs = Civil Society Organizations  
 CWDs = Children With Disabilities  
 HRDs = Human Rights Defenders

LGBTI = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex  
 SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals

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54	Egypt 2011	(2) para. 34: recognizes efforts undertaken to ensure equal enjoyment of rights for all children in the State party; shares the State party's concern at continued discrimination against the girl child and children living in poverty and regrets reports of discrimination against children of migrant workers and refugee children, especially in relation to the right to education.	(2) para. 10: inadequate follow-up previous CO; para. 36: welcomes the fact that the principle of the best interests of the child has been incorporated into art. 3 of the Child Law (2008) according to which the principle will assume paramount priority in all decisions and measures taken or implemented concerning children; but concerned that the principle ... is not well understood and known among State authorities and civil servants and remains insufficiently integrated in policies, programmes and decision-making processes; concerned that the principle is rarely considered with respect to decisions concerning children in street situations, children deprived of a family environment and children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 40: welcomes that the Child Law 2008 protects the right of the child to form and express his/her views and to be heard ... and that the Family Courts Act provides for the right of the child to be heard in legal and administrative proceedings; While further noting initiatives aimed at strengthening children's participation and adolescents' decision-making skills ... remains seriously concerned at the limited practical application ... and that it is not systematically integrated in ... public policies and programmes or in judicial and administrative proceedings; concerned about ... a perception in society of children as recipients of benefits rather than as rights holders, incl. the right to freely express themselves.	(2) para. 11: welcomes the comprehensive review of the Child Law No. 12/1996 (2008) which requires the State party to guarantee, as a minimum, the rights under the CRC ... and stipulates harsher penal sanctions when crimes are committed against a child; remains concerned that some provisions of domestic law, including family law, are still not in full conformity with the provisions of the CRC, mainly due to restrictive interpretation of some domestic laws; para. 44: commends the State party for adopting legislation granting equality between Egyptian men and women in passing the nationality to their children; para. 57: gravely concerned that all forms of violence against children are still not prohibited in domestic legislation.	(2) para. 10: inadequate follow-up previous CO on allocation of resources; para. 19: notes as positive the unprecedented rights-based tracking of public budgeting for children in 2006; deeply concerned that budgetary allocation directed to children has decreased in relative terms in recent years and that Government spending decreased.	(2) para. 10: inadequate follow-up previous CO on data collection; para. 21: welcomes efforts to strengthen its data collection system on child rights, notably the creation of a central database at the National Child Rights Observatory of the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood; notes as positive that the collection of data from all line ministries ... has started, and the ongoing efforts of the NCCM to develop child rights indicators as well as a child rights index; deeply concerned ... about the lack of data on children deprived of their liberty, subjected to torture and ill-treatment, with disabilities, and in street situations.	(2) para. 27: notes the high number of CSOs promoting understanding of the CRC and the Child Law (2008) and the active cooperation by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood with such organizations ...; welcomes the provision in the Child Law (2008) calling for the inclusion of representatives from NGOs in all Child Protection Committees ...; concerned at the State's reliance on CSOs in the provision of social services for children, notably in the fields of family support, care of children deprived of their family environment, children with disabilities, and children who are victims of violence and abuse, which may reduce the responsibility of the State party as the primary duty-bearer for the realization of the CRC rights.

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55	El Salvador 2010	(1) para. 27: regrets that, despite the State party's efforts to combat racism and discrimination, discriminatory attitudes and social exclusion still affect some sections of the child population, and in particular adolescents, children with disabilities, girls, children living in rural and remote areas, indigenous children and children from economically excluded families; notes the persistence of a traditional patriarchal conception of the family, which often results in girls being given subordinate and dangerous tasks; para. 91: daily life discrimination of indigenous people and their children.	(2) para. 29: notes with appreciation that the principle of the best interests of the child is already included in the Family Code (art. 305) and is also enshrined in the LEPINA, notably in its article 12; concerned that the principle is not sufficiently implemented in practice, especially in the areas of prevention, corporal punishment, child protection and juvenile justice.	(2) para. 33: appreciates the efforts made to promote, facilitate and implement in practice the principle of respect for the views of children and their participation in all matters affecting them; notes with appreciation that more than 600 children ... from 6 to 18 years participated in the process of formulating LEPINA, providing valuable contributions, especially on the topics of violence against children, the right to identity and to a name and the right to be heard; regrets that while the principle of respect for the views of children has been formally achieved, it ... is too often missing from the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies as well as in judicial and administrative procedures.	(2) para. 9: notes the State party's numerous efforts to bring its legislation in line with the CRC, including the recent adoption of the Law for the Integral Protection of Children (LEPINA); regrets that national legislation is not yet in conformity with the CRC in some areas, for instance, with respect to corporal punishment, the minimum age for marriage, the adoption regime and the administration of juvenile justice.	(2) para. 17: while welcoming the State party's approach to allocation of resources based on an approach of equity and social inclusion is concerned about the low allocation of resources to education (2,9 per cent of the GDP) and to health (1.7 per cent of the GDP); para. 58: Allocation of resources to child health issues is insufficient; para. 68: decrease in the budget allocated to education since 2002.	(2) para. 21: notes that the newly established Secretariat of Social Inclusion within the Office of the Presidency of the Republic has started a consultative process to collect information and statistics in areas where this is virtually absent, such as on indigenous children and children with disabilities; notes that ISNA will now also have investigation and research capacity as well as the role of collecting data in areas relevant for the CRC; remains concerned at the current lack of a comprehensive nationwide system of data collection.	(3) para. 19: notes with appreciation that the State party's delegation has stressed during the dialogue the importance of the work of civil society stakeholders and the need to consult them systematically in developing programmes and policies for the rights of the child. In this respect, ... notes that some concerns expressed by CSOs with respect to the LEPINA will be discussed and taken into account in the near future for possible amendments to the law.

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56	Equatorial Guinea 2004	(1) para. 23: concerned that societal discrimination and cultural practices persist against vulnerable groups of children, in particular girls, children born out of wedlock, children with disabilities, children belonging to ethnic minorities and children from poor and rural families, and that the measures taken to prevent and combat this discrimination are insufficient.	(1) para. 26: concerned that in actions concerning children, the general principle of the best interests of the child contained in article 3 CRC is not always a primary consideration, in particular in a number of Spanish laws from before 1968, which the State party continues to apply on a subsidiary basis.	(1) para. 28: notes with concern that little attention is given to the views of the children in the family and in the adoption of public policies, and that traditional practices and attitudes still limit the full implementation of article 12 of the CRC, in particular for girls.	(2) para. 5: notes the efforts undertaken ... to examine the compatibility of the domestic legislation with the CRC and that the Constitution and some laws have been adopted to harmonize the existing legislation with the CRC ...; it also welcomes the information that a new Family Code is being prepared in a consultative process; but concerned that in some cases newly enacted legislation does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC or other international human rights standards; concern about the fact that some customary laws are incompatible with the principles and provisions of the CRC; para. 42: concerned about the lack of appropriate domestic legislation regulating adoption procedures.	(1) para. 13: welcomes the State's commitment made in 1997 to allocate 40 per cent of all its oil revenues to the social sector; regrets that the necessary measures have not been taken to fully meet this commitment; regrets the lack of information about the budget allocated to social expenditures for children, including for health, welfare and education, at the central and local levels; concerned that budgetary allocations are insufficient to respond to national and local priorities for the protection and promotion of children's rights; para. 46: insufficient budgetary allocations for health services.	(1) para. 15: regrets the lack of comprehensive and up-to-date statistical data in the State party's report; para. 34: notes with concern the lack of available data on ill-treatment of children; para. 48: concerned at the absence of statistical data and a comprehensive policy for disabled children, para. 58: concerned that the State party's report lacks specific data on sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.	(1) para. 17: concerned about the limited number of NGOs working for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and about the reported low level of cooperation between the Government and the national CSOs in this regard; concerned about existing legislation (e.g. Law No. 1 of 1999) that seems to limit NGO activities.

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57	Eritrea 2015	(2) para. 24: positive ...efforts made ... to eliminate discrimination, in particular those aimed at reducing regional disparities in access to social services; concerned ... that: (a) certain forms of discrimination remain, including de facto discrimination against girls, ethnic minority and nomadic children; (b) children ... who follow religions that are not officially recognized are denied administrative services or educational opportunities; (c) the criminalization of consensual same-sex conduct ... encourages discrimination against LGBT persons, including children, as well as ... against children from families formed by such persons.	(2) para. 26: notes the efforts of the State party to incorporate the best interests of the child into certain laws and judicial proceedings. However ... concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration may be misinterpreted and has not been fully and systematically incorporated by the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the State.	(1) para. 8: inadequate follow-up previous CO on respect for the views of the child.	(2) para. 9: notes that the State party conducted a comprehensive review of national legislation with regard to its conformity with the CRC. However ... regrets the lack of information on the recently adopted laws (see para. 4 above), and is concerned that the Constitution adopted in 1997 has never been formally implemented. Considering the State party's dualist system, ... concerned that, without effective implementation of the Constitution and legislative reforms, the provisions of the CRC are not legally binding in the domestic jurisdiction.	(1) para. 15: concerned that information regarding resource allocation for children is imprecise and not related to the total State budget or gross domestic product, and that a child rights approach is not applied in the preparation of the State budget; para. 17: notes with concern that corruption continues to be pervasive and diverts resources that could otherwise improve the implementation of the rights of the child, thereby weakening the efficiency and effectiveness of budgetary allocations for children.	(2) para. 19: welcomes the progress made in data collection in the area of health, including through the 2010 Eritrea Population and Health Survey. However ... concerned that the data collected through surveys are not released in a timely manner and that the system of data collection does not cover all areas of the CRC. ... notes that a national database based on the DevInfo system developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is not yet functional; concerned about lack of data on violence against children; on children without parental care and on children with disabilities (para. 38, 49 ad 53).	(1) para. 22: remains seriously concerned about the limitations placed on human rights defenders and civil society organizations, including those working on children's rights, and in particular regrets the severe administrative and practical restrictions placed on their independent operations.

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58	Estonia 2017	NA	(2) para. 20: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the BIs in the 2016 Child Protection Act. (...) however concerned that there is no best interests impact assessment of national legislation and local regional initiatives on children's rights and methodological guidance to assess the BIs is limited.	(2) para. 22: notes that the national legislation states that a child who is 10 years or older shall be heard in decisions which concern him or her and that the court may also hear younger children. (...) however, concerned that in practice there is often a tendency by judges to hear only children who are older than 10 years. While noting that children have the opportunity to express their views through participation in youth centres and youth councils, (...) concerned at reports that children in the State party frequently feel that their opinion has no influence at the national level.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of the new Child Protection Act, in force since 1 January 2016, as an important step for further enhancing children's rights policies and strategies in the State party. (...) however, concerned about the lack of measures to evaluate the Act, including through regular assessment of relevant by-laws and the development of impact assessments in relation to implementing regulations and by-laws.	(1) para. 8: remains concerned that legislation, strategies and policies are not linked to detailed resource allocation. (...) further concerned about: (a) The continuing absence of a comprehensive State and municipal system to analyse and monitor budgetary allocations for implementing all the CRC provisions; (b) The limited public participation in budgetary processes; (c) The ongoing impact of structural adjustment and austerity measures on children's rights in the post-economic-crisis period.	(2) para. 10: welcomes the various measures taken to improve the collection, processing and publication of statistical data, particularly through the establishment of the STAR case management database. (...) however concerned that: (a) Statistics on children relating to all areas of the CRC are not published annually along with regular statistics; (b) Mainstream statistics do not contain child-focused data; (c) Available data is held in several databases which are not integrated.	(2) para. 16: notes the information provided by the State party that non-profit associations are involved in the discussions on, decision-making and drafting of legislation on children's rights, in particular issues relating to parenting, education and adoption. (...) nevertheless concerned that funding, notably for NGOs that are delivering services on behalf of the State, is mostly project based and unpredictable, which negatively impacts the sustainability of their activities.

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59	Ethiopia 2015	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on discrimination against children in vulnerable situations; para. 23: While welcoming the positive steps taken by the State party to combat discrimination such as the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2006-2010, ... expresses concern at the continuous discrimination of girls, children with disabilities, children belonging to ethnic minorities, children in poverty and street situations and children living with HIV/AIDS and with noma.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the efforts made by the State party to ensure that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is respected through the development of training programmes and the establishment of child friendly benches and special investigation and prosecution teams. However ... remains concerned that the best interests of the child are not adequately considered with respect to decisions concerning adoption and family reunification processes and legal proceedings, alternative care and early marriage.	(2) para. 31: While noting the positive steps taken ... to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, such as the children parliaments and the child rights clubs ... remains concerned that traditions and cultural attitudes continue to limit the full implementation of the right of the child to be heard. Furthermore ... notes with concern that except for the specific provision in the Revised Family Code concerning the adoption process, there is no information on other legal provisions guaranteeing the respect of the right of the child to be heard in schools, judicial and administrative proceedings, alternative care settings, and in the family ....	(1) para. 8: regrets the absence of a systematic legislative review in order to bring domestic laws into compliance with the CRC and is concerned that a comprehensive Children's Code has not yet been adopted; para. 61: concerned about lack of national legislation on free and compulsory education.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on the allocation of resources; para. 12: while welcoming the increasing budgetary allocations to the education and health sectors, regrets the lack of information and data relating to the budget specifically allocated to children belonging to the most vulnerable groups of society, including children of ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, children with disabilities, children in street situations, children affected by and/or infected with HIV/AIDS and children living in poverty in rural and remote areas.	(2) para. 5b: welcomes the establishment of Federal Vital Events Registration Agency and the regional states in 2013 to collect data on children; para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on data collection; para. 53: concerned at the lack of reliable disaggregated data on ... children with disabilities; para. 63: concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on children engaged in the worst forms of child labour; para. 71: concerned at the lack of disaggregated data of children in conflict with the law.	(1) para. 19: seriously concerned at the highly restrictive environment for NGOs and CSOs, through the imposition of administrative barriers to registration, low thresholds of foreign financial support for local NGOs, and the strict delimitation of authorized activities for international NGOs by prohibiting their involvement in numerous areas affecting children such as child sexual abuse and exploitation, FGM/C and other harmful traditional practices, the rights of children with disabilities, and of children in conflict with the law. ... also deeply regrets information on the State party's interference in the work of the Charities and Societies Agency (CSA), ... well as the cases of harassment, arrest and prosecution of human rights activists.

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60	Fiji 2014	(2) para. 22: While welcoming the existence of several laws prohibiting discrimination ... notes with serious concern that children from ethnic minorities, children living with HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities are often faced with stigma and discrimination ... welcoming the State party's first National Gender Policy of 1 April 2014 ... deeply concerned about the prevalence of patriarchal attitudes, deep-rooted perceived gender roles and existing laws and regulations that discriminate against girls in the family and in the community.	NA	NA	(2) para. 20: welcomes that the State party has raised the age of marriage from 16 to 18 years for girls, making it the same as for boys, through the Marriage Act (Amendment) Decree 2009. However, ... concerned that, in spite of the definition of the child in the Constitution as a person under the age of 18, some of the State party's legislation is not yet in full conformity with the CRC; para. 28: notes with appreciation the adoption of the Domestic Violence Decree; para. 37: notes the draft adoption decree, aligning domestic legislation with the Hague CRC on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption of 29 May 1993. However, ... regrets that the draft has been pending approval by the Cabinet since June 2012.	(2) para. 12: While welcoming the allocation of financial resources to child protection programmes in the 2014 budget, ... notes with concern that no other budget lines have been identified for the implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all the necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations of the initial report under the CRC that have not been sufficiently implemented, particularly those related to allocation of ... data collection; para. 14: regrets the lack of reliable and disaggregated data on many areas of the CRC, as well as of any mechanism to systematically assess the impact of policies and programmes in relation to the implementation of the CRC.	NA

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61	Finland 2011	(2) para. 7: call to implement previous COs including those related to discrimination against children from ethnic minorities and immigrant children; para. 25: notes the State party's efforts to reform the Non-discrimination Act; remains concerned about the prevalence of discrimination against children with disabilities, immigrant and refugee children and children from ethnic minorities, such as Roma children.	(2) para. 27: welcomes information that the Child Welfare Act (2007) includes the concept of the best interests of the child in the assessment of a child's need for welfare measures, but regrets that there is no comprehensive reference to the best interests of the child in the State party's other legislation and that the principle is not adequately understood or taken into account in decisions affecting children; para. 60: notes the 2006 Migration Policy Programme, in which the principle of the best interests of the child is taken into account in asylum and refugee policy.	(2) para. 7: Inadequate follow-up to previous CO on respect for the views of the child; para. 29: welcomes the State's participation as a pilot country in the Council of Europe policy review on the participation of children and adolescents; welcomes the right of the child to be heard irrespective of his/her age under the Child Welfare Act; concerned that, according to the Administrative Procedure Act, only children above 15 years have the right to be heard individually in matters concerning them; under the Aliens Act a child younger than 12 seems not to be heard as a general rule; and that children are insufficiently heard in custody cases; concerned that the right of children with disabilities to be heard is not properly realised.	(2) para. 8: notes the legislative actions undertaken by the State aimed at strengthening the constitutional, legal and normative framework related to the implementation of the CRC, but remains concerned at the lack of a consolidated legislative framework covering the full scope of the CRC ...	(2) para. 16: notes that municipalities enjoy extensive autonomy in providing and financing public services, and is concerned that this might lead to insufficient allocation of resources to services for children and adolescents by some municipalities resulting in regional and local disparities in resource allocation to children.	(1) para. 18: concerned at the insufficient data available on the living conditions of children in vulnerable situations, including children affected by poverty, children with disabilities, minority/ immigrant children and children in alternative care; concerned at the limited statistics on abuse, neglect and violence against children and on services provided to them.	NA

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62	France 2016	(2) para. 23: welcomes the efforts made by the State party to combat discrimination. (...) concerned, however, about the persistence of discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender identity, disability, national origin, social and economic origin or other grounds. (...) further expresses (...) concern at the persistence of racial discrimination against and stigmatization of Roma children. (...) also concerned that the action plan for equality that replaced the "ABCD of Equality" programme was developed without the involvement of children, is not targeted specifically at children and lacks measurable objectives and a time frame.	(2) para. 25: notes with appreciation that the principle of the best interests of the child has been raised at the constitutional level and that the Court of Cassation (Cour de Cassation) and the Council of State (Conseil d'État) have adopted a common position in this regard. (...) concerned, however, that this right is not sufficiently integrated in practice and is not always properly assessed and determined in all government actions and decisions, including by requiring that prior evaluation studies be conducted to assess the impact of government bills and public investment.	(2) para. 29: While welcoming the ongoing efforts by the State party to ensure respect for the views of the child, (...) remains concerned about the little progress made to systematically ensure and implement respect for the views of the child in all relevant contexts of life. (...) concerned that the hearing of a child in legal proceedings is subject to a written request, and that judges have dismissed such requests on the grounds that they are poorly written. (...) further concerned that children in vulnerable or marginalized situations, such as children in administrative placement and CWDs, are often not consulted in matters concerning them.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 7: concerned that only a very limited number of the provisions of the CRC are recognized as self-executing and that its principles and rights are not duly included in national legislation.	(2) para. 13: Despite the large public investment in children, (...) concerned by the inequity in the allocation of some resources in the State party, particularly for children in situations of marginalization and for the overseas departments and territories, especially in Mayotte. It remains concerned by the absence of progress in carrying out consistent budgetary analysis.	(1) para. 15: While noting the information provided by the State party in its written replies, (...) concerned that reliable, disaggregated data on many areas of the CRC remains unavailable, and that public statistics remain fragmented and insufficient.	NA

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63	Gabon 2016	(1) para. 22: seriously concerned about the continuing de facto discrimination in access to basic services, such as health, education and social services, against children from poor communities, children from pygmy communities, orphans, children in street situations, children with HIV/AIDS, CWDs, child victims of trafficking and asylum-seeking and refugee children. (...) also concerned about discrimination against LGBTI children.	NA	(2) para. 24: welcomes Act No. 39/2010, which requires the views of the child to be taken into account during judicial proceedings, and notes the existence of the youth parliament and youth associations. (...) is, however, concerned about the ineffective implementation of that law and that, at the local level, municipalities, communities, parents and educators often do not take children's views into account and that the views expressed by children in surveys or through their associations do not inform actions to promote the rights of the child.	(1) para. 5: inadequate follow up to previous CO on legislation; reiterates previous CO (2002): noted that new laws have been adopted to harmonize the existing legislation with the CRC and welcomes the comparative study of national laws, the CRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child that was carried out in 1998; but remains concerned at the fact that domestic legislation, and in particular customary law, still does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC.	(2) para. 11: (...) notes the studies and analysis of public spending on children carried out by the State party; however, (...) seriously concerned about: (a) The steady decrease in the relative allocation of resources to education, health and social protection sectors despite more economic resources being available; (b) The lack of a tracking system for the allocation of resources to implement children's rights; (c) The absence of communities' and children's participation in budgeting processes; (d) Budget allocations not being fully aligned with the policies adopted on children's rights, in particular, for CWDs and children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the progress in data collection and the adoption of a national matrix of child protection indicators. (...) however, concerned about the capacity of data-collection mechanisms to provide updated, reliable and disaggregated data on the situation of children, in particular in vulnerable situations, on a regular basis. (...) also concerned about the limited use of the existing data to inform policy and programmatic decisions.	(2) para. 19: welcomes the creation of the National Network for Child Rights Promotion in Gabon and the National Network for Child Rights Protection in Gabon. (...) notes that civil society participates in the design and approval of child rights programmes and projects, but it is concerned there is no formal or permanent framework for consultation between civil society and the Government, and that this is partially due to an inadequate legislative framework.

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64	Gambia 2015	(2) para. 29: welcomes the adoption of the Women's Act 2010 and the development of the National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010–2020. ... remains concerned about: the persistent application of legal and societal discrimination against girls ...; discrimination against children born out of wedlock ...; CWD ...; children living in poverty, working children, children in street situations, children living in rural areas and refugee children; the ...2014 Criminal Code according to which the new crime of "aggravated homosexuality" carries punishments of up to life in prison, which encourages ... discrimination against ... LGBTI persons, including children, and children from LGBTI families.	(2) para. 31: while welcoming the reference to the "welfare principle" in the Children's Act 2005, ... concerned that State institutions such as the Children's Court, the Department of Social Welfare and the Police Child Welfare Unit do not properly differentiate between the "welfare" and the "best interests of the child" principles and fail to use the latter systematically ... also concerned about the lack of explicit reference in the legislation to the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration. ... further concerned that the ... BIs of the child is not sufficiently understood and ... applied by the Children's Court, the Cadi courts, the community child protection committees, the police and social workers.	(1) para. 33: concerned about the limited respect for the views of the child in the community and the family, and the lack of information on whether the views of the child are constantly respected in the Children's Court, the Cadi courts and the community child protection committees.	(2) para. 7: welcomes the adoption of the Children's Act 2005. However, ... concerned that this Act fails to cover all areas under the CRC, including issues relating to child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour, and that it has not been effectively enforced and has not been sufficiently disseminated; para. 41a: absence of legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in the home, in school and in alternative care settings.	(2) para. 13: notes as positive the increase in the government budget allocated to education between 2006 and 2014. ... however, concerned that the percentage of the budget allocated to health and social welfare remains low. ... also concerned about the lack of effective implementation of the legal provisions criminalizing corruption, in particular in the public sector; para. 43: reports of the lack of adequate budget for countering sexual abuse and exploitation; para. 47: lack of information received on whether there is adequate budget for implementing Domestic Violence Act; para. 60: budgetary allocations to the health sector remain greatly insufficient.	(1) para. 15: concerned about the absence of a comprehensive system for disaggregated data collection and analysis on all children under the age of 18. ... particularly concerned about the lack of data on child labour, as well as on child trafficking, child mortality, sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and domestic violence against children. It is also concerned that data are not sufficiently shared with the public; para. 76(c): lack of specific data on the incidence of child labour.	(1) para. 23: concerned about reports indicating that activities of NGOs and civil society are closely monitored by the NGO Affairs Agency placed under the authority of the Office of the President, which results in many organizations exercising self-censorship.

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65	Georgia 2017	(2) para. 15: While welcoming the adoption of the law on the elimination of all forms of discrimination in May 2014 (...) recalls its previous COs (...) and urges the State party to: (a) Allocate the necessary ... resources to institutions in charge of monitoring (...) implementation (...), and collect disaggregated data on cases of discrimination (...) including CWDs, children: in street situations, in the juvenile justice system, belonging to minorities, of disadvantaged families, living in rural or remote areas and (...) refugees or internally displaced, with a view to developing comprehensive strategies aimed at ending all forms of discrimination;	(2) para. 16: welcomes the inclusion of the definition of the BIs in the Juvenile Justice Code and in the revised Civil Code. However, (...) recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated, consistently interpreted and applied in all (...) proceedings and decisions, (...) policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children, including procedures concerning child asylum seekers and unaccompanied children. (...) the State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving them due weight (...).	(2) para. 17: noting the establishment of child-friendly courtrooms, (...) encourages the State party to strengthen methods to ensure that children's views are given due consideration in the family, at schools, at the community level, in institutions and in administrative procedures concerning them through, inter alia: (a) The refinement of appropriate legislation; (b) The continuous training of professionals; (c) Support of various forms for children's meaningful participation; (d) Collaboration with civil society organizations, to increase opportunities for children's participation, including in the media.	(2) para. 6: encourages the State party to continue its efforts to adopt a law on the rights of the child, to incorporate all provisions of the Convention and its optional protocols, and to seek technical assistance from, inter alia, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to do so.	(1) para. 9: recommends that the State party set up a budgeting process that includes a child-rights perspective, that specifies clear allocations to children in the relevant sectors and agencies and that includes specific indicators and a tracking system to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated for implementation of the Convention (...).	(2) para. 10: welcoming the collection of data on several areas of the CRC, including through the national census in 2014, (...) recalls its previous COs (...) and recommends that the State party: (a) Continue and strengthen its efforts to develop a comprehensive data-collection system on the implementation of the CRC, especially at municipal level, which reaches all regions of the country. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability and especially in the areas of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, sexual exploitation and of children in street situations;	(1) para. 13: recalls its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/GEO/CO/3, para. 19), encouraging the State party to collaborate more actively with civil society, including non-governmental and children's organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to the CRC and in the promotion of children's rights.

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66	Germany 2014	(2) para. 24: welcomes the anti-discrimination measures adopted by the State party, particularly those aimed at promoting a culture of understanding and tolerance. However, ... remains concerned that children with disabilities and children with a migration background continue to face discrimination in the State party, particularly regarding education and health-care services.	(2) par. 26: While noting that the welfare of the child is a guiding principle in the State party's legal order and one that is increasingly being applied, ... also notes with concern that the principle of the child has not yet been fully incorporated into federal legislation and the prioritization of the child's best interests has not yet been integrated into all areas of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. In particular, it is frequently disregarded in cases concerning children from educationally and socioeconomically disadvantaged families, including refugee and asylum-seeking children.	NA	(2) para. 3: welcomes the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 9: notes with satisfaction that most Länder have explicitly recognized children's rights in their constitutions. However, ... remains concerned that children's rights have not yet been explicitly recognized in the constitutions of Hamburg and Hesse, or in the Federal Constitution (Basic Law). ... further notes that under article 59, paragraph 2, of the Basic Law, the CRC is placed at the level of an ordinary federal law.	NA	(2) para. 15: notes that the State party is aware of the importance of establishing a comprehensive data collection system. However, ... concerned that the State party does not have a comprehensive system for collecting data on all areas covered by the CRC. This is one of the major obstacles for the effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for children, especially in the fields of violence against children, CWD, juvenile justice and child refugees, particularly unaccompanied child refugees.	(2) para. 11: notes that the 2005-2010 National Action Plan initiated a broad discussion on children's rights. However, ... regrets that the practical implementation of the National Action Plan did not sufficiently involve civil society organizations and other actors at the local level.

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67	Ghana 2015	(2) para. 21: While noting the anti-discriminatory provisions contained in the laws of the State party ... reiterates its concern (CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 25) that discrimination against certain groups of children, particularly girls, children with disabilities, unaccompanied or separated asylum seeking children, children of migrants, children of asylum-seekers, children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, children living in rural areas and children in street situations still exists in practice.	(1) para. 23: remains concerned that, despite its legal recognition, the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as primary consideration is not adequately interpreted or applied by administrative, legislative and judicial bodies, including in family, criminal and asylum procedures.	(2) para. 27: notes with appreciation the existence of children's clubs and the efforts made to include the participation of children in policy discussions. However ... concerned about the scarcity of information about these clubs and of efforts in rural and remote areas as well as the involvement of and outreach to children in vulnerable situations. ... also concerned that the views of the child are rarely taken into account in decisions made at the family level and in administrative and judicial proceedings.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the adoption of various child-related legislative measures. Nevertheless ... reiterates its concern about their insufficient implementation and, in some instances, the evident gap between law and practice; para. 25: taking note of the legislation adopted by the State party for the protection of children with disabilities; para. 45: concerned about inadequacy of the present legislation on adoption.	(2) para. 14: welcomes the State party's progressive increase of budget allocations in the areas of health and education. However ... expresses its concern that there is no specific budget allocated for the implementation of the CRC and that the budget for children's related expenditure appears to be insufficient to respond to national and local priorities for the protection of children.	(1) para. 7: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 65: remains concerned about the absence of national data available on the prevalence of children living and working in the streets; para. 68: concerned about the lack of data on the number of children trafficked.	NA

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68	Greece 2012	(2) para. 26: noting some measures taken to address the discrimination against Roma children; expresses concern at the persistent discrimination against Roma children, children of Turkish origin, children belonging to the Muslim community of Thrace or to the Macedonian minority; also concerned at the existence of discrimination towards children with disabilities, children in street situations and children of undocumented migrant parents; concerned at the local disparities in different regions of the State party.	NA	(2) para. 30: noting the establishment of the Youth Parliament; concerned at the lack of information with regard to the representation of children from distinct ethnic, religious, linguistic or cultural groups in the Youth Parliament; concerned that in spite of the existing provisions of the State party's legislation on respect for the views of the child, these provisions are rarely used by the courts, mainly because of lack of awareness, which means that children's views are not taken into account.	(1) para. 9: notes with regret that some aspects of domestic legislation are still not consistent with the principles and provisions of the CRC.	(1) para. 8: call for implementation previous COs on allocation of resources for children; para. 17: While noting the serious financial and economic crisis currently being faced by the State; expresses its deep concern at the negative effects that it is having on public spending affecting services provided to children; reiterates its concern that the national budget and the budget process do not allow for a clear understanding and identification of financial resources allocated for the implementation of the rights of children at the national and local levels; concerned at the persistence of corruption in public institutions, the judiciary and other sectors.	(1) para. 8: call for implementation previous COs on data collection; p para.. 19: concerned at the lack of a national database with comprehensive and disaggregated data on children; concerned at the lack of statistics on children at risk of domestic violence and/or other forms of abuse and ill-treatment, child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and other children in need of special protection, including children with disabilities, unaccompanied children, and refugee and asylum-seeking children; para. 50: statistical data on children with disabilities in the State party is still unavailable.	(2) para. 8: call for implementation previous COs on cooperation with civil society; para. 21: reiterates its previous recommendation to further improve cooperation and coordination on a regular basis with NGOs and involve them in the CRC's implementation.

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69	Grenada 2010	(2) para. 6: call for implementation of previous COs on discrimination; para. 25: notes with interest the development of a National Gender Policy and that activities aimed at discouraging discrimination take place in schools; regrets that the State's legislation has not been amended to also offer boys protection against sexual abuse and exploitation and that the minimum age of consent to sexual activity refers only to girls.	NA	(2) para. 28: notes with interest the establishment of student councils as well as the organization of an Annual Youth Parliament and the creation of a Youth Arm of the Grenada National Coalition on the Right of the Child; notes with concern that in judicial and administrative procedures the right of the child to be heard is not properly respected; also concerned that little has been done to increase the awareness of the general public.	(2) para. 6: call for implementation of previous COs on harmonization of legislation; para. 7: notes that a number of bills on issues related to child rights exist; however these bills have not yet been passed; regrets that the CRC has still not been integrated into national legislation; concerned that there are insufficient human and material resources to draft legislation.	(1) para. 15: notes with regret that there is no identifiable budget for children; concerned that there are insufficient resources for the protection of children's rights and that the State party relies mainly on donor funding, which may not be sustainable, for its social protection measures and programmes.	(1) para. 17: reiterates the concern expressed in its previous concluding observations at the lack of a system of data collection and analysis in the State party to provide systematic and comprehensive desegregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children, in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies; para. 45: lack of adequate data in the area of adolescent health.	NA

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70	Guatemala 2010	(1) para. 40: reiterates its concern, shared by other treaty bodies, at the alarming level of discrimination suffered by Maya, Garifuna and Xinca children; notes that the measures taken by the State party so far are not sufficient to eliminate structural obstacles which prevent the full exercise of the rights of these children, who constitute over half the total population of the State party; also concerned at discriminatory attitudes affecting some sections of the child population, in particular adolescents, children with disabilities, girls, children living in rural areas and children from marginalized families.	(2) para. 43: notes that the principle of the best interests of the child has been incorporated in the State party's Constitution, the PINA Law, and in the comprehensive public policy for children and its plan of action adopted several years ago; but it is still not sufficiently well known, understood or correctly applied in legislative, administrative, economic, social, cultural and judicial decisions of the State party, which has a negative impact on children; welcomes the fact that municipalities have incorporated this principle in municipal public policies, but is concerned that the best interests of the child are not taken into account in practice at national, regional and municipal level.	(2) para. 49 :notes with interest that the right to be heard is incorporated in the legislation of the State party; regrets the lack of information about the implementation of this principle; concerned that the views of the child are not duly solicited or taken into account in all settings affecting the child, including in judicial proceedings, in matters concerning school administration, alternative care and classroom education, and in public debates; also concerned that the participation of children is low in the decision-making process in family and community life and in the development and evaluation of policies and programmes targeted at children.	(3) para. 13: notes the State party's efforts to bring its legislation in line with the CRC.	(2) para. 12: call for implementation previous COs on budget; para. 25: welcomes the efforts to enhance the allocation of resources for children, such as the conditional cash transfers in the areas of health and education, but is concerned that budget allocations for children need a longer-term perspective; concerned at the low social spending in the State party, and the difficulty of tracking investments on children across sectors, departments and municipalities; also notes with concern that the particularly low tax collection in the State party has a negative impact on the national revenue, and may limit resources for children.	(1) para. 12: call for implementation previous COs on data collection; para. 27: notes with concern that an adequate data collection system has not been established, which has resulted in incomplete and confused data. It regrets the lack of coordination and feedback among different institutions which results in contradictory data, and that existing statistics often refer only to the capital city and urban areas.	(1) para. 32: regrets that cooperation with non-governmental organizations and indigenous traditional leaders is insufficient.

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71	Guinea 2019	(1) para. 17: refers to previous COs (CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 37) and urges the State party to: (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy against all forms of discrimination; (b) Continue and strengthen its activities to combat discrimination and to prioritize and target social services for children in the most marginalized and disadvantaged situations, in particular with regard to girls, including non-circumcised girls, CWDs, children with albinism, LGBTI children, child survivors of Ebola, children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, children living in rural areas and/or in poverty and children who have served sentences; (c) Amend the Civil Code (1983) and ensure that all the discriminatory provisions against girls and children born to unmarried parents with regard to succession are abolished.	(1) para. 18: recommends to strengthen its efforts to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions and in all policies and programmes that are relevant to and have an impact on children; (b) Develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for determining the best interests of the child in every area and for giving the best interests of the child due weight as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 20: recommends that the State party: (a) Strengthen existing bodies and mechanisms, such as the Children's Parliament, and ensure that all children in the State party have such opportunities to participate in public life, including in consultation forums established in mining areas; (b) Conduct awareness-raising programmes aimed at adults in communities and families to eliminate traditions and beliefs that impede the proper valuation of children's opinions, and to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family and the community, in schools and during legal proceedings, with particular attention to girls and to children in vulnerable situations.	(1) para. 7: recommends that the State party expedite the adoption of the revised Children's Code.	(1) para. 10: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 18), and recommends to: (a) Increase substantially the budget allocations in the areas of health and education; (b) Establish a budgeting process, which includes a child rights perspective and specifies clear allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including for the Ministry of Social Action and the Promotion of Women and Children and for decentralized child protection and juvenile justice structures, and develop specific indicators and a tracking system; (c) Decrease dependence on external cooperation; (d) Implement a national strategy on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Law (2017).	(1) para. 11: recommends that the State party: (a) Create an integrated and comprehensive data collection and management system, covering all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, with data disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, geographic location, socioeconomic background, and national and ethnic origin; (b) Ensure that data and indicators are shared among relevant ministries and make full use of the harmonized data-collection tools that were developed by the State party and international development partners in 2017 for the area of protection.	(1) para. 23: reminds the State party that human rights defenders, particularly child human rights defenders, deserve protection as their work is crucial for the promotion of human rights for all, including for children, and thus urges the State party to adopt and implement the draft law on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders that was presented to the Minister of National Unity and Citizenship by civil society in December 2018, while ensuring that the needs of child human rights defenders are addressed.

Bl = Best Interests of the Child  
COs = Concluding Observations  
CRC = The Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSOs = Civil Society Organizations  
CWDs = Children With Disabilities  
HRDs = Human Rights Defenders

LGBTI = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex  
SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals

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72	Guinea Bissau 2013	(1) para. 24: concerned that discrimination against certain groups of children persists in the State party, in particular girls, children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS. ... particularly concerned that girls continue to be subjected to multiple gender-based discrimination, e.g. with regard to practices like FGM/C, forced and child marriages, and enrolment in and completion of education. ... remains deeply concerned that no systematic efforts have been undertaken ... to combat and change discriminatory attitudes and practices against children; para. 50: concerned about discrimination against and social exclusion of children with disabilities.	(1) para. 26: concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration has still not been fully implemented by the State party or reflected in legislation, policy, programmes or activities, and that community and regional leaders are not sufficiently aware of the provisions in the CRC on the best interests of the child.	(2) para. 30: appreciates the establishment of the Children's Parliament. However, it remains concerned that traditional attitudes towards children in society limit, and often prevent, children from expressing their views on a wide range of issues that affect them within the family, schools, institutions, judicial system and in society at large.	(1) para. 10: concerned at the lack of progress of the State party in harmonizing its legislation with the CRC and related international standards. ... concerned that many aspects of customary law still constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the CRC; para. 50: lack of specific legislation prohibiting discrimination against children with disabilities.	(1) para. 9: insufficient follow-up was given to previous CO on budgetary allocations; para. 16: notes with concern the information that less than 1% of the general budget of the State is allocated to women and children's issues and that the allocated resources are insufficient to effectively improve the implementation of children's rights, especially children in vulnerable situations. ... notes the large percentage of current aid going to governance and security sector reform, in contrast to allocations to health and education sectors.	(2) para. 18: takes note of the State party's efforts to improve data collection ..., but is concerned that routine data collection is still not systematic and needs improvement in quality. Whereas data collection on education, health and groups of children in need of special protection has improved, data are still lacking on children in conflict with the law, children in contact with the justice system, the percentage of children with disabilities enrolled in school, substance abuse by children and children in street situations. ... also concerned that those responsible for data collection ... do not systematically use the indicators for child protection ...	NA

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73	Guyana 2013	(2) para. 24: welcomes the ... adoption of the Amerindian Act in 2006, the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Commission to address discrimination and marginalization faced by Amerindian children, and other measures taken to address discrimination against Amerindians. ... remains concerned at the prevalence of discrimination against Amerindian children, and children with disabilities. ... concerned about discrimination against children on the basis of sexual orientation and/ or gender identity.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the inclusion of the best interests of the child principle in the ... Protection of Children Act, 2009. However, ... concerned at the absence of guidelines and procedures for ensuring that the right of the child to have his/her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is applied continuously throughout the State party's policies, legislation and programmes.	(2) para. 28: welcomes the inclusion of clear provisions on the right of the child to be heard in the Adoption Act (2009) and Protection of Children Act (2009), as well as the existence of Children's Parliaments. However, ... remains concerned that in practice, respect for this right remains limited, with no systematic approach in place for the participation of children and young people in local governance. ... reiterates its previous concerns on sociocultural attitudes and traditions that continue to restrain children from freely expressing their views in schools, courts and within the family.	(2) para. 8: notes the adoption of numerous child-related laws over the reporting period and in particular the adoption of the Childcare and Protection Agency Act No. 2 of 2009 and Protection of Children Act No. 17 of 2009. However, ... concerned that the State party has not yet undertaken a comprehensive review of its laws to ensure full compatibility with the CRC, including finalizing the necessary reforms of its judiciary and legislation for the establishment of a Family Court. ... concerned that the State party has yet to adopt its 2008 Juvenile Justice Bill.	(2) para. 14: welcomes the State party's 2008-2012 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the resulting increase in social-sector spending, including for education, health, water, sanitation and housing, which contributes to fulfilment of children's rights. ... remains concerned that the social budget of the State party does not define specific budgetary allocations for the provision of critical social services to children, exacerbating the substantial discrepancies between the urban and hinterland regions.	(2) para. 16: notes the State party's ongoing efforts to improve its data collection, including through the establishment of a common DevInfo database and Child Protection Monitoring System (CPMS). However, ... concerned that these are not comprehensive and there are no plans to establish a central data collection unit. ... shares the State party's concern about the lack of statisticians and about other technical and capacity-related reasons that prevent these databases from becoming fully operational.	NA

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74	Haiti 2016	(2) para. 22: While welcoming the adoption in 2014 of the Law on paternity, maternity and filiation, which guarantees equal treatment of children born out of wedlock, (...) notes with concern that the law is not retroactive (...) and that insufficient measures have been taken to implement the law, in particular regarding DNA testing. Furthermore, (...) concerned about: (a) Persistent discrimination against girls, subjected to gender stereotypes and violence from the earliest stages of their lives; (b) Ongoing de facto discrimination against CWDs, children in street situations, children engaged in child labour and children born out of wedlock or abandoned by their father, and discrimination, threats and attacks against LGBTI children.	(1) para. 7 inadequate follow-up previous CO (2003) on best interests; reiterates its previous concluding observations: concerned that the general principles contained in the CRC e.g. the best interests of the child (art. 3) are not fully integrated into the State party's legislation and administrative and judicial decisions, or in policies and programmes relevant to children at both national and local levels; concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not fully recognized and implemented in the relevant legislation and in decisions relevant to children.	(1) para. 7 inadequate follow-up previous CO (2003) on respect for views children; reiterates its previous COs: concerned that the general principles contained in the CRC e.g. respect for the views of the child (art. 12), are not fully integrated into the State party's legislation and administrative and judicial decisions, or in policies and programmes relevant to children at both national and local levels;	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of the specified legislative measures; para. 8: notes with concern that the Child Protection Code and the Framework Law reforming IBESR have not yet been adopted.	(2) para. 12: notes with appreciation that resources allocated for the implementation of children's rights have increased. It is concerned, however, that these resources remain largely insufficient, and that the national debt has further increased which may have a limiting effect on allocation of resources to children. Furthermore, while welcoming the adoption in 2014 of the law on the prevention and suppression of corruption, deeply concerned about the high prevalence of corruption.	(1) para. 7 inadequate follow-up previous CO (2003) on data; reiterates its previous concluding observations: concerned at the absence of reliable data and the lack of an adequate data collection system; para. 14: recommends that the State party develop a system of data collection and indicators consistent with the CRC and disaggregated by sex, age, and urban and rural area. This system should cover all children up to the age of 18 years, with specific emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable. It further encourages the State party to use these indicators and data in the formulation of policies and programmes for the effective implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 18: while noting certain initiatives taken by the State party, including through the efforts made by the Working Group on Child Protection, remains concerned that the State party has not developed a well-structured, systematic cooperation with civil society. (...) furthermore deeply concerned about cases of violent attacks, including rape, and death threats carried out against human rights defenders, and in particular human rights defenders working on girls' rights as well as LGBTI rights, and failure to investigate these crimes by the authorities.

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75	Holy See 2014	(2) para. 25: Holy See has initiated a review of its legislation with a view to withdrawing the discriminatory expression “illegitimate children”, contained in the Canon Law, ... noting as positive the progressive statement delivered by the Pope in July 2013 ... concerned about past statements and declarations made by the Holy See on homosexuality, which contribute to the social stigmatization of and violence against LGBT adolescents and children raised by same sex couples; para 27: regrets that the Holy See continues to place emphasis on the promotion of complementarity and equality in dignity, two concepts which differ from equality in law and practice provided for in CRC art. 2, and which are often used to justify discriminatory legislation and policies.	(1) para. 29: concerned that children’s right to have their best interests taken into account as a primary consideration has been insufficiently addressed by the Holy See in legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and which have an impact on children. ... particularly concerned that in dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse, the Holy See has consistently placed the preservation of the reputation of the Church and the protection of the perpetrators above the child’s best interests, as observed by several national commissions of inquiry.	(1) para. 31: concerned that the Holy See has a restrictive interpretation of children’s right to express their views in all matters affecting them as well as their rights to freedom of expression, association and religion ... concerned that the Holy See continues to view the rights enshrined in article 12 of the CRC as undermining the rights and duties of parents.	(2) para. 13: welcoming the Holy See’s approach to ensuring that the legislation of Vatican City State complies with the CRC ... regrets that the same approach has not been followed in relation to its internal laws, including Canon Law ... concerned that some of the provisions of the Canon Law are not in conformity with the provisions of the CRC, in particular those relating to children’s rights to be protected against discrimination, violence and all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.	(2) para. 17: appreciates the numerous activities undertaken at the grassroots level and funded by Catholic churches, foundations and organizations worldwide to support and protect children in the most vulnerable situations and to provide them with, among others, education opportunities, health and social care and other family support services ... notes the absence of a comprehensive child rights-based approach to the allocation of resources to support children and the lack of a system to track spending on children by the Holy See, and church-related organizations and institutions in States parties where the Holy See has influence and impact.	NA	NA

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76	Honduras 2015	(2) para. 25: welcomes the State party's measures to integrate the principle of non-discrimination in its legislation and in designing public policies and programmes. ... nonetheless concerned about: (a) The lack of detailed information on the situation of girls; (b) The impact of increased poverty and inequality among children, in particular indigenous children and children living in rural areas; (c) The continued use of sex-based discrimination language in certain laws, institutional plans and programmes for children.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the measures taken by the State party to include the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in the legal framework, to strengthen the judiciary as regards the application of this right and to provide legal aid services for the population. ... however concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is not applied in practice, namely in the areas of migration, labour and civil and police matters.	(2) para. 31: notes the recognition in the national legislation of ... respect for the views of the child and welcomes the measures taken to ensure the participation of children in public forums, namely, the Children's Congress, the Students' Legislative Congress and student governments. ... welcomes the measures taken by the Inter-Agency Committee on Early Childhood to pay special attention to the views of parents, adolescents and adolescent mothers during the design of the Comprehensive ECD Policy. ... concerned that, despite progress, the views of the child are still not considered in fundamental decisions affecting their rights, namely, the approval of education budgets.	(2) para. 7: notes with appreciation the efforts to harmonize national legislation with the CRC, in particular the reform of the Code on Children and Adolescents, the Family Code, the Civil Code, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law on Domestic Violence. ... however concerned about the limited implementation of child-related laws para. 81: regrets absence of adequate legislation on children in street situations.	(2) para. 13: concerned about the steady decrease, as a percentage of the total budget, of direct expenditure on children and its impact on the Social Protection Policy and the Public Policy on Comprehensive Early Childhood Development. ... welcomes the steps taken by the State party to institutionalize the measurement of public investment in children and the impact of that investment, but concerned about the lack of a participatory budgeting process with a child's rights perspective as well as the lack of due consideration of the situation of children in vulnerable situations.	(2) para. 15: While noting the multiple measures taken to create institutions and information systems to collect and analyse data on children rights, ... remains concerned about: (a) The lack of adequate financial support for the effective functioning of information systems; (b) The limited capacity of State institutions to provide pertinent, high quality and timely information; (c) The inadequate disaggregation of data to identify the most vulnerable groups of children; (d) Information not being used by State institutions to support policy formulation, despite the progress made in data collection.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the steps taken by the State party to ensure the systematic coordination between public and civil society institutions, which resulted in the adoption of several laws, policies and programmes to implement children's rights. ... however, concerned about the lack of involvement of independent civil society in the monitoring and evaluation processes of those public measures. ... also concerned about abuses against defenders of children's rights, such as in the case of José Guadalupe Ruelas, the director of Casa Alianza in Honduras, who was beaten and jailed by the military police on 8 May 2014.

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77	Hungary 2014	(2) para. 19: notes that Act C (2012) criminalizes acts that are racially motivated, and acknowledges programmes and projects to promote tolerance among school children ... concerned about the ... discriminatory attitude of the public against children in arginalized/ disadvantaged situations — such as children with disabilities, children living in family forms other than heterosexual marriage, children belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, children with different sexual identities, and migrant and unaccompanied children — which has been exacerbated by the economic crisis and poverty ... concerned about the intrinsic gender stereotypes in the society, which have a significant negative effect on girls.	(2) para. 21: notes that the State party's legislation provides for the best interests of the child, in particular in its Fundamental Law and in the Child Protection Act ... concerned that the State party's legislation and policies in many areas, including its regulation on juvenile justice, are not appropriately based on the principle of the best interests of the child.	(2) para. 23: notes that, under the new Civil Code, children should be heard if they are considered to be able to judge the situation ... concerned that under the Family Act, children below the age of 14 years do not have an automatic right to be heard in decisions related to their custody, and that in practice, children below the age of 14 are heard only as an exception, even in divorce and child custody cases ... concerned that child rights representatives assigned to children in institutions and foster care have had limited contact with children and have been found to be ineffective.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of specified legislation; para. 25: concern about regulation on associations (2014); para. 33: notes that the State party's legislation prohibits the use of corporal punishment against children in all settings.	(1) para. 8: to take all necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and in particular, it recommends and urges the State party to allocate adequate resources for the economic, social and cultural rights of children, in particular for those living in families with scarce economic means, "to the maximum extent of... available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation".	(1) para. 8: to take all necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and in particular, it recommends and urges the State party to ... thoroughly examine the existing laws and regulations that impede the collection of disaggregated data, ensuring that the collection and publication of data broken down according to ethnic origin can be done in full respect of human rights, as well as significantly improve the collection of data relevant for the implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 17: concerned that the centralization and nationalization of services for children in public care facilities and other areas have resulted in the exclusion of many NGOs from the support of the State party ... concerned about the information that some NGOs have been subjected to investigation for receiving foreign funds.

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78	Iceland 2012	NA	(2) para. 26: welcomes information that the concept of the best interest of the child is generally taken into consideration in the assessment of a child's need for welfare and public services; however, concerned that the best interests principle may not be fully taken into account in certain individual cases, especially with regard to ensuring parents' access to the child.	(2) para. 28: notes the State party's indication that the Children's Act secures the right of children to form their own opinions and to express them; appreciates that under the Youth Act municipal authorities may establish youth councils to advise authorities on youth affairs; remains concerned that there is no legal requirement that such councils be established nor any procedures and regulations governing the functioning of such councils, leaving them at the discretion of municipalities; also concerned that all children may not have equal opportunity to express their views.	(3) para. appreciates the legislative actions that are being undertaken by the State party to strengthening the constitutional, legal and normative framework related to the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 6: notes with appreciation the State party's fiscal efforts to protect the rights of children, especially regarding special protection measures, and that it intends to redress the budget cuts to social investment,... as its financial and economic situation steadily continues to improve; para. 18: recognizes the difficult financial ... situation faced by the State party since 2008 and appreciates the efforts made to avoid direct effects on services protecting children and families in situations of vulnerability. ... however, expresses concern at extensive budget cuts to the education and health sectors and that, despite efforts, the rate of families with children below the low-income threshold, in particular single parent families, has increased.	(2) para. 7: call to implement previous CO on lack of a data collection system; notes with appreciation the data provided by the State party on various areas concerning children; regrets that the system of data collection does not cover all areas of the CRC, and that there are insufficient mechanisms for the processing, evaluation and assessment of such data; para. 34: regrets lack of data on children with disabilities disaggregated by types of disabilities, age and gender.	NA

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79	India 2014	(1) para. 31: concerned at the disparity among different groups of children in access to education, health care, safe water and sanitation and other social services and to the enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the CRC ... persisting discrimination against children from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, children with disabilities, children with HIV/AIDS, as well as asylum-seeking and refugee children; para. 33: deeply concerned about the pervasive discrimination against girls and women in the State party and the persistent patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against girls.	(2) para. 35: While noting that the National Policy for Children, 2013, incorporates the principle of the best interests of the child as a guiding principle in all administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children, the Committee is concerned at the lack of detailed information on measures taken to ensure that, in practice, the right of children to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is consistently applied by professionals working for and with children in all areas affecting them; para. 59: concerned that the best interests of the child are not always taken into account, including when sentencing parents.	(2) para. 37: welcomes the State party's initiatives, such as the Child Reporters Initiative, to increase children's participation in society, as well as its efforts to increase children's participation in civil proceedings affecting their rights and well-being. However, the Committee is concerned that children are generally not perceived as rights holders by society and that their participation in the public sphere and opportunities to have their voices heard in the family, schools, community and at the central level are insufficient.	(2) para. 11: notes that since the consideration of its second periodic report, the State party has adopted or amended a number of federal laws to strengthen the legislative framework for children's rights. However, the legislation still does not cover the full scope of the CRC ... concerned that the different levels of authority and competencies within the State party's federal structure have resulted in a differentiated application of the legislation on children's rights and fragmentation and inconsistencies in the implementation of children's rights across the State party.	(2) para. 17: notes the State party's efforts to improve the planning and budgetary processes and to increase the budget allocated to schemes and programmes for children ... concerned that budget allocations do not adequately take into consideration child protection needs. It is also concerned at the mismanagement of allocated resources, which is exacerbated by a high level of corruption, and the lack of effective monitoring and evaluation systems.	(1) para. 19: particularly concerned at the scarcity of available data on children between 15 and 18 years and limitations in the type of data collected, which does not cover all areas of the CR; para. 55: concerned at: (a) The lack of disaggregated data on children in need, children provided with services and in different forms of alternative care, support services for parents and kinship caregivers, abandonment, neglect and abuse of children and measures adopted, other than legislation; para. 85: lack of data on sale, trafficking and abduction of children; para. 87: inadequate data on children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 27: notes with appreciation the State party's coordination with NGOs in various areas of service delivery ... concerned that such cooperation is not systematic and that the State party appears to delegate the provision of services for children to NGOs contracted by the respective states, but does not monitor and evaluate the quality of the services delivered.

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80	Indonesia 2014	(2) para. 3: welcomes adoption of Law No. 28 (2008) on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination; para. 19: while welcoming the State party's gender mainstreaming programme, ... deeply concerned about discriminatory provisions that still remain in national legislation and the prevalence of de facto discrimination, including: (a) discrimination against girls ...; (b) particular discrimination against children with disabilities in access to health care and education; (c) ongoing severe discrimination against children belonging to certain religious minorities and the State party's failure to deter attacks; (d) various forms of discrimination against children belonging to indigenous communities, such as insufficient access to education and health care.	(1) para. 21: regrets that despite its previous recommendations, the principle of the best interests of the child is not integrated into most child-related legislation in the State party ... notes with concern that decisions regarding adoption and custody are often taken on the basis of the child's religion, rather than his or her best interests, and that, according to Sharia law applicable to Muslims, in divorce proceedings decisions relating to custody of children are based on their age.	(2) para. 25: welcoming the establishment of the National Forum for Child Participation, the Teen Parliament, the Indonesian Child Congress, the Child Council, Election of Young Leaders, and National Child Consultation, ... concerned that these forums are not fully inclusive, children's opinions voiced in these forums are not sufficiently taken into consideration in decision-making processes, Law No. 23/2002 establishing the right of the child to be heard, requires that the right be applied in accordance with "morality and decency", which hampers effective, transparent implementation.	(1) para. 11: notes with concern that the provisions of the CRC have not been fully incorporated into the State party's domestic law. Furthermore, ... concerned that, further to the decentralization process that has led to the formation of new provinces and districts, with each one responsible for delivering public services, several by-laws adopted at the provincial or district level are inconsistent with the provisions and principles of the CRC; para. 19: concerned about discriminatory provisions that still remain in national legislation.	(2) para. 15: concerned about the State party's total health expenditure of only 2,7 per cent of its gross domestic product in 2011, which it considers to be low. Furthermore, while welcoming the significant increase in the annual education budget, ... regrets that the budget is not sufficient to ensure education for all children in the State party; para. 61: insufficient budget allocations for early childhood care and education.	(1) para. 8: reiterates its recommendations that the State party continue to upgrade its system of data collection to cover all areas of the CRC; para. 43: lack of an adequate system of disaggregated data collection on children living in institutions; para. 45: The absence of systematic data collection on children with disabilities.	NA

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81	Iran (Islamic Republic of) 2016	(1) para. 8 inadequate follow-up to previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 29: expresses grave concern about the persistent discrimination against girls in the State party's legislation, and in practice in many aspects of life, such as the discriminatory treatment of girls in family relations, the criminal justice system, property rights, and compensation for physical injury. (...) particularly concerned that under the State party's legislation, there is obligatory male guardianship over girls, which is incompatible with the CRC. (...) also concerned that gender stereotypes and patriarchal values place severe limitations on girls' enjoyment of their rights under the CRC.	(2) para. 33: notes with appreciation the Act on Family Protection, of 2013, which stipulates that "the best interest of children and adolescents should be respected in all courts and executive officials' decisions". However, (...) remains concerned that the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration is not enforced in actions or decision-making relating to children, including in matters related to family law. In particular, (...) remains concerned that article 1169 of the Civil Law relating to the custody of children after divorce prevents the court from taking into account the BIs of the child.	(1) para. 41: remains concerned with regard to respect for the views of the child in judicial decisions concerning custody or divorce and in administrative decisions, when the child's view is only heard through the father or paternal grandfather or another appointed guardian and not from the child directly. Furthermore, (...) concerned that the views of the child are not heard in the family, at school and in society, owing to societal attitudes towards children, and that the State party has not taken measures to sufficiently inform the public about the right of children to participate in all matters affecting them.	(2) para. 11: takes note of several pieces of legislation adopted by the State party during the reporting period, and the amendments to the Islamic Penal Code in 2013. However, (...) remains concerned that a number of the State party's laws, including the Islamic Penal Code, remain discriminatory against girls and against religious and ethnic minorities, depriving them of a number of their rights under the CRC. (...) also concerned about the wide discretion given to the judiciary in interpreting and implementing laws.	(1) para. 17: concerned that the State party did not provide any information on a targeted allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of children's rights under the CRC, in particular for implementation of the rights of children belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, as previously recommended (see CRC/C/15/Add.254, para. 15 (b)).	(2) para. 19: notes the data provided by the State party in the areas of education, breastfeeding, children deprived of family environment, and children in the justice system, as well as the establishment of the "Human Treasure" database to collect data concerning children. However, (...) concerned about the lack of information as to whether the database allows for the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.	(1) para. 25: seriously concerned about the reported repression of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on children's rights, and about harassment and persecution of child rights defenders.

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82	Iraq 2015	(1) para. 17: concerned about the persistent and extreme gender-based discrimination which girls experience from the earliest stages of their lives and throughout their childhood and which exposes them to domestic violence; psychological and sexual exploitation and abuse; early, forced and temporary (muta'a) marriage; and little access to education; para. 19: concerned about persistent discrimination against various groups of children ... including children belonging to ethnic and/or religious minority groups ...; born out of wedlock; with disabilities ...; and LGBT children, children who are cared for by persons from these groups and children demonstrating non-conformist social behaviour.	(1) para. 21: notes with concern that the State party has insufficiently integrated into its legislation the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, and that public officials have not been provided with training on this issue.	(1) para. 29: concerned that the draft children's parliament act has still not been adopted. ... also concerned about the absence of any legal provision explicitly enabling the child to express his or her views in matters concerning himself or herself and the fact that decisions concerning children, including marriage decisions, are most of the time imposed upon them.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the information provided by the delegation during the interactive dialogue that the draft Jaafari personal status law has been abandoned, and the commitment that it will never be tabled again; para. 9: ... also notes with appreciation that a number of child-related bills are still in the process of discussion and study, namely, the draft child protection act, the proposed child protection law in the autonomous Kurdistan region, the Children's Parliament Bill and the Child Welfare Authority Bill; para. 10: urges the State party to expedite the process of adoption of these bills/ acts, ensuring their full compatibility with the provisions of the CRC.	(1) paras. 7b and e: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on budgetary allocations; para. 60: concerned that, while the armed conflict is having a devastating impact on the availability and quality of health care, the State party devotes a low percentage of the federal budget to its health-care system; para. 72(d): inadequacy of the budgetary allocation for education.	(1) para. 7d: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection, with a view to incorporating all the areas covered by the CRC.	(1) para. 15: concerned that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including those working specifically on children's rights and those assisting women and girls fleeing violence, are the subject of regular harassment, arbitrary surveillance and warrantless searches and that many are forced to operate illegally and clandestinely.

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83	Ireland 2016	(1) para. 27: concerned about the structural discrimination against Traveller and Roma children and their families, including alleged impunity for publicly expressed discriminatory remarks by public representatives. (...) takes note of the explanation by the State party regarding the retention of mechanisms and funding streams arising from the National Action Plan against Racism 2005-2008; it remains concerned, however, that no appropriate updated national action plan has been enacted. (...) also concerned about discrimination against LGBTI children.	(1) para. 29: concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration has yet to be fully implemented as a positive obligation in all relevant legislation and administrative procedures and decision-making processes.	(2) para. 31: welcomes the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making. (...) also notes that the State party has legislative provisions recognizing the right of a child to have his or her views heard. (...) concerned that: (a) these have not been effectively implemented; (b) (...) parents must bear the cost of an expert to hear the views of the child in family law proceedings; (c) The Education Act does not provide for the right of the child to be heard in individual cases; (d) despite the State party's commitment (...) to hold a referendum on lowering the voting age from 18 years to 16 years, this referendum has yet to be conducted.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 10: notes as positive the recent efforts of the State party to improve the harmonization of its national law with the CRC. It is concerned, however, that the Children First Act and the Children and Family Relationship Act 2015 have yet to be fully commenced. Furthermore, (...) concerned that there is no legislation stipulating statutory obligations for public entities to respect the provisions of the CRC in relevant administrative proceedings and decision-making processes.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the State party's successful exit from the financial bailout programme of the IMF and the EU. (...) concerned that the State party does not have specific budget allocations for CRC implementation. (...) also concerned that the budgets of numerous government departments and State agencies, including the Ombudsman for Children's Office and the Department of Health, have been reduced since the economic downturn of 2009. (...) further concerned that social welfare payments, including child benefits and support for CWDs, have not been (...) increased to (...) reflect higher costs of living. (...) concerned about the (...) reductions in budget allocations for Traveller and Roma children.	(1) para. 17: concerned at the lack of disaggregated data on Traveller and Roma children, including their socio-economic situation.	NA

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84	Israel 2013	(1) para. 21: While taking note of court decisions on discrimination ... reiterates its concern ... that non-discrimination is not expressly guaranteed under the Basic Laws of the State party. ... also expresses concern about the adoption of numerous discriminatory laws ... which primarily affect Palestinian children ..., but also Arab Israeli, Bedouin, and Ethiopian children as well as children of migrant workers and asylum seekers. ... deeply concerned that the establishment of separate means of transport and road services as well as the implementation of two separate legal systems and institutions amount to de facto segregation and lead to inequality between Israeli and Palestinian children in the enjoyment of their rights.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the numerous measures taken ... to ensure respect for the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration ... welcomes the 2006 and 2008 rulings of the Supreme Court which revoked decisions of Sharia and Rabbinical Courts granting custody of children to their father without taking into consideration the BIs of the children. ... however concerned that the right of children to have their BIs assessed and taken as a primary consideration has not been ... consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings ... policies, programmes and projects relevant to ... children ... also concerned that the BIs of Palestinian children continue to be disregarded by the State party.	(2) para. 27: positive ...steps taken to expand to all courts by 2014 the experimental programme ... with the participation of children involved in family matters proceedings; ... concerned that: (a) In proceedings involving conversion, or admission to a psychiatric hospital, courts are not obliged to hear the opinions of the child if it would cause harm to the child, and that derogation ... in adoption proceedings is permissible when children are not aware of being adopted. ... migrant and asylum-seeking children are rarely heard; (b) The participation of children in decision-making processes ... is still not a widespread practice and the views of children are not sufficiently solicited or taken into account, especially in public policy decisions.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of several legislative measures; para. 11: takes note of the information provided by the delegation during the interactive dialogue about the progressive incorporation of the principles and provisions of the CRC into its domestic legal system. ... however concerned that this process is yet to be completed, a situation which affects the justiciability of children's rights in the State party.	(1) para. 13: regrets that insufficient information has been provided by the State party on the resources allocated for the implementation of the CRC, on the impact on children of its budgetary decisions and on the specific budgetary allocations for the provision of critical social services to children, including those in the most vulnerable situations. ... also concerned that the average spending per child in the Arab localities is estimated to be more than a third lower than in Jewish localities and that the State party fails to take into account the unequal level of resources provided to the two health systems to explain the persistent disparities in relation to health indicators between the Arab and Jewish children.	(1) para. 3: considers that the State party's persistent refusal to provide information and data ... on children living in the ... OPT ... greatly affects the adequacy of the reporting process and the State's accountability for the implementation of the CRC. para. 9: previous CO not followed up: on collecting data on all persons under 18 years for all areas covered by the CRC, including children in the most disadvantaged situations and use this data to assess progress and design policies to implement the CRC.	(1) para. 17: regrets that limited information was provided on the involvement of civil society in the elaboration of the State party's report and that NGOs are not systematically involved in planning policies and laws for children ... also expresses concern that Palestinian NGOs and international human rights organizations working in the OPT are increasingly perceived as a threat to national security and are subject to, among others, harassment, arrest and denial of work permits. ... further concerned about the denial of work permits to foreign nationals working for humanitarian organizations in the OPT and about the tightened control of foreign funding of NGOs when they cooperate with UN fact-finding missions.

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85	Italy 2019	(1) para. 14: reiterates its previous COs (CRC/C/ITA/CO/3-4, para. 24), in particular: (a) The disparities between regions in access to health-care services, the minimum standard of living and education for all children throughout the country; (b) The prevalence of negative attitudes towards children based on their status, origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.	(2) para. 16: Recognizing the State party's efforts to integrate the principle of the BIs into its legislation (...); recommends to: (a) Strengthen efforts to ensure that the principle of the BIs of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all regions across the country in all (...) proceedings and decisions, all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to (...) children, in particular in relation to unaccompanied or separated children; (b) Develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for determining the BIs (...) and for giving the BIs due weight as a primary consideration, in particular in relation to unaccompanied or separated children (...); (c) Disseminate (...) general comment No. 14.	(2) para. 17: welcoming the introduction into legislation of the right of the child to be heard in selected settings; reiterating previous COs (CRC/C/ITA/CO/3-4, para. 27); recommends that the State party: (a) Introduce a comprehensive legal provision establishing the right of the child to be heard without any discrimination due to age, disability or any other circumstance, both in the family environment and in any administrative, judicial or mediation procedure in which the child is affected, and ensure that the child's opinion is taken into account in accordance with the child's age and maturity, and adopt national uniform standard implementing regulations and guidelines; (...) (c) Promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children.	(3) para. 3: notes with appreciation also the legislative, institutional and policy measures taken to implement the Convention, in particular the adoption of Law No. 71 of 29 May 2017, on the protection of children in preventing and countering cyberbullying; Law No. 47 of 7 April 2017, on measures to protect unaccompanied foreign children; Legislative Decree No. 66 of 13 April 2017, on rules for the promotion of the inclusion of students with disabilities; and the fourth national plan of action and interventions for the protection of the rights and the development of children and adolescents, adopted in 2016.	(2) para. 7: appreciates the efforts made by the State party since 2012 to mitigate the negative impact and in particular the high levels of unemployment and poverty, including child poverty, that are the result of the austerity measures taken by the Government since 2010. Nevertheless, (...) concerned that the austerity measures continue to undermine the effective protection of children's rights in the State party, and that the preparation, approval, execution and monitoring of budgets lacks a child rights perspective.	(2) para. 9: recommends that the State party continue to improve its data-collection system, in particular the informative system for social services, including by continuously extending its dataset, to cover all areas of the Convention, and disaggregate data by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.	(1) para. 12: deeply concerned by continuing smear campaigns against some civil society organizations engaged in search and rescue operations for migrants, including children, in the Mediterranean; (...) urges the State party to guarantee the rights and freedom of action of civil society and to ensure that the rescue of migrants is not considered a crime.

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86	Jamaica 2015	(1) para. 42: Children with disabilities continue to face discrimination and are not effectively integrated into all areas of social life, including the education system.	(2) para. 22: welcomes the adoption of the Child Care and Protection Act of 2004 which outlines the best interests of the child standard as the primary consideration with respect to a wide range of areas. However, ... reiterates its concern ... about insufficient information regarding the ... efforts to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions, and to apply that right in all legislation, administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children. ... specifically concerned about the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account in criminal proceedings concerning his or her parents, including in sentencing guidelines.	(2) para. 26: notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child in courts, schools, the family and relevant administrative processes, as well as in judicial proceedings. ... also notes the numerous child participation initiatives by various government agencies, including the Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children's Advocate. ... is concerned, however, that traditional and cultural practices do not readily accommodate and recognize the views of the child in the home, alternative care centres, schools and communities; and that respect for the views of the child is not adequately implemented in practice in all relevant areas and at the national and local levels.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the adoption of the Child Care and Protection Act, 2004 as the legislative framework for the implementation of the CRC in the State party, along with other relevant legislation, and notes that the Act is currently being reviewed with a view to bringing the legislation further into line with the CRC. ... however, is concerned that inadequate human and financial resources have been provided for the full and effective implementation of the Act; para. 30: notes the significant progress in enacting legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in the penal system, alternative care settings and early childhood institutions.	(2) para. 14: In the light of the current financial crisis, ... notes the State party's efforts to allocate resources towards achieving important child-related goals together with international development and funding partners ...; however, concerned about the number of children living in poverty, and the negative effects of austerity measures on public spending, which affect ... families with children. ... further concerned about the lack of data on the proportion of budgetary allocations for the implementation of children's rights under the CRC and on specific information on the impact of austerity measures on children in the State party; para. 38: welcomes the budgetary increases for the Child Development Agency.	(2) para. 16: welcomes the establishment of a comprehensive database (JamStats) ... also notes efforts to "institutionalize" the JamStats database in all relevant ministries, agencies and civil society organizations, and to train stakeholders. ... is, however, concerned about gaps in the overall data collection apparatus of the State party, in particular with respect to children with disabilities, children in situations of migration, children in street situations, child labour and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children; para. 58e: lack of disaggregated data on child labour.	NA

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87	Japan 2019	(2) para. 17: takes note of the changes made to the Act for Partial Revision of the Civil Code (2013), which give the same share of inheritance to children born to unmarried parents; (...) and the awareness-raising activities mentioned during the dialogue. (...) welcomes the changes to the Penal Code in 2017 that revised the elements of the offence of rape and afforded protection also to boys; remains concerned, however, that: (a) There is no comprehensive anti-discrimination law; (b) Discriminatory provisions on the illegitimacy of children born to unmarried parents in the Family Register Act have been partially retained, in particular those that concern birth notification; (c) Societal discrimination persists against children of various marginalized groups.	(1) para. 19: notes that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied, particularly in education, alternative care, family disputes; and juvenile justice, and that the judicial, administrative and legislative bodies do not take into account the BIs in all decisions relevant to children; recommends that the State party establish compulsory processes for ex ante and ex post impact assessments of all laws and policies relevant to children; recommends that a best-interests-of-the-child assessment always be carried out in individual cases concerning the child by a multidisciplinary team with the obligatory participation of the concerned child.	(2) para. 21: While noting that the 2016 amendments to the Child Welfare Act refer to respect for the views of the child, and that the Domestic Relations Case Procedure Act consolidates the provisions concerning the child's participation in such proceedings (...) remains seriously concerned that the right of children to express their views freely in all matters affecting them is not respected.	(2) para. 7: While noting the information provided by the State party on amendments to various laws, (...) strongly recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive law on children's rights and take steps to fully harmonize its existing legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention.	(1) para. 10: In view of the fact that the relative child poverty rate has remained high over the past few years, (...) strongly recommends to: set up a budgeting process that includes a child-rights perspective, specifies clear allocations to children, and includes specific indicators and a tracking system to monitor and evaluate (...) the distribution of resources (...) including by: (a) detailed budget lines and codes for all (...) expenditures that directly affect children; (b) budget classification systems that allow expenditures related to the rights of the child to be reported, tracked and analysed; (c) Ensuring that the fluctuation or reduction in budget allocations for the delivery of services does not reduce the existing level of enjoyment of children's rights.	(2) para. 11: While noting the data-collection efforts by the State party, (...) also notes that gaps still exist. (...) recommends that the State party improve its data-collection system in all areas of the Convention, particularly in the areas of child poverty, violence against children, and early childhood care and development, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin and socioeconomic background, and that it use the data for policy design and programming.	(2) para. 14: While welcoming the meeting and exchange of opinions with civil society in the process of preparing the State party's report, (...) recommends that the State party strengthen its cooperation with civil society and involve civil society organizations systematically throughout all stages of the implementation of the Convention.

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88	Jordan 2014	(1) para. 15: reiterates its concern about de jure discrimination against children born to a Jordanian mother and a non-Jordanian father, on the basis of the nationality of the father, and against children born out of wedlock ... concerned about discrimination suffered by children of Palestinian origin, children with disabilities, children living in institutions, children living in extreme poverty and children in remote areas; para. 17: expresses concern that, despite repeated recommendations from treaty bodies, the legislation of the State party and the way it is applied continue to discriminate against girls, notably in the fields of inheritance, marriage and protection from violence.	(2) para. 19: While noting the willingness of the State party to make the best interests of the child one of the key principles of its interim Personal Status Code, Act No. 36 of 2010, ... concerned that there is a misinterpretation of the best interests of the child as reflected in several provisions of the Act, in particular those relating to child custody, marriage, inheritance and transmission of nationality, which are incompatible with the right of children to have their best interests taken into consideration. ... particularly concerned that, according to the law ... and jurisprudence of the State party, the marriage of a girl to her rapist can be considered as being in her best interests.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the initiatives taken by the State party over the reporting period to promote the right of the child to be heard, in particular through the consultation of children in the context of the preparation of the State party's report, the Second National Youth Survey and the creation of children's parliaments. The Committee nevertheless reiterates its concern that legal and administrative proceedings do not systematically provide for the right of children to be heard and that respect for the views of children remains limited owing to traditional societal attitudes towards children, and especially girls, within the family and the community at large.	(2) para. 11: notes with appreciation that the legal status of the CRC and its precedence over domestic laws was clarified by its publication in the official gazette pursuant to Act No. 50 of 2006, in accordance with the Committee's previous recommendation ... concerned about the considerable delay in adopting the Children's Rights Bill and the draft law on juvenile justice ... concerned that efforts made to harmonize the domestic legal framework with the principles and provisions of the CRC have remained insufficient; para. 31: concerned that the legislation of the State party fails to protect boys from sexual abuse and exploitation or to provide sentences commensurate with the gravity of sexual crimes against children.	(2) para. 13: welcomes the study undertaken by the National Council for Family Affairs to analyse budget allocations for children, as well as the development of a budget model that includes strategic goals and tasks for each ministry, with a view to meeting children's needs and protecting their rights ... concerned that general cuts in the national budget have been threatening the progress achieved by the State party in the field of children's development.	(1) para. 8: reiterates its recommendations to the State party to Strengthen its mechanisms for data collection by establishing a central database on children, and ensure that data are collected on all areas covered by the CRC and that such data are disaggregated, inter alia, by age for all persons under 18 years, by sex, by urban and rural areas and by those groups of children who are in need of special protection; para. 41: Limited data is available regarding children with disabilities.	NA

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89	Kazakhstan 2015	(2) para. 20: While noting the numerous legislative acts that prohibit discrimination against children in vulnerable situations, ... concerned that the implementation of such acts is insufficient and that discrimination against children with disabilities, children in rural areas, children residing in areas of environmental disasters, non-citizen children and children from poor families persists, especially with regard to their access to education and health care. ... also regrets that the State party's legislation does not contain a definition of "discrimination" as prescribed in the CERD.	(2) para. 7 inadequate follow-up to previous CO on best interests; para. 22: While noting that the principle of the best interests of the child is incorporated into the State party's legislation, including the Constitution, ... concerned about the lack of proper understanding and practical application of the best interests of the child in deciding all matters concerning children, in accordance with article 3 of the CRC.	(2) para. 7 inadequate follow-up to previous CO on respect for the views of the child; para. 24: notes the information provided by the State party at the dialogue that, in practice, the courts ask a child's opinion irrespective of his or her age in cases where the child's interests are at stake. However, ... concerned that the State party has maintained the age limit for a child to express his or her views at 10 years in its legislation. Furthermore, ... concerned about the low levels of children's participation in decision-making processes on issues that have a direct impact on them.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the adoption of numerous legislative acts addressing the rights of children and bringing the State party's legislation closer to the provisions of the CRC. ... notes the decision of the Supreme Court of 10 July 2008 ordering the courts to directly apply international treaties to which Kazakhstan is a party and information provided by the State party during the dialogue with the Committee about the draft code of civil procedure soon to be adopted, which will make direct application of these international treaties mandatory. However, ... concerned that implementation of the State party's legislation and the CRC overall remains insufficient.	(1) para. 12: regrets the lack of information about any targeted and transparent budget allocations for children, in particular for those in marginalized and disadvantaged situations.	(2) para. 7: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 14: While noting the extensive data provided by the State party both in its report and its written replies, ... concerned that the data provided are not sufficiently specific to enable effective evaluation of the general situation of children in the country.	NA

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90	Kenya 2016	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 21: expresses concern at the fact that discrimination against certain groups of children still exists in policy as well as in practice, particularly in respect of girls, CWDs, children with HIV/AIDS, refugee children, indigenous children, Nubian children, children in street situations and children from disadvantaged or marginalized families.	(2) para. 23: (...) welcomes recognition in the Constitution of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration. However, (...) concerned that this right is often not respected in informal justice systems or in dispute resolution outside of courts of justice, in particular with regard to cases of sexual offences.	(2) para. 27: (...) welcomes the establishment of the Kenya Children's Assembly at national, county and sub-county levels. Nevertheless (...) concerned that the Children's Assembly is not open or accessible to certain groups of children, such as refugee children and CWDs.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislation; para. 7: (...) welcomes the adoption in 2010 of the revised Constitution, which explicitly recognizes certain rights of the child. However, (...) remains concerned that the harmonization of national legislation, including the Children Act (2001), with the CRC and the Constitution has not been completed.	(2) para. 11: notes that the amount of budget allocation to the social sectors has increased during the period under review. However, (...) concerned that: (a) Increased budget allocations in certain areas, including education and social protection, still do not match the over-whelming needs in these sectors; (b) No measures have been taken on budget tracking from a child rights perspective (...); (c) Despite the efforts made to eradicate corruption, it remains pervasive in the State party and continues to divert resources that are necessary for implementation of the rights of the child.	(2) para. 13: notes that a number of information management systems on several aspects of the rights of the child are being developed. However, (...) remains concerned that there is neither a comprehensive system to monitor and track the realization of all rights of the child at the national and county levels, nor a sufficient disaggregation of the data on children to enable planning and resource allocation.	(2) para. 17: notes as positive the participation of civil society organizations in the monitoring of the implementation of the CRC through the National Council for Children's Services. However, (...) concerned that the Public Benefits Organizations Act (2013) which prescribes the governance of civil society organizations has not been implemented and notes that there is concern that it may be amended with provisions that could undermine the activities of civil society organizations.

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91	Kiribati 2006	(2) para. 25: welcomes the indication by the State party that the gender gap in school enrolment has decreased; however concerned at reports of persistent discrimination experienced by children from economically disadvantaged families.	(1) para. 28: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not given adequate attention in national legislation and policies and that awareness of its significance is low among the population; para. 40: concerned that the best interests of the child are not a priority in decision-making processes on children without a family.	(2) para. 30: welcomes the efforts of the State party to promote and implement the right of children to express their views and actively participate in various levels of society; concerned at the persistence of traditional attitudes in the State party which limit children's rights to participate and to express their views.	(1) para. 7: concerned that there is no specific legislation to protect the rights of the child and that domestic law, including customary law, is not in full compliance with the CRC principles and provisions; further concerned that Kiribati has only ratified two of the seven core international human rights treaties; para. 64: concerned that there is no specific legislation on juvenile justice.	(2) para. 17: notes that the State party assigns significant resources to the health and education sectors; nevertheless concerned about the economic difficulties that the State party encounters which prevent it from allocating more resources to children and families; para. 9: however, regrets the scarcity of human and financial resources allocated to KNACC, which does not allow it to effectively carry out its work; para. 13: concerned that inadequate resources have been allocated for the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action.	(1) para. 15: concerned at the lack of systematic and comprehensive data disaggregated by age and sex that would enable analysis of the situation of vulnerable groups of children in the State party.	(2) para. 21: welcomes the participation of NGOs in the work of KNACC and the creation of the Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Associations (KANGO); however, notes that there are few associations which are active on issues related to the rights of the child.

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92	Kuwait 2013	(2) para. 6: previous CO still needs to be addressed; para. 27: notes as positive the establishment in 2010 of the Central System to Resolve Illegal Resident Status, the issuance of birth certificates for some bidoon children and the assurances given ... that the situation of bidoon families will be resolved in the next five years. ... nevertheless deeply concerned about the persistent discrimination against bidoon children, with a great proportion of them being deprived of their basic rights, in particular their rights to birth registration and access to health care, social services and education, and living in precarious conditions in the State party, in continued violation of CRC article 2.	(2) para. 31: While noting as positive that the legislation attaches paramount importance to the interests of the child, ... notes with concern that the right of children to have their best interests assessed and taken as a primary consideration has not been appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children. ... also concerned that this right is also subject to misinterpretation, notably as regards guardianship, and disregarded in the case of bidoon children and in judicial proceedings where parents are involved, and especially when sentencing parents to death.	(1) para. 33: expresses concern that children are generally not perceived as rights holders in Kuwaiti society and that their participation in the public sphere and their opportunity to have their voices heard in decision-making processes are absent at the policy level and insufficient at the family, school and institutional and community levels.	(2) para. 9: notes that a draft Child Act, which envisages, inter alia, establishing a Higher Council for Childhood, has been elaborated and is currently being reviewed at the ministerial level. ... concerned about the considerable delay in the process of its adoption, which was recommended by the Committee in 1998 ... also concerned that the draft law is based on existing national laws related to children, some of which are not fully in compliance with the CRC and its Optional Protocols.	(2) para. 15: notes as positive that financial allocations to education accounted for 14 per cent of the State budget in 2008 and that spending on health care increased in 2013. ... regrets that insufficient information has been provided by the State party on the resources allocated for the implementation of the CRC and in particular on the specific budgetary allocations for the provision of critical social services to children in the most disadvantaged situations, particularly bidoon children, children with disabilities and children of migrant workers.	(1) para. 17: expresses concern about the continued limitation in statistical data available on the situation of children in the State party, which has a negative impact on the State's capacity to monitor and evaluate progress achieved with respect to children and prevents the Committee from properly assessing the situation of children in the State party. ... also concerned that there is still no comprehensive and centralized data collection system covering all areas of the CRC; para. 57: lack of comprehensive data and information on the health status of adolescents in general.	(1) para.21: notes with concern that civil society and children were not involved in the preparation of the State party report and are generally not aware of the role they could play during the reporting process.

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93	Kyrgyzstan 2014	(2) para. 18: notes the efforts of the State party in combating discrimination, but is concerned that discrimination continues to be prevalent against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, such as children belonging to minority groups, including Lyuli children, children in care institutions, children with disabilities, girl children, children of migrant workers, children not registered as residents and children belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGTBI) group; para. 59: concerned about discriminatory practices against minority groups and the continuing atmosphere of insecurity and tension since the ethnic conflict in 2010.	(2) para. 20: notes that the 2010 Constitution and the Children’s Code include provisions on the best interests of the child ... concerned that insufficient measures are being taken in practice to implement the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration ... concerned that the term “legitimate interests of the child”, which is used in some of the State party’s laws, is not equivalent to “the best interests of the child” in its scope.	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all the necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and, in particular, it urges the State party to Undertake measures to ensure that children’s views are given due consideration in schools, courts, within the family and during relevant administrative processes concerning children through, inter alia, adoption of appropriate legislation, training of all caregivers and professionals working with and for children and the use of information campaigns.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the amendments to the Children’s Code on 10 July 2012, making it more consistent with the CRC, in particular in the areas of juvenile justice and deinstitutionalization of children. However, it regrets the lack of information on the implementation of the Code and other legislation in the area of children’s rights ... regrets that the courts of the State party do not apply the CRC directly and do not refer to its provisions in their judgements when considering cases concerning the child’s rights and interests.	(2) para. 14: notes that, despite the budgetary constraints of the last few years, the State party managed to maintain its planned level of social spending ... concerned that social spending remains very low and that resources for children are not always allocated efficiently.	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all the necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and, in particular, it urges the State party to Develop a comprehensive system for collecting disaggregated data covering all those under the age of 18 years; that data can be used as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of children’s rights and to help design policies to implement the CRC.	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all the necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and, in particular, it urges the State party to Involve non-governmental organizations, especially rights-based ones, and other sectors of civil society working with and for children more systematically throughout all stages of the implementation of the CRC.

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94	Lao People's Democratic Republic 2011	(2) para. 7: call to implement previous COs on non-discrimination; para. 26: notes that the Constitution prohibits, inter alia, ethnic and gender discrimination; nevertheless, concerned at reports of continuing inequalities in the treatment of certain ethnic groups in terms of access to basic services, financial and other resources, decision making and capacity development opportunities; also notes with concern that girls do not have the same opportunities in the field of education as boys.	(2) para. 28: notes with appreciation that the State party's Constitution (art. 29) and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children (art. 4) have established the best interests of the child as a principle to be observed in all actions undertaken with regard to children; nevertheless, concerned that this principle is not regularly applied in practice, and that the judicial, administrative and legislative bodies are not taking into account the best interests of the child in all decisions relevant to children.	(2) para. 30: notes the State party's declaration that children ... are represented in consultative meetings on their rights and interests organized at central, provincial, district or village levels; while also noting that some awareness-raising programmes on the right of the child to express his/her opinion have been conducted, regrets that no training sessions have been carried out to raise awareness of this issue among persons who work with or for children, including judges, police officers, detention centre personnel and teachers; also concerned that the views of the child are not respected before the courts, where children do not have the right to be a witness or to bring a complaint or seek reparation without the consent of their parents.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the promulgation in 2007 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children; while noting that certain CRC principles and provisions have been incorporated into laws addressing fundamental rights and freedoms, the Committee nevertheless notes that the status of the CRC is unclear and that the Constitution does not give precedence to its provisions over national laws.	(1) para. 7: call to implement previous COs on allocation of resources; para. 16: noting the rapid economic growth that has taken place in the country over recent years, nevertheless concerned that budget allocations in the fields of health and education remain insufficient; notes, in particular, that budget allocations to the education sector are among the lowest in the world.	(2) para. 7: call to implement COs on data collection; para. 18: notes that progress is being made in establishing systems for collecting data on child rights; concerned that data on child rights is generally not available, and when data is available, it is often unreliable and not disaggregated by age and gender; para. 49: concerned at the lack of quantitative and qualitative data on children with disabilities and their needs.	(1) para. 7: call to implement previous COs on cooperation with civil society; notes with interest the adoption of the Decree on Association in 2009, which allows the establishment and registration of civil society groups and organizations; however, concerned that the registration process is slow and tedious and no organization has yet received a permanent license; while taking note of the existence of the youth union, the Committee notes with regret that there are no NGOs specifically addressing child rights.

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95	Latvia 2016	(2) para. 26: welcomes the amendment to the Criminal Law (2007) on violation of the prohibition of discrimination and the provisions on non-discrimination in the Education Law, the Medical Treatment Law and the Law on the Rights of Patients. (...) however, concerned about continuing discrimination against CWDs, children belonging to minorities, including Roma children, and children living in rural areas, with regard to their access to adequate health and education facilities. It is also concerned about the lack of official information on discrimination faced by LGBTI children and on reported incidents of bullying against those children in schools.	(2) para. 28: welcomes the methodological recommendations developed by the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Children's Rights for the Orphans' Courts on the best interests of the child and notes the general framework established by the State party to ensure respect for the best interests of the child. However, concerned about the continuing misunderstanding with respect to its meaning and the responsibilities it entails.	(2) para. 32: welcomes the creation of the Advisory Committee for Youth Organizations, in 2007, and the fact that the Youth Advisory Council aims at encouraging youth involvement in decision-making and public life. However, (...) regrets that no substantial information has been provided on how children's views were taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the youth policy. (...) also regrets that no information has been provided on the extent to which children's views are taken into consideration in the practical application of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, the Civil Procedure Code and the Administrative Procedure Law.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 8: welcomes the amendment to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, in July 2008, regarding child safety and child supervision; however, (...) concerned about the continuing gap between laws and practice.	(2) para. 14: welcomes the adoption of the procedure to track municipalities' investments in education, but (...) concerned about: (a) The continuing lack of a comprehensive State and municipal system to monitor budgetary allocations for implementing all areas of the CRC; (b) The limited public participation in budgetary processes and partial data available to the State Audit Office, which restrict its ability to assess public investment in social care areas; (c) The ongoing impact of structural adjustment and austerity measures on children's rights in the post-economic-crisis period; (d) (...) corruption, which affects the implementation of children's rights.	(2) para. 16: welcomes the publication, since 2004, of statistical data on children in vulnerable situations in "Children of Latvia", the Ministry of the Interior Support Information System for Minors, which processes information about children in crisis situations, since 2012, and the different thematic studies carried out and the steps taken to create an information system on refugees and asylum seekers. However, it is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive information system on children and the quality of the data entered.	(2) para. 24: welcomes the memorandum on cooperation between the Cabinet of Ministers and non-governmental organizations, but notes with concern that civil society and non-governmental organizations are not systematically involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of actions regarding children's rights.

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96	Lebanon 2017	(2) para. 14: recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that all children enjoy equal rights under the CRC, in law and practice, without discrimination; (b) Intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children of migrant workers, refugee children and children in marginalized situations, including Dom and Bedouin children and CWDs, by reviewing relevant laws (...) and by conducting awareness-raising campaigns at the community level and in schools;	(2) para. 15: recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is integrated appropriately and interpreted and applied consistently in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, and in all relevant policies, programmes and projects that have an impact on children. (...) the State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance and training to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 16: noting the various initiatives of the High Council for Childhood (...) including the institutionalization of the National Youth Parliament, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Continue to take measures to ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal and administrative proceedings (...); (d) Conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the (...) participation of all children within the family, community and schools, (...) with particular attention to girls and children in vulnerable situations;	(2) para. 6: encourages the State party to take steps expeditiously to adopt the draft laws recommended by the comparative legal study regarding gaps in current domestic legislation and to develop further a comprehensive legislative framework that is fully compatible with the principles and provisions of the Convention, ensuring the effective implementation of child-related laws at the national, district and municipal levels.	(1) para. 9: While noting the tremendous pressure arising from the Syrian crisis on the State party's economy, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Establish a budgeting process that includes a child rights perspective and specifies clear allocations to children in the relevant sectors and agencies; (b) Define strategic budgetary lines for all children, including those who may require affirmative social measures, and take measures to protect those budgetary lines in the current crisis, especially with respect to health and education;	(2) para. 10: While noting the efforts of the State party to collect data on children, including the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2009 and the "Dev Info" programme on child-related indicators, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Improve expeditiously its data-collection system (...). The data should cover all areas of the CRC and be disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin, migration status and socioeconomic background; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes (...);	NA

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97	Lesotho 2001	(2) para. 25: noting that the principle of non-discrimination is reflected in the Constitution of Lesotho as well as in other domestic legislation, remains concerned that there continues to be serious discrimination ... which has a negative impact on respect for children's rights and particularly on the rights of girls; concerned that married women have the legal status of minors; concerned that the State party has not taken measures to address discrimination against children who are born out of wedlock, those affected by HIV/AIDS, children in remote rural areas or born of incestuous relationships, institutionalized children, pregnant girls, CWD, street children and children of ethnic minority groups; concerned that many children do not have adequate or equal access to education and health services ...	(1) para. 27: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not respected.	(1) para. 9: concerned that children do not have sufficient opportunities to participate in the policy-making process; para. 27: concerned that some traditional practices and attitudes can limit implementation of the right of children, especially girls, to express their views and to participate in decision-making processes; also concerned that the evidence of children is not given appropriate weight in courts of law; limited implementation of children's right to be heard.	(1) para. 9: noting the recent efforts made, remains concerned that domestic legislation does not fully reflect the principles and provisions of the CRC and that several recent efforts to amend domestic legislation have yet to be adopted.	(1) para. 9: notes the recent activities of the Law Reform Committees, resulting in, inter alia, the Married Persons Equality Bill and the Sexual Offences Bill, but remains concerned that their work is hindered by a lack of human and financial resources; para. 17: concerned that the State party has not used to the maximum extent possible the available budgetary, human and other resources for the CRC's implementation.	(1) para. 15: joins the State party in expressing concern that current data collection mechanisms are insufficient to ensure the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC and in relation to all groups of children, with a view to the monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved and the assessment of the impact of policies adopted with respect to children; para. 41: lack of data on abuse and neglect; para. 45 on HIV/AIDS; para. 57: on sexual exploitation; par. 61: on juvenile justice.	(1) para. 19: joins with the State party in expressing concern at the need for additional technical assistance and international cooperation; concerned that civil society, including NGOs, have insufficient opportunities to influence children's rights policy-making and implementation.

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98	Liberia 2012	(1) para. 33: regrets that insufficient measures have been taken to implement previous COs on discrimination, in particular against children in vulnerable situations; particularly concerned at the extent of gender-based discrimination in the State party, in particular against girls living in and coming from rural areas, who experience persistent discrimination in relation to access to education and social services, and their right to property and security. Statutory and customary laws which discriminate against women remain in force, in particular the Revised Rules and Regulations governing the Hinterland; also concerned about harassment and stigmatization of children with disabilities.	(2) para. 35: While commending the incorporation of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Children's Law, concerned that this principle is not systematically reflected in the State party's legislation and national policies; further concerned about the general societal perception in the State party that the best interests of adults should prevail over those of the child.	(2) para. 39: While commending the State party for establishing a Children's Parliament as well as child clubs at all county levels by virtue of the Children's Law, the Committee is concerned that the views of children on decisions affecting them are rarely given due weight, especially in the home, and in particular that girls are expected to be less participative than boys. Children are not provided with the opportunity to be heard in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, including in cases of deprivation of parental rights.	(2) para. 9: call to implement previous COs on legislation; para. 10: welcomes the enactment of the Children's Law in February 2012; remains concerned that the State party has not undertaken a complete review of its legislation in order to harmonize it with the CRC, and that some provisions of the existing legislation and customary law are not consistent with the principles and provisions of the CRC, in particular those relating to the minimum age for marriage, adoption, and juvenile justice.	(2) para. 14: regrets the lack of information on the resources allocated to the Division, while noting that its parent Ministry receives one of the lowest budgetary allocations from the national budget; para. 16: While noting that Liberia was one of the countries in Africa that performed fairly in 2006-2008 in allocating resources to sectors that benefit children, remains concerned that national budgetary resources for CRC implementation remain very insufficient.	(2) para. 20: notes the State party's intention to create a central data collection system in areas concerning children together with the Child Protection Network; reiterates its concern about the lack of information and the inability to access disaggregated data about children on most areas, in particular children in poverty, children subjected to violence, children with disabilities, children deprived of a family environment and children engaged in child labour.	(2) para. 28: The State party is encouraged to strengthen its cooperation with civil society for CRC implementation; recommends that the State party consider strengthening the capacity of civil society in order to allow it to effectively discharge its duties, including funding local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support activities in communities where the State is not present.

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99	Libya 2003	(1) para. 7: reiterates its concern that several rights contained in the CRC (e.g. non-discrimination) are not adequately reflected in the laws, including personal status laws; para. 23: concerned that, contrary to CRC art. 2, discrimination, both direct and indirect, against certain children, their parents or legal guardians, persists in the State party, particularly with respect to birth out of wedlock; para. 25: concerned that xenophobia, particularly towards migrant workers, persists in the State party and that it is harmful to the child's developing respect for human rights, including the right to non-discrimination.	(1) para. 7: reiterates its concern that several rights contained in the CRC (e.g. the best interests of the child) are not adequately reflected in the laws, including personal status laws; para. 27: concerned that the general principle of the best interests of the child contained in CRC art. 3 is not explicitly incorporated in all legislation concerning children and is not always considered in practice; not persuaded that a rigid custodial line of mother, maternal grandmother and father and the exclusion from custodial arrangements of foreign parents outside the State party necessarily give effect to this principle.	(2) para. 29: welcomes efforts by the State party to promote respect for the views of children, such as in school congresses, courts, and institutions; concerned that traditional attitudes towards children in society may limit the respect for their views, especially within the family.	(2) para. 7: notes the adoption of the Child Protection Act No. 5 of 1997, in addition to the numerous other laws and decisions that have been adopted with a view to improving the welfare of children; concerned, however, that many measures reflect a predominantly welfare-rather than rights-based approach.	(2) para. 15: welcomes information on progress achieved in addressing economic disparities between regions, but is concerned at the lack of specific information in terms of the percentage of the national budget allocated for expenditures in the various CRC areas, and that insufficient attention has been given to the allocation of resources for programmes and policies to promote the civil and political rights of children.	(3) para. 11: notes progress in the collection of data on children by the National Organization for Information and Documentation and the sectoral information and documentation centres.	(2) para. 17: notes information on cooperation with national associations in the development and welfare sectors, but is concerned that little effort has been made to involve civil society in CRC implementation, particularly in the area of civil rights and freedoms; notes that the delegation was unable to provide complete information on the limitations imposed by law on, in particular, the registration and funding of organs of civil society.

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100	Liechtenstein 2006	(3) para. 16: welcomes the adoption in 2003 of the five-year National Action Plan on the follow-up to the Durban Programme of Action and welcomes the inclusion in school curriculum of activities on the prevention of exclusion, intolerance and racism; also welcomes the appointment of the working group dealing with questions of social discrimination.	NA	NA	(2) para. 8: welcomes the revision of the Youth Act with a view to incorporating diversion measures in criminal law better and to liberalize the curfew; however, remains concerned that the Youth Act has not yet been adopted.	NA	(1) para. 6: call to implement previous CO on data collection; reiterates its concern about the lack of adequate data-collection mechanisms within the State party to ensure the collection of disaggregated data on all aspects of the CRC and to monitor and evaluate progress achieved effectively as well as to assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children; no reliable data on: para. 26: HIV/AIDS.	NA

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101	Lithuania 2013	(1) para. 16: concerned about gaps in the implementation of the 2008 Equal Opportunities Law and ongoing discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities, Roma children, children living in poverty, children living in care institutions and children in conflict with the law.	(1) para. 18: concerned that the "best interests of the child" are not fully incorporated into domestic legislation, since they are not equivalent to the "interests" or "legitimate interests" of the child. The principle of the best interests of the child does not therefore seem to be properly understood and consistently applied.	(2) para. 20: while noting that the right to be heard is included in a number of the State party's laws, ... concerned that there are gaps in the implementation of these laws and that the right of the child to express his or her opinion is often considered to be a mere formality.	(2) para. 8: takes note of the draft Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, which, according to the State party's information, contains many provisions that are in compliance with the CRC. However, it regrets the delay in the finalization and adoption of the law. ... concerned that the proposed draft contains provisions that are in conflict with the principles established by the CRC, inter alia, because they do not fully recognize children as rights holders.	(1) para. 14: notes the State party's assertion that, despite the economic crisis, budget allocations to areas concerning children's rights have not been affected. However, ... concerned that the budget allocations to children's rights remain inadequate and that they are not efficiently managed; para. 39: concerned that the budget allocations to maternal and child health-care programmes are continuously decreasing.	(1) para. 7: ensure that the previous CO on disaggregated data will be followed up; para. 45: lack of reliable data on dropout rates from schools.	NA

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102	Luxembourg 2013	(1) para. 22: acknowledges information by the State party's delegation that, in practice, discrimination against children born out of wedlock never happens. Nevertheless, it is concerned that the State party continues to have legislation that might result in discrimination against children born out of wedlock ... takes note that a draft law on parentage will eliminate current distinctions with regard to children born out of wedlock.	(2) para. 24: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child into the Act ... on support for children and the family. However, ... concerned about the lack of adequate guidelines and procedures for implementing the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration in actual practice and throughout all State party institutions, bodies, policies and programmes.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the National Youth Assembly but is concerned that a similar channel for children under the age of 13 years to express their views in the public domain does not exist. While noting with appreciation the appointment by courts of lawyers for children, ... concerned that the right of the child of any age to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings is not sufficiently respected as it is not compulsory for judges to listen to a child.	(2) para. 12: welcomes efforts undertaken by the State party to pass new legislation to implement the CRC and notes with interest information about bills under consideration which would reform legislation on the rights of the child. However, ... concerned by the slow advance of these efforts and the lack of guidelines to ensure the consistent application of domestic legislation.	(1) para. 15: recommends that the State party allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for implementation of a comprehensive policy and strategy for realizing the CRC; para. 16: National Children's Bureau ... does not have sufficient human, technical and financial resources for its effective functioning; para. 20: reiterates concern about the insufficiency of the resources allocated to the Ombuds Committee for Child Right; para. 49: State's Socio-Educational Centres (CSEE) are entrusted with children with a wide range of needs and do not have sufficient resources to adequately deal with them.	(1) para. 18: reiterates its concern about the inadequate data collection system on child-related data; para. 46: concerned about the lack of data concerning sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse.	NA

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103	Madagascar 2012	(2) para. 23: welcomes the efforts of the State party to address discrimination, including the adoption of Decree 2009-1147 on inclusive education and legislation against discrimination due to HIV status; remains concerned that discrimination is still widespread in the State party, in particular against girls, twins, children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS; para. 31: notes with concern that legislation on nationality discriminates against children born to a Malagasy mother and a father of foreign nationality, as well as children born out of wedlock in some cases, and welcomes the indication given by the State party that this legislation is currently being reviewed.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the incorporation of the principle of the best interest of the child into national legislation. The Committee is nevertheless concerned at the low level of awareness of this principle among professionals working with children and for children, the general public and in particular among children.	(1) para. 29: concerned that traditional attitudes towards children in society limit, and often prevent, children from expressing their views on a wide range of issues that affect them within the family, schools, institutions, judicial system and society at large; concerned that the views of the child are only sought on special occasions such as on child and youth days.	NA	(1) para. 12: concerned that relevant sectoral plans of action on children's rights have been developed but do not have a budget allocated to them; para. 16: concern that the current suspension of international development aid to the State party owing to the political situation in the State party has negatively affected the provision of services for children, in particular in education and health; notes with concern that the State party has increased its 2010 budget for domestic security and the Armed Forces, while reducing funding in the areas of health, education, social affairs, justice, and youth; notes that disaggregated analyses on budget allocations for children are not available.	(2) para. 19: takes note of the State party's efforts to improve data collection through the National Statistics Institute but is concerned that data in relevant areas are still lacking or not sufficiently disaggregated; notes that data is lacking on children living with HIV, alcohol and drug consumption by children, the percentage of children with disabilities enrolled in school and children living on the streets; concerned about the lack of coordination of data collection between different ministries and between national and regional levels.	NA

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104	Malawi, 2017	(2) para. 14: welcomes the adoption by the State party of several recent acts and policies and recommends that it: (a) Intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against groups of children in the most vulnerable situations, such as girls, CWDs, children with albinism, children living with HIV/AIDS and children in rural areas; (b) Cooperate with the widest range of stakeholders, in particular the judiciary, through local structures, including children, community and traditional leaders and all sectors of society, to promote social and cultural change and create an enabling environment that promotes equality among children.	(2) para. 15: noting the Constitutional Amendment Act 11 of 2010, (...) reiterates its previous CO (see CRC/C/MWI/CO/2, para. 31) and furthermore recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions and in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to or have an impact on children. (...) the State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving them due weight as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 16: welcomes the legislative and policy framework through which the views of the child can be expressed and the launch in 2012 of the Youth Parliament, and encourages the State party to: (a) Strengthen the Youth Parliament so as to increase its legitimacy and effectiveness and provide it with necessary resources; (b) Give due consideration to the views of children and strengthen structures for their participation, especially at the community level, in the family, at schools and in judicial and administrative procedures concerning them; (c) Develop mechanisms for the systematic inclusion of children's participation in law, policy, programme development and implementation.	(2) para. 5: urges the State party to finalize the constitutional review process by the end of 2017, as indicated during the dialogue, to continue to harmonize with the CRC all domestic legislation related to children's rights and to ensure effective implementation of laws.	(2) para. 8: recommends that the State party: (a) Allocate adequate budgetary resources (...) for the implementation of children's rights and, in particular, increase the budget allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health; (b) Strengthen efforts to improve the efficiency of resource usage in all sectors, particularly in health and education; (c) Taking note of target 16.5 of the SDGs to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, take immediate measures to combat corruption (...) in order to avoid diverting resources from the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 9: reiterates its previous COs (see CRC/C/MWI/CO/2, para. 19) and (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Extend the pilot of the management information system at the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare to all districts (...); (b) Collect and share among all relevant ministries and agencies data on all areas of the CRC, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.	NA

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105	Malaysia, 2007	(2) para. 31: While noting with appreciation the principle of non-discrimination in article 8 of the Federal Constitution, as well as in the preamble of the Child Act 2001 (Act 611) and the special measures taken to advance and protect the status and existence of indigenous peoples, concerned that many children belonging to vulnerable groups are likely to experience de facto discrimination in everyday life; insufficient efforts made to address discrimination based on sexual orientation.	(2) para. 36: notes with appreciation the provisions of the Child Act 2001 (Act 611) which incorporate the principle of the best interests of the child, and takes note of many other national laws that enshrine this principle; concerned that this general principle is not fully applied and duly integrated in the implementation of the legislation, policies and programmes of the State party as well as in administrative and judicial decisions.	(2) para. 42: notes with appreciation that children are given an opportunity to express their views on the Government's policies, programmes and matters pertaining to children through the Malaysian Youth Council; expresses concern that traditional perceptions of children as objects and as the "property" of parents and elders rather than as subjects of rights hinder their right to express their views and to participate in the family, schools and local communities; also notes with concern that in legal and administrative proceedings it is in practice left to the discretion of the judge to decide whether the child is heard; regrets that the Child Act 2001 (Act 611) does not contain a specific provision on children's participation.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the establishment of the cross-sectoral Committee, which includes Muslim clerics, Syariah Court judges, legal practitioners, academics and government representatives to address the differences between the two legal systems; concerned, however, at the slow pace of enacting and reforming the laws related to the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 23: commends the State party on its significant investment in social and health services, education and child protection but regrets that the impact of budgetary allocations on the implementation of child rights has not been systematically assessed.	(2) para. 25: takes note of the extensive statistical data provided in the report and particularly in the written replies to the list of issues; regrets the lack of a national data collection system in respect of all areas covered by the CRC which limits the State party's capacity to adopt adequate policies and programmes, in particular with regard to underserved groups of children and under-served geographical areas; regrets the insufficient data on e.g. non-Malaysian children living in Malaysia, violence against children, child victims of trafficking for exploitative purposes, sexual exploitation of children, and working children; regrets the insufficient official data on the number of children with disabilities; para. 95: on trafficking.	NA

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106	Maldives 2016	(1) para. 26: concerned about: (a) The discrepancy between art. 20 of the Constitution, on equality of all citizens, and article 9(b) which requires citizens to be Muslims and provides that non-Muslims cannot obtain citizenship; (b) Continued discrimination against girls in law and practice, including subjecting them to the will of their paternal guardians under the Family Law and the denial of inheritance; (c) Reports that some political figures and religious leaders have made remarks that are considered to be demeaning to girls and promote gender-based discrimination; (d) Continued discrimination against children born out of wedlock or following out-of-court marriages (...) (e) That children who are or are perceived to be LGBTI are stigmatized and marginalized in the society.	(1) para. 28: concerned that customary and religious interpretations of the best interests of the child that are not in conformity with the CRC prevail in the State party and lead to serious violations of children's rights. (...) notes with serious concern that the non-reporting of child sexual abuse is considered as preserving the so-called "honour" of the child and therefore serving his or her best interests.	(1) para. 32: concerned that children are rarely heard by social welfare institutions, courts of law and administrative authorities, and that children under the age of 16 or who have not attained puberty are not permitted to give testimony in court.	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO (2007) on legislation; para. 8: reiterates its previous recommendation: insufficient implementation of previous CO on harmonization of domestic legislation; reiterates its concern regarding the need to amend the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child to fully comply with the CRC provisions and principles.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on resources; para. 12: while welcoming the increased resource allocation in the social sector, (...) concerned at the lack of specific budget lines allocated for implementing the obligations under the CRC, as well as the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the distribution of resources to implement these obligations.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on national data collection system; para. 14: While welcoming the establishment in 2010 of the Maldives Child Protection Database, (...) concerned that adequate budgetary resources have not been allocated to its operationalization in order to enable the collection of disaggregated data which can be used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 22: concerned about reports that some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) advocating for human rights have been subjected to intimidation by State actors.

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107	Mali 2007	(2) para. 31: noting that the Constitution and the Child Protection Code prohibit discrimination on the grounds of social origin, colour, language, race, sex, religion or political opinion, concerned that discrimination against girls and certain groups of children still exists in practice, particularly against children with disabilities, children born out of wedlock, children of disadvantaged families and street children, including garibou.	NA	(2) para. 33: noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child through awareness-raising campaigns and the establishment of the Children's Parliament, the Committee remains concerned that traditional societal attitudes limit the ability of children to freely express their views within the family, schools, communities, courts and other institutional settings.	(3) para. 3: notes with appreciation the enactment of (specified) legislation; para. 10: notes that the CRC takes precedence over national legislation and that certain legislative and regulatory steps have been taken to give effect to the CRC, such as the Child Protection Code and the draft Individuals and Family Code.	(1) para. 19: concerned that the budgets allocated for children present a very low percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP) and that it is unclear whether and to what extent budget allocations are provided for children belonging to vulnerable groups and/or living in rural and remote areas; also concerned at the limited budget allocated to the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, the Child and the Family and to the social sector; notes with concern that the budget allocation for education has been reduced.	(2) para. 21: notes the progress made by the State party in the data-collection system; concerned that the current data-collection mechanism is insufficient to ensure the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children, in order to monitor and evaluate progress and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children; para. 45: lack of statistical data on child abuse and neglect; para. 48: concerned at the lack of information and statistical data on the status of children with disabilities; and on HIV/AIDS (para. 56), on the number of children trafficked (para. 68).	(3) notes the efforts undertaken by the State party to cooperate with civil society in the promotion of children's rights particularly in the preparation of the State party report and in the dissemination of the CRC.

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108	Malta 2019	(2) para. 19: welcomes the amendments made to the Equality for Men and Women Act and to the Criminal Code to include sexual orientation, gender identity and religion as prohibited grounds of discrimination. recalls its previous COs CRC/C/MLT/CO/2, para. 29) and recommends to: Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination (...); strengthen its efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which negatively affects (...) especially asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children; take affirmative action for the benefit of children and in particular children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, such as asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, CWDs, and children born to unmarried parents.	(2) para. 20: While noting that the principle of the BIs is incorporated in the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Bill, (...) recommends (...) that the State party: (a) Ensure that this right is also incorporated in all legislation that is relevant to and has an impact on children, including the Immigration (Amendment) Act; (b) Develop criteria for determining the BIs in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration, and ensure that all relevant persons in authority are trained on how to effectively assess the child's best interests when a decision concerning a particular child is being made.	(2) para. 21: While recognizing the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child, in particular through the mandate of the Commissioner for Children (...) recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/MLT/CO/2, para. 33) and recommends to: (a) Strengthen its efforts to ensure respect for the right of all children to be heard in all matters affecting them, in the family, at schools, in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes, including children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, such as CWDs, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, and ensure that due weight is given to their views in accordance with their age and maturity; (b) Ensure that professionals (...) systematically receive appropriate training (...).	(1) para. 8: recommends that the State party expedite the adoption of the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Bill, and take all measures necessary to ensure its coming into force and effective implementation in full compliance with the Convention, in particular by establishing the structures necessary for its implementation; also recommends that the State party ensure that the human, technical and financial resources for its implementation are adequate.	(1) para. 11: recommends that the State party set up a budgeting process that includes a child rights perspective, specifies clear allocations to children, and includes specific indicators and a tracking system to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated for implementing the CRC, including by: (a) Setting performance targets linking child-related programme goals to budget allocations and actual expenditures, to allow monitoring of the outcomes and of the impacts on children, including those in vulnerable and marginalized situations; (b) Developing detailed budget lines and codes for all planned, enacted, revised and actual expenditures that directly affect children (...).	(2) para. 12: recommends that the State party continue to improve its data-collection system, and regularly collect and analyse data covering all areas of the Convention and its Optional Protocols, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.	(1) para. 15: deeply concerned by instances of criminalizing search and rescue operations for refugees and migrants, including children, carried out in the Mediterranean Sea by some civil society organizations; (...) urges the State party to guarantee the rights and freedom of action of civil society and to ensure that the rescue of migrants is not considered a crime.

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109	Marshall Islands 2007	(2) para. 27: noting that the Constitution of the Marshall Islands prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, place of birth, family status or descent, remains concerned that the principle of non-discrimination is not fully implemented for children living in the outer islands and in disadvantaged urban communities, especially with regard to their access to adequate health and educational facilities.	NA	(2) para. 30: noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, in particular through the development of a five year Strategic Plan following the second Marshall Islands Youth Congress, remains concerned that traditional attitudes still prevailing in the country may not be conducive to the full participation of children in family, community, school and social life.	(2) para. 3: notes with appreciation the enactment of (specified) legislation; para. 8: notes the measures undertaken by the State party to review its legislation with a view to ensuring its conformity with the CRC; however, concerned that not all principles and provisions of the CRC are covered by the State party's legislation.	(2) para. 20: notes that the State party assigns significant resources to the health and education sectors; concerned at the negative impact that the lack of an effective system of accountability may have on the allocation of resources to effectively improve the promotion and protection of children's rights.	(1) para. 6: insufficient follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 22: noting that the State party has received support for data collection through a bilateral assistance project financed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, ... concerned at the lack of an adequate mechanism for the systematic collection of comprehensive disaggregated data for all areas covered by the CRC and in relation to all groups of children; para. 45: concerned at the lack of data, appropriate measures, mechanisms and resources for the prevention of and fight against domestic violence, including child sexual abuse.	(2) para. 25: appreciating the fact that the number of NGOs is increasing in the Marshall Islands, and taking note of the recently established Marshall Islands Council of NGO, is of the opinion that civil society and in particular the role of NGOs should be further strengthened in the promotion and implementation of the CRC; also concerned at the lack of awareness on rights-based approaches to development among many civil society actors.

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110	Mauritania 2009	(2) para. 29: notes as positive that the principle of non-discrimination is incorporated in the Constitution; however concerned that de facto discrimination against girls and certain groups of children persists, particularly with regards to children living in slavery or of slave descent, children living in poverty and orphans.	(2) para. 32: appreciates the efforts of the State party to incorporate the best interests of the child into certain decision-making processes, however is concerned that it is not explicitly enshrined in national legislation nor is referred to in national jurisprudence.	(2) para. 34: noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, and in particular the establishment of a children's parliament, remains concerned over the lack of adequate opportunities for children to express their views and that societal attitudes limit the consideration given to children's views, including in the community, the schools, the family, and in judicial and administrative proceedings.	(2) para. 7: welcomes that the Constitution establishes the primacy of international treaties over domestic legislation and that such instruments can be invoked before national courts; however remains concerned over practical challenges with the pluralist legal system and in particular regarding the incompatibility between Sharia law, customary law and positive law, including the Personal Status Code of 2001.	(2) para. 18: notes information that resources for education have .. increased; remains concerned that the overall resources allocated ... for children are insufficient and in fact decreasing, which impedes the progressive implementation and protection of children's rights; particularly concerned that allocations to the health sector are inadequate in order to achieve the MDGs ...; encouraged that an Oil Fund to protect future generations is being established; para. 55: regrets that budget for the health sector fluctuates and notes that this impedes the progressive realization of the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health; para. 65: recognizes the increased budget ... for the education sector.	(2) para. 20: notes as positive the collaboration of the State party with the United Nations country team and the establishment of a DevInfo-based national database, however is concerned that data related to the implementation of the CRC, including at the regional level, is still missing; para. 46: concerned over the lack of accurate data on the number of children without parental care.	(3) notes the increasing involvement of civil society actors in the discussion, design and implementation of child-related strategies, including the fact that NGOs were consulted in the elaboration of the State party report.

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111	Mauritius 2015	(2) para. 27: While noting the establishment of the Equal Opportunities (Amendment) Act, ... concerned that discrimination persists, notably in the form of obstacles to accessing and enjoying various services and facilities, particularly for children from disadvantaged and marginalized families, including street children, children who are affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS, children using drugs, children deprived of their family environment, children with disabilities and minor offenders.	(2) para. 29: While noting that various national laws, including the Ombudsperson for Children Act 2003, incorporate the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration in administrative and judicial proceedings, and in policies and programmes relating to children, ... concerned at the lack of information on how this right is enforced in practice in all areas affecting children.	(2) para. 31: While welcoming initiatives that uphold the rights of expression of the child in respect of all matters affecting him or her through awareness-raising, such as the 16 Days – 16 Rights Campaign, ... concerned that the views of the child are not systematically taken into account, for example in court and administrative proceedings, with the exception of separation, divorce, adoption and custody proceedings, where the views of children above the age of 5 are generally taken into account.	(2) para. 9: while welcoming the adoption of a number of laws to strengthen the legislative framework for children’s rights, remains concerned that the legislation does not cover the full scope of the CRC, and that a comprehensive children’s act has still not been adopted.	(2) para. 15: While noting that resources have increasingly been allocated to address disparities between urban and rural areas and among the different islands, ... remains concerned at the inadequate allocation of resources for education, health and child protection issues, in particular measures to combat child abuse, and at the absence of a child-rights perspective in preparing budgets and monitoring the spending of resources for children; para. 51: notes with appreciation the budget allocations and increase of human resources to the health sector.	(1) para. 17: concerned that the availability of and access to up-to-date and disaggregated statistics, reports and studies on children are very limited and that statistics on certain categories of children, including children with disabilities and children in street situations, are not readily available; para. 43b: lack of disaggregated data on children in need, on those provided with services and those in different forms of alternative care; para. 49: welcomes the development of a database on disability; para. 65: concerned at the absence of sex-disaggregated data with regard to trafficking.	(2) para. 23: While noting with appreciation the important role played by NGOs in delivering various services for children, ... concerned that the State party appears to over-rely on these organizations, which it often appoints as contractors without monitoring and evaluating the adequacy of the services delivered, and without providing NGOs with adequate resources for children. ... also concerned that civil society organizations have not been adequately involved in the implementation of the “Working Together” framework.

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112	Mexico 2015	(2) para. 15: While taking note of the National Programme for Equality and Non-Discrimination (2014–2018), ... concerned about the prevalence of discrimination against indigenous, Afro-Mexican and migrant children, children with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, children in street situations and children living in poverty and in rural areas.	(2) para. 19: While noting the constitutional recognition of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration, ... concerned at reports that this right has not been consistently applied in practice; para. 59: concerned about reports that many migrant children are deported without a preliminary process to determine their best interests.	(2) para. 25: While noting the initiatives taken to foster child participation, such as the annual organization of the “parliament of the girls and boys of Mexico”, ... regrets the lack of permanent forums aimed at promoting child participation. ... also concerned at reports that children’s opinions are not consistently heard in judicial and administrative proceedings.	(2) para. 7: While welcoming the adoption of the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, ... concerned about its effective and timely implementation at the federal, state and municipal levels. ... particularly concerned that the implementing regulation of the General Act has not yet been adopted, that many federal laws related to children have still to be harmonized with the General Act and that many states have not yet adopted legislation on children’s rights as required by the General Act; para. 67a: concerned about the lack of harmonization of the juvenile justice legislation in all states.	(2) para. 13: ... notes that the resources allocated to children have increased ... and that there is increased clarity as to how resources are spent for children. ... ; concerned: (a) ... that an analysis of the budget costs has not yet been included in the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents; (b) the insufficient resources allocated ... in particular to child protection and participation, and the insufficient transparency regarding the allocation of funds transferred from the federal level to the state and municipal levels; (d) ... that, although there is a high level of perception of corruption, no records have been kept related to cases of mismanagement of funds allocated to children’s rights.	(1) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 21c: lack of official disaggregated data on the very high number of feminicides of women and girls; para. 57c: lack of data on the number of asylum claims made by children; para. 59b: lack of official disaggregated data on migrant children being subjected to killings, kidnappings, disappearances, sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.	NA

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113	Micronesia (Federated States of) 1998	(2) para. 14: concerned at the fact that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC general principles as contained in its art. 2 (non-discrimination), in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, and in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 32: noting existing legislation prohibiting discrimination, also emphasizes that the principle of non-discrimination must be fully implemented, including with regard to the girl child, disparities between states and social status. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to send additional information on the caste system.	(1) para. 14: concerned at the fact that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC general principles as contained in its art. 3 (best interests of the child) in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, and in its policies and programmes relevant to children.	(1) para. 14: concerned at the fact that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC general principles as contained in its art. 12 (respect for the views of the child), in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, and in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 32: wishes to encourage the State party to further develop a systematic approach to increasing public awareness of the participatory rights of children in the light of CRC art. 12.	(1) para. 4: notes the draft legislation on sexual abuse and exploitation of children which is presently before Congress; concerned that domestic legislation does not fully conform to the provisions and principles of the CRC. In particular, concerned at the absence of legislation regulating child labour providing for a minimum age for employment, the absence of a clear definition of the minimum age for criminal responsibility, the low minimum age for sexual consent, the lack of harmonization between the different ages of sexual consent among the four states, and the lack of legislation on neglect, abuse and sexual exploitation; also concerned at the possible conflicts between customary and statutory law, in particular for marriage and adoption.	(1) para. 8: concerned that insufficient attention has been paid to the provisions of article 4 of the CRC concerning budgetary allocations; para. 25: encourages the State party to ensure appropriate distribution of resources at all levels.	(1) para. 2: notes with regret that the data in the state report were not up to date; para. 11: concerned at the insufficient attention paid to systematic, comprehensive and disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data collection at the national, state and local levels, and to the identification of appropriate indicators and mechanisms to evaluate the progress and the impact of policies and measures adopted for all areas covered by the CRC, especially the most hidden such as child abuse or ill-treatment, but also in relation to all groups of children including girl children.	(1) para. 30: In order to strengthen the partnership with all components of the civil society in implementing the CRC, strongly encourages the State party to strengthen its cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

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114	Monaco 2013	(2) para. 22: While ... welcoming the adoption of Act No. 1387 of ... 2011 permitting naturalized Monegasque men and women to pass their nationality on to their spouse, it remains concerned about the restriction that prevents naturalized women from transmitting Monegasque nationality to their children in the event of a divorce.	(2) para. 24: notes that the concept of the best interest of the child underpins the State party's legal framework in respect of children's rights. However, ... regrets that the State party's legislation contains neither the elements to be taken into account when assessing the child's best interests, nor the procedural safeguards to guarantee its implementation.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the fact that the new Act No. 1382 of 20 July 2011 has consolidated children's involvement in judicial and administrative procedures. However, it regrets that there is insufficient clarity with regard to the right of children to be heard in other contexts.	(2) para. 3: welcomes adoption of several laws; para. 20: concerned that legislation does not explicitly state the obligations of companies ... to respect the rights of the child in operations carried out out-side of the State's territory and that legislation does not provide for accessible procedural safeguards in such cases; para. 28: regrets the lack of legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings; para. 37: concerned that legislation and practice still do not guarantee free medical assistance to foreign children residing in the State for fewer than five years; para. 43: concerned that legislation does not expressly guarantee free education to foreign children whose parents or legal representatives are neither resident nor lawfully established in the State.	(1) para. 12: regrets that it has not been provided with sufficient information by the State party on the resources allocated for CRC implementation. ... also concerned about the absence of a mechanism to assess the impact of budgetary allocations for children.	(2) para. 14: notes with appreciation the data provided by the State party on various areas concerning children and the establishment of the Monegasque Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies. However, ... concerned that the system of data collection does not cover all areas of the CRC, and that there are not sufficient mechanisms for processing and assessing such data.	NA

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115	Mongolia 2017	(1) para. 15: seriously concerned about the growing and persistent inequality in the State party and reports of increasing instances of discrimination, with impunity, against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, such as children from low-income families, migrant and unregistered children, children from rural areas, CWDs, children from ethnic and linguistic minority groups and indigenous groups, and LGBT children, particularly in schools and dormitories.	(2) para. 17: While welcoming the inclusion of the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration in the Law on Child Protection and other recently amended legislation, (...) reiterates its previous COs (...) and (...) further recommends that the State party: (a) Take concrete steps to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions (...); (b) Develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving them due weight as a primary consideration.	(1) para. 18: Recalling its previous COs and (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Provide sufficient (...) resources to effectively implement the strategy to promote child participation and the Law on Child Protection in order to (...) ensure that their views are given due consideration (...); (b) Ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of a child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings (...); (c) Conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the (...) participation of all children within the family, community and schools, with particular attention to girls and to children in vulnerable situations, such as LGBT children and CWDs.	(2) para. 5: While welcoming the adoption of the Law on the Rights of the Child and the Law on Child Protection in February 2016, (...) recommends that the State party take all measures necessary for their effective implementation in compliance with the CRC, in particular by ensuring the provision of adequate and sufficient human, technical and financial resources.	(2) para. 8: While acknowledging the fiscal challenges of the State party and welcoming the introduction of a programme-based budgeting system to improve linkages between planning, budgeting and results, (...) remains seriously concerned at the risk of regression in the enjoyment of children's rights due to inadequate budget allocation, lack of sustainable investment in basic services to promote and protect children's rights, corruption, and the volatility of the State party's economy due to its overdependence on the extractive industry and the related boom and bust cycles.	(2) para. 10: recommends that the State party: (a) Expediently improve its data-collection system. The data should cover all areas of the CRC and should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are shared among the ministries concerned and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the CRC.	NA

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116	Montenegro 2010	(2) para. 25: noting the efforts undertaken by the State party to counter discrimination especially against minorities through a variety of laws, strategies, plan of actions and projects; concerned at the persistent de facto discrimination against inter alia children belonging to minority groups, refugee children, and children with disabilities, in particular with regard to access to education, health care and housing.	(2) para. 28: While noting that the State Party has introduced the principle of the best interests of the child into some of its legislation, it regrets that this principle is not yet sufficiently reflected in all legislative and policy matters affecting children, especially with regard to children in institutions, and that it is not well applied by the judiciary and administrative authorities.	(2) para. 30: noting that the principle of the respect for the views of the child is incorporated in the Family Law and the existence of children's parliaments in many schools, concerned that certain traditions and cultural attitudes might limit the full implementation of art. 12 of the CRC especially in judicial hearings concerning children, in matters concerning school administration and classroom education, and in public debates.	(2) para. 5: appreciates the steps taken by the State party to harmonize legislation in order to ensure greater consistency with the CRC, remains concerned that some aspects of domestic legislation, such as the Law on Child and Social protection are not consistent with the CRC principles and provisions.	(1) para. 7: concerned at the lack of sufficient resources for the implementation of the CRC and the Optional Protocols; para. 13: concerned at the inadequately low proportion of State annual budget allocated to health care, family support and other areas of direct relevance to children, and the decrease in allocations for education.	(1) para 15: deeply concerned at the lack of a systematic mechanism for collecting and analyzing data, disaggregated inter alia by age, sex, ethnic or social origin and urban/rural areas, to provide systematic and comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC and its Optional Protocols in relation to all children, in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.	(2) para. 7: concerned about the limited possibilities for civil society and children to participate in the Council of Child Rights' work; para. 21: notes the high number of NGOs active in the State party and welcomes the 2009 Strategy on collaboration between the Government and NGOs; nevertheless concerned about the lack of consultation with civil society in the preparation of the State party's report and the insufficient cooperation in the design and implementation of legislation and policies in areas concerning children's rights.

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117	Morocco 2014	(2) para. 24: welcomes the statement by the State party's delegation that measures will promptly be taken in order for children not to be identified as born out of wedlock in their identity documents. ... however, concerned about: (a) De jure and de facto discrimination against girls and children born out of wedlock, including in areas relating to personal status (e.g. family name, inheritance); .... (d) The persistent discrimination against children with disabilities; para. 10: concerned about the numerous provisions of the Family Code that continue to discriminate against girls and to maintain severe gender discrimination.	(2) para. 26: While appreciating the inclusion in the Family Code of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee regrets that the practice of early and forced child marriages, the placement of children in residential institutions, and the recourse to custodial measures for children in conflict with the law still contradict the best interests of many children ... concerned that this right has not been incorporated in legislation concerning children and is therefore neither applied in all administrative and judicial proceedings, nor in policies and programmes relating to children.	(1) para. 28: concerned that the eligibility criteria in the Children's Parliament do not make the Parliament representative of all children, especially children in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged situations. It also regrets that insufficient efforts have been made by the State party to establish child municipal councils, as recommended by the Committee in 2003 ... concerned that limited sustainable actions have been undertaken to change societal attitudes within the family, schools and the community at large that impede children from expressing themselves.	(2) para. 10: notes with appreciation the recognition, through the new 2011 Constitution, of the supremacy of international CRCs over domestic laws, as well as the significant legislative reforms undertaken during the reporting period to incorporate the rights and principles of the CRC into domestic legal order, as previously recommended ... concerned about lack of progress in adopting a comprehensive Children's Code, the elaboration of which was proposed in 2003, numerous provisions of the Family Code that continue to discriminate against girls and to maintain severe gender discrimination, lack of effective enforcement of existing legislation relating to children, due mainly to the lack of resources, capacities and supervision.	(2) para. 16: notes as positive the significant public expenditure on education, as well as the significant increase of the health budget from 2007 to 2012 ... concerned that the State party has not yet set up a specific mechanism to ensure traceability of the funds allocated for the implementation of the CRC, the alleged fraudulent management of the National Fund for Social Security as well as the high levels of corruption negatively impact on the implementation of the CRC in the State party; para. 54: welcoming the 20 per cent increase in the budget of the Ministry of Health between 2007 and 2012.	(1) para. 7: recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to address those recommendations that have not been implemented or not sufficiently implemented and, in particular, those related to data collection.	(2) para. 20: notes as positive the reinforcement of partnerships between government agencies and non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights over the past few years. It is, however, concerned that civil society organizations are only consulted on an ad hoc basis ... concerned that while these organizations continue to provide children in need or in marginalized and disadvantaged situations with a variety of services, the State party reduced its funding to them while its own capacity to respond to child protection needs remains inadequate ... regrets that the system of project funding prevents non-governmental organizations from undertaking sustainable actions for children.

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118	Mozambique 2019	(1) para. 16: Noting with concern the persistent patterns of discrimination against children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, (...) reiterates its previous COs (CRC/C/MOZ/CO/2, para. 30) and recommends to: (a) Strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against groups of children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, especially girls, CWDs, children with albinism, children in street situations, children living in rural areas, children of unmarried parents and asylum-seeking and refugee children; (b) Conduct comprehensive public education and awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, to combat and prevent stigmatization and discrimination against these groups of children and to promote a positive image of them.	(1) para. 17: concerned that this right is not implemented in decisions affecting children and recommends that the State party: (a) Develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance and training to all relevant persons in authority and to professionals working with and for children for determining the BIs in every area and for giving them due weight as a primary consideration; (b) Evaluate, on the basis of the procedures and criteria described above, practices, policies and services that may not be in the best interests of the child.	(1) para. 19: Children's views are not adequately taken into account in decision-making processes that affect them. Given the persistence of traditional societal attitudes towards children, in particular girls, which limit their right to freely express their views (...) recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/MOZ/CO/2, para. 36) and recommends to: (a) Ensure that children's views are given due consideration in courts, schools, relevant administrative and other processes concerning children and in the family (...); (b) Strengthen the children's parliament (...) and ensure that its outcomes are systematically fed into public decision-making; (c) Conduct awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children.	(2) para. 3: notes with appreciation the various legislative, institutional and policy measures taken to implement the CRC, in particular the adoption of the National Action Plan for children 2013–2019, the National Plan of Action for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2017–2022 and the National Basic Social Security Strategy 2016–2024 and the revision of the Penal Code in 2014. para. 6: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/MOZ/CO/2, para. 10) and recommends to: (a) Take all measures necessary for the effective implementation of existing legislative measures (...), including by adopting the regulation on the Law on the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights; (b) Ensure that the CRC prevails whenever there is a conflict with domestic legislation or common practice.	(2) para. 9: While welcoming the criteria introduced by the national council for social welfare to target beneficiaries of public resources in a more equitable manner, (...) remains seriously concerned about insufficient funds being allocated for the enjoyment of children's rights, the inequitable allocation of resources among provinces and the pervasiveness of corruption, which continues to divert resources that are necessary for ensuring the rights of the child. It is also concerned about the impact of austerity measures on children's rights.	(1) para. 11: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/MOZ/CO/2, para. 24) and recommends to: (a) Develop a comprehensive data-collection system that covers all areas of the Convention and that it collects data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, nationality, geographic location, ethnic origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analyses of the situation of all children, including asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in street situations, especially in the areas of health, violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking and justice; (b) Allocate sufficient (...) resources to the National Institute of Statistics to guarantee continuous data collection and regularly publish reports; (...).	(2) para. 14: Noting with appreciation the efforts of the State party to cooperate with civil society, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Systematically involve civil society organizations working in the field of children's rights in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children; (b) Provide such organizations with the support necessary to implement their activities in all areas relating to the promotion and protection of children's rights.

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119	Myanmar 2012	(1) para. 8: non-implementation previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 35: reiterates its concern about the multiple forms of discrimination that persist in the State party, particularly those against girls and children in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, such as children from ethnic and religious minority groups (including Rohingya children), children from remote and border areas, internally displaced children, children in street situations, children affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, orphans and children in situation of poverty.	(2) para. 37: noting that the principle of the best interests of the child is mentioned in art. 27 of the Child Law, concerned that the knowledge of this principle remains insufficient and no action has been taken by the State party to include it in any other legislation or budgets, or to ensure that it is sufficiently applied in the judicial and administrative decisions.	(1) para. 39: reiterates its concern that traditional attitudes towards children in society continue to limit respect for their views and that the State party has not taken sufficient measures to ensure that the views of the child are given due consideration, especially in courts, schools, relevant administrative and other processes and within the family, other institutions and society at large.	(2) para. 9: noting the indication given by the State party that the 1993 Child Law is being reviewed to integrate some CRC provisions, the Committee is concerned that all principles and provisions of the CRC have not yet been fully incorporated into domestic law and that legal provisions contrary to the CRC remain in force; also expresses its concern about the application of different sources of law, namely codified and customary laws, which may undermine the State party's efforts to harmonize its legislation with the CRC.	(1) para. 17: reiterates its deep concern about the extremely low level of resources allocated to the social sectors, in particular education, health and nutrition, at the severe lack of financial resources for the protection and promotion of children's rights, and conversely at the disproportionately high allocation of public financial resources to the military and State-owned enterprises. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the absence of transparency in the budgetary process.	(2) para. 23: noting some initiatives by the State party to improve interdepartmental information systems and progress made in collecting national level data on the socioeconomic situation and health and education status of the child population, concerned at the lack of methodological coherence in the undertaking of data collection and the absence of disaggregated data on areas covered by the CRC.	(2) para. 29: noting the recent progress made in cooperation with the civil society, concerned that civil society participation, and in particular children's participation, remains limited in the formulation of policies and programmes; also concerned that insufficient efforts have been made to involve civil society in CRC implementation and that a high level of distrust between civil society and the Government remains; expresses its concern about reports that individuals and organizations are punished for carrying out human rights education and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.

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120	Namibia 2012	(2) para. 9: insufficient implementation previous CO on discrimination of girls and CWD; para. 30: notes the efforts ... to address discrimination, incl. through the formulation of numerous policies and programs, such as the Education Sector Policy for OVCs and the National Policy on HIV/AIDS for the Education Sector; concerned about (a) ... widespread discrimination against children from indigenous communities, in particular Ovahimba and San, CWD, those living in poverty, children in street situations and refugee and migrant children; (b) pervasive ... discrimination against women and girls, including patriarchal attitudes and ... norms and customs that ... place severe restrictions on their human rights. ... concerned about... customary laws and practices ... incl. those relating to marriage and inheritance.	(2) para. 32: notes that the principle of the best interests of the child is explicitly protected by the Constitution and the proposed Child Care and Protection Bill and the Child Justice Bill; concerned that this principle is not adequately applied by legislative bodies and, therefore, is absent in most legislation, policies and programmes concerning children; further concerned at the lack of awareness on the principle of the best interests of the child among the general public, including traditional and religious leaders and government officials.	NA	(2) para. 9: insufficient implementation previous CO on legislative reform; para. 10: welcoming the initiatives to review laws from the pre-independence period, regrets the failure of the State party to adopt and implement key national legislation concerning children, as required by the CRC; notes with concern that despite discussions that began over a decade ago, two notable laws on children's rights, the Child Care and Protection Bill and the Child Justice Bill, have not yet been adopted; noting the existence of plural legal systems, concerned that the customary law and practices are not consistent with the CRC principles and provisions, in particular those relating to the minimum age of marriage, to divorce and to inheritance.	(2) para. 16: noting that the State party has allocated considerable resources in its national budget to the social sectors, particularly in education, concerned that such a level of spending has not necessarily resulted in improved outcomes in many areas of children's rights, including the education sector; also notes with concern that the State party has not yet undertaken a child rights approach to budgeting to track the allocation and use of resources for children across different sectors.	(2) para. 18: welcomes that the National Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2009/10 included for the first time a child poverty assessment, it is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive data collection system for the disaggregation and analysis of data on all children under the age of 18; also regrets the lack of information on the cases of violence against children, including corporal punishment and children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, socioeconomic background, geographic location, and those attending and/or out of schools.	NA

BIs = Best Interests of the Child  
COs = Concluding Observations  
CRC = The Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSOs = Civil Society Organizations  
CWDs = Children With Disabilities  
HRDs = Human Rights Defenders

LGBTI = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex  
SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals

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121	Nauru 2016	(2) para. 22: notes that the State party's Constitution provides for non-discrimination on the basis of, inter alia, race, place of origin and political opinion, (...) deeply concerned at the persistent discrimination against asylum-seeking and refugee children in all areas, in particular with regard to access to water, sanitation, education, health care and adequate housing. (...) notes with concern that CWDs also face discrimination, particularly within the school environment.	(2) para. 24: notes that some areas of Nauruan law uphold the principle of the best interests of the child, (...) regrets that no comprehensive guarantee exists to ensure that right. In particular, (...) expresses profound concern at reports that asylum-seeking and refugee children have been accepted by the State party from Australia without taking their best interests into account.	(2) para. 28: notes as positive developments within the new Child Protection Services Division to ensure that the views of child victims of abuse are taken into consideration in terms of their choice of living arrangements. (...) concerned, however, that overall, traditional practices and cultural attitudes, particularly within the family, schools and social and judicial settings, impede the full realization of the right of children to express their views freely.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 6: welcomes the efforts towards the comprehensive review of existing laws to ensure compliance and harmonization with the provisions of the CRC and notes as positive the adoption of the Child Protection and Welfare Act in 2016 and the proposed Family Protection Act. (...) welcomes efforts to reinstate the constitutional review process as a means of specifically guaranteeing children's rights in the Constitution. (...) concerned, however, that some legislation remains to be harmonized with the CRC.	(2) para. 12: notes that the budgetary allocation for 2015-2016 provides for implementation of the provisions of the CRC, it is concerned that the process fails to stipulate budget allocations, including indicators and tracking systems, for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, and children in vulnerable situations.	(1) para. 14: concerned that the lack of a systematic mechanism of data collection has resulted in a scarcity of disaggregated data on children, particularly CWDs, children living in marginalized situations and asylum-seeking and refugee children.	(1) para 20: seriously concerned that international civil society organizations and journalists have been restricted in their ability to conduct research into children's rights, particularly in relation to the processing of child asylum seekers and refugees at the Regional Processing Centre. (...) also concerned at reports indicating that some international organizations have been subjected to intimidation, and that non-refundable visa application fees for visiting journalists have been increased from US\$ 200 to US\$ 8,000.

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122	Nepal 2016	(2) para. 20: welcomes the anti-discrimination provisions of the new Constitution. However, notwithstanding the de jure prohibition of discrimination, (...) remains concerned that discrimination based on, inter alia, gender, lineage, ethnicity, religion, social standing and disability remains prevalent. In particular, (...) concerned that: (a) Gender discrimination is still highly prevalent in all aspects, such as in the health sector and in education; (b) There is persistent de facto discrimination against Dalits, on the basis of their caste, resulting in them living in marginalized communities with hindrances to accessing education and public places, including water sources and places of worship.	(1) para. 22: concerned that neither the Constitution nor any other legislation refers to the "best interests of the child".	(1) para. 24: reiterates its previous CO (2005): concerned that the views of the child are not given sufficient consideration in all areas of children's lives and that the provisions of art. 12 are not fully integrated into the State party's legislation and administrative and judicial decisions, or in policies and programmes relevant to children.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 7: welcomes the adoption of the 2015 Constitution, which recognizes children's rights. However, (...) concerned that the draft Children's Bill does not provide a comprehensive, integrated and rights-based approach to the State party's legislation and does not adequately define key terms or mandates.	(2) Reiterates its previous CO (2005); para.12: welcomes the increase in the resources allocated for (...) children's rights during recent years, as well as the adoption of the child-friendly local governance national framework in 2009, and its accompanying (...) guidelines in 2010. Nevertheless, remains concerned that: (a) The resources dedicated to children continue to be insufficient; (b) The mobilization of resources by the State in order to address the needs of children is limited and significantly hampered by corruption; (c) The efficacy and transparency in the use of the resources made available through int. cooperation in response to the earthquake in 2015 are insufficient.	(1) para. 14: reiterates its previous CO (2005): insufficient follow-up previous CO on data collection; concerned at the absence of comprehensive and up-to-date statistical data in the State party and the lack of an adequate national data collection system on all areas covered by the CRC.	NA

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123	Netherlands 2015	(2) para. 24: welcomes the Municipal Anti-Discrimination Services Act, which allows citizens to address reports of discrimination to local Anti-Discrimination Services. However, ... concerned that children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations such as refugee children, asylum seeking children, undocumented children, children belonging to ethnic minority groups, children with disabilities, chronically ill children and LGBTI children continue to face discrimination. ... also concerned that children in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom do not enjoy the same rights as children in the European Netherlands.	(2) para. 6 inadequate follow-up to previous CO on the best interests of the child; concerned that despite some positive efforts, there is a lack of sufficient understanding of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration, in particular by judges and other professionals working for and with children; para. 52(c) concerned about lack of adequate consideration for the best interests of the child in asylum cases.	(2) para. 6 inadequate follow-up to previous CO on respect for the views of the child; para. 30: notes the appointment of ad litem guardians to children in court proceedings. Nevertheless ... concerned about the limited opportunities for children to participate in decisions and policies that affect them, especially in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures (incl. Youth Act); para. 58: notes the adoption of the new Adolescent Criminal Law, but is seriously concerned that the law allows for children of 16 and 17 years of age to be prosecuted under the adult criminal law in cases where charges involve very grave offences; para. 61: regrets that the State party's legislation does not yet fully prohibit the sale of children.	(1) para. 14: concerned about significant cutbacks in the State party's budget that affect families and children living with minimum income. ... also concerned that with the decentralization of child care services in the Netherlands, resources aimed at children will be used at the discretion of municipalities which can thus create unequal access to such resources by children in different municipalities.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO; para. 16: notes that the Netherlands collects data related to children's situation and that [it] carried out numerous studies and compiled databases focusing on children. ... however, concerned that data on e.g. child maltreatment, youth care, children with HIV/AIDs and children in street situations or in conflict with the law, foreign children, sexual exploitation and trafficking are either not complete or not up to date and that there is no central system to regularly collect data with both qualitative and quantitative indicators in all areas of children's rights throughout the Kingdom. ... regrets the lack of information on data collection in Aruba, Curacao and St Maarten.	NA

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124	New Zealand 2016	(1) para. 15: recalls its previous CO (2011): insufficient implementation previous CO on non-discrimination; concerned at continuing manifestations of discrimination against the Maori population, including children, as evidenced by their unequal access to services.	(1) para. 16: also recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that BIs are appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, in particular with regard to family law, social security legislation, children in care (particularly Maori children), sentencing of parents and in the refugee determination process. The State party is encouraged (...) to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration.	(1) para. 18: recalls its previous COs (2011): noting with regret that the views of children are not adequately respected within the family, in schools and in the community; also regrets that there are no means by which children can express their views in the public domain, that the State party does not systematically take into consideration children's views when formulating laws and policies that may affect them and that their right to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings is not sufficiently respected.	(1) para. 6: recalls its previous CO (2011) and urges the State party to bring domestic legislation relating to children into compliance with the CRC.	(1) para. 9: recalling its previous CO: concerned that the increases in expenditure are not sufficient to eradicate poverty and address inequalities; regrets that the budgeting process still does not allow clear identification of allocations for children, which prevents the tracking of expenditure on children by the State party and the evaluation of its impact.	(1) para. 10: recommends development of a comprehensive mechanism for data collection and an information system on all areas of the CRC. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background, to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children, and particularly Maori and Pasifika children, children in care, CWDs, children living in poverty, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children and children in other situations of vulnerability.	NA

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125	Nicaragua 2010	(2) para. 36: welcomes the legislative action taken by the State party to guarantee equal rights of people, especially those with disabilities, living with HIV/AIDS and indigenous and Afro-descendants; also welcomes the establishment of the Office of the Special Ombudsperson for the Rights of Indigenous People and Ethnic Communities, and its local office in the Caribbean Coast autonomous region, as well as the Office of the Special Ombudsperson for Sexual Diversity; shares the concerns that indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent, as well as women, girls and children in rural and remote areas continue to suffer de facto discrimination.	(2) para. 38: notes that, according to art. 9 of the Children and Adolescents Code, the best interests of the child should be taken into account as a fundamental principle; concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not well understood in the family or by State judicial and administrative authorities, and that it is not consistently applied in practice.	(2) para. 41: commends the achievements made with regard to children and adolescents' right to be heard through school and municipal councils, for example, but notes that the efforts are not deep enough and that the new forms of "direct democracy" (such as the Gabinetes de Participación Popular) seem to be adult-centred and authoritarian; also concerned that children's views are not always duly taken into account in the family and in judicial and administrative proceedings.	(3) para. 7: insufficient implementation previous CO on legislation; para. 8: notes the efforts made by the State party towards strengthening the constitutional, legal and normative framework related to CRC implementation.	(2) para. 18: welcoming the increase in spending on health and education over the past years, especially from national resources, concerned at the insufficient level of resources available overall for social policies and specific plans and programmes for children; further concerned that due to the financial crisis and the low public revenue base, financial resources, including contributions for budget support and specific programmes from international cooperation, may decrease further.	(2) para. 7: insufficient implementation previous CO on data collection; para. 21: welcomes the five-year plan for the modernization of the National Development Information Institute and the National Statistical System; particularly commends the process to design and implement the statistical information system on children and adolescents and establish a system of child rights indicators in close cooperation with all concerned institutions; concerned that data on children at risk is still not available and that sufficient financial and human resources are not allocated for the full functioning of the system.	(1) para. 28: concerned that the long-standing tradition of collaboration between the State party and an extensive network of national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) has recently become more limited due, inter alia, to the weakening of CONAPINA.

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126	Niger 2009	(2) para. 27: welcomes all the efforts made by the Government in promoting girls' education and in particular the awareness-raising campaigns carried out with the support of traditional and religious chiefs in the regions where girls' enrolment is particularly low; remains concerned at the persistent discrimination which girls suffer in the State party; also remains concerned at the legal discrimination against children born out of wedlock and the persistent social discrimination experienced by the most vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities and children living in rural areas.	(2) para. 29: notes the State party's indication that the principle of the best interests of the child is taken into account by the State institutions, and that an inventory of good practices conducive to the protection of children's rights before the courts was adopted by the Judiciary in 2007; notes with regret that customary law and certain practices remain an impediment to the implementation of this principle.	(1) para. 31: remains concerned that the principle of respect for the views of the child is not clearly expressed in the State party's legal framework; also concerned about traditional societal attitudes which prevent children from freely expressing their views within the family, schools, communities, as well as in judicial and administrative proceedings.	(2) para. 7: welcomes the elaboration in 2005 of a draft Children's Code in order to abolish the legal pluralism in the field of children's rights and harmonize the national laws with the CRC; concerned that this Code has not yet been examined by the Government and submitted to the National Assembly for adoption; enjoyment of child rights continues to be negatively affected by the application of three different sources of law, namely positive, customary and religious laws.	(2) para. 5: insufficient follow-up of previous CO; para. 17: welcomes the increase in budget allocation to the health and education sectors, concerned that the part of the national budget devoted to social services has been decreasing and that overall allocation of resources remains insufficient to effectively guarantee the fulfilment of all rights for all children; further concerned about the State party's inability to clearly identify the amount and proportion of the State budget spent for children; concerned over reports of continuing corruption which have a negative impact on the allocation of already limited resources for the promotion and protection of children's rights.	(2) para. 19: welcomes the efforts made with regard to data collection and, in particular, the creation in 2005 within the Ministry for the Protection of Children of a Statistics Department, and the adoption in 2007 of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics; concerned at the unavailability of quality data and analysis on children's rights, especially with regard to children belonging to the most vulnerable groups, including child victims of violence and sexual abuse, street children, children working as domestic servants, children in conflict with the law and children living in poverty.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the State party's indication that State institutions work in close collaboration with NGOs and the participatory process through which the State party's report was drafted; seriously concerned over the limitations placed upon certain organizations of civil society and, in particular, the severe administrative and practical restrictions upon the operation of international NGOs working in the area of human rights and humanitarian assistance for children.

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127	Nigeria 2010	(2) para. 28: notes as positive that the Constitution incorporates provisions of non-discrimination and welcomes the fact that the Anti-Discrimination Bill is about to be passed by the National Assembly; remains concerned however that de facto discrimination of children prevails and is tolerated in the State party, in particular vis-à-vis the girl child, but also against children with disabilities, children in street situations and children of minority groups.	(2) para. 30: welcomes the express provision in the Child Rights Act that the child's best interests shall remain "paramount" in all considerations affecting the child and appreciates information that courts of the State party frequently base their decisions on this principle; concerned ... that certain practices that are inconsistent with this and other general CRC principles appear to be considered as reflecting the best interests of the child; This includes information on the placement of children from vulnerable groups in remand homes and the detention of child offenders charged with status offences, and of children at the request of their parents for being "beyond parental control", for their own protection.	(2) para. 34: welcomes the establishment of Children's Parliaments in all 36 states of the Federation, in line with the Committee's recommendation and their active participation in international as well as national forums; remains concerned about the limited participation of children in matters affecting them in children's institutions of all kind, in the family and in judicial and administrative procedures. It regrets the low level of acceptance thereof, especially in rural areas, and appreciates the State party's acknowledgement of this situation.	(2) para. 3: welcomes adoption of (specified) legislation; para. 7: welcomes the ongoing constitutional review in the State party and, in this context, the proposal to place the Child Rights Act (CRA) in the concurrent list of legislation which would make it automatically applicable in all states of the federation; remains concerned, however, that most northern states of the State party have not yet domesticated the CRA and about reports that some states that have passed such legislation have adopted a definition of the child which is not in compliance with that of the CRC; regrets that a comprehensive review on the compatibility of the existing statutory, religious (sharia) and customary laws with the CRC and the Child Rights Act has not been carried out.	(2) para. 16: welcomes information that budget allocations to health and education have increased and that funds saved from the debt relief programme will be invested in child-ren's programmes; welcomes information from the State that a specific budget line on maternal health and the new born child has been included in the 2010 Government budget; notes with appreciation the implementation of a comprehensive economic and anti-corruption reform programme; nevertheless reiterates its earlier concern about insufficient budget allocations to children and that corruption remains endemic in the State party and its adverse effects on the protection and promotion of children's rights.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data-collection systems; para. 18: notes with appreciation the establishment of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and its fully fledged department dealing with statistics on children during the reporting period; welcomes the appointment of the CRC Chair at the University of Lagos and the undertaking of a National Baseline Survey on child protection, including indicators, by the same; notes that data on children deprived of a family environment, refugee and internally displaced children, children in conflict with the law, children with disabilities, as well as single-parent families still has to be collected and analysed.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the State party's indication that state institutions work in close collaboration with civil society organizations in furthering the implementation of children's rights, as witnessed in the participatory process during the preparation of the State party's report; concerned about the reliance of the State party on civil society organizations in the provision of social services of the CRC, notably in the fields of child care and education, which may affect the responsibility of State party as the primary duty-bearer for the realization of the rights guaranteed under the CRC.
128	Niue, acceded 20 December 1995, CO not yet available.							

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129	Norway 2010	(2) para. 19: welcomes the entry into force in January 2006 of the Anti-Discrimination Act and the establishment also in 2006 of an Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud, an Equality and Anti-Discrimination Tribunal and the adoption of an Action Plan to Promote Equality and Prevent Ethnic Discrimination ; takes note of the ongoing debate as to whether age discrimination of children should be included in the law and whether children should be given the right to file complaints if they are discriminated against due to their age; concerned at information, including from children, that minority and indigenous children feel stigmatized and maltreated, including by other children, and that children with disabilities complain that their rights are not respected.	(2) para. 22: recognizes that the best interests of the child are stressed as a guiding principle in the case treatment regulations of 2004 and the amendments to the Children Act of 2006, both referring to protection of children in custody cases, as well as in the new immigration Act of 2008; concerned that the principle of primary consideration of the best interests of the child is not yet applied in all areas affecting children, such as child custody cases and immigration cases, and that those responsible for taking the child's best interest into account are not always sufficiently trained to conduct a thorough case-by-case assessment of the best interests of the affected child.	(2) para. 24: welcomes the fact that amendments to the Children Act and the Child Welfare Act have lowered the age at which children have the right to express themselves in cases of concern to them, from twelve to seven years and that also younger children may be heard; concerned, however, that, in practice, the child's right be heard is not fully implemented or effectively practiced in all phases of decisions about and arrangements for children's lives, in particular in child care and immigration cases; regrets that children have the right to be heard regarding health issues only after the age of 12; notes with interest that a pilot project in 21 municipalities will allow children from age 16 on to vote in their local elections.	(3) para. 8: takes note of the ongoing activities of the Government to amend laws or to adopt new one's in order to bring legislation in full harmony with the CRC and welcomes the Government's initiative to order an expert review of the relation between the CRC and Norwegian law (the Søvig report).	(2) para. 15: welcomes information that the central budget for 2010 provides 400 additional posts for municipalities but notes that, in view of the extensive autonomy of municipalities, this provision may not necessarily be allocated for the improvement of services for children and also notes that according to State party, more posts will be needed in the coming years; concerned about information received, including from children, about disparities in the services available to children depending on the geographical location, and that some of these services are seriously understaffed and have inadequate resources	NA	NA

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130	Oman 2016	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on discrimination (2006); para. 25: welcomes the information concerning measures to ensure that the birth of a child out of wedlock is registered and that the child is provided with a four-part name and attached to a particular tribe. (...) also notes the efforts of the State to ensure that CWDs are protected from discriminatory treatment, including through the promulgation of the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled Act. (...) remains concerned that both de jure and de facto discrimination of girls, children born out of wedlock, CWDs and children of migrant workers, especially with respect to access to social and health services and equal education opportunities, continues to be problematic.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the information in the report that the principle of the best interests of the child is enshrined in various pieces of legislation, including the Child Act, and is applied in the areas of child support, custody, family care and fostering, education and juvenile justice. However, (...) concerned about the insufficient information regarding the State party's efforts to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration in all actions, and regarding the State party's efforts to apply that right in all legislation, administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children.	(2) para. 31: notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child in the Civil Status Act and the Child Act, as well as in educational activities and programmes, student administrative councils and class committees. (...) also notes that the Ministry of Social Development organizes annual and periodic children's forums on the CRC and related issues. However, (...) concerned that traditional and cultural practices do not readily accommodate and recognize the views of the child at home, at school and in the community, and that, in practice, the views of the child are not adequately respected in all relevant areas at the national and local levels.	(2) para. 9: welcomes the adoption of the Child Act of 2014, and the ongoing legal reform, which has contributed to the improvement of children's rights in the State party. However, (...) concerned that the Child Act does not fully address all areas relevant to the CRC including the family environment, alternative care, and the administration of juvenile justice.	(2) para. 7: concerned about a general reservation stating that the provisions of the CRC should be applied within the limits imposed by the material resources available; para. 15: welcomes the information on the programme of cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to incorporate into the development plans of the State party a budget that is friendly to children's rights and budget allocations for education. However, (...) concerned about the lack of data on the proportion of the national budget allocated to the implementation of children's rights under the CRC and on follow-up mechanisms for full implementation.	(2) para. 17: notes that the National Centre for Statistics and Information is responsible for collecting and disseminating national statistics in all areas to facilitate development planning. (...) welcomes the information that the Ministry for Social Development has established a database of social indicators that includes data on children, and that the Ministry has held several training courses on analytical statistical reporting. However, (...) concerned about the lack of data on CWDs, on abuse and neglect, on juvenile justice, on child labour and exploitation, on the use of harmful substances and on adolescent health	(2) para. 23: taking note of the information in the report concerning efforts by the State party to collaborate with civil society actors in all matters relating to the CRC and in the formulation of public policy, (...) nonetheless, deeply concerned about information regarding the arbitrary detention and harassment of civil society activists.

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131	Pakistan 2016	<p>(1) para. 18: remains extremely concerned about:</p> <p>(a) Serious discrimination against girls in the State party and the persistent gender disparity in infant mortality rates and school enrolment rates, the persistence of early marriages and exchanges of girls for debt settlement, as well as domestic violence targeting girls; (b) The status of girls under sharia law, whereby, for example, girls are entitled to only half of the inheritance provided to boys; (c) Widespread discrimination against children belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, CWDs, children born out of wedlock, children living in poverty, children from Dalit communities, children living in rural or remote areas and LGBT children.</p>	<p>(2) para. 20: notes that the principle of the best interests of the child is enshrined in some of the State party's legislation. However, (...) concerned that the implementation of legislation is not always in line with this principle, and, in particular, that the best interests of the child are often disregarded in the justice system.</p>	<p>(1) para. 5: inadequate follow up of previous CO (2009) on respect for the views of the child: regrets that the right to respect the views of the child does not appear to be widely known and implemented, and that the views of the child are rarely sought in establishing what may be in the child's best interests when relevant decisions are being made, including in administrative, civil and judicial proceedings.</p>	<p>(2) para. 6: While reiterating the positive legislative developments, in particular in the areas of child labour and education, (...) concerned about the significant delays in the adoption of a number of bills in the area of children's rights, which are crucial for the implementation of the State party's obligations under the CRC. (...) also concerned that, despite the Committee's previous recommendations, the State party has not taken sufficient steps to harmonize its legislative framework with the CRC. The situation has been further exacerbated by adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 2010, as some federal laws on children's rights have not been retained by the provincial governments.</p>	<p>(2) para. 12: notes that the State party's social welfare expenditure has increased in recent years. However, (...) concerned that despite the commitments made as part of its previous dialogue with the Committee, the State party's budget allocations for the health and education sectors remain extremely low. (...) also concerned that there are no systematic budget tracking mechanisms that take into account a child rights perspective and that the budget allocated for children is not spent appropriately.</p>	<p>(1) para. 5: inadequate follow up of previous CO (2009) on data collection which noted insufficient implementation of previous CO on data collection and expressed concern that the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development, mandated to provide the resources for data collection and system management, may not have sufficient human and financial resources to overcome the shortcomings of the existing statistical system and to fulfil its mandate in an effective manner.</p>	<p>(2) para. 14: While noting the State party's rules and procedures to facilitate the registration of non-governmental organizations and its ongoing cooperation with civil society, (...) concerned that such cooperation is limited and that restrictions are reportedly imposed on certain non-governmental organizations. It is also concerned about the insufficient financial support provided to non-governmental organizations.</p>

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132	Palau 2001	(1) para. 30: concern that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC provisions especially its general principles, as ... in art. 2 (non-discrimination) in its legislation, administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 32: concern that the principle of non-discrimination is not adequately implemented, in particular for vulnerable groups ... [such as] children of non-Palauan parentage, incl. children: of immigrant families and adopted (inter-country), living in the outer islands, and living and/or working on the streets; particularly concerned about their limited access to adequate health, education and other social services; concern at the disparity in the legal minimum age for marriage of girls (16) and boys (18).	(1) para. 30: concern that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC provisions especially its general principles, as reflected in art. 3 (best interests of the child) in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 34: concerned that the general principle of the best interests of the child (art. 3) has not been taken fully into account in the State party's legislative, administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in policies and programmes relevant to children; notes that under customary law, family matters usually reflect "the best interests of all concerned parties" as opposed to "the principle of the best interests of the child".	(2) para. 30: concern that Palau does not appear to have fully taken into account the CRC esp. its general principles, as in art. 12 (respect for the views of the child), in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 36: notes that the views of children aged 12 years and older are heard in court on matters relating to their own adoption and ... in criminal cases; In other matters the right of the child to express his or her views in court is at the discretion of the judge. While noting that family law matters are generally dealt with under customary law, concerned that traditional culture, values and attitudes may not always facilitate expression and consideration of the views of children.	(2) para. 12: notes that the State party has undertaken a study to determine the inconsistencies between its laws (both statutory and customary laws) and the CRC; concerned that insufficient efforts have been made to address the inconsistencies found; concern that domestic legislation still does not fully conform to the CRC principles and provisions.	(1) para. 9: noted that a significant portion of the State's financing is derived from payments from the US under the Compact of Free Association, the phasing out of which in 2009 may have an impact on the allocation of resources for children; para. 24: concern that allocations for education and social services have gradually reduced ... and that there is a scarcity of resources for ... social services; that there is no social welfare system in the State, and that ... not enough attention has been paid to allocating budgetary resources, at national and community levels, in favour of children ...; insufficient efforts to ensure that an adequate proportion of financing gained through int. cooperation is allocated to children's programmes.	(2) para. 20: notes that the report and the core document of the State party both contain substantive statistical data; concerned that the State party's data collection mechanism does not adequately allow for the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated data on and the effective monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved in implementing policies and programmes for children below the age of 18 years.	(3) para. 3: notes with appreciation that the preparation of the State report was a collaborative process that involved a.o. civil society and the general public; para. 4: welcomes the inclusion of NGOs in the membership of CoPopChi and its work in cooperation with the Council of Chiefs;

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133	Palestine - acceded to the CRC on 2 April 2014, no CO yet							
134	Panama 2011	(1) para. 33: remains concerned at the continued disparities affecting Afro-Panamanian, indigenous children and children with disabilities with regard to access to health care, education and other basic services, as is made evident by the higher rates of infant mortality, especially due to preventable diseases, malnutrition, maternal mortality and school dropout; also concerned at discrimination by police and other security forces against Afro-Panamanian children living in marginalized urban neighbourhoods, who are wrongly perceived as potential delinquents, as a result of such measures as curfew for children and campaigns through mass media linking adolescents to alleged increases in criminality.	(2) para. 35: takes note that articles 2 and 740 of the Family Code mandate the judicial and administrative authorities to afford primacy to the best interests of the child; expresses its deep concern at the high number of substantial norms regarding children that follow a guardianship or “children in irregular situation” perspective, which implies that decisions taken based on such norms do not apply the aforementioned principle; concerned that the lack of a comprehensive law on children’ rights leaves the question of applying this principle at the discretion of the judge.	(1) para. 37: notes with concern that the views of children and adolescents are not adequately taken into account in judicial and administrative decision-making processes in matters that concern them.	(2) para. 8: insufficient follow-up to previous CO related to a comprehensive law to protect children’s rights; para. 9: notes that a draft comprehensive law on child rights was submitted to Congress in 2007 but it remains to be approved; notes that the State party has recently set up an Inter-institutional Commission to elaborate a pre-draft law on the promotion and integral protection of the family.	(1) para. 17: regrets the lack of clarity of data on the extent of the investment on children, whether on aggregate terms or for specific programmes; notes that the State party is in a position to increase resources to the social sectors, especially for children, given the relatively positive economic development in recent years, but it regrets that proper analysis on social investment levels and trends and the impact on child rights is not possible.	(2) para. 19: notes the efforts of the State party towards establishing a data collection system, the Childhood, Adolescent and Women Indicators System (SINAMP); remains concerned at the lack of continuity of such effort as evidenced by the fact that data has not been updated; concerned that child rights data is not mainstreamed or visible in the statistical system of the State party.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the creation of an observatory for the rights of the child with the participation of civil society, academia and children, noting that the Ombudsman Office serves as the Observatory’s Secretariat; welcomes the fact that the State party consulted with civil society in the reporting process; concerned that collaboration with civil society has been curtailed since the National Council on Children and Adolescents was abolished.

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135	Papua New Guinea 2004	(1) para. 26: concerned that, as noted by the State party, societal discrimination persists against girls and women and vulnerable groups of children, such as children with disabilities, children living in poverty, children born out of wedlock, adopted children and children of mixed parentage, and that the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of disability.	(1) para. 29: concerned that the general principle of the best interests of the child contained in article 3 of the CRC is not always a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, in particular in customary law.	(1) para. 31: notes with concern that children's views are not systematically sought and taken into consideration with regard to decisions that may affect them and that respect for the views of the child remains limited within the family, at schools, in the courts and before administrative authorities and in the society at large.	(2) para. 8: noting that the State party has undertaken a legislative review programme and that the Child Rights Monitoring Committee (CRMC) has identified about 20 pieces of legislation that are not in compliance with the CRC on the Rights of Child, concerned that the completion of this programme is not given the necessary priority.	(1) para. 16: concerned that the recent reduction of budgets for, inter alia, health care and education seriously hampers the State party's compliance with the provisions of CRC art. 4 in terms of budgetary allocations of resources for CRC implementation.	(2) para. 18: acknowledging the detailed data provided in the written replies to the list of issues in the area of health care and education, regrets the lack of comprehensive and up-to-date statistical data in the State party's report.	(2) para. 22: notes with appreciation the cooperation of the State party with NGOs in the provision of services and their involvement in the preparation of various programmes relating to the CRC; expresses its concern that this involvement may result in a diminished direct commitment on the part of the State party.

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136	Paraguay 2010	(2) para. 24: (...) welcomes the fact that the rights of indigenous persons have been set as a priority in the platform of the new administration of Government and the existence of a bill against all forms of discrimination. However, (...) remains concerned that discrimination affects children in the State party for reasons of ethnic origin, native language, gender, nationality, disability and street situations. (...) particularly concerned about discrimination faced by the indigenous population which resulted in various inequalities for the children.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the State party's efforts made to advance the principle of the best interests of the child, such as the inclusion of this principle in the Code on Children and Young Persons. Nevertheless, it is concerned that the principle is not sufficiently implemented, since it is not transformed into practice and those who are responsible for the determination of a best interest of the child are not adequately trained.	(2) para. 31: notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to promote and respect children's right to freely express their views, in particular the creation of the National Platform for Children and Adolescents (Plataforma Nacional de niñas, niños y adolescentes). Nevertheless (...) concerned that the views of the child are not always duly solicited or taken into account in various settings affecting the child, including in judicial proceedings, matters concerning school administration and classroom education, and public debates.	(2) para. 8: (...) welcomes the legislative developments that have taken place during the reporting period to bring legislation into line with the CRC, as well as the draft laws that are being prepared or under discussion in this regard. However, it regrets that national legislation is not fully in conformity with the CRC in certain areas. Furthermore, (...) regrets that the new Criminal Code reduces the punishment for child pornography compared to the penalties called for in the Act No. 2861/06. Also, (...) concerned that the bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure is still under consideration and does not coincide with the Code on Children and Young Persons in terms of juvenile criminal procedure.	(2) para. 16: (...) welcomes the efforts carried out by the State party in recent years to improve the allocation of resources for children. Nevertheless, (...) concerned that these are not sufficient to answer to all children's needs and that an approach based on the rights of the child is needed in the elaboration of the State's budget.	(2) para. 18: notes the efforts made by the State party to further improve data collection mechanisms, particularly through collaboration between the State party and relevant organizations. However, (...) concerned that the State party lacks a fully developed information system to produce, on a regular and timely basis, the statistics needed to draft and monitor public policy in the social sectors and that a variety of agencies and institutions generate data in an uncoordinated way. Furthermore, (...) particularly concerned that reliable, disaggregated data are not available on important areas of the CRC, such as birth certificates, child abuse, child labour, children in street situations and children deprived of their liberty.	NA

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137	Peru 2016	(2) para. 27: While noting the measures taken (...) to address discrimination against children in marginalized (...) situations, such as the establishment of the National Commission against Discrimination (...) deeply concerned about: (a) The persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes that discriminate against girls, resulting in a high prevalence of violence against girls; (b) The prevalence of structural discrimination against certain groups of children, including indigenous and Afro-Peruvian children, children living in rural and remote areas, and in poverty, LGBTI children and CWDs, in particular regarding their access to education and other basic services, such as health care.	(2) para. 29: notes the legal recognition of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration. Nevertheless, (...) concerned at reports that the right has not been consistently applied in practice, particularly in administrative and judicial decisions.	(2) para. 31: While welcoming the efforts of the State party to create child participation spaces, including the establishment of the Children's Consultative Council (...) concerned that the opinions voiced in those forums are not sufficiently taken into consideration in decision-making processes. (...) also concerned about the State party's intention to subject the right of children to participate (...) to parental authority in the revised Code on Children and Adolescents. (...) concerned at reports that children are rarely consulted in relevant administrative or judicial proceedings and not readily accommodated/ recognized in the home, schools and communities, e.g. owing to, traditional and cultural conceptions.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of the following legislative measures; para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on legislation; para. 7: welcomes that articles 193-199 of the Code on Children and Adolescents were repealed in September 2015. Nevertheless (...) concerned that the process of revising the Code has been delayed and that several provisions of the Code do not comply fully with the CRC, in particular as regards the child protection system, child participation, adoption and juvenile justice. (...) also concerned that the "begging bill" continues to be in force.	(2) para. 13: welcomes that the State party increased its budgetary resources to implement children's rights and developed a tool for the classification and monitoring of public investment in children. (...) concerned about: (a) The imbalanced distribution of resources among the different sectors, such as child protection and participation; (b) The lack of information on budgetary resources for children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including indigenous children; (c) The high corruption index in the State party and its negative impact on public resources, including resources allocated for children.	(2) para. 15: While noting the significant efforts made by the State party to collect and analyse data on children, (...) concerned that data are not sufficiently disaggregated and consolidated, which may constitute an obstacle for an adequate understanding and assessment of the situation of children in vulnerable and marginalized situations.	(2) para. 21: While noting that the State party cooperates with civil society in several areas relating to children's rights, (...) expresses deep concern at reports of physical attacks and arrests of journalists and human rights defenders in the State party, especially those who defend the rights of communities, including children, affected by mining and hydroelectric projects

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138	Philippines 2009	(2) para. 10: insufficient follow-up to previous CO on discrimination against children born out of wedlock; para. 29: noting efforts by the State party to eliminate discrimination against children, reiterates concern at discrimination faced by many, in particular children living in poverty, CWD, indigenous and minority children, incl. Muslim children living in Mindanao, migrant and street children, and children living in rural areas and in conflict areas, as regards their access ... to social and health services and education; remains concerned at the de facto discrimination still affecting the girl child ... mainly due to societal attitudes; concern that children born out of wedlock still face discriminatory practices such as their classification as "illegitimate" and their restricted right to inherit.	NA	(2) para. 35: notes with appreciation the initiatives and efforts ... to promote respect for the views of the child, such as the adoption of the National Framework for Children's Participation and the involvement of children at both local and national levels, including through the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Student Councils in schools; welcomes the consultation meetings held with children and children's organizations during the drafting process of the State party's report to the Committee ..., to allow them to express their views and formulate recommendations; concerned that it is still generally difficult for children, in particular minority and indigenous children, to be heard ... and that their right to be heard in proceedings affecting them may be limited.	(2) para. 11: noting a number of legislative initiatives in the State party, remains concerned at the lack of legislation with regard to the prohibition of corporal punishment, the prohibition of torture and the status of children born out of wedlock; also notes the fairly advanced general legal framework adopted by the State party but it remains concerned at the lack of implementation and legal enforcement of legislation pertaining to children, especially the 1992 Child Protection Act (Republic Act 7610).	(2) para. 19: welcomes the various poverty reduction strategies and initiatives targeting low-income families and aimed at attaining the MDGs and the World Fit for Children Goals; notes with concern that the budgetary allocations for children's social services, health services and education have decreased in terms of % of the national budget; reiterates its deep concern at the fact that the State party allocates more than 30% of its national budget to debt service-interest payment and that the share allocated to debt servicing has increased over the last years; also concerned at the negative impact corruption may have on the allocation of already limited resources to effectively improve the promotion and protection of children's rights.	(2) para. 23: acknowledges the State party's efforts to improve its data collection system and welcomes, in particular, the development by the CWC of the Subaybay Bata Monitoring System (SBMS), linked to the major national government agencies, the development of 143 indicators for the seven major clusters of child rights, as well as the publication of Annual State of the Filipino Children Reports; reiterates its concern at the lack of disaggregated data by region, gender and age and at the insufficient data on children in need of special protection, in particular, children living in extreme poverty, abused and neglected children, children in conflict with the law and children belonging to minorities and indigenous groups.	(3) para. 28: welcomes the State party's collaboration with a high number of national and international NGOs in the promotion of the CRC and in the delivery of services and programmes for children and notes that these INGOs and NGOs are often consulted in actions taken by the Government; encourages the State party to continue to strengthen its cooperation with civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations, and ensure cooperation on a broad level in all areas related to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

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139	Poland 2015	(2) para. 16: appreciates the ... efforts to combat discrimination. However ... concerned that: (a) There is no comprehensive law on prohibition of discrimination on all grounds, in all aspects of life and in all forms ...; (b) Gender stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society persist; (c) Children belonging to ethnic, religious, linguistic and other minority groups, including Roma, Arab, Asian and African descendants, Muslims, Jews, non-citizens, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children face discrimination ...; (d) Incidents of racial violence and abuse ... are increasing, as are acts of xenophobia and homophobia.	NA	NA	NA	(1) para. 12: concerned that there is no system to identify budget allocations and spending on children by specific ministries to enable the assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of public expenditure for children.	(2) para. 14: While noting with appreciation the system of data collection in the State party ... remains concerned that the national data collection system does not encompass all areas of the CRC, and that there is a scarcity of disaggregated data on children under the age of 5 years as well as on children in the justice system, including child victims and witnesses.	NA

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140	Portugal 2019	(2) para. 16: While welcoming the adoption of Law No. 93/2017 to prevent and combat discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, colour, nationality, descent and country of origin and of the national strategy for equality and non-discrimination (2018–2030), (...) recalls previous COs (para. 26) and recommends that the State party strengthen efforts to raise awareness among the public and civil servants, as well as law enforcement officials, on the importance of cultural diversity and inter-ethnic understanding, in order to combat stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination against girls, CWDs, children in migration, those of ethnic, religious and racial minorities, including Roma, people of African descent and Muslim children, as well as LGBT adolescents and intersex children.	(2) para. 17: welcomes the translation into Portuguese and the dissemination of its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, as well as the integration of the BIs into legislation on adoption, self-determination of gender identity and on custody in case of divorce. (...) concerned, however, at the continued absence of legislation on and guidelines for the determination and application of the BIs in justice, health care, child protection, care placement, immigration, asylum procedures and education. (...) moreover concerned that this lack of guidance may result in contradictory interpretations of the law and decisions by different instances.	(2) para. 20: Welcoming the integration of the right of the child to be heard into legislation on the civil protection process, including through Law No. 141/2015, and the norms relating to health procedures, and recommends to: (a) Expand the right of the child to be heard in all civil, administrative and criminal judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child; (b) Ensure the effective and consistent implementation of legislation and regulations recognizing the right of the child to be heard in all legal proceedings directly or indirectly impacting them (...); (c) Reinforce measures to ensure that professionals (...) dealing with children systematically receive appropriate training on hearing and taking into account children's views (...).	(2) para. 3: welcomes the progress achieved by the State party in various areas. (...) notes with appreciation also the legislative (...) measures adopted to implement the CRC, in particular the revision of legislation on the promotion and protection of children and youth at risk and the restructuring of the national mechanism in charge of planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of actions to promote the rights and the protection of children and youngsters. para. 6: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/PRT/CO/3-4, para. 10) and recommends that the State party take all measures necessary for implementing its legislation in compliance with the Convention at the national, provincial and municipal levels, including the allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources.	(1) para. 10: recalls previous COs (para. 16), recommends to: (a) Assess the impact of the austerity policies implemented under its economic adjustment programme (2011–2014) on the rights of children and determine the budget requirements to address the disparities in indicators related to children's rights, taking into consideration the guiding principles on human rights impact assessments of economic reforms (A/HRC/40/57); (b) Utilize a child-rights approach in the elaboration of the State budget by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and use of resources for children; (c) Define sufficient budgetary lines for all children, especially those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations (...).	(1) 11. (...) recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/PRT/3-4, para. 18) and recommends to: (a) Expedite the reform of its data-collection system in order to ensure the coordinated collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, migration status and socioeconomic background and that it covers the entire period of childhood up to the age of 18, as well as all areas of the Convention; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are 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 (...).	NA

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141	Qatar 2017	(2) para. 5: state is revisiting its reservation concerning art. 2 CRC; para. 13: recognizes that the State party has initiated steps to expand education for girls, improve their safety and protect them against violence, but remains deeply concerned that they continue to be subject to multiple gender-based discrimination from the earliest stages of life; para. 15: remains concerned that children born out of wedlock, CWDs and children of migrant workers continue to be subject to persistent discrimination in the State party.	(2) para. 17: concerned that many of the criteria contained in the State party's legislation to determine the BIs of the child refer to conditions that must be fulfilled by adults rather than to the BIs of the child in each particular case. (...) recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children.	(2) para. 18: recommends that the State party: (a) Further strengthen its efforts to inform all children of their rights under the CRC with the aim of allowing them to express their views and facilitating informed decision-making on their part; (b) Ensure that children's views are given due consideration in courts, schools, relevant administrative and other processes concerning children and in the home through, inter alia, the adoption of appropriate legislation, the training of parents and professionals working with and for children, and the development of operational procedures or protocols for such professionals (...).	(2) para. 6: Noting that the adoption of the bill on the rights of the child announced during the previous review, held in 2009, has yet to be concluded, (...) reiterates its previous CO (see CRC/C/QAT/CO/2, para. 12) and urges the State party, as a matter of priority, to review the bill in order to ensure that it is fully in line with the CRC and to take all appropriate measures to expedite its adoption and ensure its effective implementation.	NA	(2) para. 8: recommends that the State party continue to strengthen its mechanisms for data collection and ensure that the data and indicators are 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 (see CRC/C/QAT/CO/2, para. 18).	NA

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142	Republic of Korea 2019	(2) para. 16: Welcoming the measures taken to support children in disadvantaged situations. Remains concerned that the adoption of a draft anti-discrimination act has been hampered since 2007. Concerned that: (a) Discrimination of rural children, economically disadvantaged children, CWDs, migrant, multicultural, and refugee children from the DPRK in getting their birth registered and in accessing childcare facilities, education, health care, welfare, leisure and State protection; (b) Achievement-based discrimination is widespread in schools; (c) Single-parent families face prejudice (...); (d) Cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation are persistent, [which] the State acknowledged by stating that its policies regarding young LGBTI persons is inadequate (CRC/C/ KOR/5-6, para. 36).	(2) para. 18: welcomes the establishment of the child impact assessment system. (...) recalls its previous COs to integrate, consistently interpret and apply the BIs as a primary consideration in all relevant proceedings, decisions, policies and programmes. (...) also encourages the State party: (a) To expand the application of the child impact assessment system, with the participation of a wide range of children; (b) To develop procedures and criteria for determining the BIs in every area and for giving that principle due weight as a primary consideration.	(2): para. 21: notes that the draft family litigation act (2017) extends the right to be heard to children under 13. (...) regrets (...) that children's participation remains optional, is limited to certain topics and is conditional on academic performance and that children's views are rarely taken into account. (...) Urges the State party to ensure that children's views are given due consideration in the family, in schools, in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes concerning them, including by: (a) Ensuring that all children at school have the opportunity to express their views regardless of academic performance; (b) Ensuring that the Child Welfare Act provides for the right of children to express their views freely in all matters affecting them (...).	(2) para. 7: While welcoming the ruling of the Constitutional Court of 11 April 2019 declaring the ban on abortion unconstitutional and requiring the Government to review its legislation on abortion by 2020, (...) urges the State party to ensure that this legislation is aligned with the principle of the best interests of the child. (...) also recommends that the State party strengthen the knowledge of the judiciary, prosecutors and lawyers on the Convention and their capacity to invoke and directly apply it in court proceedings.	(2) para. 10: While welcoming the budgetary increase in the areas of education, early childhood and child welfare projects and the introduction of child and youth participatory budgeting practices, (...) regrets that the State's child-related budget has not grown proportionately to its gross domestic product (GDP). (...) urges the State: (a) To allocate adequate financial, human and technical resources, at all levels of government (...); (b) To increase budget allocations for children and overall social expenditure proportionately to its GDP and reduce disparities between municipalities; (c) To introduce budgetary allocations for children in disadvantaged situations; (d) To enhance child participation in budgeting (...).	(1) para. 11: urges the State party to establish a centralized system for the collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, geographic location, ethnic and national origin, socioeconomic and migration backgrounds, on all areas of the Convention.	NA

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143	Republic of Moldova 2017	(2) para. 15: noting the efforts of the State party in preventing and combating discrimination (...), recommends that the State party: (a) Intensify efforts to ensure the effective elimination of any form of discrimination against CWDs, children belonging to ethnic minorities, in particular Roma children, LGBTI children, and other groups of children in vulnerable situations, including children living in poverty, children remaining behind while their parents migrate abroad, and children in street situations. Such measures should include, among other things, the modification of relevant laws, continued training on police sensitivity and responsiveness to minorities, and awareness-raising campaigns and education, especially at the community level and in schools;	(2) para. 16: recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children, including alternative care, adoption and juvenile justice. In this regard, the State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 17: While welcoming various initiatives aimed at increasing child participation (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Take measures to ensure the adoption and effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant (...) proceedings; (b) Develop toolkits for public consultation on national policy (...); (c) Continue to (...) promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community and schools (...); (d) Expand the technical assistance project implemented in the child protection systems in 11 districts (...).	(2) para. 6: reiterates its recommendation to the State party to further develop a comprehensive legislative framework, fully compatible with the principles and provisions of the CRC, and ensure the effective implementation of child-related laws at the national, regional and local levels.	(2) para. 9: Noting the impact of the financial-economic situation in the State party, (...) strongly recommends that the State party: (a) Further increase budget allocations for the implementation of the rights recognized in the CRC, ensure a more balanced and equitable distribution of resources throughout the State party, including at the local level for social services; (b) Utilize a child rights-oriented budgeting process, which specifies clear allocations to children in the relevant sectors and agencies (...); (c) Define strategic budgetary lines for all children, including those who may require social measures, and ensure their protection in times of financial crisis, especially with respect to health and education;	(2) para. 10: While noting the efforts of the State party to collect data on children, including the Multiple Indicator Cluster, and Child Labour Surveys, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Expediently improve its data collection system, including establishing a centralized system covering all areas of the Convention (...). The data should cover all areas of the CRC and be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin, migration status and socioeconomic background; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are shared among the ministries concerned and used.	(1) para. 13: recommends that the State party systematically involve civil society, including non-governmental organizations and children's organizations, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to children's rights.

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144	Romania 2017	(2) para. 16: noting the information provided by the State party on two orders aimed at preventing school segregation and law No. 331/2015 amending the asylum legislation, (...) remains deeply concerned that: (a) Roma children; CWDs; asylum-seeking and refugee children; LGBTI children; and children living in remote rural areas continue to face discrimination with regard to access to education, health care, employment and a decent standard of living; (b) Girls continue to be subject to multiple gender-based discrimination, particularly when they are in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, and are more exposed to violence and exclusion.	(1) para. 18: reiterates its previous CO (see CRC/C/ROM/CO/4, para. 29) and recommends that the State party ensure that new legislation is assessed against children's BIs and that it review the training of professionals working with and for children to ensure that the principle of the BIs of the child is clearly understood and properly implemented.	(1) para. 20: recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that children's views are given due consideration, (...) in the family, at schools, in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes through, inter alia, the adoption of appropriate legislation, training of professionals, establishment of specific activities at school and general awareness-raising; (b) Provide additional support to the National Students Council to increase its capacity to facilitate children's participation at the local, county and national levels; (c) Ensure that legislation allows and supports adolescents in organizing themselves in associations and formal groups.	(1) para. 6: recommends that the State party take all necessary measures for proper implementation of its legislation and ensure that sufficient human, technical and financial resources are provided for the implementation of legislation.	(1) para. 9: concerned that the State party's budgeting process fails to provide specifically for transparent budgetary allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including for indicators and tracking systems at all levels, as well as targeted budgetary allocations for children in marginalized and vulnerable situations, such as Roma children, CWDs and children in rural areas. (...) also concerned that despite recent economic growth, the State party fails to provide adequate allocations for health, education and social protection.	(2) para. 11: reiterates its previous recommendation (see CRC/C/ROM/CO/4, para. 18) and further recommends that the State party expeditiously improve its data-collection system, ensuring that it covers all areas of the CRC and that the data are disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, socioeconomic background and migratory status, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability, including Roma children, as well as impact assessments of the measures taken, and ensure access to the existing data.	(1) para. 14: calls on the State party to effectively involve civil society, including non-governmental organizations and children's organizations, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies, plans and programmes related to children's rights and to develop a transparent system of contracting civil society organizations for the delivery of social services to complement the Government's efforts.

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145	Russian Federation 2014	(1) para. 10: concerned that the National Children's Strategy 2012–2017 does not cover ... discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children from minority groups; para. 22: concerned that no anti-discrimination legislation has been adopted ... also concerned that discrimination continues to be prevalent against children in marginalized and isadvantaged situations, such as children: belonging to minority groups, Roma, of migrant workers and of stateless persons, girls in the North Caucasus and children who are not ... permanent residents. ... particularly concerned about the increasing number of children joining nationalist movements which are involved in hate crimes against minority groups; para. 24: LGBTI children.	(2) para. 26: notes the State party's information that the obligation to take into consideration the interests of the child in all initiatives involving children has been set out in its legislation ... concerned that the State party's legislation refers to the "legitimate interests of the child", which is not equivalent in scope to "the best interests of the child", the State entities for child protection (tutorship and guardianship bodies) assess only the general physical safety of children and do not assess their emotional and psychological needs, the ongoing "anti-juvenile" campaign reportedly prioritizes the interests of parents over the interests of their children.	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all necessary measures to address those recommendations contained in the previous CO that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented and, in particular, it urges the State party to make further efforts to ensure the implementation of the principle of respect for the views of the child. In this connection, particular emphasis should be placed on the right of every child, including children who are members of vulnerable and minority groups, to participate in the family, at school, in other institutions and bodies and in society at large. That right should also be incorporated in all laws, judicial and administrative decisions, policies and programmes relating to children	(2) para. 8: welcomes the numerous positive legislative developments ... in the areas of preventing violence against children, child trafficking and birth registration ... concerned about legislative acts ... that have a negative impact on the rights of children, in particular in the areas of deinstitutionalization, adoption and non-discrimination, among others; para. 26: notes the State party's information that the obligation to take into consideration the interests of the child in all initiatives involving children has been set out in its legislation; para. 49: notes the new law laying the foundations of social services, which allows for social services to be provided to families with children with disabilities free of charge and mostly in the place of their residence (at home)	(2) para. 14: notes the information provided by the State party that the budget is divided up by sector (department) ... concerned that there are no targeted budget allocations for children, especially children in disadvantaged situations, such as children of migrant workers, including irregular migrant workers, and children who do not possess permanent residence registration (propiska)	(1) para. 7: urges the State party to take all necessary measures to address those recommendations contained in the previous CO that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented and, in particular, it urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to establish a comprehensive and permanent mechanism within the national statistical system to collect data, disaggregated by sex, age, rural and urban area, nationality and ethnic origin, incorporating all the areas covered by the CRC and covering all children below the age of 18 years, with emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable.	(1) para. 18: expresses its deep concern at the 2012 Federal Act regarding the regulation of activities of non-commercial organizations performing the function of foreign agents, which requires that organizations receiving financial support from sources outside the State party register and identify themselves publicly as "foreign agents" ... expresses its deep concern at recent amendments to the Criminal Code that expanded the definition of the crime of State treason to include "providing financial, technical, advisory or other assistance to a foreign State or international organization ... directed at harming Russia's security" and which are used against organizations working on children's rights

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146	Rwanda 2013	(2) para. 21: welcomes the State's efforts ... such as the revision of all discriminatory provisions against women ... also welcomes the ... policies and strategies focusing on specific categories of children in disadvantaged situations, such as the National Policy for OVCs ... remains concerned at the stigma and persistent discrimination faced by persons who were born as a result of rape during the genocide, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and CWD, especially girls. ... also deeply concerned about continued discrimination against children living in poverty, in street situations and child-headed households, children in residential care, orphans, and children from minority Batwa or 'historically marginalized communities' with regard to their access to social services, health care and education.	NA	(2) para. 23: notes the establishment and promotion of the yearly National Children's Summit since 2004. Nevertheless, ... concerned that due to traditional attitudes and resistance, respect for the views of the child remains limited within the family, in schools and village councils. ... further concerned that mechanisms for facilitating meaningful and empowered participation of children with disabilities, without parental care or from marginalized communities, such as Batwa, in legislative, policy and programme development processes which impact on them, are almost non-existent.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of certain legislation; para. 9: notes with concern that the implementation of national legislation related to the promotion and protection of the rights of children remains weak and inconsistent in the State party; para. 27: absence of legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment in alternative care settings; para. 60: lack of clarity in the definition of child labour, specifically in legislation covering domestic work by young workers	(1) para. 11: concern that implementation of the Integrated Child Rights Policy and its Strategic Plan in 2011 is ... hampered by the lack of clear and adequate budgetary allocations; para. 15: While noting the positive response of the development partners towards supporting efforts of the State party to fulfil children's rights, ... concerned that reliance on donors to implement the various activities ... could affect continuity and sustainability. ... also concerned about the absence of mechanisms to assess the impact of budgetary allocations for children; para. 17: seriously concerned that the Child Rights Observatory under the National Commission for Human Rights lacks adequate human and financial resources.	(2) para. 8: notes the progress made in the area of data collection; para. 29: The State party's report lacks comprehensive statistical data on violence against children; para. 36: regrets the lack of reliable and comprehensive data on the situation of child-headed households, community-based services for child-headed households and family-based care for children without parental care, such as foster care and kinship care; para. 52: lack of disaggregated data on enrolment and retention rates of children in vulnerable situations; para. 56: absence of official information and disaggregated data on Batwa children.	(1) para. 19: expresses deep concern over reported threats, harassment, intimidation and arrests of human rights defenders, including journalists in the State party which has greatly reduced the scope for Rwandan organizations to report, inter alia, on children's rights violations and thereby contribute to the realisation of children's rights in the State party. ... also notes with concern that some relevant NGOs working in the field of children's rights do not have the opportunity to participate in the development of laws, policies and strategies on children.

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147	Samoa 2016	(2) para. 24: notes that the State party's Constitution provides protection from discrimination on various grounds. (...) concerned, however, that children continue to face de jure and de facto discrimination on the basis of gender and disability.	NA	(2) para. 26: welcomes the establishment of the Samoa National Youth Council and the passing of key legislation that gives children the right to be heard in judicial court proceedings. (...) still concerned, however, that the Council lacks adequate financial and human resources for its effective functioning and that traditional attitudes may limit children's right to freely express their views within their family, in schools and in the community.	(2) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of specified legislative measures; para. 8: welcomes the establishment, in 2008, of the Samoa Law Reform Commission, the Commission's work on the legislative compliance review undertaken of the CRC and the preparation of the strategic policy brief to address policy gaps and legislative harmonization. (...) concerned, however, that some legislation, in particular the Infants Ordinance of 1961 and the Youth Offenders Act of 2007, still has to be harmonized with the CRC. (...) also notes that the State party intends to adopt the Child Care and Protection Bill by the end of 2016.	(2) para. 14: While noting that the budget allocations to sector ministries dealing with children have increased, (...) concerned that the budget line for services aimed at the protection of children is the smallest within the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. (...) also concerned at the insufficient financial assistance available to non-governmental organizations providing services to children.	(2) para. 16: welcomes a number of statistical indicators included in the 2011 census conducted by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics, as well as the inter-agency referral system for children at risk of harm, the 2015 international independent assessment guidelines for the management of information and a number of nationwide surveys targeting children, in particular the baseline report of 2013. (...) notes that the Child Protection Information System was developed in 2007, but regrets that it has not been more widely used and that it lacks resources and funding to function.	NA

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148	San Marino 2003	(2) para. 12: while noting that discrimination is prohibited under the Declaration of Citizens' Rights and of the Fundamental Principles of the San Marino Constitutional Order, remains concerned that no criminal law provisions exist to combat racism and discrimination etc.	(2) para. 15: noting the efforts undertaken by the State party, the Committee is concerned that a general principle of the CRC, as laid down in art. 3 (best interests of the child), is not fully applied and duly integrated into the implementation of the policies and programmes of the State party.	(2) para. 15: noting the efforts undertaken by the State party, the Committee is concerned that a general principle of the CRC, as laid down in art. 12 (respect for the view of the child), is not fully applied and duly integrated into the implementation of the policies and programmes of the State party.	(2) para. 4: welcomes Act No. 36 of 26 February 2002 which has changed the system of the sources of law in the State party by considering general international law as an integral part of its constitutional order and notes that new laws have been adopted by the State party to harmonize the existing legislation with the CRC, but remains concerned that domestic legislation still does not fully reflect the CRC principles; further concerned that ius commune is still the predominant rule, which may not always be conducive to the realization of children's rights.	NA	(1) para. 21: concerned at the lack of any concrete statistical data and other information on the prevention and prevalence of and intervention in cases of child abuse and neglect.	

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149	Sao Tome and Principe 2013	(1) para. 6: insufficient follow-up to previous CO recommending in-depth revision of all legislation in order to fully guarantee the application of the principle of non-discrimination; para. 48: concerned at the stigma, discrimination and resulting obstacles to services and education to which pregnant teenagers ... are frequently subjected.	(2) para. 25: notes that the State party's legislation states that the courts should take into account the best interests of the child. However, ... concerned that there are inadequate guidelines and procedures, in actual practice and throughout the State party's institutions, legislative, judicial and administrative bodies, policies and programmes, for implementing the child's right to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 27: notes as positive the State party's efforts to enhance respect for the views of the child by conducting awareness-raising campaigns. However, ... remains concerned that taking into account the opinion of the child is optional, not mandatory, in its legal framework. Furthermore, ... concerned that the Children's Parliament has only been convened twice.	(2) para. 8: While noting that the State party has attempted to reform its national legislation to ensure compliance with the CRC ... shares the State party's concern that the reforms are inadequate to address the urgent need to fully integrate the provisions of the CRC into national legislation.	(2) para. 10: deeply concerned that previous CO on the importance of allocating sufficient resources to the National Child Rights Committee ... was not followed up as this body ceased to operate in November 2012, due to inadequate human, technical and financial resources; para. 13: welcomes the recent increases in the State party's budgetary allocations for health and education. However, ... concerned that: (a) The overall amount of resources allocated to social protection remains inadequate; ... (c) Current mechanisms and procedures for the allocation of resources for CRC implementing do not adequately take into account specific local needs.	(2) para. 15: notes the State party's ongoing efforts to improve its data collection, including through the establishment of the National Statistics Institute under the Ministry of Planning and Development. However, ... remains concerned about the severe absence of disaggregated data, especially in the areas of child protection, violence against children, neglect and children living in poor families. ... also concerned about the lack of effective data-sharing among the State party's ministries.	(1) para. 7: lack of follow-up to previous CO, ... in particular ... recommends and urges the State party ... to involve civil society in the preparation and implementation of the strategy and national plan of action.

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150	Saudi Arabia 2016	(1) para. 15: expresses deep concern that, in spite of the repeated recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, the State party still does not recognize girls as full subjects of rights and continues to severely discriminate against them in law and in practice and to impose on them a system of male guardianship that conditions their enjoyment of most of the CRC's rights (...) upon the agreement of a male guardian. (...) remains concerned that children of Saudi mothers and non-Saudi fathers, LGBTI children, CWDs, children born out of wedlock, children of migrant workers and children belonging to Shia and other religious minorities remain subjected to persistent discrimination	(1) para. 19: that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not always respected, as in matters relating to family law or the imposition of norms and religious traditions.	(1) para. 22: In view of the persistence of traditional attitudes towards children in society, in particular towards girls, which limit their right to express their views and to have those views taken into account, (...) draws the State party's attention to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard.	(2) para. 4: notes the various legislative, institutional and policy measures adopted to implement the CRC, especially the adoption of the Child Protection Act and the Protection from Abuse Act, as well as their implementing regulations, in 2014; para. 7: Noting that the comprehensive review of the legislation relating to children announced during the last review, held in 2006, has yet to be concluded, that judges rule on the basis of their personal interpretation of religion and that the State party's legislation lacks a child-rights perspective and reflects a vision of the child as an object of protection rather than a subject of rights.	(1) para. 9: Reiterating its concern about the lack of a system to identify and track budget allocation and spending for children;	(1) para. 10: Given the very limited data provided by the State party in its periodic report and in its replies to the Committee's list of issues, and given the insufficient progress made to establish a data-collection system, (...) reiterates its recommendation that the State party strengthen its system for collecting disaggregated data that can be used to assess progress achieved in the realization of children's rights and to help design policies to implement the CRC.	(1) para. 12: reminds the State party that human rights defenders deserve protection as their work is critical for the promotion of human rights for all, including children.

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151	Senegal 2016	(2) para. 23: While noting the anti-discrimination provisions contained in the constitutional, legislative and policy framework of the State party, (...) expresses its concern that discrimination against certain groups of children still exists in law and in practice. (...) also notes with concern that almost no systematic measures have been taken, including with religious leaders, opinion makers and the mass media, to combat and change the discriminatory laws, attitudes and practices.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the inclusion of the BIs principle into the National Strategy on Child Protection and other action plans and associated tools, and notes that the right of the child to have his/her BIs taken as a primary consideration is explicitly set out in the draft Children's Code. (...) concerned that this right remains insufficiently addressed, and inconsistently interpreted and applied, in family households, schools, courts and other institutions working with or for children. (...) also concerned that there is a lack of concrete information on the way in which BIs are considered in governmental programmes and policies and in all legislative, administrative and judicial decision-making.	(2) para. 29: While noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, such as the establishment of the Children's Parliament, and of "child governments" and "child parliaments" in schools, (...) reiterates its concern that traditional societal attitudes appear to limit children's free expression of their views in the family, schools, communities, courts and other institutional settings. (...) also concerned about the minimum age, set at 15, for a child to be heard in court.	(2) notes the progress made by the State party in bringing domestic law into compliance with the CRC. It also notes that the draft Children's Code, which encompasses all legislation related to children's rights, has been finalized and submitted for adoption. However, remains concerned by the inadequate enforcement of legislation, especially in remote and rural areas, and by the continuous impact of traditional and customary attitudes and practices which hamper the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 13: notes as positive the increased budget allocation for education and health, as well as the State party's plans to revise its public expenses to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources among the different regions. However, (...) expresses its concern about the inadequate and significantly reduced financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, Family and Children under the 2015 budget law.	(2) para. 15: notes the efforts of the State party to improve the data collection system, including by developing a childhood database with established indicators and by adopting the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2014-2019. Nevertheless, (...) remains concerned that the current data collection mechanism is insufficient to ensure the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children, particularly children in vulnerable situations, for monitoring and evaluating progress achieved and assessing the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.	NA

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152	Serbia 2017	(2) para. 3: welcomes the progress made (...) in various areas since its previous review, including the adoption of the national strategy for the prevention of and protection against discrimination (2013-2018); para. 22: welcomes the initiatives introduced (...) to address discrimination, particularly against Roma children. (...) concerned about: (a) The persistent discrimination against Roma children in all areas of life (...); (b) The fact that Roma children, as well as CWDs, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children, minority children, children living in remote areas, children in street situations, children with HIV/AIDS, and LGBT children, continue to face discrimination with regard to access to education, health care and adequate housing;	(2) para. 24: welcomes the amendments to the Law on health care that were adopted in 2011 to ensure the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration, and notes the general framework established (...) to ensure that the BIs of the child are upheld as a fundamental principle of child protection. However (...) concerned about the continuing misunderstanding with respect to its meaning and the responsibilities it entails, particularly among the judiciary, and about excessively long court cases and the non-enforcement of family judgments having a negative impact on the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 28: notes as positive the ongoing efforts undertaken by the State party to ensure respect for the views of the child, including the consideration of that principle as one of the priority areas in the 2011 Law on social welfare. However, (...) concerned that traditional practices and cultural attitudes in the family, schools and certain social and judicial settings continue to impede the full realization of the rights of children to express their views freely. Children in vulnerable or marginalized situations, such as children in alternative care and CWDs, are often not consulted in matters concerning them.	(2) para. 6: welcomes the efforts made by the State party to reform legislation related to the rights of the child, (...) remains concerned at the inadequate harmonization of legislation and the absence of a comprehensive children's act noting that the reluctance to enact such an act poses a significant challenge to advancing children's rights in the State party. (...) further concerned that the Law on the means of determining the maximum number of public sector employees has a negative impact on the provision of child services in the State party.	(1) para. 12: remains concerned that in its budgeting process the State party does not stipulate budget allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies or provide for indicators and tracking systems at all levels, nor does it target budget allocations for children in marginalized and vulnerable situations, such as Roma children, CWDs, and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children.	(2) para. 14: While noting the progress that has been made in terms of gathering data through the revision of administrative data-collection processes and the introduction of new surveys, as well as the development, in 2015, of a database for monitoring Roma inclusion, (...) remains concerned that the absence of a unified centralized database has resulted in a shortage of disaggregated data on children.	NA

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153	Seychelles 2012	(2) para. 9: insufficient follow-up previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 34: welcomes the mechanisms introduced by the Ministry of Education and the Gender Secretariat of the Policy, Planning and Cooperation Division to mainstream gender in education as well as programmes to provide gender-sensitive career guidance and counselling; remains concerned about the absence of legislation combating discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children from poor families and ethnic minorities.	(2) para. 36: notes with appreciation the Children (Amendment) Act of 2005 which establishes and provides for consideration of the "interest of the child" who is the subject of the matter before the Family Tribunal; regrets that the Act is ambiguous and does not refer to the best interests of the child as contained in the CRC.	(2) para. 9: insufficient follow-up previous CO on respect for the views of the child; para. 38: noting the State party's information that there are youth councils, a National Youth Assembly, and a ten-year programme has been developed to take into account the opinion of the youth in various areas; concerned that children have limited opportunities in schools, institutions, courts, administrative processes and the home to express their views freely. In particular, children in secondary schools claim that their opinions are not taken into account in matters affecting them both in schools and in the home.	(2) para. 10: welcomes the amendment to several pieces of legislation in the area of child rights, including the Children Act, which contributes to the harmonization of national law with the provisions of the CRC; concerned that certain relevant and important legislation, such as on the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys, has not yet been amended.	(2) para. 18: notes the State party's information that budgetary allocations to programmes and services for children and families have improved; regrets that the State party did not provide any more details or figures on the allocations, while there are indications that the resources for children are inadequate.	(2) para. 22: appreciates that the State party has provided some data in relation to mortality rate, immunization, medical screenings in schools, children with disabilities, as well as in relation to children in detention, victims of sexual abuse and children involved in drug and substance abuse; concerned that there is no effective system of data collection covering all areas of the CRC which also allows for assessment, analysis and evaluation of the data; noting that the project "Child Well-Being" aims to collect data on the well-being of children in Seychelles, still concerned that it has not received any information on the progress of the whole project, including follow-up to its promising first report.	(2) para. 30: notes with appreciation the extensive involvement of civil society in the implementation of children's rights in the State party; concerned that the State party is more and more dependent on NGOs and that it delegates many of its implementation obligations under the CRC to the civil society, including NGOs, without ensuring the necessary framework or capacities for rights-based support to children.

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154	Sierra Leone 2016	(1) para. 13: recommends that the State party: (a) Finalize the review of the Constitution and ensure that its provisions on non-discrimination are in full compliance with the CRC; (b) Intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against groups of children in the most vulnerable situations, such as girls, CWDs, children living with HIV/AIDS, children orphaned as a result of Ebola and children in rural areas.	(1) para. 14: recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that the BIs principle is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children. In this regard, the State party is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority on determining the BIs of the child in every area and on giving them due weight as a primary consideration. The State party is encouraged to put in place strategies for monitoring the decisions taken.	(1) para. 15: encourages the State party to ensure that children's views are given due consideration, in accordance with article 12 of the CRC, particularly at the community level, through established networks such as village development committees and other community-based structures, as well as in the family, at schools and in relevant judicial and administrative procedures concerning children.	(2) para. 6: urges the State party to continue harmonizing all domestic legislation relating to children's rights with the CRC, including by reviewing the Child Rights Act and ensuring that the Act has precedence over all other laws. The State party should ensure that all the gaps that have been identified in other laws that concern children on issues such as trafficking, child marriage and child labour are adequately addressed.	(1) para. 8: recommends that the State party: (a) Allocate adequate budgetary resources (...) and, in particular, increase the budget allocated to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs; (b) Strengthen efforts to ensure that all line ministries adopt a child-centred budgeting approach; (c) Taking note of SDG target 16.5 on (...) reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, take immediate measures to combat corruption and strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute corruption, incl. by putting in place the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey system (...) to avoid diverting resources from CRC implementation.	(1) para. 9: recommends that the State party: (a) Allocate the necessary human and financial resources to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs for the maintenance and operationalization of the child protection information management system; (b) Collect data on all areas of the CRC, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.	(1) para. 12: recommends that the State party strengthen the capacity of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and systematically involve civil society, including NGOs and children's associations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes relating to children's rights at the local level.

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155	Singapore (advance unedited version COs) 2019	(1) para. 19: (...) concerned about the persisting discrimination, either in law or in practice or in both, against inter alia children without Singaporean citizenship, girls, CWDs, children of ethnic minorities, children of unmarried couples and children of same sex couples as well as about the lack of attention to the discrimination against LGBTI children.	(2) para. 21: While welcoming the positive measures taken to integrate the principle of the BIs such as the child-sensitive approach to child abuse victims in police investigations and hearings in Youth Courts, (...) recommends that the State strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, including the ongoing review process of the Children and Young Persons Act, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that (...) have an impact on children. (...) The State is encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for assessing and determining the BIs in every area and for giving it due weight (...).	(2) para. 22: welcomes the introduction of (...) child representatives in proceedings involving children, child access to online consultation platforms such as REACH and the establishment of forum and panel discussions which allow students to exchange ideas with political leaders and policy-makers. Refers to previous COs (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3, para. 34), (...) recommends to: (a) Strengthen its efforts to ensure that children's views are heard and given due consideration in the family, at schools, in the courts and all relevant administrative and other processes concerning children; (b) Adopt appropriate legislation, train parents and professionals working with and for children (...).	(2) para. 8: welcomes the information that the State party is continuously working to strengthen its legislation to enhance children's rights and particularly welcomes the increased protection for children proposed during the ongoing review of the Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA). (...) deeply concerned however that a planned amendment of the Penal Code, as explained in the information provided by the State party after the dialogue, does not include Section 376A (4) of the Penal Code which stipulates that a minor under 16 years of age can consent to sexual activity with his/her spouse. The section implies that a minor under 16 years of age can get married. The proposed regulation, (...) should urgently be brought in line with the provisions of the CRC.	(1) para. 11: recommends that the State party: (a) Establish a budgeting process including a child rights perspective and specifies clear allocations to children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including specific indicators and a tracking system; (b) Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated to the implementation of the Convention; (c) Define budgetary lines for all children, with special attention to those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures, and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies.	(2) para. 12: welcoming the data collected and provided by the State (...), including through the National Youth Survey, and taking note of the State's position that its current data collection is a sufficient basis for analysis and planning, (...) recalls its previous COs (see CRC/C/SGP / CO/2-3, para. 17) and recommends to: (a) Develop a standardized information system in order to facilitate analysis and cross-referencing of data, in particular with regard to cases involving child abuse, neglect, exploitation and sexual exploitation and for CWDs; (b) Take into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in the report of the OHCHR entitled Human Rights Indicators: a Guide to Measurement and Implementation (...).	(1) para. 15: Recalling its previous COs (CRC/C/SGP/CO /2-3 para. 22) (...) recommends that the State party take concrete steps to systematically involve children's organizations in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to children's rights.

BIs = Best Interests of the Child  
 COs = Concluding Observations  
 CRC = The Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSOs = Civil Society Organizations  
 CWDs = Children With Disabilities  
 HRDs = Human Rights Defenders

LGBTI = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex  
 SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals

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156	Slovakia 2016	(1) para. 15: shares the concern of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance that the implementation of the Anti-discrimination Act is not being adequately monitored and that (...) the monitoring body, does not function effectively and independently. (...) seriously concerned that: (a) Despite numerous plans and strategies, Roma children, especially in segregated settlements, continue to face multiple forms of discrimination, mainly in the fields of education, health care and standard of living, including as they relate to housing, evictions and payment of benefits; (b) Incidents of different forms of hate speech against vulnerable groups, such as the Roma, Muslims, and LGBT and I persons, including children, are increasing.	(2) para. 17: Despite recent legislative amendments to the 2005 Family Act, (...) is concerned about the interpretation of article 3 of the CRC and its implementation in the State party and about reports that the concept of best interests of the child is being increasingly misused in activities and campaigns by certain groups and misinterpreted by the media, which may compromise the rights of the child as a rights holder.	(1) para. 19: reiterates its previous COs (2007): remains concerned that the general principle of the best interests of the child (CRC art. 3) is not explicitly included in all legislative and administrative measures and programmes relevant to children.	(3) para. 4: notes with appreciation the adoption of various legislative (...) measures in response to the recommendations of the Committee.	(1) para. 8: regrets the State party's decision to cancel the priority task stipulated in the National Action Plan for Children of designing and implementing a method for tracking resources allocated from the State budget for the implementation of children's rights, with a particular emphasis on children in vulnerable situations, including Roma children, and its explanation, set out in the written replies to the list of issues, that specifying funds designated to implement the CRC is not realistic and that the voluntary provision of data on the budget through annual collection by addressing competent institutions is sufficient.	(1) para.10: reiterates its previous COs (2007): remains concerned at deficiencies in the collection and analysis of disaggregated data; concerned that the lack of such data will negatively impact the ability of the State to accurately assess the situation of marginalized populations (...); observes nevertheless that such data has been collected in certain situations, such as criminal proceedings; moreover, concerned that the State's policy (...) hampers the adequate collection and analysis of reliable disaggregated data on vulnerable groups, inter alia, the Roma community.	(1) para. 13: concerned that civil society: (a) Reports difficulties in cooperating with the State party's authorities on promoting innovative practices in the field of child protection and in providing social services for children and families; (b) Considers that State and municipal and regional subsidies for non-governmental organizations, especially those providing social services, are insufficient.

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157	Slovenia 2013	(2) para. 7: insufficient follow-up to previous CO; para. 24: while being aware of legislative and policy measures adopted during the period under review to uplift Roma communities, remains seriously concerned about the persistent discrimination against Roma children in all stages of their lives, with no effective remedies for acts of discrimination committed by public and private actors; para. 26: concerned that children of same-sex couples face various forms of discrimination in school.	(2) para. 28: takes note of the information provided on the incorporation of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in national legislation as well as in the envisaged Family Code ... concerned about information received on the inadequate application of the right in courts and Social Work Centres in cases involving children deprived of a family environment ... particularly concerned about the lack of understanding of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in asylum-seeking, refugee and/or immigration detention situations. ... further concerned about the lack of procedures and criteria for the determination of the best interests of the child.	(2) para. 32: appreciates the existence of the Child Parliaments aimed at encouraging children to express their own views through a democratic process. ... however, concerned that the child parliament project is run by civil society and therefore is not provided with adequate financial support, to enable the programme to be sustainable. ... further concerned that the right of the child to be heard in legal proceedings and in the Social Work Centres is not adequately implemented in practice. In this respect, ... particularly concerned about the overreliance of family departments on experts' opinions while insufficient weight is given to the views of the children concerned.	(2) para. 8: notes the adoption of various child-related legislative measures during the period under review. ... however, regrets the continued absence of a consolidated child law that would incorporate all the CRC provisions into the State party's national legislation.	(2) para. 14: appreciates the considerable allocation of resources for health, education and social services. ... however concerned that the 2012 Fiscal Balance Act has had an adverse impact on the enjoyment of child rights under the CRC. ... also concerned about the absence of a child right's perspective in the budgeting process, as well as mechanisms for the identification, tracking and protection of strategic budget lines to ensure children's rights.	(2) para. 16: While welcoming the creation of a Child Observatory to monitor the situation of children in Slovenia and establishing a separate database for children in 2004, ... concerned that the data are not sufficiently disaggregated for all areas covered by the CRC, particularly with regard to children belonging to minority groups including Roma children, children with disabilities, migrant children, refugee and asylum-seeking children.	(1) para. 22: concerned about the limited cooperation with civil society in all aspects of CRC implementation despite its previous recommendation. ... further concerned about the limited resources allocated to NGOs and also to children's organizations in the State party. This contributes to a narrowing of their scope for action and limits long-term planning; para. 39: concern about the absence of a consolidated data system on children at risk of abuse or neglect; para. 58: data on how many Roma children are living in poverty, have access to adequate housing, and to safe drinking water, are not collected; para. 69: concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on economic exploitation in the State party report.

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158	Solomon Islands 2003	(1) para. 21: concerned that there continues to be widespread discrimination against women and girls and that girls are underrepresented in schools; that the principle of non-discrimination is not adequately implemented for children of some ethnic minorities and of economically disadvantaged households, children living in remote islands, children born out of wedlock and children with disabilities, especially with regard to their access to adequate health care and educational facilities.	(1) para. 24: concerned that although it is contained in some statutes relating to children's issues, the principle of the best interests of the child is not defined in legislation and not implemented by the State party or reflected in policy, programmes or activities.	(1) para. 26: concerned that the principle of respect for the views of the child is not expressly provided for in the State party's legislation and that in practice, children's views are not systematically sought and taken into consideration with regard to decisions that may affect them.	(2) para. 5: notes that a child rights bill is being drafted in order to bring legislation into line with the provisions and principles of the CRC.	(2) para. 13: notes that at the time the State party report was written (2000), education and health services were receiving the largest and second-largest allocations from the national budget, but that since then funds have been diverted from these sectors to the point where some schools and hospitals have had to shut down; also concerned that in light of CRC art. 4, not enough attention has been paid to allocating budgetary resources "to the maximum extent of ... available resources" for the implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 15: concerned at the severe lack of an adequate data collection mechanism within the State party to facilitate the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.	NA
159	Somalia - acceded to the CRC on 1 October 2015, no CO available							

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160	South Africa 2016	(1) para. 23: concerned at the discrimination faced by girls, children living with HIV/AIDS, CWDs, indigenous children, stateless children, migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children, children in street situations, LGBTI children and children with albinism in accessing basic services and child protection services, and at their heightened exposure to violence, abuse and harassment. (...) also concerned at the serious divide in access to basic services and an adequate standard of living in the country on the basis of race, geography and economic status, with a disproportionate disadvantage for children living in rural areas and in urban informal settlements.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the explicit recognition in the legislation of the State party that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child, and the excellent jurisprudence of the judiciary on the application of this right in concrete situations. However, (...) concerned at the lack of procedures to evaluate the collective impact of relevant laws and policies on the realization of this right.	(2) para. 29: While noting the efforts made in this area, (...) concerned that the participation of children in public decision-making on issues that affect children is not systematically guaranteed.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of a number of new legislative acts and institutional and policy measures related to children's rights since its last review, including the Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005) and the Child Justice Act (Act No. 75 of 2008), which are largely in line with the CRC; para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO (2000) on legislation: concerned about remaining inconsistencies with CRC, especially of customary law.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO (2000) on budgetary allocations; para. 11: welcomes the overall increase in public expenditure related to education, health, social protection and juvenile justice (...) concerned at: (a) The lack of a system to identify and track budget allocations and spending for children; (b) The fluctuation in the annual increase in expenditure; (c) The planned budget cut for personnel expenditure for the Department of Social Development, which may result in a scaling back of the human resources necessary to deliver services to children; (d) The lack of robust audits on public expenditure and the existence of wasteful/irregular expenditure, including corruption.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on data collection; para. 13: While appreciating the development of a strategy for the collection of disaggregated data that covers all areas of the CRC, (...) concerned that publication of the data collected under this strategy has been delayed and that comprehensive and disaggregated data remains unavailable.	(2) para. 17: notes that the Constitution guarantees access by the public to central and local legislative bodies and that civil society organizations play a key role in service delivery. However, (...) concerned at: (a) The insufficient systematic involvement of civil society organizations working on children's rights in the development of laws, policies and programmes relevant to the implementation of the CRC; (b) The limited resources made available for civil society organizations working on children's rights in service delivery.
161	South Sudan - acceded to the CRC on 23 January 2015, no CO available							

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162	Spain 2010	(2) para. 8: insufficient follow-up to previous COs on discrimination; para. 25: welcomes all efforts made by the State party to combat discrimination in its territory, particularly concerning children of Roma origin, of migrant workers, unaccompanied foreign children, and children with disabilities; welcomes, in particular, the approval of the Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration 2007-2010, aimed at guaranteeing access by migrant students to mandatory education and facilitating integration into the education system; remains concerned at the obstacles encountered by children of foreigners in irregular situations in educational and health services.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in legislation, as well as its use by judges and magistrates in decisions affecting children; remains concerned about the lack of a uniform process to determine what constitutes the best interests of the child, as well as persisting differences in each autonomous community in the understanding and application of the principle, particularly in cases relating to unaccompanied foreign children, repatriation and adoption.	(2) para. 29: welcomes the recognition in the State party's legislation of the child's right to be heard and other children's participation rights; concerned, however, that, in certain circumstances, recourse to higher courts is still necessary in order to obtain recognition for the right of a child to appear independently of his or her legal guardians in a court, in particular in judicial and administrative procedures affecting the child.	(2) para. 9: welcoming the efforts made by the State party to harmonize its legislation with the principles and provisions of the CRC, the Committee notes that the laws and regulations applied in autonomous communities differ and are not always consistent with the CRC in important areas, such as the protection of children at risk, neglected or in foster care, or the treatment of unaccompanied foreign children.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the upward trend in budgetary allocations to social sector activities up to 2008, including policies and programmes addressing children and adolescent rights; notes that difficulties in identifying specific allocations for children in the national budget continue to exist; expresses concern at the absence of children-specific items in the plans and budgets drawn up by the State to address the current crisis which is deeply affecting the State party, with an unemployment rate of some 20 per cent, and 25 per cent of children living in or at risk of poverty.	(2) para. 8: insufficient follow-up to previous Cos on data collection; recognizing the important role of the Children's Observatory in the areas of research, data analysis and collection; concerned about the fragmented approach to data collection, which does not cover all areas covered by the CRC, and which is carried out unevenly at the national and regional levels.	NA

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163	Sri Lanka 2010	(1) para. 28: expresses concern at the persistent discrimination against children belonging to the Veddha, Muslim and Tamil communities, among whom those living in tea plantations are in a particularly disadvantaged situation; concerned that discrimination also persists against girls, rural children, refugee and internally displaced children, children of overseas workers, children in institutional care and children with disabilities; expresses further concern about caste discrimination, which affects 20 to 30 per cent of the Sri Lankan population and contributes to their poor living conditions, rejection and marginalization.	(1) para. 30: notes with concern that the principle of the best interests of the child as defined in CRC art. 3 and other provisions of the CRC has not been consistently applied in legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, nor in policies and programmes relating to children.	(1) para. 34: reiterates its concern that the general principle of the right of the child to be heard (art. 12) is still absent from most of the legislations concerning children and is not applied in legislative administrative and judicial proceedings or in family, school and community settings.	(2) para. 9: welcoming the steps taken by the State party to identify inconsistencies in its legislation and harmonize it with the CRC principles and provisions as previously recommended; nevertheless notes with concern that the CRC has still not been fully domesticated in national legislation; also concerned that the enjoyment of child rights continues to be negatively affected by the application of emergency regulations and the three different sources of law: national laws, Kandyan laws and Muslim laws.	(1) para. 16: taking note of the process ... to collect ... data on expenditure for children, regrets that the system is not yet functional and that insufficient information has been provided to enable proper assessment of the allocation of resources for children; notes with concern that only 2% of the social protection budget is dedicated to children; that the State has not yet assessed the budget needs relating to social services in the districts affected by armed conflict and the tsunami; that corruption remains prevalent in the public sector ... due mainly to a lack of transparency in public financing and weak parliamentary oversight, which affects the efficiency of resources allocated and services provided for children.	(2) para. 7: insufficient implementation previous COs on data collection; para. 20: takes note of the initiatives for data collection currently being developed, primarily in the field of child protection; welcomes the indication given by the State party during the interactive dialogue that a general census of the population will be conducted in July 2011; concerned that there is no comprehensive data collection system covering all CRC areas and no adequate policy to protect the privacy of children who have been registered in the existing databases.	(1) para. 26: expresses serious concern at the reported growing pattern of NGO intimidation ... incl. threats, harassment, physical attacks and arrests, and at restrictions placed on them which greatly restrict their capacity to monitor the situation of children and to provide ... support services, especially in conflict-affected areas; ... concern that the NGO Secretariat responsible for the registration of NGOs has been placed under the authority of the Ministry of Defence, ... which may not be conducive to NGO participation in humanitarian work; further concerned at the views expressed by the State in its written replies and reiterated ... during the dialogue that NGOs do not have any barrier to their work as long as they adhere to Government policies.

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164	St. Kitts and Nevis 1999	(1) para. 17: expresses its concern that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account CRC art. 2 (non-discrimination) in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children.	(1) para. 17: expresses its concern that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account CRC art. 3 (best interests of the child) in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children.	(2) para. 17: expresses its concern that the State party does not appear to have fully taken into account CRC art. 12 (respect for the views of the child), in its legislation, its administrative and judicial decisions, as well as in its policies and programmes relevant to children; para. 18: notes the efforts made by the Early Childhood Development Unit of the Ministry of Education and the Department for Community Development to encourage the participatory rights of children in all communities; concerned that traditional practices, culture and attitudes still limit the full implementation of CRC art. 12.	(2) para. 8: notes the recent efforts by the State party to undertake a review of existing legislation regarding children and the family; concerned, however, that domestic legislation still does not fully reflect the CRC principles and provisions.	(1) para. 14: remains concerned that in light of CRC art. 4 , not enough attention has been paid to allocating budgetary resources in favour of children "to the maximum extent of ... available resources".	(1) para. 11: concerned at the lack of a data collection mechanism within the State party for the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data for all areas covered by the CRC in relation to all groups of children in order to monitor and evaluate progress achieved and assess the impact of policies adopted with respect to children.	(1) para. 12: notes with concern the lack of involvement of NGOs in the elaboration of the State party's report and the generally limited participation of civil society in CRC promotion and implementation.

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165	St. Lucia 2014	NA	(1) para. 24: concerned about the lack of information on the State party's efforts to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, and to apply that right in all legislation, administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children.	(2) para. 26: notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child through its National Youth Policy, the Youth Parliament, the National Youth Council and National Student Councils, as well as in judicial proceedings with respect to juvenile justice, custody, evidence and protection of witnesses ... concerned that respect for the views of the child is not adequately implemented in practice in all relevant areas and at the national and local levels.	(2) para. 8: notes that some of the recommendations of the Committee in its previous concluding observations are being addressed within the framework of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and that the majority of draft bills have been submitted to the Government for consideration but have not yet been adopted ... concerned at the slow rate of adoption and implementation of various child-related legislative measures relating to, inter alia, non-discrimination concerning children born out of wedlock, recognition of the role of both parents in the upbringing and development of children, abuse and neglect, family contact for children deprived of a family environment, adoption and juvenile justice.	(2) para. 14: in the light of the current financial crisis and government spending cuts, ... notes the ... efforts to allocate resources with a view to protecting the most vulnerable members of society, incl. children ... notes the Government's commitment to poverty reduction, notably through the 2009 Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan ... concerned about the negative effects of austerity measures on public spending, in particular on benefits and services provided to families with children ... also concerned about the lack of data on the proportion of budgetary allocations for the implementation of children's rights under the CRC and information on the impact of austerity measures on children in the State party.	(2) para. 16: While welcoming the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the National Population and Housing Census, as well as the introduction of the Child Health Passport, and noting that some data is collected by individual government ministries and departments and non- governmental organizations, ... concerned that there is still no comprehensive mechanism for generating, collecting, analysing and coordinating data on the various aspects of children's lives ... also concerned that data are not sufficiently disaggregated for all areas covered by the CRC.	(2) notes the establishment of the National Action Child Protection Committee (NACPC) in 2012, designated to be the coordinating body for government bodies and civil society in implementing the CRC, ... concerned that the NACPC lacks a clear mandate and the necessary authority and resources to effectively carry out its role.

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166	St. Vincent and the Grenadines 2017	(2) para. 20: notes that the Status of Children Act (2011) eliminated provisions discriminating against children born out of wedlock in matters of inheritance. However, (...) concerned that the legislation of the State party does not fully reflect the provisions of article 2 of the CRC. (...) also concerned about reports of discrimination against the following groups of children: (a) CWDs, including children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities; (b) Children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.	(2) para. 24: welcomes the explicit recognition in the Children (Care and Adoption) Act (2010) of the right of the child to have his or her BIs taken as a primary consideration and the commitment made by the delegation during the dialogue to harmonize all relevant national legislation with the CRC during 2017. However, (...) remains concerned that the term used in other pieces of legislation is “welfare of the child”, which does not fully correspond with the BIs of the child, and that children’s right to having their BIs taken as a primary consideration is not fully implemented in decisions affecting them, including in the areas of education and health.	(2) para. 28: notes with appreciation that the Children (Care and Adoption) Act (2010) explicitly includes the right of children to express their views. (...) also notes that, during the dialogue, the delegation said that the National Youth Parliament programme would be implemented. However, (...) concerned that: (a) There are no procedures or protocols in place to ensure respect for the views of the child in administrative and judicial proceedings; (b) There is no structure or programme to ensure that children are involved in regular and systematic consultations in public decision-making.	(2) para. 5: notes that some progress has been made to harmonize the State party’s legislation with the CRC, including through the proclamation of the Children (Care and Adoption) Act (2010) in 2015. However, (...) concerned that the process has been slow and that several key pieces of legislation relevant to children, including the Status of Children Act (2011), are not yet fully in line with the CRC.	(2) para. 11: notes that in 2015 the State party adopted a performance budgeting structure that made it possible to disaggregate budgetary allocations for child development and protection. Nevertheless, (...) concerned that: (a) The budget lines relating to the areas of child development and protection are insufficiently disaggregated; (b) Measures to ensure the allocation of funds for the development and protection of children in vulnerable situations, even in situations of crisis, are lacking.	(1) para. 13: reiterates its previous concluding observations (see CRC/C/15/Add.184, para. 14) and urges the State party to: (a) Establish an effective mechanism for the systematic collection of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data incorporating all the areas covered by the CRC and covering all children below the age of 18 years; (b) Make use of indicators and data in the formulation of policies and programmes for the effective implementation of the CRC; (c) Seek technical assistance from UNICEF, among others.	NA

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167	Sudan 2010	(1) para. 8: insufficient follow-up previous COs on non-discrimination; para. 29: concerned at the pronounced inequality in economic conditions between the northern and southern regions of the State party and at the discrimination experienced by Southern and non-Muslim Sudanese in all areas, including the social and political spheres, as well as ethnic discrimination; particularly concerned at the impact of this situation on the realization of the rights set out in the CRC by children belonging to these groups.	NA	(1) para. 33: in light of the predominance of traditional views on the rights of children, concerned that children's opinions are not given sufficient consideration and that respect for the views of the child within the family, at school, in the courts, before administrative authorities and in wider society remains limited.	(2) para. 9: welcomes the promulgation of the Child Act (2010); concerned, however, that the State party has yet to establish a regulatory and policy framework to effect its implementation; notes with particular concern the absence of a comprehensive body of subsidiary legislation.	(1) para. 8: insufficient follow-up previous COs on resource allocation; para. 17: concerned that financial resources allocated to the protection and promotion of children's rights are far from adequate and notes with concern the State party's information that no specific budget allocations have been made for the implementation of child rights; expresses its concern over the marginalization of social sector spending, as indicated by the considerable military expenditure in contrast to allocations for health and education.	(2) para. 19: noting the State party's information that it is in the process of establishing a national centre for child information within the National Council for Child Welfare, expresses concern at the absence of a centralized data collection system in the State party; notes that this is reflected in the lack of up-to-date, disaggregated data on many of the areas covered by the CRC, including children with disabilities, children in street situations, children infected with HIV/AIDS, child mortality and trafficking in children.	(1) para. 25: seriously concerned over the limitations placed on certain civil society organizations and regrets, in particular, the severe restrictions imposed on the operations of international and national NGOs, especially those working in the area of human rights and humanitarian assistance for children; also concerned that civil society organizations were not involved in the follow-up to the Committee's previous concluding observations or afforded adequate opportunities to present their views during the preparation of the State party's third and fourth periodic report.

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168	Suriname 2016	(1) para. 14: recommends that the State party ensure that all children in the State party enjoy equal rights under the CRC, both in law and in practice, without discrimination, and intensify efforts to ensure the effective elimination of any form of discrimination against children from Amerindian and Maroon communities, children of Haitian migrants, children living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTI children and other groups of children in marginalized situations through, among other things, awareness-raising campaigns and education, especially at the community level and in schools.	(1) para. 15: recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that the BIs principle is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislation, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions — e.g. the placement of children in alternative care and adoption — and in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children, including CWDs. In this regard, (...) encourages the State party to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the BIs of the child in every area and for giving those interests due weight as a primary consideration.	(2) para. 16: noting the adoption of the bill on Hearing Children in Judicial Proceedings in 2008 (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of (...) the child right to be heard in relevant (...) proceedings, including by establishing systems and/or procedures for social workers and courts; (b) Conduct research to identify issues that are most important to children, including by consulting children to hear their views (...) and to find out how well their voices are heard in family decisions (...) and the channels through which they (...) potentially have the most influence on national and local decision-making; (...) (e) Promote inclusive participation in the Youth Parliament.	(2) para. 4: welcomes the adoption of legislative measures to strengthen the protection of the human rights of children, in particular regarding nationality, care institutions, sexual abuse and exploitation, domestic violence, and judicial and administrative procedures; para. 6: Considering the slow rate of adoption and implementation of various child-related legislative reforms and measures necessary to fully harmonize domestic legislation with the provisions of the CRC (...) encourages the State party to expeditiously take steps to develop a comprehensive legislative framework that is fully compatible with the (...) CRC to ensure the effective implementation of child-related laws at the national, provincial and municipal levels.	(2) para. 9: While noting the increase in social protection benefits and enhanced cooperation with international development partners for financing programmes, (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Establish a budgeting process, which includes a child-rights perspective and specifies clear allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including specific indicators and a tracking system.	(2) para. 10: While noting the increased computerization of databases and the establishment of reporting systems, including the information database, SurInfo (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Expeditiously improve its data collection system to ensure that the data cover all areas of the CRC and are disaggregated, including by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, migration status and socioeconomic background.	NA

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169	Swaziland 2006	(2) para. 25: welcomes the fact that the Constitution has addressed the issue of non-discrimination, in particular with regard to persons born out of wedlock; concerned that, as noted by the State ..., national legislation is inconsistent with the non-discrimination provisions of the CRC; also concerned that de facto societal discrimination persists against vulnerable groups of children, including CWD, street children, children living in rural areas and born out of wedlock, orphans and children living in foster care and children affected by HIV/AIDS; deeply concerned at the situation of ... in particular adolescent girls who suffer marginalization and gender stereotyping, compromising their educational opportunities and who are more vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse and HIV/AIDS.	(1) para. 28: concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not given adequate attention in national legislation and policies and that awareness of its significance is low among the population.	(2) para. 30: noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to give children the opportunity to express their views in public forums; remains concerned that traditional societal attitudes appear to limit children in freely expressing their views in schools, communities or within the family, and that so-called cautionary rules limit the due weight given to their views in judicial or administrative proceedings.	(2) para. 7: welcomes the enactment of the Constitution in 2005, which includes provisions which aim at guaranteeing that children are afforded special protection. It also notes that a Children's Bill and a Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill are currently being discussed in the State party; remains concerned at the lack of a systematic and comprehensive legislative review regarding compatibility of domestic legislation, policy and practice with the CRC.	(2) para. 15: acknowledges the increase in resource allocation in the field of education. It is concerned, however, at the low allocation of budgets for the protection and promotion of children's rights, particularly in the areas of health and child protection.	(1) para. 17: shares the State party's concern at the lack of a comprehensive data collection system for, inter alia, child mortality, adolescent health, children without parental care, and children with disabilities.	(2) para. 21: appreciating the support provided to NGOs in addressing the plight particularly of vulnerable children; of the opinion that the role of civil society, and in particular that of NGOs, should be further strengthened in the promotion and implementation of the CRC.

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170	Sweden 2015	(2) para. 15: commends the State party for its efforts in addressing various forms of discrimination, including its comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, the long-term strategy to promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and the Commission against Anti-Gypsyism. ... concerned ... about ... children from disadvantaged and marginalized families and ... of migrant families, including African and Afro-Swedish children; the deletion of the term "race" in the new Anti-Discrimination Act ... (c) Roma children being discriminated against by their schoolmates; (d) ...LGBT children experiencing bullying, intimidation and violence.	(2) para. 17: While noting with appreciation that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into consideration is covered by certain laws, ... remains concerned that inadequate weight is given to that right, especially in asylum procedures where children are involved. ... also concerned about: (a) The lack of a mandatory child rights impact assessment regarding all measures that concern children; (b) Insufficient training for relevant professionals on best interests determination.	(2) para. 19: while noting as positive the measures under the Social Services Act and the Education Act to implement the right of the child to be heard, notes with concern that that right is insufficiently implemented ... in particular as concerns custody, residence and visitation, social services investigations, or in the asylum procedure. ... also concerned that under the Aliens Act, a child shall only be heard where it is not inappropriate; para. 39: welcoming the new provision ... that a child with a disability shall have the opportunity to present his or her views about any action affecting him or her, ... concerned that CWD are not systematically heard with regard to issues that concern them, and lack opportunities to express themselves.	(3) para. 3: welcomes specified new legislation; para. 7: takes note of the efforts made by the State party to address the Committee's previous concern at the continued lack of formal recognition of the CRC as Swedish law and, in particular, of the information provided in its written replies that an inquiry had been set up in March 2013 to analyse how the application of laws and other regulations complied with the CRC.	(1) para. 9: notes with concern that the national budget does not include specific budgetary allocations for the implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 29: lack of data on the sexual exploitation of children; para. 53b: systematic collection of data on refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad; para. 53: notes with concern that Mechanisms have not been established for the systematic collection of data on refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad.	NA

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171	Switzerland 2015	(2) para. 24: While welcoming the anti-discrimination measures adopted ..., particularly those aimed at promoting the integration of migrants, ... remains concerned that discrimination continues to be prevalent against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children, children with disabilities and sans-papiers children. ... concerned about incidents of hate speech against LGBTI persons and their impact on children belonging to these groups, as well as the fact that they do not enjoy the protection afforded by article 261 bis of the Criminal Code relating to racial discrimination.	(2) para. 26: noting that the "well-being" of the child is a guiding principle in the State's legal order, ... is of the view that the term "well-being" of the child is different in meaning and application from the best interests of the child as enshrined in the CRC. ... therefore concerned that the best interests of the child ... have not been explicitly incorporated into all related federal and cantonal legislation, nor systematically applied in all administrative and judicial proceedings, or policies and programmes relating to children; para. 50: concerned that adoption procedures ... do not always ensure the paramountcy of the child's best interests; para. 68: concerned that the asylum procedure for unaccompanied children is not always guided by their best interests	(2) para. 28: notes the State party's ongoing efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child in family proceedings, protection cases, juvenile justice and other relevant areas, as well as to involve children in political planning and decision-making processes at the municipal level. ... concerned, however, that respect for the views of the child is not systematically ensured and implemented in practice in all matters that affect children and that cantonal disparities exist in implementation. ... also concerned about the insufficient training of professionals working with and for children in this regard.	(2) para. 8: While welcoming the adoption of various child-related legislative measures at the federal and cantonal levels to ensure further conformity of domestic legislation with the CRC, ... concerned that these efforts do not cover all areas of the CRC.	(2) para. 14: Bearing in mind that the State party is one of the most wealthy economies in the world and that it invests sizeable amounts of resources in child-related programmes, ... notes that the State party does not use a child-specific approach for budget planning and allocation in the federal and cantonal budgets, thus making it practically impossible to identify, monitor, report and evaluate the impact of investments in children and the overall application of the CRC in budgetary terms.	(2) para. 16: While noting the existence of various data collection systems, ... regrets that there is no comprehensive system for collecting data ... and that reliable, disaggregated data on important areas of the CRC, in particular concerning groups of children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, are not available; para. 40: remains concerned at the lack of comprehensive data on children suffering from ill-treatment, abuse and neglect, sexual violence and domestic violence; concerned about lack of data on: children placed in foster or institutional care; the number and situation of children who have a parent in prison; CWD; on asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children who may have been involved in armed conflict abroad (paras. 48, 52, 54a, 70).	NA

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172	Syria 2019	(1) para. 17: remains concerned about discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code, the Personal Status Code and the law on nationality that have a negative impact on children regarding, inter alia, access to nationality, inheritance, parental recognition or age of custody. In the light of the armed conflict it is also concerned about discrimination against children based on where they live, particularly regarding access to education, health services and safe water. (...) urges the State party to: (a) Repeal all the legal provisions that discriminate against girls (...), as well as provisions not allowing children to receive their mother's nationality, not allowing children born to unmarried parents to have their father's name registered in civil records, and establishing a different age of custody for girls and boys; (...).	(1) para. 18: With reference to its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, (...) recommends that the State party ensure that this right is appropriately integrated in court procedures related to divorce and custody, in placement of children in public care, in military and security operations and in reconstruction efforts.	(1) para. 22: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 40) and, (...) recommends that the State party enact legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings, and develop toolkits for public consultation with children on national policy development.	(1) para. 8: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 13) and urges the State party to: (a) Promptly adopt the Child Rights Bill, pending since 2006, and ensure that it supersedes other laws and guarantees that all rights apply to all children, independently of religious and cultural specificities; (b) Amend the Penal Code, the law on nationality and the Personal Status Code in line with article 33, paragraph 3, of the Constitution.	(1) para. 11: recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 21) and recommends that the State party: (a) Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs of children, and allocate adequate budgetary resources for the implementation of children's rights in all governorates, and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations such as the ongoing armed conflict; (b) Utilize a child-rights-based approach in the elaboration of the State budget, by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and use of resources for children.	(2) para. 12: notes the efforts by the State party to ensure that the child data unit of the Central Bureau of Statistics remains operational. Recalling its previous COs (CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 23) (...) recommends that the State party: (a) Ensure that the data collected be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin and nationality, to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, in particular in the light of the ongoing armed conflict; (b) Ensure that the data and indicators are 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.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the State's cooperation with organizations providing psychological and social support to child victims of the armed conflict, as well as with those facilitating family reunification and access to identity documents. (...) recalls its previous COs (CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 29) and recommends that the State: (a) Systematically involve non-governmental and children's organizations in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to child rights; (b) Ensure that reported instances of intimidation, harassment, physical attacks and arbitrary arrest of HRDs or civil society activists working on children's rights are (...) investigated, and that those responsible for such abuse are held accountable.

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173	Tajikistan 2017	(2) para. 14: While noting that discrimination is prohibited by law, (...) reiterates its previous CO (CRC/C/TJK/CO/2, para. 26) and recommends that the State party continue to take prompt measures to end instances of discrimination in practice against girls, CWDs, children living with HIV/AIDS, Roma/Jughi children, children in care institutions, children living in rural and remote areas, asylum seeking and refugee children, including by prioritizing support to these groups through targeted programmes to ensure their equal access to all public services, and particularly to education and health services, as well as by addressing social and cultural attitudes and practices.	(1) para. 15: recommends that the State party ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, particularly in preventing unnecessary separation of children from their parents and placement in residential care institutions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children.	(2) para. 16: takes note of the law restricting the right of the child to be heard only in family and adoption cases and only to children above 10 years of age. (...) recommends that the State party establish by law that all children are to be heard in all matters affecting them. (...) further recommends that the State party conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to cultivate an attitude of respect for the views of the child and to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community and schools, and that training in this regard is provided to all professionals working with or for children.	(2) para. 5: While noting the adoption of the Children's Rights Act in 2015 (...) recommends that the State party enact regulations and establish enforcement mechanisms to ensure its implementation. (...) also recommends that the State party harmonise its various laws pertaining to children, in particular the Family Code (2010), the Children's Rights Act (2015), the Criminal Procedure Code (2016), and the Act on Parental Responsibility for the Education and Raising of Children (2011), ensuring they are aligned with the provisions of the CRC and provide guarantees of complete support and protection for all children in the State party.	(1) para. 8: recommends that the State party: (a) Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budgetary needs for children and allocate adequate resources, and (...) in particular, increase the budget allocated to social sectors and address disparities on the basis of indicators related to children's rights; (b) Utilize a child-rights based approach in the elaboration of the State budget (...); (c) Use this tracking system for impact assessments on how investments in any sector may serve the BIs of the child, ensuring that the different impact of such investment on girls and boys is measured; (d) Take immediate measures to combat corruption.	(2) para. 9: While noting the limited progress achieved in data collection, (a) reiterates previous COs that the State party should collect data concerning all persons under the age of 18. (...) emphasizes that such data are essential to make an analysis of the children's situation in order to design targeted policies; (b) Recommends that the data collected and generated (...) be disaggregated, inter alia, by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity and socio-economic background and is effectively used to inform policy makers (...); (c) Recommends that the State party seek technical assistance from, inter alia, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in this regard.	(2) para. 12: While welcoming the increasing cooperation with civil society organizations, (...) recommends that the State party continue to strengthen its collaboration with civil society working for children's rights, including by systematically involving them in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to children's rights.

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174	Thailand 2012	(2) para. 9: insufficient implementation of previous COs; para. 33: notes the measures that are being taken to eliminate to some extent the disparities in access to education and health as well as special measures taken concerning children in the disadvantaged North-East and South of the country; expresses concern that the efforts are insufficient to eradicate both direct and indirect discrimination against children, particularly with respect to the girl child, CWD, children of indigenous, religious or ethnic minority communities, of refugees and asylum-seekers, of migrant workers, in street situations, living in rural areas and in poverty; remains deeply concerned about regional disparities ... regarding access to social, health and educational services for children.	(2) para. 35: noting the State party's information that various laws affecting the rights of children incorporate the principle of the best interests of the child; nevertheless concerned that this principle is not fully applied in judicial and administrative proceedings and decisions and in decisions regarding placement and management of alternative care.	(2) para. 39: noting the State party's information that there are Child and Youth Councils at national, regional and district levels; concerned that not all children have the opportunity to express their views freely and participate in the decisions that affect them in the home, community, and administrative and judicial procedures, partly due to traditional attitudes; also concerned that the Child and Youth Councils lack support in resources and personnel to organize activities.	(3) para. 11: welcomes the adoption of several specified pieces of legislation in the area of child rights, which contribute to the harmonization of national law with the CRC principles and provisions; welcomes the establishment of a Sub-committee under the National Child and Youth Commission with the aim of further revising the existing laws to be in conformity with the Constitution and the CRC.	(2) para. 19: notes the information related to the 2010-2011 budget allocations to the MSDHS under various categories and to basic education; regrets the lack of further details on budgetary allocations to other sectors and ... implementation of the full range of children's rights; concerned that the low ratio of 0.5% of the national budget allocated to the MSDHS has not changed for several years to enable the coordinating agency for children's rights to carry out its functions effectively; para. 21: concerned about the reports indicating that corruption remains pervasive ... and thus diverts resources that could enhance the efficacy of government policies and programmes to implement the rights of the child.	(2) para. 9: insufficient implementation of previous COs on data collection; para. 23: notes the establishment of the National Information Centre and the National Statistical Office, which maintain data in some areas of children's rights and a database on children with disabilities; concerned that there is no effective system of data collection covering all areas of the CRC which would allow for assessment, analysis and evaluation of the data and information on laws, policies, plans and programmes for children based on the CRC.	NA

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175	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2010	(2) para. 26: welcomes the adoption of the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination and provisions for the setting up of an anti-discrimination body; concerned that the new law does not explicitly cover certain grounds for discrimination and that it provides a long list of “exceptions” from what constitutes discrimination which may jeopardize the best interests of the child; concerned about de facto discrimination of children belonging to the minorities, especially Roma, children in institutions, children in street situations, children with disabilities and children in conflict with the law.	(2) para. 28: noting that the new law on juvenile justice recognizes the best interests of the child as a guiding principle; concerned that this principle is not systematically included in all relevant legislation and administrative procedures and is not adequately applied in practice.	(2) para. 30: while noting the incorporation of the principle of respect for the views of the child in parts of the State party’s legislation, regrets that this is not done systematically and legislation still does not ensure the right of the child to be heard in all judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child and in accordance with his or her evolving capacities; further regrets that traditional societal attitudes towards children limit respect for their views within the family and in schools, the community and society at large.	(1) para. 7: insufficient implementation of previous CO on the review of national legislation; para. 8: concerned that the national legislation does not fully comply with the CRC principles and provisions and that there is weak enforcement of legislation.	(1) para. 12: concerned about the lack of specific funds ... earmarked for implementation of the National Plan of Action; para. 16: remains concerned about a mismatch between budgetary allocations and the mandates of agencies; concerned about the lack of transparency in the use of international funds for programmes in areas concerning children, the selection of NGO activities for State financial support, and that a very small proportion of these funds are allocated for activities concerning children; concerned that the funds earmarked for the implementation of the 2010 Programme for Compulsory Health Insurance for All Citizens are insufficient.	(2) para. 18: noting ongoing development of a child protection data system; regrets that there is no systematic approach to data collection for monitoring the situation of children in the State party and no centralized database on children, in general, and on children in vulnerable situations, in particular.	(2) para. 10: concerned about the limited possibilities for local government, civil society and children to participate in the National Commission on the Rights of the Child’s (NCRC) work; para. 24: notes the adoption of a strategy for cooperation with the civil sector and a action plan for its implementation, as well as plans to increase the number of and to extend equal voting rights to NGO members of the NCRC; concerned about lack of consultation with civil society in the preparation of the second periodic report and inadequate cooperation in the design of legislation and policies ..., and about lack of transparent criteria for NGO participation in the work of the NCRC; concerned about the lack of recognition of the significant contribution of NGOs in the provision of services.

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176	Timor Leste 2015	(2) para. 24: commends the inclusion of specific provisions for the protection of children from discrimination in the State party's Constitution and other laws, including with respect to children with disabilities and children born out of wedlock. ... concerned, however, that certain groups of children, especially children of returnees, children who are not in possession of a baptism certificate, children born out of wedlock, children conceived from sexual relations among family members, and children with disabilities, face de facto discrimination, most importantly with regard to access to education and other services.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the information in the periodic report that the best interests of the child principle is mainstreamed across all sectors of government and is enshrined in the draft children's code and the draft law to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons. However ... concerned about insufficient information regarding the State party's efforts to ensure the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions, and to apply that right in all legislation, administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children.	(2) para. 28: notes the State party's efforts to ensure respect for the views of the child in various draft laws and in relevant administrative processes and judicial proceedings relating to children ... also notes the numerous child participation activities ... carried out by the National Youth Council, the National Directorate for Youth and the Youth Parliament. ... concerned ... that traditional and cultural practices do not readily ... recognize the views of the child in homes, schools and communities, and that respect for the views of the child is not adequately implemented in practice in all relevant areas and at the national and local levels, including with respect to children with disabilities.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the ongoing legal reform that has contributed to the improvement of children's rights in the State party. However ... concerned about the delay in the adoption of legislation in all areas affecting children's rights that is instrumental to the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 14: welcomes the significant increases in budgetary allocations for health, education and social services for children, as well as international assistance and development aid in relation to the implementation of the CRC ... however, concerned about the lack of data on the proportion of budgetary allocations for the implementation of children's rights under the CRC.	(2) para. 16: notes that data collection processes are under development and that several ministries have developed databases for collecting and analysing data on children ... notes the various surveys that have been conducted on children's issues. ... however, concerned that no national central database on children has been developed and about gaps in the overall data collection apparatus of the State party, in particular with respect to national planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting; lack of data on: corporal punishment; child abuse; children with disabilities; street children; sexual exploitation; juvenile justice (paras. 32, 34, 44, 58, 60, 62).	NA

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177	Togo 2012	(1) para. 31: concerned that discrimination against vulnerable groups of children, in particular girls and children with disabilities, persists throughout the State party and that insufficient measures have been taken by the State party to implement the recommendations already made by the Committee in this regard; also concerned that according to article 248 of the Children's Code, a child born of an adulterous relationship cannot claim maintenance from his/her father if he/she has not been recognized by said father.	(2) para. 33: notes as positive the inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Children's Code and its progressive consideration and adoption as a leading principle in actions and decisions concerning children; notes that the definition of the best interests of the child contained in article 4 of the Children's Code is extremely vague; concerned that the Children's Code does not establish an obligation to incorporate the principle of the best interests of the child in all laws and to apply it in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in policies and programmes relating to children.	(2) para. 37: notes as positive that the principle of respect for the views of the child is now legally recognized and that a National Child Consultative Council was recently set up to ensure better inclusion of children in the anti-violence strategies that concern them; reiterates its concern that opportunities for the child to express his/her own views in the family, in schools and in the community are still scarce and notes that children are rarely permitted to express their views on matters of concern to them; also concerned that children are insufficiently heard in judicial and administrative procedures.	(2) para. 9: welcoming the adoption of the Children's Code in 2007, the Committee regrets that this Code is only a compilation of existing legal texts concerning children; also concerned that (a) Children are not fully recognized as rights holders in the Children's Code and that the Code contains many provisions which are not in compliance with the CRC; (b) the Children's Code is not fully applicable, as the implementing regulations have not yet been adopted; (c) the Personal and Family Code, revised Criminal Code and revised Code of Criminal Procedure have still not been adopted.	(1) para. 17: the Committee is seriously concerned about the further reduction in social expenditure in recent years, which has had and will continue to have a negative impact on the implementation of the rights of the child in the State party; also remains concerned that corruption continues to be pervasive and diverts resources available for the effective implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 19: concerned that little progress has been made to set up a comprehensive system to collect disaggregated data on all areas covered by the CRC and that the lack of such reliable disaggregated data remains a major obstacle for the effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for children.	(2) para. 25: noting the existing cooperation with civil society organizations, concerned about the stigmatization of human rights defenders in the State party, the reluctance of public authorities to give legitimacy to their work and the absence of measures to investigate and prosecute authors of threats and other acts of intimidation against them; also concerned that women human rights defenders are particularly vulnerable to ostracism within their own families and communities, and are frequently labelled as, inter alia, "bad mothers" and "family breakers".

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178	Tonga 2019 - first ever CO	(1) para. 21: concerned about: (a) Section 118 of the Criminal Offences Act, which recognizes only women and girls as potential victims of rape and related offences, and that the protection afforded under the section does not extend to boys; (b) Discriminatory provisions excluding girls from landownership and inheritance rights; (c) Discrimination against children born to unmarried parents, who are referred to by the stigmatizing adjective “illegitimate” and who cannot inherit land or title; (d) Discrimination against CWDs.	(2) para. 23: notes that the Guardianship Act provides for the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration. However, (...) concerned that the best interests of the child are not independently assessed and are subsumed into the best interests of the family and the community.	(2) para. 27: welcomes the active Youth Parliament organized by the Tongan National Youth Congress. However, (...) concerned that the nature of the traditional society of Tonga makes it difficult for children to participate and to be heard on matters affecting them.	(2) para. 5: (...) welcomes the ongoing legislative amendments, such as the adoption of the Family Protection Act and Education Act in 2013 and the work towards developing comprehensive child protection legislation and policy. However, (...) concerned that some domestic laws, such as the Criminal Offences Act, are not consistent with the Convention.	(2) para. 11: welcomes the steady budget increases for the education and health sector. However, (...) concerned at the heavy reliance on donor funding. It is also concerned that the State party does not stipulate budget allocations for children in the relevant sectors and agencies, provide for indicators and tracking systems at all levels or target budget allocations for children in marginalized and vulnerable situations.	(2) para. 13: takes notes of the 2016 census and the establishment of the National Statistics Committee and notes that the State party’s poverty report is disaggregated by age and also includes multidimensional child poverty measures. However, (...) concerned that comprehensive data collection on all areas of the Convention is insufficient.	NA

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179	Trinidad and Tobago 2006	(2) para. 28: noting that discrimination is prohibited under the Constitution; but the grounds mentioned in the Constitution are not in full compliance with CRC art. 2 and no additional legislation exist that explicitly prohibits all forms of discrimination; some groups of children, in particular children living in poverty and children affected by HIV/AIDS, may suffer from discriminatory attitudes and disparities in accessing basic services; only battery and assault against male children is punished under the Children's Act and discrimination remains in sentencing of male and female offenders for sexual offences against children.	(2) para. 31: noting that the Family Court protects the best interests of the child; concerned that principles laid down in CRC art. 3 are not fully applied and systematically integrated into the policies and programmes of the State party.	(1) para. 33: concerned that the views of the child are not given sufficient consideration in all areas of children's lives and that the provisions of CRC art. 12 are not fully integrated into the State party's legislation and administrative and judicial decisions or in policies and programmes relevant to children.	(3) paras. 3: specified legislation welcomed; para. 10: welcoming the set of legislation enacted in 2000 to harmonize the domestic laws with the CRC.	(1) para. 8: insufficient implementation previous CO on resource allocation for children; para. 18: while noting the positive economic development of the State party, concerned at the lack of sufficient budget allocation for children and the implementation of their rights, in particular about the fact that allocation of resources does not appropriately address regional disparities; para. 24: that the Government provides limited funding for NGOs.	(1) para. 8: insufficient implementation previous CO on data collection; para. 20: concerned at the absence of comprehensive and up-to-date statistical data in the State party's report and the lack of an adequate national data collection system on all areas covered by the CRC; such data is crucial for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved and impact assessment of policies with respect to children.	(2) paras. 22, para. 24: while welcoming the consultation held by the Human Rights Unit of the Office of the Attorney-General in the preparation of the second periodic report, notes that the dialogue with the civil society on CRC implementation of the CRC is limited and not systematic and that the Government provides limited funding for NGOs.

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180	Tunisia 2010	(2) para. 21: reiterates the concern expressed in its previous COs that the principle of non-discrimination (art. 2) is not adequately reflected in the Child Protection Code and that the legal framework addressing discrimination against children is not fully applied in practice for certain groups; para. 25: welcomes the information on the measures taken to address discrimination against children born out of wedlock, in line with the previous COs; remains concerned that discrimination against children born out of wedlock continues to exist, as does discrimination against single mothers owing to negative social attitudes, which has a negative impact on children as demonstrated, inter alia, by the high rate of abandonment and the existence of some cases of infanticide of children born out of wedlock.	(2) para. 30: notes with appreciation that the principle of the best interests of the child is incorporated in the legislation of the State party, notably in article 4 of the Child Protection Code, and that it is generally implemented in decisions affecting children taken by legislative, judicial and administrative authorities of the State party; concerned, however, that article 58 of the Code of Personal Status, which provides that a female guardian must be unmarried, and that a male guardian should have available a wife to discharge the duties of guardianship, might be inconsistent with the principle of the best interests of the child.	(2) para. 32: appreciates the creation of the Child and Youth Parliaments and Children's Town Councils at the local level but regrets that, despite these efforts, the participation of children in public life and the ways in which they can actively participate in setting priorities and in implementing and evaluating programs are quite limited; also regrets that the Children's Town Councils benefit children living in urban areas only; concerned that the views of the child are not always sufficiently taken into account in matters concerning school administration and classroom education, in public debates, in the family, as well as in administrative and judicial proceedings.	(3) para. 9: commends the State party for the significant legislative reform undertaken in the field of the rights of the child.	(2) para. 15: welcoming the fact that budgetary allocation for children has been increasing in recent years; remains concerned at the lack of clarity as regards the resources allocated and spent by the different ministerial departments dealing with children; also concerned that the economic crisis could have a negative impact on budgetary allocations for children.	(2) para. 8: insufficient follow-up previous CO ...; para. 17: notes with satisfaction the major role of the Observatory of Information, Training, Documentation and Studies on the Protection of Children's Rights (the Observatory) ... in providing a national data collection system, producing each year a national report on ... children in Tunisia; notes with satisfaction the steps by the Observatory to improve ... indicators ... and the accessibility of data ... and to work more closely with relevant ministries to improve data collection; regrets, that the annual reports are mainly descriptive and that the availability, relevance, access and sharing of data (national/regional/local) ... remains an ongoing challenge.	(2) para. 19: notes the assertion of the State ... in its report that the report was drawn up using a participatory approach which involved civil society; concerned, however, that NGOs critical of State policies face obstacles in participating in the policy formulation, planning and budgeting phases; deeply concerned at reports of harassment, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention, and other human rights violations against human rights defenders, and restrictions placed on the activities of some NGOs; deep concern at the new draft bill amending ... the Penal Code which ... might have a negative impact on the cooperation between international and regional human rights bodies and NGOs working in the field of human rights, and especially children's rights.

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181	Turkey 2012	(1) para. 28: reiterates its concern that the principle of non-discrimination is not fully implemented for children belonging to minorities not recognized under the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923, in particular children of Kurdish origin; children with disabilities; girls; refugee and asylum-seeking children; and children living in the Eastern and Southeastern regions and in rural areas – especially with regard to their access to adequate health and education.	(2) para. 30: welcomes the inclusion of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Law on Child Protection of 2005 and in the Constitutional amendments of 2010, as well as the provision that court decisions which do not take into account the best interests of the child may be annulled by the Supreme Court; regrets the lack of information on the application of this principle in cases of domestic violence and family disintegration, in respect of which the State party seems to take punitive measures, rather than provide support to the family concerned.	(2) para. 34: notes with appreciation the State party's efforts to provide for the views of the child to be taken into account by establishing provincial Children's Rights Committees, organizing children's fora and "child-friendly cities." However, remains concerned as to whether the views communicated by children in these fora are genuinely taken into account; regrets that the overall implementation of this right is insufficient in the family, institutions, legal and administrative proceedings and the community.	(3) para. 10: notes significant improvement in legislation related to the rights of the child.	(2) para. 18: noting the information provided by the State party that the Ministry of Finance is planning to adopt a functional budgeting system over the coming two years, so that all expenditure on children will be more visible; concerned about the information that the State party's public social expenditure remains relatively low.	(2) para. 20: welcomes recent improvements in the State party's data collection system as well as the data provided by the State party in its report and written replies in some areas covered by the CRC; remains concerned about the lack of regular data in areas such as child poverty and well-being, child labour, children with disabilities, injury and risk behaviour; also regrets the lack of data disaggregated by gender, geographic location, ethnicity and socio-economic background, which would help to monitor the equal enjoyment of their rights by all children in the State party.	(1) para. 12: concerned about the lack of information on coordination between Government agencies, the private sector and civil society.

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182	Turkmenistan 2015	(2) para. 18: welcomes the amendments to the Guarantees of the Rights of the Child Act ... which ... provides for ... non-discrimination in the exercise of children's rights ...; further welcomes the information ... that the requirement to submit a document certifying Turkmen origin to access university education has been removed. ... remains concerned at: (a) The discriminatory practices towards children belonging to national minorities, particularly Kazakh and Uzbek children, who have limited access to language classes in their mother tongue; (b) Girls continuing to be discriminated against, owing to cultural biases, patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes ... in spite of gender discrimination being forbidden in law.	(2) para. 5: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on best interests of the child; para. 20: welcomes the information on the recent incorporation of the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration in national legislation, such as in article 81 of the Family Code and article 6 of the Guarantee of the Rights of the Child Act. However ... remains concerned that the concept of the best interests of the child is not always fully understood and implemented in judicial and administrative decisions, projects, programmes and services which have an impact on children, as well as in the determination of statelessness.	(1) para. 5: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on respect for the views of the child; para. 26: expresses concern at reports that the State party systematically limits the right of the child to freedom of expression and that prevailing traditional societal attitudes, in the family and in other settings, regarding the role of children, make it difficult for children to seek and impart information freely and to express their views on public matters openly.	(3) para. 3 welcomes specified new legislation, such as Amendments to Guarantee of the Rights of the Child Act. No further information available in CO.	(2) para. 10: While noting with appreciation the increase by 15 per cent in State funding for public and social services in 2014 ... concerned about the insufficient allocation of budgetary and human resources for the implementation of the ... CRC to ensure that all children enjoy their rights, in particular children in vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities and children living in rural areas. Furthermore, ... concerned about the pervasiveness of corruption in the State party's institutions, which constitutes a serious obstacle to the efficient use of the State party's resources.	(2) para. 12: While noting with appreciation a noticeable increase in surveys and the creation of a health-information database, in cooperation with United Nations agencies ... concerned that the collection of data on the status of children's rights remains weak and does not allow for disaggregation and analysis, as recommended in the ... previous concluding observations (CRC/C/TKM/CO/1, para. 16).	(2) para. 16: While noting that proposals to review the Public Associations Act are being considered, ... remains concerned at the reports of restrictions on the work of civil society organizations, including those working on children's rights.

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183	Tuvalu 2013	(1) para. 23: concerned that the anti-discrimination provisions in the Constitution of Tuvalu do not recognize discrimination based on gender and disability and that some discriminatory acts are permitted by the application of laws enacted prior to independence or undertaken during a state of emergency. ... further concerned that the legislation ... discriminates against women and girls, particularly single mothers and children born out of wedlock, in relation to land inheritance rights and child custody.	(1) para. 25: concerned that the legislation ... does not make reference to the best interests of the child, and that the best interests of the child is not taken into account as a primary consideration at all levels of decision-making affecting children by governmental institutions, courts, administrative authorities or legislative bodies.	(2) para. 27: notes with appreciation the efforts by the State party to seek and incorporate the views of children and young people in the preparation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2005–2015, the National Youth Policy for 2005–2010 and the Ministry of Health Strategic Plan for 2008–2018, and the State party’s initial report to the Committee. However, ... remains concerned that traditional customs appear to be contrary to the principle of respect for the views of the child. Children under the age of 18 years are prohibited from participating in Falekaupule meetings, where decisions are made with regard to education, health and other important matters affecting them.	(2) para. 3: welcomes the adoption of several legislative measures; para. 8: notes as positive the existence of some legal measures which safeguard the rights of the child in the State party, and the formulation of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Bill. ... is, however, concerned that a comprehensive review of all laws relating to children has not been undertaken in the light of the CRC and that the enactment of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Bill has been delayed.	(2) para. 14: recommends that the State party maintain its high investments in health and education; para. 12: sufficient resources have not been allocated to the National Advisory Committee for Children for it to fulfil all its responsibilities.	(2) para. 15: While noting that some data on children is available, including data disaggregated by sex and geographical location in the health and education sectors, ... concerned that there is no comprehensive data collection system to systematically assess the implementation of the CRC. ... also concerned that a census has not been undertaken since 2002 and that no disaggregated data is available on children with disabilities.	(3) para. 12: notes with appreciation that the State party established the National Advisory Committee for Children in 1998, with representatives from civil society in its membership, and which is responsible for coordinating policies and programmes on children’s rights

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184	Uganda 2005	(2) para. 30: notes that the Ugandan Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, creed, religion, social or economic standing, or political opinion; welcomes the information provided by the delegation that the Equal Opportunity Commission will be established within a year; concerned at the fact that discrimination against certain groups of children still exists in practice, particularly with regard to girls, children with disabilities, children living in poverty, refugee children, children affected by and/or infected with HIV/AIDS, former child soldiers and Batwa children.	NA	(2) para. 35: noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to implement the principle of respect for the views of the child, such as the child forum; remains concerned that traditional societal attitudes appear to limit children in freely expressing their views in schools, the courts, or within the family.	(2) para. 12: takes note that some progress has been made by the State party in the effort to bring domestic laws into compliance with the CRC, e.g. in the area of juvenile justice, but remains concerned at the lack of a systematic and comprehensive legislative review.	(1) para. 10: insufficient implementation previous CO on resources allocation; para. 16: concerned that insufficient allocation of resources has resulted in a lack of sustainable results; para. 20: notes the relatively high rate of economic growth in the State party and that considerable debt relief has been provided via the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative, but it is concerned that the resources allocated for children are very limited and insufficient to respond to national and local priorities for the protection and promotion of children's rights.	(2) para. 22: noting that in the last few years the State party has made remarkable progress in its data collection system, including the creation of a semi-autonomous organization charged by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics with developing statistics in the country; nevertheless concerned at the lack of a comprehensive data collection system that gathers data from the village and sub-county levels and forwards them to the district level for consolidation and analysis.	(2) para. 26: while appreciating the fact that NGOs have been involved in the preparation of the State party's report; of the opinion that civil society, and in particular the role of NGOs, should be further strengthened in the promotion and implementation of the CRC.

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185	Ukraine 2011	(1) para. 27: concerned at the reported increase in racially motivated offences ... in particular information on xenophobic and racist activities carried out by radical youth groups and skinheads; concerned that “patriotic education” is commonly identified as a priority ... in the allocation of State funds in support of children’s and youth organizations; concerned that non-discrimination with respect to CWD, children of minority groups (esp. Roma children), in street situations, living with HIV/AIDS and asylum-seeking and refugee children, is not fully implemented in practice; concerned at the lack of an express reference to the principle of non-discrimination with respect to the protection of children’s rights in domestic legislation.	(1) para. 29: concerned that there is no systematic analysis of State policies and programmes in terms of the best interests of the child; concerned that the principle is poorly integrated in laws and policies relating to children deprived of parental care and children in contact with the law.	(2) para. 33: noting as positive changes in the Family Code allowing for the child to be heard in the context of adoption; nevertheless concerned that the views of the child remain unheard in the context of civil and administrative proceedings and in the administration of juvenile justice; regrets the lack of information on how respect for the views of the child is guaranteed in legislative, administrative and judicial decisions as well as in the family and in schools; recalling its 2007 CO, further notes with concern the lack of genuine participation of children in the community and public life and the State party’s acknowledgment that children’s participation in decision-making processes remains the exception rather than the rule.	(2) para. 7: insufficient implementation of previous CO on harmonization of national legislation with the CRC and its Optional Protocols; para. 8: welcoming that the CRC and other international treaties take precedence over domestic law in case of conflict between them, and while noting the Child Protection Act (2001) and amendments (2007) to the Act on Child Care Institutions, Services and Specialized Institutions, concerned that domestic legislation on the rights of the child remains inadequate, with significant scope for further legislative implementation of the CRC.	(1) para. 7: insufficient implementation of previous CO on allocation of resources; para. 13: concerned at the limited financial allocations to the State Programme in 2010 (0.3% of the approved programme budget); para. 17: concerned that its previous recommendation to systematically identify the amount and proportion of the State budget spent on children through public and private institutions or organizations has not been implemented; concerned that funding of necessary social services is based on individual regions’ financial capacity, and at the State party’s acknowledgement that this system is not appropriately implemented.	(2) para. 7: insufficient implementation of previous CO; para. 19: appreciates ongoing efforts ... to establish an effective system of data collection for monitoring and evaluating its child protection policies, including through the establishment of the DevInfo System to oversee implementation of the National Plan of Action; nevertheless remains concerned at the continued lack of a national database with comprehensive and disaggregated data on children; concerned at the lack of statistics on children at risk of torture, domestic violence and/or other forms of abuse and ill-treatment, child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, children of minority groups and refugee and asylum-seeking children.	(2) para. 23: appreciates measures aimed at strengthening the role of civil society in protecting children’s rights, such as the establishment of the Coalition of NGOs for Children and the active involvement of civil society organizations in the development of the National Plan of Action; concerned that the State party’s cooperation with representatives of civil society to a considerable degree occurs indirectly through cooperation with international organizations or entities of the private sector.

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186	United Arab Emirates 2015	(1) para. 8: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 23: concerned about the persistence of discrimination against girls under the personal status law, notably in the field of inheritance and custody, and that no information was provided ... on the measures taken to prevent and eliminate gender-based discrimination. ... also concerned that certain rights under the Constitution are guaranteed only to citizens and not to non-citizens residing on the territory of the State party and that bidoon children and children born out of wedlock continue to experience serious discrimination in relation to the enjoyment of their rights under the CRC.	(1) para. 8: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on best interests; para. 27: reiterates its concern (see CRC/C/15/Add.183, para. 26) that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not always respected, for example in matters relating to family law. ... particularly concerned that judges often consider underage marriage as being in the best interests of the girl child, a situation which reveals a misunderstanding of the concept of best interests and leads to multiple violations of girls' rights.	(2) para. 31: notes the information provided by the State party according to which the Emirates are in the process of forming a children's parliament that will represent all children of the State. ... nevertheless remains concerned about the representativeness of such a parliament and traditional attitudes towards children in the society which continue to limit respect for their views, especially within the family and in schools.	(2) para. 8: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on legislation; para. 10: while noting the progress made towards the adoption of the Children's Rights Bill, is concerned about the slow and lengthy nature of the process. Para. 37a: concerned that the existing legislation of the State party does not specifically criminalize all forms of violence against children; para. 43: concerned that the legislation of the State party does not adequately protect children from pornography and prostitution.	(2) para. 14: While welcoming the increasing spending on education and in the light of the high economic growth in the State party, ... concerned about the lack of information on the allocation of resources for the implementation of all rights under the CRC, the measures taken to establish a tracking system for budgetary allocation, the use of resources for children throughout the budget and the level of resources allocated to children in the most disadvantaged situations.	(2) para. 8: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 16: while noting the current development of a joint cooperation programme with UNESCO to compile data on children, regrets that the State party was unable to provide such data, both in its periodic report and in its written responses to the Committee's list of issues; para. 53: concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities.	(1) para. 21: expresses its concern about the very limited number of independent NGOs working specifically in the field of children's rights and therefore the lack of information transmitted to the Committee and the difficulty of assessing the situation of children on the basis of a variety of sources. ... also concerned about the reported continual harassment of human rights defenders in the State party, which greatly undermines the emergence of a vibrant civil society, as well as the protection and promotion of children's rights.

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187	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 2016	(1) para. 21: concerned that: (a) A number of provisions under the Equality Act (2010) exempt children from the protection against age discrimination and, in Northern Ireland, the proposed legislation on age discrimination excludes children under 16 years of age; (b) Counter-terrorism measures (...) are widely perceived to have a discriminatory or stigmatizing effect on children, in particular Muslim children; (c) Many children in certain groups, including Roma, gypsy and traveller children, children of other ethnic minorities, CWDs, children in care, migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children and LGBTI children, continue to experience discrimination and social stigmatization, including through the media.	(1) para. 26: regrets that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is still not reflected in all legislative and policy matters and judicial decisions affecting children, especially in the area of alternative care, child welfare, immigration, asylum and refugee status, criminal justice and in the armed forces. Furthermore, in some overseas territories, there is no legal provision to guarantee this right.	(1) para. 30: concerned that: (a) Children's views are not systematically heard in policymaking on issues that affect them; (b) The reforms concerning the reduction of legal aid in all four jurisdictions appear to have a negative impact on the right of children to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings; (c) Youth parliaments have not been established or operationalized in Northern Ireland, Wales, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos or Jersey; (d) Many children feel that they are not listened to by their social workers, reviewing officers, paid carers, judges, personnel working with children in conflict with the law or other professionals (...) including in family proceedings.	(1) para. 7: recommends that the State party: (a) Expedite bringing in line with the CRC its domestic legislation, at the national and devolved levels and in the overseas territories and the Crown dependencies, in order to ensure that the principles and provisions of the CRC are directly applicable and justiciable under domestic law.	(1) para. 12: seriously concerned at the effects that recent fiscal policies and allocation of resources have had in contributing to inequality in children's enjoyment of their rights, disproportionately affecting children in disadvantaged situations.	(1) para. 14: recommends that the Government of Northern Ireland expedite the finalization of a child rights indicator framework, covering all areas of the CRC and taking into account the conceptual and methodological framework set out in the OHCHR publication entitled "Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation".	NA

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188	United Republic of Tanzania 2015	(2) para. 25: While noting the anti-discriminatory provisions contained in the laws of the State party ... reiterates its concern (CRC/C/TZA/CO/2 para. 27) that discrimination against certain groups of children still exists, in law and in practice, particularly against pregnant teenage girls and teenage mothers (in the Mainland), children with albinism, children with disabilities, children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS and children living on the streets. ... also notes with concern that almost no systematic measures have been undertaken ... to ... change the discriminatory laws, attitudes and practices.	(2) para. 27: notes that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is explicitly set out in the Law of the Child Act and the Zanzibar Children's Act. Nevertheless, ... concerned that this right is not adequately applied or interpreted by legislative bodies and therefore is not incorporated in policies and programmes concerning children. ... also concerned at the lack of awareness of this right among the general public, including traditional and religious leaders and government officials.	(2) para. 32: notes with interest the existence of children's clubs and student councils to promote the participation of children. However ... concerned about the scarcity of information on these councils in rural and remote areas and the involvement of and outreach to children in vulnerable situations. ... also concerned that the views of the child are rarely taken into account in decisions made by families and in administrative and judicial proceedings.	(2) para. 7: notes the status of the constitutional reform process and the information according to which further legislative changes to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the State party will be introduced once the Constitution is approved. Nevertheless ... reiterates its concern that certain laws do not fully comply with the principles and provisions of the CRC and hinder the full realization of children's rights in the State party, notably the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (Rev. 2002), chapter 16 of the Penal Code and the laws on inheritance.	(2) para. 13: notes the State party's commitment to annually increase its budget allocation for children. However ... expresses its concern that there is no specific budget allocation for children or for the implementation of the CRC ... in the State party. ... also concerned that the economic growth resulting from, for instance, the extractive industries, has not led to increased investment in children and that the State party continues to over-rely on donor funding.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the efforts made by the State party towards introducing a central management information system in the context of the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan. Nevertheless ... reiterates its concern over the absence of a centralized data collection system (CRC/C/TZA/CO/2, para. 18), as well as over the deficiencies in compiling, analysing and processing data relating to the rights of the child.	NA
189	United States of America - has not yet ratified the CRC							

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190	Uruguay 2015	(2) para. 23: While noting that the State party has a national plan against racism and discrimination ..., concerned that discriminatory attitudes and social exclusion still affect some sections of the child population, and in particular children with disabilities, girls, children living in rural and remote areas, children from economically disadvantaged families and adolescents. ... also concerned that adolescents are often portrayed as criminals in the media, and ... are therefore subjected to discrimination in law and in practice. para. 43: regrets that discrimination against children with disabilities remains widespread in the State party; para. 57: discrimination in the education system.	(2) para. 25: While noting that article 6 of the Code on Childhood and Adolescence incorporates the principle of the best interests of the child ..., concerned that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not always respected, particularly in judicial and administrative decisions and when children are separated from their parents ... also notes with concern the impossibility of appealing or revising decisions when this right has not been respected.	(2) para. 27: While welcoming the establishment of the Children's Advisory and Consultative Council as a consultative body to the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents ... concerned about its lack of interaction with the various institutions involved in the implementation of children's rights. ... also concerned that the participatory councils in the education field are not completely operational, particularly at the secondary level. ... further regrets the lack of information on how the right of the child to be heard has been implemented in relevant administrative and judicial proceedings.	(2) para. 4: welcomes adoption of specified legislation such as Personal Integrity of Children and Adolescents Act; para. 21: While noting as positive the statement of the delegation during the interactive dialogue on its commitment to raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, equally applicable to boys and girls ... remains concerned that the age of marriage is 16 years in national legislation; para. 31: concerned that the legislation does not provide a specific sanction for those inflicting corporal punishment.	(2) para. 13: While noting the information provided ... that budgetary allocations to programmes and services for children and families have increased and that 19% of total public expenditure is allocated for children ... remains concerned about the: (a) Sectoral elaboration of the budget making it difficult to identify whether the resources allocated are adequate for the implementation of the CRC; (b) Lack of impact assessment of the budgetary measures adopted on children's rights; (c) Unequal distribution of resources among the different sectors and regions, leading to the persistence of inequality among children and adolescents.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up to previous CO on data collection; para. 15: While noting that the State party has established an information system for childhood (SIPI), as part of the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents, as well as the Comprehensive Information System on the Social Area ... concerned that there are many inconsistencies and gaps in relation to data collection, particularly in the fields of health, juvenile justice, violence and abuse, disability, and concerning children without parental care and those of African descent.	(1) para. 11: remains concerned that in practice the Council has not ensured effective coordination between the various institutions and relevant actors, including civil society organizations involved in the implementation of children's rights.

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191	Uzbekistan 2013	(1) para. 7: insufficient follow-up to previous CO recommending increased efforts to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination on any grounds, including by considering targeted programmes for addressing discrimination against girls and children in vulnerable situations such as refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced children, children with disabilities, abandoned children, children from ethnic minorities and those living in institutions and in regions with socio-economic development problems; para. 55: concerned about the discrimination that children with HIV/AIDS are subject to.	(1) para. 22: concerned about the inadequate incorporation of the right of the child to have his or her interests taken as a primary consideration in the national legislation of the State party which refers only to "legitimate interests of the child" or "interests of the child". With the absence of explicit references to the principle of the best interests of the child, ... concerned that the right of the child to have his or her interests taken as a primary consideration is not adequately fulfilled.	(2) para. 26: welcomes the establishment of Children's Parliaments and notes that the right of the child to be heard is provided for in the recently enacted ... Law on the Guarantees of the Rights of the Child. However ... regrets that the State party's interpretation of this right "does not ensure the freedom of expression as it is understood by the International Standards" ... remains concerned that the State party has legislation stating that children's freedom to have and express opinions may be limited by law ... remains concerned that, in practice, traditional societal attitudes towards children continue to limit respect for their views, within the family, schools, other institutions and society at large.	(2) para. 3: welcomes adoption of several laws; para. 8: While noting that the Preamble to the ... Constitution makes reference to the status of international agreements, ... regrets that the main body of the ... Constitution and the Law on "Normative Legal Acts" do not explicitly refer to the CRC as a source of law. Furthermore, ... concerned that the CRC is not directly applicable by courts or cited in court judgements; para. 65: appreciates that the State party's legislation on economic exploitation is in principle compliant with international standards.	(2) para. 12: notes as positive the high budgetary allocations for the social sector. ... concerned that: current mechanisms and procedures for the allocation of resources for implementing the CRC do not adequately take into account specific local needs; the reduction in financing of the social protection programmes for low-income families with children has resulted in a substantial decline of households receiving support and an increase in the number of children being placed in out-of-home care; inadequate resources are allocated to non-wage expenditures of educational and health-care institutions; and there are no adequate monitoring mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of resources allocated for children's rights.	(1) para. 7: insufficient follow-up to previous CO recommending to improve its data collection system to provide regular and independently verifiable data that is cross-comparable, and to analyse the data collected as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights and for designing policies and programmes to implement the CRC; para. 49: lack of disaggregated data collection on children with disabilities; para. 67: deeply concerned ... about the lack of data on street children.	(2) para. 18: notes the positive steps taken by the State party to expand governmental consultation with civil society, including its ongoing deliberations on new legislation aiming to improve the operational environment for civil society organizations. However, ... remains concerned that freedom of association continues to be severely constrained, including for such organizations. Furthermore, ... concerned that the current system of government registration and authorization for children's rights civil society organizations results in the majority of such organizations compromising their independence, inter alia, in financial and policy terms.

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192	Vanuatu 2017	(2) para. 19: notes that the State party's Constitution provides protection from discrimination on various grounds. (...) however concerned that there remains de jure and de facto discrimination of children based on gender and disabilities.	NA	(1) para. 21: concerned that there are no specific court rules for procedures dealing with children and that the Criminal Procedures Code is silent with regard to respect of children's view during criminal cases.	(2) para. 5: welcomes the establishment of the Vanuatu Law Commission and the ongoing legislative reform. However, (...) concerned that there is no comprehensive child protection law, that some laws still have to be harmonised with the CRC, in particular the Control of Marriage Act and the Penal Code.	(1) para. 11: reiterates its previous COs (CRC/C/15/ Add.111, para. 11) and recommends that the State party in planning its future budgets increase allocated budgetary resources for children to the maximum extent possible in accordance with article 4 of the CRC and in particular increase budget and expenditures for the Child Desk coordination within the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS).	(2) para. 12: notes with appreciation the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Prime Ministers Office, the Health Information System (HIS) and the Vanuatu Education Management Information System (VEMIS). (...) concerned that: (a) There is no clarity on how the work of the M&E Unit is aligned to the National Statistics Office and to what extent it influences the State party's policy planning and budgeting; (b) Relevant child nutritional indicators are not part of the HIS; (c) VEMIS only monitors children in schools and not out-of school children or CWDs (...).	NA

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193	Venezuela 2014	(2) para. 27: notes with satisfaction the adoption of the Law against Racial Discrimination ... and other laws aimed at protecting the rights of indigenous peoples ... welcomes the adoption of the Education Act ... with a non-discrimination provision ... concerned at reports that those legal advances have not translated into greater protection of children from discrimination ... regrets the lack of information on the measures taken to combat discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability, and against children living with HIV/AIDS ... particularly concerned at the persistent patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that discriminate against girls and the lack of adequate measures to address this situation.	(1) para. 30: remains concerned that, in spite of its legal recognition, the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is not properly implemented in practice	(2) para. 34: welcomes the development of guidelines to ensure that children's right to be heard is implemented in legal proceedings. However, ... concerned about how the guidelines are translated into practice. Taking note of the legal progress made in allowing children older than 15 years to be part of the Community Councils, ... nonetheless, regrets the lack of information on the actual representation of the elected children, their role and the results achieved. ... further concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy to promote the participation of children in all spheres of life.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the reform of the Child and Adolescent Protection Act (LOPNNA), in 2007, and the adoption of various other legal instruments which have resulted in increased and harmonized legal protection of children's rights, in accordance with the CRC ... concerned about the lack of adequate implementation of this legislation in some areas and that accountability for children's rights is not systematically ensured ... further concerned that the State party has not yet reformed or adopted all relevant legislation in accordance with the CRC	(2) para. 16: welcomes the efforts made ... in terms of increasing social investment, during the reporting period, ... regrets that it is still difficult to disaggregate the precise spending on children in the total public expenditures. ... concerned about: The reduction in real spending of the budget allocated to programmes and projects implemented by the Autonomous Institute of the National Council for Children's and Adolescent's Rights from 2012 to 2013; The lack of a preliminary evaluation of the impact of the recent budget cuts on the enjoyment of children's rights; para. 17: concerned about corruption ... resulting in less resources being available for the implementation of children's rights.	(2) para. 19: While noting the initiative to develop the Statistical Information System on Children and Adolescents (SIENNA) ... concerned about the slow progress with regard to establishing it; para. 42: no official data on sexual violence against children; para. 44: absence of disaggregated data on violence against children para. 50: lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities.	(2) para. 23: welcomes the statement made by the State party during the dialogue about wide participation of children and civil society in discussions about new policies, plans and draft laws ... concerned that dialogue with independent civil society organizations specializing in children's rights in the State party is decreasing because of the expanding role of the "fora for participatory democracy", such as the Community Councils ... concerned about reports that the reformed Child and Adolescent Protection Act (LOPNNA) has not been fully implemented and that the lack of required regulation on civil society participation has led to reduced participation of civil society in the implementation of children's rights

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194	Viet Nam 2012	(2) para. 9: insufficient follow-up to previous CO on non-discrimination; para. 29: aware of the efforts invested during the review period by the State party to eliminate discrimination against various vulnerable groups of children; this includes the adoption of special measures to improve the delivery of education and health services to children belonging to ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and migrant children; seriously concerned at laws and practices that continue to discriminate against children and the persistence of both direct and indirect discrimination against children in vulnerable situations in the State party; particular concerns about 4 specified issues.	(2) para. 9: insufficient follow-up to previous CO on the best interests of the child; para. 31: welcomes the introduction of the principle of the best interests of the child in the 2004 Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children, and notes that various draft laws, including the draft amendment of the 2004 Law, fully incorporate this principle; however, concerned that the principle has not yet been included in all legislation affecting children, that the knowledge of the principle remains inadequate, and that it is not sufficiently applied in judicial and administrative decisions.	(2) para. 35: welcomes the various legislative measures adopted ... that acknowledged children's right to be heard, also in judicial and administrative proceedings, and the forums for children to make their voices heard in the provinces and at the national level; remains concerned at: the lack of sufficient awareness of the importance of this principle and the lack of systematic application of the right of the child to be heard in all settings, including judicial hearings; the lack of systematic consultation of children in the process of making laws and policies affecting them at the national, regional or local levels, and the absence of more specific guidelines on children's participation in the development of future plans of action concerning children.	(2) para. 9: notes with appreciation the adoption of the 2004 Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children, as well as the State party's efforts to harmonize the domestic legislation with the CRC; remains concerned that not all laws conform to the CRC, in particular as regards the definition of the child and juvenile justice, as well as about the slow pace of progress of the legal reform; also concerned about the inadequacies in the coherence of all child rights-related legislation, as well as about the inadequate resources allocated for the implementation of such legislation.	(2) para. 17: noting the increasing budget expenditure for education and health in recent years and recognizing the challenges the State party faces in the process of rapid socioeconomic development; remains concerned about the scarcity of resources allocated for children, as well as the disparities in the allocation for and spending on children, particularly in the areas of early childhood, child protection, education and health; also concerned about the lack of specific information on earmarked resources for children in the State party; aware of efforts made to combat corruption, it is still concerned at the high levels of corruption which reduce the funds available for the implementation of children's rights.	(1) para. 19: remains concerned at the absence of a central system of data collection covering all areas of the CRC, despite the State party's intent to introduce new regulations on data collection on children as envisaged in the amendment of the 2004 Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children; expresses concern about the limited data available on the enjoyment of children's rights, notably disaggregated statistics on the social sector, child protection, children in street situations, children in situations of exploitation, and children in rural areas.	(2) para. 25: welcomes the progress achieved in fostering a civil society environment in the State party, including through the establishment of the Viet Nam Association for the Protection of Children's Rights in 2008, and notes the draft law on associations; remains concerned at the limited scope civil society is granted to monitor the fulfilment of children's rights in the State party; . further concerned about the lack of effective coordination and cooperation between civil society and governmental offices with respect to the fulfilment of child rights.

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195	Yemen 2014	(1) para. 29: concerned at the persistence of discriminatory social attitudes against categories of children in marginalized/ disadvantaged situations, including ... Muhamasheen children, children born out of wedlock and CWD, ... deeply concerned at discrimination against girls ... owing to the persistence of traditional attitudes and norms by which girls are perceived as inferior to boys; para. 39: concerned at a discriminatory provision against CWD contained in article 4(b) of the Nationality Act No. 6 (1990), according to which one of the prerequisites for children born in the State party to foreign parents to acquire Yemeni nationality, once they have attained majority, is not to have a disability.	(2) para. 31: notes the 2012 amendments proposed to the Child Rights Act in accordance with which the principle of the best interests of the child would be applied in all administrative and judicial proceedings, policies and programmes relating to children. However, it is concerned at the low level of awareness among professionals working with children that the best interests of the child are to be taken as the primary consideration in all areas affecting children, and at the persistence of norms and traditions that impede the application of the principle of the best interests of the child.	(2) para. 35: notes as positive that the Children's Parliament has held its elections regularly since its establishment in 2004 ... expresses concern at the lack of adequate financial and technical support for holding the Children's Parliament sessions ... also concerned that children are generally not perceived as rights holders in Yemeni society and that their participation in the public sphere and opportunities to have their voices heard in decision-making processes are lacking at the policymaking level and in the family, schools and the community.	(2) para. 9: welcomes the fact that recommendations made by working groups of the National Dialogue Conference include provisions guaranteeing children's rights, which are expected to be incorporated into the draft constitution. It also notes the comprehensive revision of 54 laws, bills and regulations related to children, which resulted in a package of draft amendments in line with the CRC ... concerned that divergent views on the rights of the child within the Parliament, in particular on setting the age of majority and the minimum age of marriage at 18 years, risk delaying the adoption of the draft amendments.	(2) para. 15: notes the information provided by the State party during the dialogue that a project was being developed to ensure budgetary allocations for children ... concerned at the lack of specific allocations for children in the social budget of the State party ... concerned at the reduction of financial allocations in the social sector, in particular health and education, compared to gross domestic product and public expenditure in the State party since the Committee last considered a report of the State party in 2005, and its negative impact on children.	(2) para. 17: notes that the State party has developed a juvenile justice information system ... reiterates its concern at the lack of an adequate data collection mechanism allowing for the systematic and comprehensive collection of disaggregated data on all areas covered by the CRC and in relation to all groups of children; para. 53: notes the efforts of the State party to ensure the rights of children with disabilities through services provided by the Disability Fund for Care and Rehabilitation and the Social Fund for Development ... remains concerned about the lack of accurate disaggregated statistical data on children with disabilities.	(2) para. 25: notes the efforts of the State party to strengthen its cooperation with civil society on issues related to children's rights ... regrets the scarcity of information received on the extent of the involvement of the civil society and children in the State party's reporting process.

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196	Zambia 2016	(2) para. 25: notes with appreciation that some progressive provisions on non-discrimination in relation to children have been included in the new Constitution. However, (...) concerned that the principle of non-discrimination, particularly in relation to access to health, education services, discriminatory social and cultural practices, customary marriage disputes and inheritance, is not adequately implemented with respect to children belonging to the most vulnerable groups, such as girls, CWDs, children belonging to religious minorities, children living with HIV/AIDS, migrant and refugee children, orphans and children born out of wedlock.	(2) para. 27: notes that the Children's Code Bill and the National Child Policy include reference to the best interests principle. (...) however, concerned that the principle is not considered under customary law and by religious leaders in many areas of children's rights, particularly in rural areas in cases of inheritance, education and land allocation.	(1) para. 29: concerned that the views of the child are not solicited or taken into account in various settings concerning children, including in judicial and administrative procedures, at schools and at home, particularly on issues such as child marriage and sexual and reproductive health. (...) also notes that the Youth Parliament has not yet been established.	(2) para. 6: inadequate follow-up previous CO on the need to adopt and implement child-related legislation; para. 7: welcomes the adoption of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act 2016 and the audit and review of all child-related legislation and customary law through the Zambia Law Development Commission. (...) notes that the provision on children's rights in the Constitution has still not been adopted. (...) also concerned that the State party has still not enacted all the changes of the child-related legislation reviewed by the Zambia Law Development Commission .	(2) para. 13: noting that the budget allocation to sector ministries dealing with children has increased in the national budget and that the Sixth National Development Plan focuses on the health and education sectors, (...) concerned that social sector expenditures have been reportedly lower than the budget allocated. (...) further concerned at the reports of continuing corruption, which has a negative impact on the allocation of already limited resources for the promotion and protection of children's rights.	(2) para. 15: welcomes the launch of the Zambia Orphans and Vulnerable Children Management Information System (ZOMIS) and notes the State party's intention to create a national database on children, together with the United Nations Children's Fund and Reaching HIV/AIDS Affected People with Integrated Development and Support (RAPIDS). However, (...) reiterates its concern about the lack of information and inability to access disaggregated data about children in most areas covered under the CRC and the reported lack of resources, technical expertise and linkages between different sector-based management information systems.	NA

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197	Zimbabwe 2016	(2) para. 26: While welcoming the inclusive non-discrimination provision in the Constitution, concerned that national legislation remains inconsistent with the CRC non-discrimination provisions. (...) reiterates its concern (...) about high levels of discrimination against certain groups of children, including CWDS, children in street situations, living in rural areas, born out of wedlock, orphans, children living in foster care, LGBTI children and children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. (...) seriously concerned about the situation of girls, who suffer marginalization and gender stereotyping, compromising their educational opportunities, and who are more vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse and HIV/AIDS.	(2) para. 28: welcomes the Constitutional provision on the paramountcy of the child in every matter concerning the child. However, (...) concerned that the best interests of the child are not reflected in all relevant legislation nor applied in all areas and that its content is not well defined.	(2) para. 32: While welcoming the Constitutional guarantee of the child's right to be heard, (...) nonetheless reiterates its concern (para. 16) that, in practice, children are usually excluded from participating in decision-making owing to the perception that they lack capacity and for cultural reasons. (...) commends the State party for the establishment of the Youth Parliament, Cabinet and Council to promote children's participation in issues that affect them, however, (...) notes that the inadequate resourcing of these mechanisms has impeded their effective functioning.	(2) para. 8: welcomes the new Constitution adopted in May 2013, which includes provisions promoting and protecting the rights of children in line with the CRC. While noting the ongoing harmonization process with regard to existing policies, legislation, programmes and administrative practices, (...) remains concerned that certain laws do not comply with the CRC (para. 11), thereby hindering the full realization of children's rights in the State party.	(1) para. 6: pervasive corruption (...) continues to divert resources that could enhance the implementation of the rights of children; para. 14: notes with concern the significant reduction in the budget of children's rights programmes in recent years and the resulting impact on the implementation of the CRC.	(2) para. 18: While noting the adoption of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, (...) reiterates its concern (para. 14) about the shortcomings in compiling, analysing and processing data relating to children's rights.	NA



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