**Round table with Luis Pedernera, Chair of the CRC Committee 2019-2021**

**Treaty Bodies budget crisis**

* The UN budget crisis is an attack to the TBs, which are not political bodies but rather technical mechanisms. The possible cancellation of the third session would have a strong impact on the backlog of the work of the CRC Committee and other TBs as everything would be postponed to the next cycle.
* The Committee is thankful for the press releases of the civil society, as it is very important to be vocal on this issue.

**Main decisions from the last session (81):**

* Revision of GC 10 juvenile justice (which become n°24)
* Adoption of guidelines on the implementation of the OPSC
* Start of next GC on Digital environment
* Next DGD topic adopted on alternative care
* Adoption of decisions of 7 cases concerning OPIC (today CRC has registered 86 cases vs only 40 last year).

**Main current issues on the agenda of the CRC Committee:**

* OPIC cases, TB strengthening, the potential cancellation of the 3rd session, the chairpersons meeting next week in New York for the 2020 review and the Simplified Reporting Procedure.
* Another important issue is improving the PSWG and in particular the children's meetings. There is a permanent debate within the Committee about the legitimacy of the children participating in pre-session. For Luis, they have the same legitimacy as the adults, however this is not obvious for all Committee members.

**Gender equality and child marriage:**

* Gender equality, girls’ rights, LGBTI and intersex children are important issues for the Committee that are usually addressed/brought up in relation to health, discrimination and violence.
* For the CRC it has been a long time that 18 years old is the minimum age for child marriage without exception. The joint GC with CEDAW has been updated in that sense and will be soon published.
* The two-fold way to tackle child marriage: 1) in relation to the child's age (definition) 2) as something cultural (the CRC treats it as harmful practice).
* CSOs to draw the CRC Committee’s attention on national data and emerging issues such as child widows and remarriage.
* To establish consistent standards, not only TBs and Committees should work more together but NGOs as well. Luis called for CSOs to help creating and building on interactions between the CRC and other TBs like CEDAW.

**Next General Comments**

Need to finalise the GC on digital environment first, it is too early to decide the next GC as the Committee cannot work on two GC at the same time due to lack of capacity among the CRC Secretariat. You have 2 years to lobby the Committee with your topic!

**Global Study on children deprived of liberty**

Report should be presented on October 10 but there is a concern about the quality of the report and a threat of lowering the standards. Before thinking about the implementation of the study, the Committee will have to carefully review it. Indeed, the feedback received from experts in juvenile justice and in disabilities would not be too positive.

**On-going dialogue between the CRC and CRPD Committees**

* On-going dialogue between the CRC and CRPD Committees to harmonize the global framework regulating the provision of alternative care for children. The position of the CRPD against institutionalization in a residential care setting, no matter how big or small, is very strong, while the CRC accepts residential care in certain circumstances.
* A meeting between the two Committees without external parties is a priority needed. This of course would have an impact on postponing the expert meeting organized by UNICEF to next year, but it seems to be the right and only way to proceed.

**Concern with languages and limited number of words in the COBs**

Tensions in the Committee about the quality and quantity of words of the Cobs, for Luis it should not lose quality and specificity due to word limit. COBs are all written first in English for all the countries even if the UN has 6 official languages.