

CHILD PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT MONITOR

ANALYSIS OF HOW CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT WAS ADDRESSED BY THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD DURING ITS 90TH SESSION

(3RD MAY– 3RD JUNE 2022)

1. CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DIALOGUE AND THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

During its [90th session](#), the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee) reviewed the following States: **Cambodia, Canada, Chile (SRP), Croatia (SRP), Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Greece, Iceland, Kiribati, Somalia, Zambia (SRP)**. The table below includes 2 sections that highlight 1) how the Committee has brought up the issue of children's participation with the abovementioned States and 2) what it has recommended as necessary actions to be undertaken. The first section compiles the specific questions and comments on children's participation that were made by the Committee to the State delegations during the constructive dialogues (list of Committee members [here](#)); the second section includes the references to children's participation that can be found in the Concluding Observations (COBs). [Webcast](#) of the dialogues and [COBs](#) can be found on these links.

Country	Committee comments and questions during the dialogue ¹	Reference to children’s participation in the COBs	
		As a general principle / Respect for the views of the child	Other clusters
Cambodia CRC	<p><u>Mikiko Otani (Japan)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Concerning the allocation of resources, are children and civil society consulted in the budgetary process? ✓ We are concerned about the law on NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and activities of Human Rights Defenders and in particular Child Human Rights Defenders and their online and offline freedom of expression and opinion. We have heard of arrests of CHRDs and their parents. Do you have any measures to prosecute any violence and harassment against Human Rights Defenders and Child Rights Defenders? <p><u>Rinchen Chopel (Bhutan)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How is the fundamental principle of considering children’s views respected? ✓ Freedom of expression should be guaranteed for all children. 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Guarantee the right of children to be heard in any decision affecting them, including in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings;</p> <p>(b) Strengthen measures to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of children, in particular children in disadvantaged situations, in the family, community and schools, including by allocating sufficient resources for the implementation of the national guidelines on child participation and developing toolkits for consulting children on national policy issues.</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Cooperation with civil society</p> <p><i>[13. Noting with deep concern the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations, the Committee reminds the State party of the important role of independent civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, in promoting the human rights of children, and urges the State party to:]</i></p> <p>(a) Ensure that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, are able to promote children’s rights and exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without being subjected to harassment or disproportionate pandemic-related restrictions, including by amending the Law on associations and non-governmental organizations;</p> <p>(b) Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of intimidation of human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders, and their families, and ensure that they have adequate access to justice and are protected from harassment, intimidation, retaliation and violence.</p> <p>b. Comprehensive policy and strategy : The Committee recommends that the State party</p>

¹ This is a list of questions raised by the Committee members based on the internal notes taken by Child Rights Connect. Some questions might not have been captured.

	<p>✓ Concerning the freedom of assembly, laws do not allow children to form their own associations. How can Cambodia change the law so that children can create their own associations?</p>		<p>develop and adopt, with the full participation of children and civil society, a comprehensive policy on children that succeeds the National Action Plan on Child Development 2016-2018 [...].</p> <p>c. Allocation of resources : (d) Strengthen mechanisms for ensuring transparent and inclusive budgeting allowing children, civil society, and the public to participate in all stages of the budgetary process, including formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, and roll out children’s consultations on planning and budgeting to all districts</p> <p>d. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly : Ensure that children are supported and encouraged to form their own associations and initiatives and to participate in public gatherings.</p> <p>e. Corporal punishment : Strengthen awareness-raising programmes for parents and professionals working with and for children, including the in-service teacher training package on positive discipline and effective classroom management, to promote attitudinal change, within the family and at the community level, with regard to corporal punishment and to promote positive, non-violent, and participatory forms of child-rearing.</p> <p>f. Mental health : (b) Undertake a study on mental health disorders among children, including available facilities, and develop a national strategy to address the issue of suicide, in cooperation with civil society and considering the views of children.</p>
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<p>Canada CRC</p>	<p><u>Bragi Gudbrandsson (Iceland)</u> ✓ During the placement process of alternative care, how is the view of the child, of younger children below the age of 12, ensured?</p> <p><u>Ann Skelton (South Africa)</u> ✓ Concerning the impact of climate change, are children’s views taken into consideration? Which steps are taken to consult with children on issues such as energy regulation?</p>	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, within the family, community, and schools, and develop and share good practices;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that the views of the child are a requirement for all official decision-making processes that relate to children, including custody cases, child welfare decisions, criminal justice, immigration, and the environment;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that children have the possibility to voice their complaints if their right to be heard is violated about judicial and administrative proceedings, and that children have access to an appeals procedure.</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Right to life, survival, and development: (b) Implement the National Inquiry’s calls for justice with the meaningful participation of Indigenous girls;</p> <p>b. Corporal punishment : (b) Further promote positive, non-violent, and participatory forms of childrearing and discipline;</p> <p>c. Children deprived of a family environment 31. (b) Ensure that the need for placement of each child in institutional care is always assessed by competent, multidisciplinary teams of professionals and that the initial decision of placement is done for the shortest period, and to ensure that children and their families participate in decision-making to guarantee an individualized and community-sensitive approach;</p> <p>d. Children with disabilities (art. 23) : Ensure the meaningful participation of Indigenous children with disabilities, those living on reserves, in the design and implementation of standards and programmes, and</p>

			<p>provide with the necessary human, technical and financial resources for its application.</p> <p>e. Impact of climate change on the rights of the child: Strengthen awareness-raising among children, with the active participation of schools, on climate change and environmental health, including on relevant air quality and climate legislation, and ensure that children’s views are systematically considered in developing policies and programmes addressing climate change;</p> <p>f. Economic exploitation, including child labour: (b) Establish an effective monitoring system for implementation of ILO (International Labour Organization) 138, including the participation of children, access to child-friendly avenues for complaint, and public reports that are accessible to children.</p>
<p>Chile CRC</p>	<p><u>Clarence Nelson (Samoa)</u></p> <p>✓ Have you taken measures to promote and guarantee the participation of children in the consultative process whereby the new constitution will be put together? Do you have any legal provisions to recognize and enforce the right of the child to be heard in all matters concerning him or her and in education, health, justice, and family affairs? What measures have you taken to create formal frameworks for the participation of children in the development and implementation of local, regional,</p>	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Address the deficit of legal representation of children, particularly in the areas of protection and domestic violence;</p> <p>(b) Continue to promote the meaningful participation of all children, within the family, the community, schools, and the realm of policymaking at the municipal and national levels, by developing toolkits for consulting children on national policy issues and ensuring that the outcomes of children’s councils are systematically fed into public decision-making; [...].</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Non-discrimination: (c) Evaluate, with the participation of children and civil society actors, existing measures aimed at combating discrimination against children in vulnerable situations, to assess their impact and revise measures accordingly; [...].</p> <p>b. Education, aims of education and human rights education : (e) Update curricula to be responsive to rapidly changing environment and encourage direct participation of children in issues that affect them and in environmental protection as a component of their learning process;</p>

	<p>and national policies affecting and concerning them?</p> <p><u>Aissatou Alassane Sidikou (Niger)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have you taken measures to promote the participation of children in the consultative process whereby the new constitution will be put together? ✓ Do you have mechanisms for children to be heard in all matters concerning him or her, on health, justice, and family affairs? ✓ What measures have you taken to promote the participation of children in decisions made at the local, regional and national levels? 		
Croatia CRC	<p><u>Rinchen Chophel (Bhutan)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How is the government issuing meaningful participation of children, including Roma children and asylum-seeking children, in all matters affecting them? ✓ The Committee received reports that indicates that child participation is not part of regular practice, can the delegation provide more information about that? ✓ Especially concerned that vulnerable children have no opportunities to express their opinions on matters affecting them. Can the state party provide information on what measures are 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Promote meaningful and empowered participation of children, particularly children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, within the family, communities, schools, and other settings, and include children in decision-making in all matters related to them, including environmental matters;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that information on child-related laws and policies is available in child-friendly language;</p> <p>(c) Further strengthen and promote the Network of Young Advisers to the Ombudsman for Children and implement monitoring and accountability mechanisms relating to child participation;</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coordination: Conduct an independent evaluation of the previous Council for Children to inform and strengthen the role and functioning of the newly established Children’s Council b) Violence, including abuse, sexual abuse and online violence: The Committee urges the State party to a) formulate, with the involvement of children, a comprehensive policy for preventing, combating and monitoring all forms of violence against children, including domestic violence, bullying and sexual exploitation and abuse including online; b) Strengthen awareness-raising and education programmes

	<p>being taken to address meaningful and important participation of children, focusing particularly on children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, and within the family communities and schools?</p> <p>✓ Can you enlighten us on measures taken to strengthen the Network of Young Advisers to the Ombudsman for Children?</p> <p><u>Philip D. Jaffé (Switzerland)</u></p> <p>✓ Can you provide information on the participation of children in matters related to the environment and the impact of climate change ?</p>	<p>(d) Reinforce measures to ensure that professionals working with and for children, including future professionals, systematically receive appropriate training on children being heard, and consider children’s views in all decisions affecting them.</p>	<p>— including campaigns — with the involvement of children, in order to formulate a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating child abuse;</p> <p>c) Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children: the Committee recommends ensuring that children’s views are duly considered in all decisions concerning them, including in the administrative procedures, and provide support to families with migration backgrounds to prevent family separation;</p> <p>d) Impact of climate change on the rights of the child: The Committee recommends placing the rights and participation of children at the centre of national and international climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies;</p>
<p><i>Cuba CRC</i></p>	<p><u>Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia)</u></p> <p>✓ Freedom of expression (article 53): Cuba has said in the report that their Constitution was in full compliance with article 72 of the CRC, but there are restrictions decided by law. What are these restrictions that are applicable in the context of their Constitution or subsidiary legislation?</p>	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings;</p> <p>(b) Review article 107 of the Family Code, which recognizes consideration by the courts of the wishes only of children who are 7 years or older in adoption cases, and involve children in a way that reflects the evolving capacities of each child;</p> <p>(c) Promote the meaningful participation of all children within the family, communities and schools and include them in decision-making in all matters related to children, including legislative processes, paying particular attention to girls,</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Sexual abuse</p> <p>The Committee urges the State party to : With the participation of children, strengthen community-based awareness-raising and education programmes aimed at preventing and tackling child sexual abuse, targeting children, families, communities, and schools;</p> <p>b. Allocation of resources</p> <p>the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>Ensure transparent and participatory budgeting through public dialogue, especially with children and</p>

		<p>children living in poverty, and children with disabilities.</p>	<p>adolescents, and for proper accountability of local authorities.</p>
<p>Cyprus CRC</p>	<p>Faith Marshall-Harris (Barbados)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can the delegation provide information on how children’s view, which I understand are freely expressed, are taken into consideration or given appropriate weight on decisions affecting children? ✓ Can you explain whether active participation of children is fostered in schools and in any other institutions concerning children, and if parents and adults are enough sensitized to child participation? <p>Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi (Morocco)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can you provide information on children participation outside of the children parliament and council? For example, during covid 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote and ensure the recognition of children as subjects of rights; b) Abolish any age limit on the right of children to express their views and ensure that the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings, also on asylum, is enshrined in legislation and effectively implemented, including by establishing systems and/or procedures for courts and professionals working with and for children to comply with the principle and building their capacity to use such systems and procedures; c) Ensure that the participatory structures, including the Children’s Parliament, Central Student Councils, the Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Board, represent children with distinct ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds, as well as children with disabilities, and are provided with adequate resources to fulfil their mandates; 	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Dissemination, awareness-raising and training: Raise awareness of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure among all children and provide training thereon to relevant actors, including children human rights defenders. b) Cooperation with civil society: The Committee welcomes the State party’s support to civil society, including the Grants-in-Aid Scheme, and recommends that the State party systematically involve all children’s groups and NGOs working for children, including children with disabilities, asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes related to children and reporting to the Committee. c) Violence against children, including abuse and neglect: b) Strengthen and centralise the

	<p>19 pandemic, were children heard and involved in decisions affecting them?</p>	<p>d) Tackle negative stereotypes and stigma affecting the participation of children in situations of vulnerability;</p> <p>e) Raise awareness among parents and relevant professionals about the right of children to be heard and promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, communities, and schools, hear their views and include them in decision-making on all matters affecting them.</p>	<p>collection and analysis of disaggregated data on child victims of all forms of violence, such as domestic violence, corporal punishment, bullying and sexual exploitation and abuse, including within the child’s circle of trust and by religious personnel, with a view to assessing the magnitude of the phenomenon and formulating and implementing, with the participation of children, a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating all forms of violence against children; g) Ensure, including by reviewing the Criminal Procedures Law and the Law On Legal Aid, that the rights of child victims are respected in the context of the criminal proceedings, including the right to access information, the right to have their views heard, the right to legal assistance and other necessary support, such as psychological support, translation and interpretation;</p> <p>d) Children with disabilities: e) Ensure and promote opportunities for children with disabilities to express their views on matters affecting them, including at school, and have their views considered; tackle stigma affecting the participation of children with disabilities; and support the establishment of an organisation representing them</p> <p>e) Education, including vocational training: Monitor and evaluate its educational reforms, on a regular basis and with the participation of children, and ensure that children’s views are heard and taken into account in accordance with their age, the level of maturity and development, and provide other meaningful</p>
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			<p>opportunities for children to participate in matters relating to education, including disciplinary and complaints procedures, with particular attention to children with disabilities, refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children;</p>
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<p><i>Djibouti CRC</i></p>	<p><u>Alassane Sidikou (Niger)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Children’s Parliament is only meeting twice a year, do you think this periodicity is enough for children to discuss and implement issues concerning them? ✓ Are there consultations with children at the regional and local level, except for the children’s Parliament which is at the national level? <p><u>Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How are children informed on their right to freedom of expression? <p><u>Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi (Morocco)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Could you provide information on the children’s parliament and what is the children selective criteria? <p><u>Philip Jaffé (Switzerland)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Could you provide information about the lack of possibilities for children, specifically children with disabilities to express their opinion and to have assistance to make decisions in all matters affective them? ✓ Could you provide information about actions undertaken by young people spontaneously, that would have been supported by the government or by associations, to 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Amend article 172 of the Family Code to recognize the right of the child to be heard to all children and not only to those older than 13 years of age;</p> <p>(b) Develop procedures and guidelines for social and justice professionals to ensure in practice the application of children’s right to be heard in all administrative and judicial proceedings concerning them;</p> <p>(c) Promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, communities and schools and include children in decision-making in all matters related to children.</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Freedom of expression and access to appropriate information: The Committee urges the State party to guarantee children’s rights to freedom of expression and access to appropriate information by creating an environment conducive to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and amend its legislation to ensure that any restriction on press and media activities is in strict compliance with international human rights standards. It further recommends that the State Party promote the availability of and access to adequate and age-appropriate information on matters related to children’s rights and the environment b) Children with disabilities: Take measures to ensure that children with disabilities exercise their right to express their views freely on matters affecting them, and to provide them with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize this right. c) Health and health services: Undertake a comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of adolescent health and mental health concerns, with the full participation of adolescents, in particular adolescent girls; d) Adolescent health: Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescent girls, making sure that their views are always heard and given consideration as a part of the decision-making process.
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	<p>protest or advocate for the environment and the climate crisis?</p> <p><u>Mikiko Otani (Japan)</u></p> <p>✓ Are there any mechanisms in place to relate Children Parliament and Adult Parliament meetings, to receive feedback of those meetings?</p>		<p>e) Nutrition and standard of living: Ensure that children’s special vulnerabilities, needs and views are considered in developing policies and programmes to address climate change and in disaster risk management</p>
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Greece CRC

Mikiko Otani (Japan)

- ✓ Despite the recognition of the right of the child to be heard, its implementation is rarely made in practice. What is the current practice in Greece to implement this principle, and implement previous recommendations of the Committee? Are there any guidelines developed?
- ✓ What are the views of the government to the need of special measures to ensure inclusive participation?
- ✓ Are there any studies on how to integrate children's views in the school policy? Are there any surveys conducted?

Gehad Madi (Egypt)

- ✓ What are the measures taken to provide information in the migrant and refugee children languages on their rights (administrative procedures, health care, housing , education etc..)?

Benoit van Keirsblick (Belgium)

- ✓ In matters of separation of children from their parents, are judges trained to listen to children in

The Committee recommends the State Party to:

- a) Ensure the effective implementation of the legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings, including by establishing systems and/or procedures for social workers and courts to comply with the principle and building their capacity to use such systems and procedures;
- b) Ensure that the participatory structures, including the Youth Parliament and Student Councils, represent children with distinct ethnic, religious, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds, as well as children with disabilities;
- c) Promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, in alternative care, communities and schools and include children in decision-making in all matters related to children, including environmental matters.

The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:

- a) **Children deprived of a family environment:** Provide opportunities for all children in care to maintain contact with their parents and to have their views heard and considered;

	<p>those situations? How are children informed on their rights?</p>		
<p><i>Iceland CRC</i></p>	<p><u>Luis Pedernera (Uruguay)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Which measures are planned take off all the obstacles and to make sure that children can express their views and right to be heard? ✓ Is there an initiative to reduce the voting age to 16years old still planned? ✓ Freedom of assembly, the committee received information that children are denied the registration in organizations, could the delegation provide more information? <p><u>Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When a child is consulted are decisions adopted differently, regarding decisions affecting children? ✓ what are the elements of the debate around the reduction of the voting age? Why are parties reluctant to that? Have 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Amend the Youth Act to ensure that all municipalities establish youth councils and to clarify their functions, responsibilities, and mandates, in accordance with the Child-Friendly Iceland parliamentary resolution;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that all children can express their opinion and be heard in all decisions affecting them, including in courts and civil proceedings and on decisions regarding custody, contact and asylum, and adopt relevant legislative amendments to ensure that their views are heard and considered in such decisions;</p> <p>(c) Continue to strengthen measures to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, including children in disadvantaged situations, within the family, the community, schools, and the realm of policymaking at the municipal and national levels, such as by ensuring that the outcomes of youth councils are systematically fed into public decision-making;</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coordination: Ensure that the steering committee is provided with the human, technical and financial resources necessary to support the effective implementation of the Convention across the State party, and that it includes the participation of children and civil society; b) Impact of climate change on the rights of the child: Ensure that national policies and programmes on climate change and adaptation are implemented in accordance with the principles of the Convention and considering children’s needs and views c) Education, including vocational training and guidance: Ensure the active participation of children and young people in the formulation of educational policies. d) Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children: Ensure that all relevant stakeholders working

	<p>you consulted the children about this question?</p> <p><u>Hynd Idrissi (Morocco)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ changes for a greater participation: how changes in the legislation have been applied, to make it more accessible and understandable to children? <p><u>Mikiko Otani (Japan)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ children parliament: have you done or are you planning to provide feedback to children? 	<p>(d) Ensure that all relevant professionals working with and for children, including teachers and youth care professionals, systematically receive appropriate training on the right of the child to be heard and have his or her opinion considered.</p>	<p>with children receive training, and copies of the relevant procedures, for ensuring that the best interests of asylum-seeking children are given primary consideration in all asylum processes and that their views are heard, considered, and given due weight</p>
<p><i>Kiribati CRC</i></p>	<p><u>José Ángel Rodríguez Reyes (Venezuela)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do children participate in public debates on climate change? <p><u>Aissatou Alassame Sidikou (Niger)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How is the principle of non-discrimination concerning pregnant girls in schools implemented and how are their views considered in accordance with the child's maturity on all matters relating to their interests? ✓ Can you tell us more on child participation? Are there frameworks to ensure consultations 	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>23. The Committee is concerned about the limited recognition of the right of the child, particularly of girls and children with disabilities, to be heard and have their views given consideration in law and in practice, including on climate change issues, owing to the prevalent of traditional attitude regarding the lesser and limited role that children can exert in society.</p> <p>24. Recalling its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that children are heard and that their views, including on climate change, are given consideration in relevant administrative and judicial proceedings in respect of all rights covered by the Convention;</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Comprehensive policy and strategy: Ensure that all policies and action plan concerning children are developed with the full participation of children and civil society organizations.</p> <p>b. Children deprived of a family environment : Establish quality standards for all available forms of alternative care options and take children's views into consideration in any decision about alternative care;</p> <p>c. Adolescent health: Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescent girls, making sure that their views are always heard and given consideration as a part of the decision-making process;</p>

	<p>with children at the national level and from the different islands?</p> <p>✓ Do you have quality standard control for all alternative care methods and are children consulted and is their opinion considered?</p>	<p>(b) Combat negative societal attitudes which hinder children’s right to be heard and promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, communities and schools and include children in decision-making on all matters related to children, including environmental matters.</p>	<p>d. Impact of climate change on the rights of the child and environmental health</p> <p>While noting measures taken to strengthen disaster risk management, the Committee is concerned about:</p> <p>46. (c) The limited participation of children in public discussions and preparation of adaptation strategies, including climate-related migration;</p> <p>47. (b) Ensure that the special vulnerabilities and needs of children, as well as their views, are considered in developing policies and programmes addressing the issues of climate change and disaster risk management;</p> <p>e. Children in street situation: Drawing attention to its general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, the Committee recalls its previous recommendation¹⁵ and recommends that the State party urgently conduct a study on the root causes of children in street situations, assess their number and ensure that they are provided with adequate nutrition, housing, health care, education and reintegration with family or placement in alternative care, with full respect for the child’s best interests and giving due weight to their autonomous views in accordance with their age and maturity.</p>
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<p><i>Somalia</i> CRC</p>	<p><u>Hynd Ayoubi-Idrissi (Morocco)</u></p> <p>✓ There is a need that the superior interest of the child is respected, by an effective participation and a consideration as subject and actor of the law. Are there measures to guarantee the implementation of a representative child parliament?</p>	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>(a) Promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, communities, and schools, establish a children’s parliament, and include children in decision-making in all matters related to them, with particular attention to girls, children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations and children who are out of school;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that children’s views are given consideration in the courts and in all relevant administrative and other processes concerning them through, inter alia, the adoption of appropriate legislation and the training of professionals.</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a. Adolescent health:</p> <p>(d) Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances, ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescent girls, making sure that their views are always heard and given consideration as a part of the decision-making process, and take measures to prevent obstetric fistula and ensure that treatment is provided to girls who suffer from this condition.</p> <p>b. Impact of climate change on the rights of the child:</p> <p>Ensure that children’s special vulnerabilities, needs and views are considered in developing policies and programmes to address climate change and disaster risk management;</p>
<p><i>Zambia</i> CRC</p>	<p><u>Gehad Madi (Egypt)</u></p> <p>✓ What are the reasons for suspending the establishment of the child national council?</p> <p><u>Rinchen Chopel(Buthan)</u></p> <p>✓ Considering the Committee’s past recommendations on the respect of the view of the child, and knowing that the Children’s Code Bill is at an advanced stage of finalization, can you inform us on the steps that you will take to further mainstream child participation as an obligation for all</p>	<p>The Committee recommends the State Party to:</p> <p>a) Establish the Youth Parliament and ensure that it is provided with a meaningful mandate and adequate human, technical and financial resources, to facilitate children’s effective engagement with national legislative processes on issues that affect them;</p> <p>b) Ensure that the Children’s Code Bill enshrines the provisions on child participation in all settings and decisions regarding children, particularly in judicial and administrative procedures, at schools, communities and at home, on</p>	<p>The Committee refers to child participation in the recommendations on:</p> <p>a) Comprehensive policy and strategy: Develop and adopt a National Strategy for Child Participation, providing procedure and guidance for child participation in schools, health, social justice, and governance systems;</p> <p>b) Impact of climate change on the rights of the child: Ensure that children’s special vulnerabilities, needs and views are considered in developing policies and programmes to address climate change and disaster risk management</p>

	<p>state and non-state actors and organizations directly interacting with children as part of their statutes or policies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ what measures are being taken to build institutional capacity of all key stakeholders to apply this principle? ✓ How are practitioners held accountable to apply this principle in decision-making processes? 	<p>issues such as child marriage and sexual and reproductive health and environmental matters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Mainstream child participation as an obligation for all state and non-state actors directly interacting with children as part of their statutes/policies; d) Reinforce measures to ensure that professionals working with and for children, systematically receive appropriate training on hearing and considering children's views in all decisions affecting them. 	
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2. ANALYSIS

The Committee continued to raise questions and to issue recommendations on children’s participation within the cluster General Principles under Respect for the views of the child (Art. 12), as well as integrating the principle into other clusters. The questions raised by the Committee experts regarding the Respect for the views of the child included hearing children views in all settings and decisions regarding children, including in the school and family environment as well as in courts and civil proceedings. As for previous sessions, a particular focus has been made also in ensuring child participation in climate change issues, as for the recommendations made to Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Kiribati, Somalia and Zambia.

In the concluding observations of all countries reviewed during the 90th session, the Committee requests to implement and promote a “meaningful and empowered” participation of all children. Moreover, the Committee gave a particular attention not only to the right of the children to be heard, but also of the right for their views to be considered in decision-making processes affecting children. This was raised for example in Iceland, Kiribati, or Cyprus for which the Committee expressly asked to what extent children’s views are considered and affects the decisions taken and included in all concluding observations. Moreover, the establishment or the strengthening of the Children’s Parliament was also raised in most of the concluding observations and during the country dialogues. The Committee also underlined in some cases the need to provide feedback to children on the use of their views, as for Iceland and Greece.

A positive improvement in the 90th session were the questions and concluding observations focusing on child human rights defenders during the review of Cambodia. The terminology ‘child human rights defender’ was used in both the questions Cambodia received from the Committee members and directly in the Concluding Observations for the country. The term was used in relation to children’s civil and political rights and particularly the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and the right to peaceful assembly. In the Concluding Observations for Cyprus, there was also a reference to CHRDs. References to CHRDs were not apparent in the other country reviews of the 90th session.

For the 90th session, the Committee in its Concluding Observations, the Committee integrated children’s participation into other clusters for the four States reviewed under the CRC, notably in the following clusters:

- **General measures of implementation** (Comprehensive policy and strategy Coordination; Allocation of resources; coordination with civil society)
- **General Principles** (Non-discrimination)
- **Civil rights and freedoms** (Freedom of association and peaceful assembly)
- **Children with disabilities**
- **Violence against children** (Harmful practices; Corporal punishment, Violence against children, including abuse and neglect)
- **Family environment and alternative care** (Children deprived of a family environment; Impact of climate change on the right of the child)
- **Basic health and welfare** (Health and health services; Mental health; Adolescent health)
- **Special protection measures** (Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration; Economic exploitation, including child labour; children in street situation)



- **Education, leisure, and cultural activities** (Education, including vocational training and guidance