**UN CRC** | **Ratification Date** | **Care-Related Concluding Observations** |
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**B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)**

**Non-discrimination**

16. The Committee is concerned about the gaps in implementation of the Law on Equal Opportunities of 1998, and continuous discrimination against all children, and, inter alia, 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.

17. The Committee urges the State party to enforce its legislation against discrimination and take urgent measures to prevent discrimination against, inter alia, 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. The Committee further recommends that the State party include information in its next periodic report on measures and programmes relevant to the Convention and undertaken by the State party in follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as the outcome document adopted at the 2009 Durban Review Conference.

**C. Civil Rights and Freedoms (arts. 7, 8, 13-17, 19 and 37 (a) of the Convention)**
Right to identity

22. The Committee is concerned about the existence and proliferation of “baby boxes”, allowing anonymous abandonment of children, which is in violation of, inter alia, articles 7, 8, 9 and 19 of the Convention.

23. The Committee strongly urges the State party to undertake all measures necessary to end the practice of anonymous abandonment and expeditiously strengthen and promote alternatives. The Committee also urges the State party to increase its efforts to study and address the root causes which lead to the abandonment of infants. The response should include the provision of family planning, reproductive health as well as adequate counselling and social support for unplanned pregnancies and the prevention of risk pregnancies, and support for families in need, while making the possibility of anonymous births at hospitals as a measure of last resort to avoid abandonment and/or death of the child. In that respect, the State party should keep a confidential record of the parents to which the child could access at a later stage, taking into account the duty to fully comply with all provisions of the Convention.

E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 18 (paras. 1-2), 9-11, 19-21, 25, 27 (para. 4) and 39 of the Convention)

Family environment

31. The Committee is concerned at the increasing number of children being placed out of their homes or in the custody of temporary guardians, especially when parents travel to other countries for work or study.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the quality and availability of family support, including community-based services and employment opportunities to families facing economic constraints, and, at
the same time, strengthen their parenting skills to enable them to take care of their children. With reference to Article 27, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Committee also urges the State Party to take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad, including through the accession to, or the conclusion of, international agreements for such purposes.

Children deprived of a family environment

33. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Strategic Guidelines for Deinstitutionalization of Social Care Homes, including for children without parental custody and children with disabilities, for 2010-2020 and the Strategy for Reorganization of Child Care for 2008-2012. The Committee, however, is concerned about:

   (a) The large number of cases of deprivation of parental rights and placement of children, in particular children under the age of 3, in care institutions;

   (b) Lack of clear guidelines on separation of children from their families;

   (c) Very low number of foster families and inadequate support provided to them;

   (d) Poor living conditions and limited space in care institutions; and

   (e) Lack of monitoring system of non-governmental children’s homes which often fail to comply with the legal requirements for hygiene, quality of
services and space.

34. Recalling the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children annexed to the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/142 of 20 December 2009, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure sufficient alternative family and community based care options for children deprived of family environment;

(b) Ensure that placement in institutional care is used only as a last resort and that adequate safeguards and clear needs-based and best interests of the child criteria are used for determining whether a child should be placed in institutional care;

(c) Establish clear guidelines and criteria on deprivation of parental rights and carry out review and regular monitoring of all placements in care institutions;

(d) Establish a rigorous system of monitoring the services provided by care institutions, especially by nongovernmental care institutions; and

(e) Take into consideration the Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care and the quality standards and utilise EU funding to strengthen the implementation of its legal provisions.

Adoption

35. The Committee is concerned that the process of adoption in the State party can be lengthy and that prospective adoptive parents face significant administrative burdens due to the frequent negative assessment of adoptions by care institutions. It is also concerned that children do not receive appropriate information and support during the adoption process.
36. The Committee recommends that the State party establish effective mechanisms aimed at facilitating the adoption process by removing unnecessary barriers, but at the same time ensuring proper screening of prospective adoptive parents. It furthermore recommends that depending on age and maturity, children are informed, consulted and supported throughout the adoption process.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations:

- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child/Committee on the Rights of the Child
- CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ICCRP: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- OPAC to CRC: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- UN: United Nations
- UPR: Universal Periodic Review