



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
31 October 2017
English
Original: Spanish
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Argentina due in 2016 under article 44 of the Convention^{*}, ^{**}

[Date received: 19 December 2016]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** The annexes and the appendices to the present document are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation. They may also be accessed from the web page of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



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I. Introduction

1. In 2005, Act No. 26061 on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents was passed into law, creating the National Secretariat for Children, Young Persons and the Family (SENAF). The new secretariat was entrusted with preparing the reports provided for under article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and it was designated as the liaison office for all related recommendations.
2. In preparing the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports, SENAF solicited input from the National Executive, the provincial governments, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, decentralized governmental bodies, social organizations and children¹ throughout the country.
3. When the new government took office in December 2015, SENAF underwent changes in its management. The new administration welcomes the observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and agrees on the need to coordinate efforts at the federal level to fully guarantee children's rights. The challenge will lie in finding ways to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, such as by opening and supporting early childhood centres throughout the country and establishing centres where adolescents nationwide can participate in recreational, sports and arts activities. Similarly, by extending the 102 children's telephone hotline to have full country coverage, all provinces will be able to offer and contribute to this resource, which is intended mainly as a portal where children can talk to someone and receive support. However, the hotline cannot be considered in isolation but, rather, must be part of a general reinforcement of the country's child protection systems. A national plan to create temporary detention centres for juveniles, for instance, will provide such reinforcement inasmuch as children will no longer be held at police stations anywhere in the country.
4. With regard to children's right to be heard and to be involved, 250 young people from various cities and towns attended adolescents' forums, a series of which were held in all the provinces. In 2016, input from more than 5,000 teenagers were reflected in the preparation of the National Plan of Action 2016–2019.
5. At meetings organized periodically by the Federal Council, participants discussed problems and suggestions concerning young people and received training on the main issues affecting children and adolescents. Within that framework, formal commitments were assumed concerning the key topics to be addressed jointly. One of these topics was the need to reform the juvenile criminal law system. Guidelines were developed and a bill proposed by SENAF was circulated among the members of the Federal Council with a view to the regional representatives' reaching a consensus on the terms of the draft legislation.
6. One of the themes common to all SENAF policies is the issue of violence. It is addressed from various perspectives, all of which are important and interconnected when implementing strategies. Training, advocacy and prevention are all areas that require greater attention, and further work is needed in terms of family support and strengthening of inter-agency networks.
7. The National Training Plan is another thrust of ongoing work. The idea is to build capacity among local practitioners at the local level by providing training in topics of concern to them, so that they can respond adequately to daily needs.
8. The additional objective of framing policies that focus on children and their families seeks to strengthen the family unit by means of measures and programmes that respond to their needs. The approach taken is based on parenting models, the early establishment of close family bonds and parental responsibility.
9. Strengthening the protection of children's rights in all the country's jurisdictions will entail providing training to practitioners, preparing intervention protocols and ensuring

¹ As stated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, "The term *child*, obviously, encompasses boys, girls, and adolescents" (advisory opinion OC-17/2002, para. 42, footnote 45).

that the system operates in close coordination with the juvenile criminal justice system in order to comprehensively address the rights and guarantees of children and their families.

II. General information

Demographic characteristics

10. According to the 2010 population and household census conducted by the National Statistics and Census Institute, at the time of the census Argentina had a total population of 40,117,096 inhabitants, of whom 12,333,747 were younger than 18 years of age.

III. Follow-up to the principal areas of concern and recommendations in respect of the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Argentina

A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44, para. 6, of the Convention)

Previous recommendations of the Committee

Paragraph 8

11. Argentina has taken the necessary measures in follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Committee's concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.187) on the country's second periodic report (CRC/C/70/Add.10).

12. *Paragraph 16* (CRC/C/15/Add.187): Act No. 26061 was passed into law and provincial administrative bodies responsible for the promotion and protection of children's rights were created in the country's 24 federal entities. Their policies are coordinated through the Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family (COFENAF) (see annex III and para. 16).

13. *Paragraphs 41 and 43* (CRC/C/15/Add.187): Local child protection agencies were strengthened and comprehensive protection measures were put in place to support children's rights and to restore rights that had been violated. It was established that family separation, as an exceptional measure, is to be used as a last resort and only upon the exhaustion of all protective measures; it may not exceed 90 days.² Care must be taken to ensure that nuclear families are not broken up simply because they are poor; poverty should be addressed through State policies. Alternative accommodation arrangements are available for children without parental care (either with foster families or in residential facilities, be they State-run or privately run, but operating under an agreement with the State); both types of arrangement are subject to oversight by the executive and judicial branches of the Government.

14. With regard to children in conflict with the law and the comprehensive protection of their rights, the measures available to the justice system include child rehabilitation homes and programmes involving supervision or privation of liberty (see para. 80). Since the young people in question in either case are in vulnerable situations, the penal system and the protection system work together to safeguard and restore their rights. In this connection, Dr. Nicolás Espejo, adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, gave a presentation at COFENAF on how the comprehensive protection system and the juvenile criminal justice system interact to ensure that children's rights are respected. The province of Buenos Aires is strengthening the coordination between the system of juvenile criminal responsibility and the rights-protection system. It is furthermore pursuing community integration strategies which include training and support

² Implementing Decree No. 415/06 for Act No. 26061.

facilities for institutionalized adolescents; as part of this approach, the operation of closed child rehabilitation centres is subject to the oversight of the social authorities. The Office of the Criminal Cassation Defence Counsel keeps track of the cases of torture and inhuman treatment in the province, recording them in a register established in 2008. The Office issues an annual report on the cases registered.

15. *Paragraph 51 (CRC/C/15/Add.187)*: The National Programme for Comprehensive Adolescent Sexual Health and the School Health Programme are aimed at children 11 years of age and older and adolescents in the education system. Health-related training is being conducted on an ongoing basis. Adolescent health centres were upgraded in 18 provinces and in health-care regions in Buenos Aires. Health teams received training relating to the SUMAR public health insurance plan, specifically on adolescents' rights and management of teenage-friendly services.³ Workshops were held to discuss the new National Civil and Commercial Code and the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents. Guidelines were established on the comprehensive care of adolescents through user-friendly, quality health services;⁴ guidelines were also established on the subject of adolescents' rights and adolescents' access to the health-care system.⁵

16. Regarding the programmes set up to combat HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, the National Directorate of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases, as part of the Ministry of Health, works together with the National Programme for Comprehensive Adolescent Sexual Health. Between 2003 and 2013, 4,461 children and adolescents (individuals aged from 0 to 19 years) were identified as living with HIV. Of those, 56 per cent were between 15 and 19 years of age. The condition was more prevalent among the female population on account of their access to HIV testing associated with prenatal tests.

Table 9

HIV diagnosis rate for every 100,000 inhabitants: adolescents between 10 and 14 years of age (2004–2014)

<i>Diagnosis rate</i>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Male	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.45	0.5	0
Female	1.4	0.7	1.2	0.5	0.65	0.9	1	1	0.75	0.6	0.4
Total	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.55	0.2

Table 10

HIV diagnosis rate for every 100,000 inhabitants: adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age (2004–2014)

<i>Diagnosis rate</i>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Male	4.6	4.5	5	4.9	5.2	5.5	7.8	6.6	6.4	5.4	4.2
Female	8.5	8.6	7.9	8.3	9.1	8.7	5.6	9.6	7.6	7.4	4.2
Total	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	7.1	7.1	6.7	8.1	7	6.4	4.2

Source: National Directorate of AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

17. *Paragraph 57 (CRC/C/15/Add.187)*: Articles 52, 53 and 54 of Act No. 26206 provide for the protection and promotion of bilingual intercultural education through the establishment of the National Programme for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the development of educational material, and the training of teachers on the subject of non-discrimination with assistance from the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism and the National Secretariat for Human Rights. As part of the

³ The World Health Organization provided assistance with the translation of the *Quality Assessment Guidebook: A Guide to Assessing Health Services for Adolescent Clients*.

⁴ Part of a technical cooperation project with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Argentine Paediatric Society.

⁵ Part of a technical cooperation project with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).

Schools against Racism campaign, the following educational material was handed out at 24,000 national institutions: a booklet titled “Toward an Intercultural Argentina”; a guide titled “We Are Equal and Different”; a booklet titled “How We See Others and How Others See Us, How We Think about Others and How Others Think about Us”; and an educational guide, film and poster entitled “Where Can You Find Racism?”.

18. In 2014, cartoons featuring the popular character Mafalda and illustrating children’s rights were published in seven indigenous languages.⁶ They were intended for criollo teachers, indigenous teaching assistants and Special Aboriginal Teachers, whose class preparation takes cultural context into account.

19. Decision No. 1119/10 of the Ministry of Education and Sports recognizes the Autonomous Education Council of Indigenous Peoples as representing indigenous peoples before the Ministry. To date, 360 institutional educational projects targeting the indigenous population have been set up; in addition, training has been delivered to 6,687 indigenous and non-indigenous teachers at the initial, primary and secondary levels of 1,215 educational units. Following consultation and agreement with the autonomous education councils, these projects were incorporated into the curriculum.

20. Sixty-one thousand eight hundred and forty-one scholarships were awarded to indigenous students. A total of 17,571 teacher-training scholarships were awarded to indigenous persons who assist initial-, primary- and secondary-level teaching staff throughout the country. One hundred and ten thousand five hundred copies of a text on bilingual intercultural education were published. As part of a policy to ensure simultaneous bilingual literacy in Spanish and an indigenous language, initial literacy skills were taught in plurilingual settings in Salta, Jujuy, Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Chubut and Santiago del Estero. The seventeenth edition of the celebration of Mapuche ancestral games took place at the schools of the Chubut plateau and cordillera, an area declared of national educational interest.

Indigenous enrolment 2014

<i>Level</i>	<i>Setting</i>	<i>Educational units</i>	<i>Indigenous pupils</i>
Initial	Rural	542	8 349
	Urban	180	14 030
Total		722	22 379
Primary	Rural	661	32 800
	Urban	92	11 784
Total		753	44 584
Secondary	Rural	195	9 473
	Urban	42	5 020
Total		237	14 493
Total		1 712	81 456

21. Paragraph 61 (CRC/C/15/Add.187): Pursuant to an amendment of the Civil Code, chapter 3, article 611, thereof strictly forbids placing children and adolescents directly into foster care. In addition, Act No. 26847 introduced into the Penal Code article 148 bis, which provides for the penalization of adults who economically exploit children.

22. In 2014, the Observatory on Child and Adolescent Labour conducted a study on economic exploitation titled “Child labour in the country’s urban centres: a report on the results of the questionnaire on the activities of children and adolescents”.⁷

⁶ Quechua, Qom, Wichí, Pilagá, Avá Guaraní, Mbya Guaraní and Mapuzungun (in standardized and Ranguileo alphabets).

⁷ <http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/left/estadisticas/otia/centroDoc/verDocumento.asp?id=226>.

23. Between 2008 and 2016, the Office for the Rescue and Accompaniment of Victims of Trafficking provided assistance to 10,377 suspected victims of human trafficking, 975 of whom were younger than 18 years of age. All the provinces offer victim assistance services and meetings bringing together all the country's focal points are periodically organized by SENAF. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Child Help International are helping to extend the "102" telephone hotline to the entire country. As part of a cooperation agreement between SENAF, the International Organization for Migration and UNICEF, several measures were undertaken, including training for high-level provincial authorities; regional meetings on the implementation of local assistance protocols; technical team capacity-building; a national day for the sharing of experiences; and the submission of protocols.

24. In 2012, the penalties prescribed for the crime of human trafficking were revised and the concept of "consent" was eliminated. In addition, the Federal Council to Combat Trafficking in Persons was created to secure the rights of trafficking victims and the "145" telephone hotline (see para. 76) was set up. In 2013, the Executive Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was established. A campaign titled "Human Trafficking Isn't Easy to Spot" was organized in 2016.

25. Border committees, which formulate trafficking-prevention policies for border crossings, are set up by SENAF.

26. *Paragraph 63 (CRC/C/15/Add.187)*: An "Admissions and Referral Centre" was established in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in 2012. As a specialized branch of the child protection agency, it ensures that, children who are stopped by law enforcement officers are not held at police stations but rather immediately enter the juvenile criminal justice system; it furthermore seeks to move children out of the criminal justice system and to protect their rights throughout the process. In 2016, this policy was expanded into a nationwide plan, and technical and financial assistance agreements were signed with various provinces with a view to implementing similar systems.

27. With regard to alternatives to the deprivation of liberty, 79.4 per cent of young people whose cases are processed by the juvenile criminal justice system are enrolled in supervision programmes, 2.4 per cent are assigned to places of restriction of liberty, and 18.2 per cent are assigned to places of deprivation of liberty.⁸ Argentine legislation is applied in accordance with the guiding principles of international human rights law, which has constitutional status "under the conditions of its applicability", per article 75 (22) of the Constitution, as reflected in the Supreme Court's rulings, particularly, in respect of juvenile criminal law (see Judgment No. 328:4343).

Reservations and declarations

Paragraph 10

28. The comprehensive child protection system in Argentina prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and the use of children in pornography, and protects the victims of such acts. Pursuant to joint decisions No. 866/2011 and No. 1500/2011 of the Office of the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the technical advisory committee on cybercrime was established in accordance with the Convention on Cybercrime.

29. As at April 2016, 5,708 applicants were listed in the central register of applicants for guardianship with the aim of adoption, which was established under Act No. 25854.

30. In accordance with its reservation to article 21 (b) to (e) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Argentina reiterates that intercountry adoption shall not apply in areas within its jurisdiction because there is still no international mechanism for the legal protection of children in matters of inter-country adoption that would prevent trafficking in and the sale of children.

⁸ SENAF-UNICEF, Survey on adolescents in conflict with the law, Buenos Aires, 2015, p. 32.

31. In the view of the State, this reservation upholds the best interests of the child by guaranteeing the enjoyment of a child's rights and respecting his or her origins, place of residence and culture. Under the Civil Code, changes have been made to the adoption process, taking into account the principles of the best interests of the child; the right to an identity; the exhaustion of all options for keeping the child with his/her family of origin; the preservation of family ties; the recognition of a child's origins; and the right to be heard.

Paragraph 12

32. Eighteen federal entities have established regulations related to health, education and family planning. The provinces of Formosa, San Juan and Corrientes have not yet established legislation on the subject; neither have they formally adhered to National Act No. 25673, by which the National Sexual Health and Responsible Parenthood Programme was established, or National Act No. 26150, by which the National Comprehensive Sex Education Programme was established. However, these provinces have introduced the concepts of family planning and sex and reproductive health education in health and education initiatives.

33. Pursuant to Act No. 8391/10, Tucumán province introduced comprehensive sex education into its curricula and the provinces of Santiago del Estero and Catamarca adhered to National Act No. 25673 through Provincial Acts Nos. 6759 and 5399, respectively.

Legislation

Paragraph 14

34. Act No. 26061 exists alongside the provincial legislation of the 24 Argentine entities. Specifically, 23 have adopted their own provincial laws in addition to formally adhering to Act No. 26061, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional ECOSOC protocols thereto. San Luis, the sole province to have endorsed only the Convention, is in the process of drafting its own legislation on the subject.⁹

35. All the federal entities have set up the appropriate institutional and administrative framework for a comprehensive rights-protection system, through a restructuring of their corresponding secretariats, offices of the under-secretaries and directorates for children and adolescents as implementing bodies.

Coordination

Paragraph 16

36. The provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires are represented on the Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family (COFENAF), which develops federal public policies related to children and adolescents, while coordinating the participation of the various local entities.¹⁰ Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Neuquén, Tucumán, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, San Luis, Catamarca, La Pampa, Santa Fe, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and Tierra del Fuego plan and carry out comprehensive programmes based on team expertise and training.

37. The provincial councils for children, related working parties, local centres for children, adolescents and families, and associated management committees are made up of provincial representatives and various social players; the ministries of health, education and justice, along with the judiciary, are also involved. Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Tucumán, La Rioja, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Misiones, Catamarca, Río Negro, Santa Fe, Tierra del Fuego and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires have signed agreements with cities and towns with a view to setting up children's services and establishing a monitoring body for comprehensive protection programmes. Legal instruments and specific protocols are being

⁹ Annex III — Bodies identified as provincial implementing authorities, throughout the country.

¹⁰ Act No. 26061 (art. 42) on the levels of the comprehensive protection system: national, federal and provincial.

formalized in coordination with SENAF technical teams. Río Negro is implementing legislation to avoid the duplication of efforts.

National Plan of Action

Paragraph 18

38. In recent years, the National Plan of Action and the corresponding provincial plans have served as strategic guidelines for the national, provincial and municipal governments in developing public policies concerning children and adolescents.

39. The first National Plan of Action, which covered the period from 2008 to 2011, and the regional plans for the North-East, the North-West, Cuyo, Patagonia and Centro were ratified by Ministerial Decision No. 4134/2011, which validated the actions taken thus far, and by Ministerial Decision No. 4135/2011, which formally approved the subsequent period covering 2011 to 2015. The second period, which had the same general objective as the first, had three priority objectives. Twenty-eight goals were established and categorized according to the three following focus areas: institutional strengthening; basic conditions for a life of dignity; and promotion and protection of rights. Most of the priority goals were achieved in accordance with the objectives agreed upon; the goals not reached were set as new challenges within the National Plan of Action 2016–2019.

40. At its twenty-third session, held in April 2016, COFENAF approved the actions taken under the second National Plan of Action agreed to launch a new national plan of action for the period 2016–2019. Project cycle management methodology will be used in developing the new plan. This approach involves the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the three established focus areas: early childhood, strengthening of protection systems and the promotion and protection of rights.

41. The new national plan of action is expected to take into account the conclusions drawn from the “My Opinion Matters” forums for adolescents which were held in various provinces.

Independent monitoring

Paragraph 20

42. In 2010, COFENAF requested the Chamber of Senators, through Note No. 221/2010, to consider the draft regulations of the Bicameral Commission on the appointment of the Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents. Decision S-984/16, which provides for the effective establishment of the Bicameral Commission and the initiation of the associated appointment process, has been approved by the Senate.

43. Act No. 26061 provides for two levels of oversight of the comprehensive protection system: a national one, mentioned earlier; and a provincial one, which takes into account the independence of the provinces and of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. The following provinces established an office of the ombudsman for children and adolescents: Santiago del Estero (Act No. 6915, art. 30); Neuquén (Act No. 2302, art. 49); Chaco (Act No. 7162, art. 59); Catamarca (Act No. 5357, art. 73); La Pampa (Act No. 2703, art. 20); Santa Fe (Act No. 12967, art. 38); Buenos Aires (Act No. 13298, Implementing Decree No. 300, art. 16); and Córdoba (Act No. 9944, art. 31).

44. Under Act No. 26061, articles 55 (j) and 64, the ombudsman may receive and investigate complaints. With regard to budgetary allocation, human resources and technical resources, article 54 of said Act establishes a dedicated budget item for administration of the office of the ombudsman.

Allocation of resources

Paragraph 22

45. Social investment in children¹¹ steadily increased until 2013, when it reached 8.97 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). This significant increase in social investment, although it represented a proportional decrease, took place against a backdrop of slowed economic activity, meaning it was countercyclical. A comparison of social investment in children and consolidated public expenditure (national-provincial) between 2001 and 2013 reveals an average participation level of 19.33 per cent which, although similar with regard to the outer values for the period, has internal variations of +/- 2 percentage points.

46. The State introduced a set of social policies in response to the economic crisis, which provided for greater investment in children. Between 2002 and 2013, national investment in children went up by 25 to 27 per cent, while provincial investment went down by 75 to 73 per cent. With regard to GDP, specific investment in provincial education programmes and the “Connecting Equality” programme has increased by 1.29 percentage points since 2011. Broad investment, which covers provincial programmes related to health and living conditions and national programmes related to non-contributory pensions and social housing and infrastructure, went up by 1.13 percentage points. “Group II” investments, which target broader population groups, increased by 0.23 percentage points on account of the cash-transfer policies related to the universal child allowance for social protection (2009–2013) and contributory family allowances.

47. The greater part of social investment in children (54.48 per cent) goes to education, followed by social welfare (12.53 per cent), health (11.49 per cent) and direct assistance (9.84 per cent). In relation to GDP, these categories have increased as follows: education, 1.18 percentage points; direct assistance, 0.48 percentage points; social welfare, 0.39 percentage points; and health, 0.36 percentage points. The trend in social investment in children as a percentage of GDP can be considered a relevant variable.

Table 1^{12, 13}

Consolidated public expenditure (CPE) and social public expenditure (CSPE) (national — provincial): 2001–2013

(In millions of \$ and in percentages)

Year	CPE (N-P)	CSPE (N-P)	CSPE (N-P)/CPE (N-P)
2001	91 495	55 006	60.12
2002	87 368	57 138	65.40
2003	106 495	66 875	62.80
2004	124 721	78 188	62.69
2005	164 592	97 830	59.44
2006	205 939	125 536	60.96
2007	283 161	172 282	60.84
2008	384 052	231 049	60.16
2009	482 412	300 374	62.27
2010	616 982	379 626	61.53
2011	847 171	518 119	61.16
2012	1 060 822	666 312	62.81
2013	1 395 954	879 739	63.02

¹¹ As of 2011, the figures are based on public information from five provinces which account for 58 per cent of social expenditure in the provinces; estimates have been made for the remaining federal entities.

¹² Annex III. Ministry of Finance.

¹³ In millions of \$ and in percentages.

CPE (N-P): consolidated public expenditure (national — provincial).

CSPE (N-P): consolidated social public expenditure (national — provincial).

Source: Office of the Under-Secretary for Macroeconomic Planning — Ministry of Finance.

Table 2¹⁴**Consolidated social investment in children (CSIC) (national-provincial): 2001–2013**

(In millions of \$ and in percentages)

<i>CSIC (N-P)</i>	<i>In millions of \$</i>	<i>% of CPE (N-P)</i>	<i>% of CSPE (N-P)</i>	<i>% of GDP</i>
2001	16 796	18.36	30.53	6.25
2002	18 014	20.62	31.53	5.76
2003	21 097	19.81	31.55	5.61
2004	25 018	20.06	32.00	5.59
2005	32 906	19.99	33.64	6.19
2006	42 255	20.52	33.66	6.46
2007	55 336	19.54	32.12	6.93
2008	73 444	19.12	31.79	7.32
2009	91 605	18.99	30.50	8.37
2010	114 495	18.56	30.16	7.99
2011	158 468	18.71	30.59	8.60
2012	199 005	18.76	29.87	8.92
2013	254 081	18.20	28.88	8.97

48. Over 3,922,156 children benefitted from a child allowance of 1,103 Argentine pesos (approximately US\$ 72); pursuant to Act No. 27160 on the Family Allowance Rate Adjustment, the amount is updated twice a year. An allowance of 3,597 pesos (\$234) was paid out to 84,879 families who have a child with disabilities. As of March 2016, an allowance specifically for pregnant women had been paid out to 83,880 women, 6,205 of whom were younger than 18 years of age. Non-contributory pension allowances for mothers of seven or more children had been paid out to 322,558 recipients. Allowances for families with children younger than 18 years with a disability had been paid out to 141,999 recipients.

As part of the National Plan for Digital Inclusion in Education, 5,317,158 netbooks were distributed to children and teachers in 11,583 schools throughout the country. In addition, 1,187 adaptive technology kits were handed out to special schools.

49. The following allowances also benefit children: birth allowance, 1,285 pesos (\$84); adoption allowance, 7,704 pesos (\$500); marriage allowance, 1,926 pesos (\$125); annual school allowance, 923 pesos (\$60); and spouse allowance, 264 pesos (\$17).

Between 2010 and 2015, work was carried out on an intercultural approach to social security for indigenous persons. Fifteen thousand families in 300 communities participated.

50. Finally, 146,904 persons enrolled in the simplified tax regime for sole proprietors have children who benefit from health insurance. In addition, 7,060 registered persons receive the universal child allowance.

¹⁴ In millions of \$ and in percentages.* Provisional estimate subject to revision. See methodological CSIC (N-P) considerations.

CPE (N-P): consolidated public expenditure (national – provincial).

CSPE (N-P): consolidated social public expenditure (national - provincial).

Note: Based on 1993 nominal GDP estimate.

Source: Office of the Under-Secretary for Macroeconomic Planning – Ministry of Finance.

Table 6
Consolidated social investment in children (national-provincial) by investment category: 2001–2013
(In millions of \$)

Investment category	<i>Direct assistance</i>			Living conditions	Sports, recreation and culture	Development and integration	Education	Food protection	<i>Child</i>		Social welfare	Science and technology	Urban services	Total
	Total	Family allow.	Remainder						Health	Food protection				
2001	1 088	788	301	461	136	29	9 867	495	317	1 924	2 247	166	65	16 796
2002	2 114	685	1 429	351	125	26	9 701	746	321	2 096	2 301	178	55	18 014
2003	3 089	755	2 334	539	115	45	10 442	1 061	384	2 390	2 714	243	74	21 097
2004	3 114	831	2 283	793	142	57	12 947	1 226	483	2 850	3 025	287	93	25 018
2005	3 350	1 152	2 198	1 580	212	83	17 597	1 387	761	3 630	3 809	365	132	32 906
2006	3 712	1 391	2 320	2 296	291	135	23 278	1 628	808	4 461	4 950	498	197	42 255
2007	4 759	1 961	2 798	2 649	411	169	30 984	1 982	983	5 838	6 617	660	285	55 336
2008	6 165	2 708	3 457	2 916	544	226	41 962	2 577	1 258	8 044	8 412	874	464	73 444
2009	7 825	3 641	4 184	3 791	593	276	50 563	3 173	1 621	10 921	11 284	1 138	420	91 605
2010	10 830	6 503	4 327	4 480	918	425	62 038	3 964	1 965	13 149	14 738	1 390	598	114 495
2011	14 808	8 663	6 145	5 602	1 259	562	88 189	4 940	2 485	17 863	20 290	1 816	654	158 468
2012	18 750	9 904	8 845	5 453	1 302	915	106 707	5 263	3 398	27 238	26 723	2 345	911	199 005
2013	25 077	13 707	11 370	8 639	1 787	1 032	137 444	6 325	4 273	30 601	34 766	2 826	1 309	254 081

<i>Province</i>	<i>Schools</i>	<i>Netbooks¹⁵</i>
Buenos Aires	4 197	1 959 817
CABA	226	209 334
Catamarca	351	81 689
Chaco	377	193 242
Chubut	240	95 077
Córdoba	716	345 966
Corrientes	343	176 685
Entre Ríos	496	191 118
Formosa	376	112 465
Jujuy	240	130 176
La Pampa	175	56 734
La Rioja	128	53 999
Mendoza	361	226 089
Misiones	567	159 076
Neuquén	146	110 285
Río Negro	193	100 056
Salta	322	207 245
San Juan	274	100 934
San Luis	186	78 172
Santa Cruz	134	45 920
Santa Fe	746	317 985

¹⁵ In millions of \$. Provisional estimate subject to revision. See methodological considerations.
Source: Office of the Under-Secretary for Macroeconomic Planning — Ministry of Finance.

<i>Province</i>	<i>Schools</i>	<i>Netbooks¹⁵</i>
Santiago del Estero	241	111 550
Tierra del Fuego	43	22 897
Tucumán	505	230 647
Total	11 583	5 317 158

Table 7¹⁶

Consolidated social investment in children (national-provincial) by investment category: 2001–2013

(As percentage of GDP)

<i>Investment category</i>	<i>Direct assistance</i>			<i>Sports, rec. and culture and integration</i>			<i>Child protection</i>			<i>Science and tech.</i>		<i>Urban services</i>	<i>General total</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Family allow.</i>	<i>Remainder</i>	<i>Living conds.</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>welfare</i>	<i>and</i>				
2001	0.40	0.29	0.11	0.17	0.05	0.01	3.67	0.18	0.12	0.72	0.84	0.06	0.02	6.25
2002	0.68	0.22	0.46	0.11	0.04	0.01	3.10	0.24	0.10	0.67	0.74	0.06	0.02	5.76
2003	0.82	0.20	0.62	0.14	0.03	0.01	2.78	0.28	0.10	0.64	0.72	0.06	0.02	5.61
2004	0.70	0.19	0.51	0.18	0.03	0.01	2.89	0.27	0.11	0.64	0.68	0.06	0.02	5.59
2005	0.63	0.22	0.41	0.30	0.04	0.02	3.31	0.26	0.14	0.68	0.72	0.07	0.02	6.19
2006	0.57	0.21	0.35	0.35	0.04	0.02	3.56	0.25	0.12	0.68	0.76	0.08	0.03	6.46
2007	0.60	0.25	0.35	0.33	0.05	0.02	3.88	0.25	0.12	0.73	0.83	0.08	0.04	6.93
2008	0.61	0.27	0.34	0.29	0.05	0.02	4.18	0.26	0.13	0.80	0.84	0.09	0.05	7.32
2009	0.72	0.33	0.38	0.35	0.05	0.03	4.62	0.29	0.15	1.00	1.03	0.10	0.04	8.37
2010	0.76	0.45	0.30	0.31	0.06	0.03	4.33	0.28	0.14	0.92	1.03	0.10	0.04	7.99
2011	0.80	0.47	0.33	0.30	0.07	0.03	4.79	0.27	0.13	0.97	1.10	0.10	0.04	8.60
2012	0.84	0.44	0.40	0.24	0.06	0.04	4.79	0.24	0.15	1.22	1.20	0.11	0.04	8.92
2013	0.88	0.48	0.40	0.30	0.06	0.04	4.85	0.22	0.15	1.08	1.23	0.10	0.05	8.97

51. The Federal Fund for Children, Adolescents and the Family was created in 2006 as a means of strengthening comprehensive protection systems. Act No. 26061, article No. 12, ring-fences the funds allocated to SENAF.

Data collection

Paragraph 24

52. In 2011, under the aegis of COFENAF, the 23 provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires signed a commitment to set up an integrated information system for public policies on children, adolescents and the family. The system generates specific information, based on data received from the agencies responsible for implementing and providing information on provincial policies under the National Directorate of Institutional Management and Development of SENAF. Such information then fed into the development and planning of provincial and national public policies.

53. The system generates data related to specific provinces or federal entities, courses of action, local promotion and protection services, mechanisms, types of recipient between 0 and 17 years of age, types of recipient 18 years of age and older, families, institutions, actions and conditions for implementation.

54. The National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies and the National Advisory Commission on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS) rely on

¹⁶ In percentages of GDP. Provisional estimate subject to revision. See methodological considerations. Source: Office of the Under-Secretary for Macroeconomic Planning — Ministry of Finance.

specific data in order to develop measures relating to children with disabilities. The aforementioned integrated information system is instrumental in devising policies targeting adolescent offenders in the juvenile justice system. The same system also covers the restoration of rights of child victims of sexual abuse, children in alternative care and children without parental care, as well as children affected by sexual exploitation, violence, human trafficking, child labour, abuse of psychoactive substances, natural disasters, and living on the streets.

55. Under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2016–2020, SENAF, with the support of UNICEF, carries out numerous cooperation and technical assistance activities with governmental and non-governmental entities. These activities include implementing a national policy on early childhood care; establishing protection registers; supporting the creation of observatories to monitor children's rights and social investment in children and adolescents; collaborating in the use of systems for the regular recording of information on children and adolescents in the child-protection system (including on children and adolescents benefiting from protection measures; victims of violence; children and adolescents without parental care; children and adolescents in the juvenile criminal justice system; interventions; availability of care; and organizational registers); developing and applying standards of quality (related to care, service, participation, monitoring and information, details on family of origin, and the like), ensuring monitoring and accountability; and cooperating with SENAF in the creation and expansion of assistance and referral centres in the provinces, including by developing basic standards, monitoring and generating information; conducting analyses and feasibility studies for such expansion, and improving and ensuring countrywide coverage of the 102 telephone hotline.

Dissemination, training and awareness-raising

Paragraph 26

56. SENAF has disseminated the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocols thereto and related domestic legislation; provided related training to 26,902 professionals and technical experts; and, in 2013, established a specialized course, in which 3,000 persons enrolled. In July 2014, during the twenty-second session of COFENAF, SENAF disseminated the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure pushed for its implementation and dissemination throughout the provinces. The steps taken by the provincial executive and legislative powers and the subsequent regulatory adjustments were widely disseminated. A total of 2,172 persons attended training sessions conducted by the province of Buenos Aires on subjects such as juvenile criminal responsibility, conflict resolution, comprehensive sex education and Act No. 13298.

57. NGOs such as Chicos.Net, International Catholic Child Bureau — Argentina, Fundación Arcor, AMIA Argentinean Jewish Community and Argentine Paediatric Society helped to publicize the Convention and the Optional Protocols.

58. In 2013, UNICEF Argentina published the book “Your Rights in Your Language” in Spanish and several indigenous languages. The book is a compilation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

59. The Ministry of Education and Sports distributed a classroom-friendly version of the Convention for schoolchildren and teachers. The Ministry also prepared teaching material such as “Your Rights: 25 Years of the CRC” and “Schools and Comprehensive Protection Systems”. In 2014, it published and distributed among primary schools, secondary schools and teacher training institutions a booklet on the rights of the child marking the fiftieth anniversary of Mafalda, the cartoon character by Quino. The book was printed in Spanish and in the following indigenous languages: Quechua, Qom, Wichi, Pilagá, Avá Guaraní, Mbya Guaraní, Mapuzungun (in standardized and Ranguileo alphabets). In addition, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was included in the National Reading Plan (2015).

60. CONADIS published the Convention on the Rights of the Child in comic-book format for children with disabilities and the National Social Security Administration conducted information campaigns in indigenous languages, using posters, radio announcements and bilingual teaching materials. The Ministry of Health gave its teams childhood development training and prepared material for professionals and the wider community. The Ministry of Security delivered human rights training to its personnel. Since 2011, the Programming Department for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and for Combating Drug Trafficking has been providing training to external staff whose work involves adolescents and exposure to psychoactive substances. In 2014, the Public Prosecution Service created the Directorate-General for Training and Education in order to optimize and update professional profiles; it also offered courses on the rights of children and adolescents. The University of National Defence carried out training, research and capacity-building activities on the subject of the Convention and human rights for the benefit of civilian and military personnel. The country's military academies introduced changes to comply with education legislation and they disseminated and analysed the Convention as part of their annual programme. SENAF is working on the Braille edition of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Public Service for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires produced an edition of the Convention annotated by and for children.

61. Human rights education is included in the objectives laid out in Act No. 26206 as part of curricular guidelines and is mandatory for teachers.

Cooperation with civil society

Paragraph 28

62. The Register of Administrative Organizations was created pursuant to Ministry of Social Development decision No. 40/2007. It provides an overall view of the organizational implementation of comprehensive policies throughout Argentina.

63. The National Centre for Community Organizations was established to encourage civil society organizations to participate in public-policy management, by creating opportunities for dialogue between the State, civil society and the business sector in an institutional context, with a focus on human and social development. The Centre is associated with the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies. To date, the Centre has registered 15,142 civil society organizations, 4,426 of which are involved in activities focused on children and adolescents (29.23 per cent).

64. Since 2011, SENAF has been funding community and family strengthening projects carried out by civil society organizations in the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

65. The federal entities have worked with labour unions and businesses to advance children's rights. Training sessions were held for cooperatives and labour unions in Santiago del Estero, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán. In Chaco, labour unions are active in local councils on the communication rights of children and adolescents. In Tucumán, agreements were signed with various businesses to provide job training for adolescents in institutionalized care. In La Rioja, businesses provide teaching material to tutoring centres and help to organize activities focused on inclusion and rights advocacy. In Misiones, the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour, the Provincial Commissions for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the International Labour Organization provided the tobacco industry with guidance on measures to eradicate child labour. In the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, NGOs and businesses lead joint projects that promote the rights of children and adolescents. The city also has NGO-strengthening programmes and has signed agreements with breastfeeding and motherhood advocacy groups, such as FUNDALAM, and the child-nutrition-focused Fundación CONIN.

66. The provincial councils for children of Córdoba, Santa Fe, Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Neuquén, Mendoza, Río Negro, Santiago del Estero, Chubut, Catamarca, Entre Ríos and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires established forums for discussion and assessment of rights-protection policies.

The following organizations were consulted during the preparation of this report: Chicos.Net, International Catholic Child Bureau — Argentina, Fundación Arcor, AMIA Jewish Association, Argentine Paediatric Society, Caritas Argentina, Centre for Legal and Social Studies, Collective for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Argentine Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Fundación SES and Cimientos.

Child rights and the business sector

Paragraph 30

67. The National Code of Conduct for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Travel and Tourism was drafted in 2008 and, in 2010, an agreement was signed to comply with the Code of Conduct in the tourist sector. The following organizations signed the agreement: the Forum for Tourism Professionals, the La Suisse Institute of Higher Education, the Travel Agency and Tourism Association of Buenos Aires, the Tourism for All Foundation and the Argentine Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

68. In 2008, the Ministry of Tourism and the Programming Department for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and for Combating Drug Trafficking introduced the Responsible Tourism and Children Programme. Between 2011 and 2015, the Tourism Programme was rolled out in 12 provinces. It promoted the code of conduct and included training for student-travel agencies, universities and institutions for hospitality and tourism studies.

69. The National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour, which is part of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, worked with over 90 businesses which are part of the Network of Companies against Child Labour. In 2011, it launched an awareness campaign titled “The Value Chain against Child Labour”, and from 2012 to 2014, it organized the “Race for a Childhood Free of Child Labour”, which boasted 5,000 participants.

70. Since 2005, the Organization for the Prevention of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers has been carrying out educational activities and making presentations to the Federal Labour Council. It has also trained labour inspectors on child-labour inspections.

71. The Matanza Riachuelo River Basin Authority (ACUMAR) was established in 2006; its purpose is to improve environmental conditions and quality of life for more than 8 million people. Decision No. 2178/10 established oversight and control regulations for establishments in the Matanza River Basin; in 2015, a total of 5,936 inspections and 1,162 audits were conducted in the basin.

B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the Convention)

Non-discrimination

Paragraphs 32 and 33

72. The National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism developed the Sexual Diversity Programme, which is designed to be in line with principle 24 of the Yogyakarta Principles and the right to identity. The latter is considered to be infringed when a person’s identity documents do not match his or her circumstances, including with regard to parentage and family composition. The right to found a family, irrespective of sexual orientation, has been recognized since 2010. The State guarantees that no family shall be discriminated against on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any of its members. Work has been undertaken in that regard with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex social organizations. Act No. 26618 on equal marriage and Emergency Decree No. 1006 of 2013 give equal recognition to children with two female parents as regards, inter alia, social security, continued parental contact in the event that the

parents separate or one of them dies, education choices, inheritance rights and recognition of the relationship to grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

73. The National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism has produced about discriminatory practices in radio and television.

74. Article 17 of Act No. 26061 prohibits discrimination on grounds of pregnancy, maternity or paternity. A survey of the living conditions of children and adolescents, conducted with UNICEF, did not uncover any such cases.

75. Regarding social exclusion, in 2013 the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism ran a campaign on the right of persons with disabilities to vote. Santiago del Estero has held rights advocacy workshops in San José del Boquerón, Quimili, Tintina, Monte Quemado, Guampacha and Ojo de Agua, home to 4,203 indigenous children. Chaco has established 46 centres to strengthen family integration and protection for children between the ages of 6 months and 13 years. Entre Ríos has held discussion forums on the theme of inequality and discrimination for students at secondary schools and has designed, in conjunction with the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism, the “We are Equal But Different” series, including guides for primary and secondary schools and teachers. The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires has a programme for adolescents that is designed to promote effective social inclusion for more than 10,000 at-risk young people through 483 venues hosting cultural, sports and technology workshops. Santa Fe indicated that it has carried out the “Building Networks” programme.

76. Between 2010 and 2015, the Ministry of Culture and the Children and Culture programme managed artistic activities and promoted and raised awareness of children’s rights through the Evita Cultural Games. In 2012, 278,500 children from all the provinces participated; in 2013, that number had risen to 1,200,000 children; and in 2014 and 2015, some 200,000 children had participated. In 2011, the Andrés Chazarreta social programme worked with 15 children’s orchestras and delivered workshops in 11 provinces; in 2013, it worked with 118 music teachers, reaching 2,600 children. In 2012, 700 bands comprising 2,800 young artists were registered with the “Marvellous Music” scheme. In 2013, 1,200 bands gave 200 recitals to a combined audience of 300,000 people. In 2014, there were 900 bands; in 2015, that number rose to approximately 1,300, for a total of 8,600 young people. In 2014, community theatre presentations took place in a number of neighbourhoods of Colmena Sur, including 16 performances involving the participation of 500 children from Buenos Aires. In 2015, 1,000 children took part in singing and drama classes in 17 neighbourhoods, including Barrio Ejército de los Andes-Fuerte Apache, Hurlingham, Mercedes, Lanús, Villa 1.11.14, Ciudad Oculta and Fátima. In Villa 21/24, with the support of the Argentine Naval Prefecture, 89 children took rowing lessons. In 2013, workshops were held for 160 students at the Centre for Popular Culture and for 300 students at the Escuelita de Arte art school. Children’s Day celebrations were held in a number of shanty towns and attracted approximately 1,500 children. In 2015, together with SENAF, activities were also run for adolescents in conflict with the law, including 46 shows, concerts and comedy performances;

77. The Dance for Inclusion programme, run by the Ministry of Social Development, included free ballet performances and training for young ballet students with top-class dancers. In 2014, 39 clinics were held for 1,600 participants, 24 performances were given at the Coliseo Theatre and a further 23 took place in the provinces. A total of 74,200 people attended performances including *The Nutcracker*, *Clair de Lune* and *La Traviata*. In 2015, 20,000 people attended 12 free performances that were open to all.

78. With regard to physical, psychological and sexual abuse, the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism and the Ministry of Security have developed a protocol for the police and security forces on dealing with persons with suspected mental issues or problematic drug use and ensuring their psychological and physical safety in situations where they pose a risk to themselves or others.

Act No. 26892 on the promotion of coexistence and resolution of social conflicts in educational institutions was adopted in 2013.

79. SENAF developed the Proper Treatment initiative, programmes to support children whose mothers are deprived of their liberty and the Looking after our Children programme.

80. In the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, the 137 telephone hotline operated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights can be used by anyone who is a victim or witness of violence. The Victims Against Violence programme provides support to victims of abuse or ill-treatment. Between 2006 and 2015, assistance was provided to more than 23,000 people. A total of 57 per cent of victims of violence are younger than 18 years of age. The Domestic Violence Unit of the Supreme Court was created in 2006 and facilitates access to justice for particularly vulnerable persons affected by domestic violence. It covers the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires 24 hours per day, 365 days of the year. The high courts in the provinces of Tucumán, Santiago del Estero and Santa Cruz have their own domestic violence units.

81. As part of the Niñ@Sur Initiative, an agreement was signed in May 2016 rejecting the existence of so-called parental alienation syndrome as a means of overriding the word of the child — a syndrome that is not recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) — and promoting action and strategies to prevent ill-treatment and sexual abuse and provide support to victims.

82. The province of Córdoba, by way of Act No. 10150, formally designated 7 May as a day to promote non-violence and respect for the views of others in public spaces. In La Pampa, an interdisciplinary team is working to change stereotyped patterns of behaviour and promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution. The province runs the PRÓVIDA programme and the Healthy Links subprogrammes. In 2014, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires ran 238 training sessions on Act No. 114 in schools and NGOs for 5,644 employees. Tucumán has an interinstitutional protocol for the care of children and adolescents who are victims or witnesses of child sexual abuse or violence. The protocol was approved by the High Court of Tucumán in 2013 and by the end of 2014 239 cases had been processed. In addition, the Proper Treatment initiative was launched and widely publicized and a protocol was developed on the conduct of the police and security forces with regard to children in conflict with the law. In San Luis, the provision of support to child victims of sexual abuse is regulated by Act No. 10010/2004. Santiago del Estero has delivered workshops to raise awareness of how to prevent ill-treatment, sexual abuse and violence. Two graphic and audiovisual campaigns were developed on the Proper Treatment initiative and on the prevention of child abuse and sexual abuse. Entre Ríos has established a comprehensive programme for the prevention of and protection from domestic violence, under Act No. 9198 on the prevention of domestic violence. The province has also developed an interministerial and intersectoral protocol aimed at preventing gender-based and domestic violence and protecting and providing comprehensive assistance to victims; an interinstitutional and intersectoral protocol aimed at preventing trafficking and providing assistance and recovery services to victims; and an interinstitutional protocol on cases of child sexual abuse.

83. With regard to the Internet, the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism developed a platform to make the Internet free from discrimination and worked with UNICEF to produce booklets for adults and children about responsible Internet use. Training activities on non-discrimination were conducted in schools, universities, businesses, government and decentralized agencies, television stations and newspaper and magazine companies.

84. Act No. 26904 incorporated the offence of grooming in article 131 of the Criminal Code and established a prison sentence of between 6 months and 4 years for any person who engages in grooming for the purposes of sex.

85. With regard to indigenous children, Chaco has provided assistance relating to food, education and family development, including empowerment and promotion of parenting values, to 420 indigenous children in Pampa del Indio, Machagai, Misiones Nueva Pompeya and Paraje Santa Rosa Charata. The authorities rolled out the Proper Treatment initiative in centres for strengthening family integration and worked with NGOs and 100 adolescents in Gran Resistencia and rural areas. Tucumán works with the Quilmes and Amaicha indigenous communities in the Calchaquí Valley and has liaised with a focal point

in Alta Montaña and with the indigenous government since 2013. An interinstitutional committee was established with the participation of experts from, inter alia, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The indigenous government develops community policies on childhood. A Child Development Centre has been established and receives nutritional supplements from the Secretariat for Food Policy. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 11 (CRC/C/GC/11), a project was developed with the aim of preserving parenting values, food sovereignty, traditional cultural patterns and ancestral values by collecting stories and other forms of cultural transmission. San Juan reported that the Ministry of Human Development and Social Advancement works with indigenous communities from Sawa and Talkenka. San Luis engages with indigenous children from the Huarpes and Ranquel communities. In La Pampa, the Provincial Indigenous Council runs the Ranculche Kimun programme in schools. All children who want to share intercultural knowledge can participate in the programme, the aim of which is to protect Ranquel culture. Entre Ríos promotes the Chana culture and language in secondary schools. In Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Provincial Indigenous Institute carries out activities in the areas of education, health, housing and security. Local committees lead initiatives on intercultural health issues. An Indigenous Youth Forum was held for the first time.

86. In an agreement entitled "Adolescence and crime are not synonyms", the Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family (COFENAF) declared that the idea that insecurity stems from serious offences committed by children, in particular those that go unpunished, to be false and dangerous; the objective being to prevent the stigmatization of adolescents. It also produced a statement entitled "Audiovisual media should not infringe the rights of children", in which it urged the media to follow the spirit of the Comprehensive Protection Act and to avoid denigrating, belittling, discrediting or disparaging children and their rights. In conjunction with national agencies, universities, NGOs and migrant groups, the Ministry of Education and Sport formed an intersectoral panel on migration with the aim of improving education conditions for migrants and their children. Among other initiatives, passports were included among the identity documents that could be presented when applying for qualifications, booklets on Argentine citizenship and materials on migration were produced and a national day was designated to promote the visibility of persons of African descent and their culture.

87. With regard to street children, Santiago del Estero runs the Personal Integrity programme. Tucumán runs the Amachay programme, aimed at restoring the rights of children and adolescents in street situations. Entre Ríos and the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme have delivered refresher workshops for health-care professionals on non-discriminatory provision of sexual and reproductive health care for adolescents and on sexual diversity and health. With regard to migrant children, the authorities have disseminated Act No. 25871 on migration to primary and secondary schools and produced the second edition of the xenophobia and discrimination map with the National University of Entre Ríos. San Luis has introduced the School Inclusion Programme, which provides 1,500 Argentine pesos (Arg\$) (US\$ 100) so that the most vulnerable students complete primary and secondary education. Catamarca runs the "Return Home" programme. With the aim of supporting street children, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires has established day and overnight centres, halfway houses, the My Place programme to support adolescents from the age of 16 years, a programme to strengthen families and avoid exclusion or institutionalization and the Children's Home programme. Tierra del Fuego provides permanent housing for migrant children and works towards their effective integration in the education system. In Buenos Aires, a programme employing outreach workers to support street children operates in 11 municipalities and is being rolled out to 40 municipalities. An intersectoral panel meets periodically, in line with local regulations on children. A specialized agency submitted to the Provincial High Court a work plan that had been agreed with civil society organizations, the aim of which is to provide a support network to street children, who are exposed to risks and abuse at the hands of the authorities.

88. Whenever reports were received, a corresponding criminal complaint was filed.

Best interests of the child*Paragraph 35*

89. The principle of the best interests of the child is expressly regulated by domestic law in Act No. 26061, where it is defined as referring to the highest possible level of fulfilment of rights and guarantees, comprehensively and simultaneously, and is therefore binding in all proceedings against children. The juvenile criminal justice system integrates this guiding principle and the provisions of international law are reflected in specific provincial regulations.

90. The Public Prosecution Service has developed protocols and guidelines on taking statements from child victims and witnesses and on investigating sexual offences committed against children (Attorney General's Office, Decisions Nos. 08/09, 59/09 and 35/12 — see annex III), which aim to give effect to the right to be heard, thereby ensuring special protection.

91. Article 13 of the new National Civil and Commercial Code establishes that the child's opinion must be heard in advance and considered in accordance with his or her age and level of maturity and that the best interests of the child must be placed above all else when decisions are taken. Article 595 provides that the best interests of the child shall take precedence in the adoption process. Article 706 provides that in family proceedings, decisions in cases involving children or adolescents shall take into account their best interests.

92. The federal entities are implementing the provisions of Act No. 26061, article 27 (c), on receiving assistance from a lawyer, preferably one specializing in children or adolescents. SENAF conducted a joint research project with the University of Buenos Aires on the work of children's lawyers in legal defence, the findings of which feed into the design of strategies to promote the right to legal defence.

Respect for the views of the child*Paragraph 37*

93. Article 595 of the National Civil and Commercial Code regulates the general principles relating to adoption and children's right to be heard. Act No. 26877 on student councils establishes the right of students to express their opinion and to be heard and taken into consideration. Article 7 of Act. No. 26774 on Argentine citizenship provides that "Argentine citizens who have reached the age of 16 years shall enjoy all political rights enshrined in the Constitution and the laws of the Republic."

94. In 2015, as part of an initiative to strengthen institutional practices and guarantee children's right to be heard, the National Secretariat for Human Rights issued a publication entitled *The Right of the Child to Be Heard*. The Secretariat also develops projects to provide technical assistance and support to State agencies and NGOs with the aim of raising community awareness and removing obstacles to the full enjoyment of rights.

95. In 2016, SENAF held "My Words Count" events in 23 provinces. The events provided a forum for children and adolescents to express their opinions, raise awareness of the right to be heard and contribute their ideas and findings for the design of the 2016–2019 National Action Plan on the Rights of Children and Adolescents. In addition, surveys were conducted on the rights of children and adolescents in the various spheres involving adolescents throughout the country.

Right to life, survival and development*Paragraph 39*

96. With regard to cases of suicide and self-inflicted injuries, measures were taken both to provide adolescents with support from health-care professionals, including psychologists and psychiatrists, and to adapt the physical environment (fire-resistant mattresses, access to fire extinguishers, exhaustive checks of emergency lighting, acquisition of emergency

generators and of intercom systems for security personnel, security cameras in communal spaces, canteens and corridors within units). The Commission for the Oversight of the Treatment of Children and Adolescents in Institutions,¹⁷ part of the Public Defence Service, conducts regular visits to monitor living conditions. The Public Defence Service also runs a programme to address institutional violence and a programme to provide assistance and legal advice to victims of crimes, and hosts an interdisciplinary team. All incidents are investigated by the judiciary.

97. The province of Buenos Aires has technical teams in every juvenile offenders' unit to monitor the health of the adolescents held there. Referrals to relevant institutions are made in line with the National Mental Health Act and Act No. 14580 (Provincial Accession Act).

98. With regard to life sentences for children under the age of 18 years, the case law of the Supreme Court (Ruling No. 328:4343, 2005) indicates that sentences should be reduced in accordance with the penalties in place for attempted rather than completed offences, with the result that life sentences are therefore not permissible.

99. Since 2013, seven cases have been recorded. In two of the cases, the individuals were freed; the remaining five had their sentences reduced.

C. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, 13 to 17, 19 and 37 (a) of the Convention)

Birth registration

Paragraph 41

100. Taking into account the Committee's eleventh observation, and in the light of the many cases in which indigenous citizens over the age of 12 have been unable to prove their identity because they are not in possession of the appropriate national identity document, a birth registration scheme for newborn babies and children up to 12 years old was established, pursuant to National Executive Decrees Nos. 90/09, 92/10, 278/11, 294/12, 339/13 and 297/14. Statistical data on the results of the application those decrees indicate that the scheme has been successfully implemented.

101. The State established a permanent mobile documentation programme, coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior, pursuant to Act No. 26413, which specifies that in areas with no public registration officials, the general directorate shall grant the local civil servants the power to carry out registration and/or shall set up mobile offices for the registration of vital events. Through a dedicated website¹⁸ and various other media, the public is kept informed of the date and city of the next monthly visit of the mobile units, which service the most vulnerable areas.

102. COFENAF passed an act on the right to identity in 2013, pledging to promote the right throughout the country and to carry out surveys on undocumented status to improve the design of public policy. It requested that registrars perform *ex officio* civil registration in compliance with Act No. 2641 and that educational centres provide information about civil registration, advocating that a lack of documentation should not interfere with the right to education. It also sought to exempt undocumented persons from having to pay fees and fines and to promote the provision of free legal assistance in situations involving court registration. SENAF pledged to provide technical assistance to any federal entity that requires it.

103. With respect to the right to identity of children appropriated by State terrorism, the Special Division for the Appropriation of Children during State Terrorism, established under the auspices of the Public Prosecution Service in 2012, is applying a protocol for cases of the appropriation of children during the dictatorship. Currently, 121 people have recovered their identity.

¹⁷ Established in 2006 by way of Chief Public Defender's Office Decision No. 841/2006.

¹⁸ <http://www.dni.gov.ar/cronograma/cronograma.php>.

Torture and inhuman or degrading treatment

Paragraph 43

104. SENAF Resolution No. 991/09 on the general regulations for closed detention centres, the procedural protocol for complaints of ill-treatment and the procedural protocol for incidents among young people was passed, prohibiting inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment and corporal punishment (annex III). In 2016, security forces received training under the National Training Plan on the protection system and the juvenile criminal justice system. Training was organized in the province of Buenos Aires on the effective implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in detention centres.

105. Article 29 of the National Mental Health Act specifies that if any professional or non-professional member of the health-care service of a detention centre suspects that a detainee has been subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, he or she must inform the centre's review body and the competent court.

106. All forms of torture are prohibited under article 11 of the provincial Constitution of Buenos Aires. The province of Santiago del Estero is preparing a provincial mechanism for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishments. Chaco adopted Act No. 7720 on searches inside and outside of detention, which contains a section on the procedure to follow in cases involving children, and Act. No. 6976, which provided for the establishment of a review body to eliminate torture at the hands of security forces. The province of Tucumán withdrew police staff from detention facilities. The province of La Rioja organized training on the code of conduct and use of weapons for civil servants who work in criminal justice. In 2014, the province of Córdoba promulgated Act No. 10197 on citizen oversight of the police and set up the "Citizens' Letterbox" scheme for neighbourhood complaints. Entre Ríos provided training for police staff on the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and applies severe sanctions for non-compliance with the existing regulations. In 2012, the province of Catamarca established a protocol for police procedure in situations involving children and adolescents and, in 2016, adopted a protocol for young offenders in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and the Office of the Secretary for Security. Misiones monitors residential detention centres on an ongoing basis and investigates the treatment of detainees.

107. The Division for the Registration, Systematic Processing and Monitoring of Acts of Torture and Other Forms of Institutional Violence was established by Decision No. 1650/10 of the Chief Public Defender's Office. From 2011 to 2015, 635 acts of institutional violence against adolescents were registered in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

108. With respect to provincial registers, Chaco established the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights and the Provincial Commission for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, in addition to keeping a register of and following up on complaints. The judiciary of La Rioja sentences and carries out investigations into acts of torture or inhuman treatment, and the provincial Supreme Court of Justice keeps a register of such cases. In Tucumán province, Act No. 8523 (for which implementing regulations have yet to be adopted) provides for the establishment of the Provincial Commission for the Prevention of Torture. In the province of Santa Fe, the Provincial Public Defender set up the Provincial Public Register of Cases of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, Police Abuse and Malpractice. In the province of Buenos Aires, the Provincial Public Defender and the Office of the Under-Secretary for Human Rights were requested to inform the Provincial Body for Children and Adolescents of any irregularities in their records so that action can be taken where appropriate.

109. The Commission for Oversight of the Institutional Treatment of Children and Adolescents received complaints against departments of the security forces responsible for children and established the "Procedural protocol for national security forces and institutional police for proceedings involving children and adolescents in conflict with the criminal justice system in the city of Buenos Aires" through Ministry of Security

Resolution No. 906/2014. The Commission carries out regular visits to ensure that staff against whom a complaint has been lodged do not have contact with children.

110. In 2013, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Institutional Violence was established with special jurisdiction in the area of institutional violence to assist prosecution offices with their investigations.

111. Incidents occurred in SENAF facilities in 2009, 2013 and 2015: two cases resulted in sentencing after oral hearings and one case is currently being investigated.

112. In the province of Catamarca, the staff of the Alcaldía juvenile detention centre are under investigation for misconduct. There is also one outstanding case against police staff, which was opened in 2015. The Human Rights Secretariat of Tierra del Fuego registers complaints and contributed to the handing down of a sentence in one case of ill-treatment. The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Chaco, Entre Ríos, La Rioja, Misiones, Neuquén, Río Negro, Santiago del Estero, San Juan, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán have organized or are in the process of organizing comprehensive training on children's rights for the police and armed forces.

113. With regard to the criminal investigation into the enforced disappearance of the child L.A.,¹⁹ the Public Prosecution Service intervened after the Buenos Aires provincial justice system was declared not competent in the case in 2013. In 2014, the Federal Prosecutor's Office and the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Institutional Violence presented their request to initiate proceedings, classifying the incident as a case of enforced disappearance, at that time without any accused parties. Concurrently, in 2014, the family of the victim filed a habeas corpus petition, which was granted by the National Court of Criminal Appeal, and an inter-agency working group was established.

114. In October 2014, the Ministry of Security identified the body of L.A., which had been lying in a grave marked "unidentified" in a cemetery in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires since 2009. The courts of Buenos Aires province sentenced police staff on the grounds that they had tortured L.A. months before the child's disappearance, which was confirmed in 2016.

Paragraph 45

115. The National Mental Health Act No. 26657, regulated by Decree No. 603/2013, was promulgated in 2010. The Act specifies that internment is an exceptional measure that must only be used as a last resort and for the shortest period possible. Alternative measures, such as outpatient care, home assistance, care homes or day hospitals, must be used where possible. The Act also establishes a system of oversight and procedural guarantees. Article 26 specifies that: "... when it comes to children and adolescents, procedure must comply with national and international regulations on the comprehensive protection of rights." Article 22 specifies the role of the defence attorney, who is competent to access proceedings and request patients' release from hospital.

116. With regard to the provision of therapeutic assistance for children interned in hospital or other institutions, taking into account the best interests of the child, article 7 (d) of Act No. 26657 establishes the "... right to receive treatment and be treated by the most appropriate therapeutic means, which least restricts rights and freedoms and encourages integration into the family, the workplace and the community ...". Article 11 specifies that the implementing authority must encourage the health authorities in each federal entity to undertake measures in conjunction with the educational, social development, labour and other relevant authorities to foster inclusion into society and the workplace and to provide mental health care in the community. Article 11, regulated by Decree No. 603/2013, states that: "Therapeutic solutions that involve residential care must not be used for persons with housing issues only."

117. With regard to individual discharge from hospital and adequate housing, article 15 specifies that if a person has been interned for mental health reasons and is unable to be

¹⁹ Case No. 7722/13. Involving Federal Court No. 1, Morón, and the Federal Prosecutor's Office No. 1, Morón.

discharged immediately because of pre-existing social or housing issues, the hospital's interdisciplinary team shall: (a) make a note in the patient's medical record; (b) make arrangements as a matter of urgency with the appropriate authorities for the provision of adequate resources to provide a solution, in accordance with article 15 of Act No. 26657; and (c) inform the local implementing authority. The federal entity concerned is responsible for providing direct assistance. The State, through the Ministry of Social Development (SENAF), may arrange for financial assistance to be provided to ensure that persons discharged from hospital return to the best possible living conditions.

Corporal punishment

Paragraph 47

118. The new Civil and Commercial Code expressly prohibits physical punishment. Article 647 establishes the prohibition of ill-treatment, specifying that “[c]orporal punishment in all its forms, ill-treatment and any other act that injures or causes physical or psychological harm to children or adolescents are prohibited”. Article 4 states that the law applies to all persons who reside in Argentine territory, irrespective of the province.

119. Act No. 26892 on promoting cohesion and addressing social conflict in educational institutions was promulgated in 2013. Article 2 (c) of the Act sets forth its guiding principle, which complies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Act No. 26061 and the Education Act: “... The respect for and acceptance of differences and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, harassment, violence and exclusion in interactions between members of the educational community, including that which occur online and through other information and communications technology.” Article 9 (b) specifies that the Ministry of Education and Sport shall: “... Establish and roll out initiatives to identify the forms that violence takes in educational institutions in the face of new online modes of interaction ...”.

120. Act No. 26892 provided for the preparation of a federal guide for the intervention of educational authorities in complex school situations. The Guide contains a chapter on cyberbullying and encourages the non-stigmatization of children involved in abusive situations. The interdisciplinary team of the Office of Domestic Violence is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a week, to receive complaints of domestic violence. In 2015, 13 per cent of persons attended to by the team were female minors and 12 per cent were male minors. Psychological abuse was the most prevalent form of violence, followed by physical abuse, financial abuse and, lastly, sexual abuse. In the province of Buenos Aires, the Growing Up Without Violence programme, developed in collaboration with UNICEF, has already been put into practice with 300 parents and 150 childcare professionals. In 2018, the programme will be replicated in 80 municipalities.

121. The programme consists in providing a supportive forum for the discussion of topics such as communication, limitations and family roles. The programme is also being implemented with young parents in juvenile correctional facilities. UNICEF and the educational and judicial authorities of Buenos Aires province have jointly established the Digital Cohesion Programme, which aims to increase awareness of grooming, bullying, cyberbullying and sexting and to provide tools to deal with and prevent situations in which they may occur, using material and language especially designed for children, parents, designated carers, educators and journalists.

122. According to a survey on the living conditions of children and adolescents, physical punishment persists in cultural parenting norms as a form of discipline, although the mothers and carers who took part in the survey did not feel that they had to use it. The “Promoting the Proper Treatment of Children and Adolescents” campaign and the “Looking after our Children” programme were rolled out at the national level, encouraging the proper treatment of children in the childcare industry and in families and their neighbourhoods through awareness-raising workshops. Workshops on the proper treatment of children and the prevention of violence were organized in a number of places in the province of Buenos Aires, Entre Ríos, Misiones, Río Negro and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

123. COFENAF adopted the “Commitment to Children without Parental Guardians” in 2015, which confronts disrespectful treatment in childcare institutions by specifying the rights that those institutions must respect. It also adopted the Towards Higher Institutional Quality in Juvenile Criminal Facilities Act in 2011, which sets forth such institutions’ obligation to provide respectful treatment that does not violate children’s rights.

124. In 2016, COFENAF organized a technical dialogue on violence and the ill-treatment of children, in conjunction with the Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equality and Growth. International speakers and experts, including the Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, took part in the conference. Workshops were organized to allow representatives of every province to exchange views.

125. The Public Defence Service monitors complaints concerning incidents in children’s residences. Act No. 26657 and Decree No. 603/2013 expressly prohibit the use of isolation and medication as forms of punishment.

126. In June 2016, COFENAF pledged its support to the international campaign “High time to put an end to violence against children and adolescents”, promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, thus committing to explicitly prohibit violence against children and adolescents. Detailed measures have been devised and resources have been allocated for their effective implementation.

127. In 2016, the authorities began extending the coverage of the 102 children’s telephone helpline, with a view to establishing standardized protocols and ensuring the helpline’s availability in all provinces.

Follow-up to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children

Paragraph 48

128. The decision to extend the 102 helpline countrywide was aimed at addressing identified problems such as the fear of reporting a complaint, stigmatization and the institutional violence of which children are victims. The gender-based violence 144 helpline received 1,796 calls reporting abusive situations that possibly involved children, between September 2013 and September 2015; 1,390 of those reporting violence were female and 304 were male.

129. In promulgating the Civil and Commercial Code, the authorities sought to eliminate negative trends, such as the acceptance of violence in society and the use of physical and psychological punishment as a form of discipline in the family. The Code set the minimum age for marriage at 16 years to prevent forced and early marriages, thereby also guaranteeing the right to be heard. Article 611 prohibits direct adoption to prevent the sale and trafficking of children. The Trafficking in Persons Act No. 26364 established assistance and prevention measures to that same end.

130. Act No. 26390 prohibits child labour and sets the legal working age at 16 years. Act No. 26847 of 2013 establishes a criminal sanction for adults who exploit children for economic gain.

131. The federal pledge to establish “Admissions and Referral Centres” in every province (COFENAF Act 2016) will help prevent children from ending up in police stations.

132. Training is provided by the Ministry of Security on a permanent basis for security forces in all military colleges and armed forces training facilities. The “Reasonable Use of Force” programme, organized by the Office of the Under-Secretary for Planning and Training and the Directorate for Follow-up to Cases of Institutional Violence and Crimes of Federal Interest, condemns the use of handcuffs as a form of punishment and/or harassment.

133. The federal guide for the intervention of educational authorities in complex school situations was developed to prevent peer harassment in school, including cyberbullying. The Education Act ensures compliance with Act No. 26061 on the right of all children to dignity, physical, sexual, psychological and moral integrity, and freedom from violence. With regard to online sexual exploitation, article 131 of the Code of Criminal Procedure establishes grooming as a crime.

134. Standards of quality for childcare institutions were established to facilitate agreements between relevant civil society organizations and all levels of government. In health-care institutions, the use of medication and isolation as a form of punishment is prohibited by national regulations.

135. National surveys carried out in conjunction with UNICEF gave rise to campaigns to prevent violence against children in 2016.

136. Act No. 26485 was promulgated to prevent, punish and eliminate violence against women in their interpersonal relations. According to the first results of the Unified Register of Cases of Violence against Women, of the 50,703 registered cases processed from 2013 to July 2015, 4.1 per cent involved children aged between the ages of 14 and 17 (2,079 registered cases).

Access to appropriate information

Paragraph 50

137. Article 68 of Act No. 26522 of 2009 on audiovisual communication services, which are covered in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, provides for the protection of children, scheduled programming for children and content specifically designed for children. It also establishes that free-to-view television channels must include three hours of content for children and adolescents in their programming. The Competitive Support Grant for Audiovisual Media²⁰ organizes competitions involving the production of radio and audiovisual content, encouraging the participation of children and adolescents, who are recognized as having a voice and message of their own.

138. The Advisory Council on Audiovisual Communication and Children has formed part of SENAF since its establishment in 2011. The Council established 14 quality criteria and published the “Journalist’s Guide to Responsibly Informing Children and Adolescents”. It held meetings with experts from the audiovisual industry and published press releases to raise awareness regarding media-related issues of importance to the rights of children and adolescents. Also part of SENAF is the Cinema Advisory Commission, which rates films shown throughout the country to alert audiences to content that may be harmful to children and adolescents.

139. The Office of the Ombudsman for Audiovisual Communication Services, established under Act No. 26522, set up a special protocol in conjunction with UNICEF to allow children to submit their own complaints directly, without the intervention of an adult. From 2012 to February 2016, 23 complaints from children were received and, in 2014, children were invited to discover the changes that they had helped to make a reality.

140. The Discrimination in Radio and Television Observatory highlights discriminatory practices and speech in television and radio. In 2015, the Observatory conducted a review in which 191 cases of discrimination were discovered, including 7 involving discrimination against children. In 2014, the Observatory carried out reviews in a number of provinces and in 2015 it prepared an annual report on the complaints that it had received. In 2013 and 2014, training was organized on the current radio and television advertising regulations at the Higher Institute of Advertising and at public universities throughout the country. In 2013, teaching manuals were prepared on social stereotypes and the rights of children and adolescents in the media, and case studies of the portrayal of bullying in fictional programmes broadcast on free-to-view television in 2013 were carried out. Another manual provided guidance for educators on how to address the topics of youth, gender, racism and xenophobia, as well as the rights of children and adolescents in television and radio. A website on democratic communication for children and adolescents (www.enredados.org.ar) was also set up.

141. The educational public television channel PAKAPAKA, established by the Ministry of Education and Sport in 2010, creates high-quality cultural and educational content for children between the ages of 2 and 12, with content specifically designed for the age

²⁰ Competitive Support Grant for Audiovisual Media, art. 97 (f) of Act 26522.

brackets of 2 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years and 10 to 12 years. The channel allows children to actively participate by creating their own programmes.

142. SENAF participated in the preparation of two codes: “Children and their communication rights”, in conjunction with UNICEF and the provincial government of Salta, and the “Journalist’s Guide to Responsibly Informing Children and Adolescents”, through the Advisory Council on Audiovisual Communication and Children.

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

Family environment

Paragraph 51

143. Under the protection system, local administrative bodies are responsible for implementing comprehensive rights-protection measures in the case of a threat to or violation of the rights and guarantees of one or more children, on a case-by-case basis, with a view to restoring those rights. The social investment measures set out in paragraph 22 were adopted for threats to or violations of rights arising from unmet basic needs. The family and community strengthening component of the system covers the activities of provincial children’s bodies designed to strengthen the role of the family, the community and community organizations. According to a report²¹ published by the integrated system of information on public policies concerning children, adolescents and the family, 1,451 schemes throughout the country have been registered by provincial entities.

Federal entity	Childhood and family development			Comprehensive spaces for children and adolescents						Total
	development centres	development centres	Community social centres	Day centres	Promotion programmes	Protection programmes	Student residences	Other		
Buenos Aires	-	-	-	230	-	2	3	-	-	235
Catamarca	7	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	11
Chaco	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	57
Chubut	-	6	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	10
CABA	74	7	19	3	5	3	2	-	1	114
Córdoba	279	39	2	-	165	1	-	-	1	487
Entre Ríos	53	24	4	-	15	4	2	3	3	108
Formosa	11	16	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	32
Jujuy	10	1	3	2	-	6	3	-	3	28
La Pampa	-	-	16	-	-	1	3	-	1	21
La Rioja	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	6
Mendoza	-	40	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	44
Misiones	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	11
Neuquén	22	1	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	39
Río Negro	1	-	12	1	-	-	2	-	-	16
Salta	32	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	35
San Juan	17	13	-	-	-	4	2	0	2	38
Santa Cruz	-	0	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	3
Santa Fe	7	18	-	84	3	-	1	-	-	113
Santiago del Estero	-	3	6	-	-	3	-	-	2	14
Tierra del Fuego	3	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	8

²¹ Integrated system of information on public policies concerning children, adolescents and the family- Main results, 2014.

Federal entity	Childhood	Childhood and	Community	Day	Comprehensive	Promotion	Protection	Student	Other	Total
	development	family			spaces for					
	centres	development	social centres	centres	children and	programmes	programmes	residences		
Tucumán	12	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	16
SENAF	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Total	541	213	62	321	189	38	55	15	17	1 451

144. The table shows that a large number of schemes are conducted in urban areas and that the number of schemes in each federal entity depends on its population. Thirty-seven per cent of schemes are childhood development centres; 14.7 per cent are childhood and family development centres; 22 per cent are day centres, which provide comprehensive protection to children whose rights have been violated; and 13 per cent are children's development spaces, which complement family and school life. Programmes for the promotion of children's rights and the prevention of violations (3 per cent) and programmes for the protection of rights (4 per cent) are offered by almost all provincial children's bodies, community social centres and student residences, which provide housing for children who live far from school.

145. The aforementioned integrated system of information on public policies concerning children, adolescents and the family reports that 1,014 of a total of 1,451 schemes were initiated on the basis of agreements between various governmental and community organizations. The beneficiaries of the total number of schemes were as follows:

Federal entity	Persons between 0 and		Persons over 18	Families
	Total	17 years of age	years of age	
Buenos Aires	235	5 012	-	-
Catamarca	11	629	-	224
Chaco	57	6 062	-	-
Chubut	10	548	-	-
CABA	114	43 994	4 849	743
Córdoba	487	22 870	1 031	-
Entre Ríos	108	11 278	370	1 099
Formosa	32	8 446	2 318	1 288
Jujuy	28	19 966	350	987
La Pampa	21	696	-	268
La Rioja	6	1 677	-	2 539
Mendoza	44	4 730	-	116
Misiones	11	611	-	430
Neuquén	39	10 909	-	1 253
Río Negro	16	1 410	-	2 268
Salta	35	2 313	-	2 153
San Juan	38	6 466	-	-
Santa Cruz	3	680	-	931
Santa Fe	113	7 551	-	65
Santiago del Estero	14	1 893	75	350
Tierra del Fuego	8	469	-	-
Tucumán	16	1 801	-	228
SENAF	5	1 663	-	-
Total	1 451	161 674	8 993	14 942

146. Within the framework of the SENAF National Early Childhood Plan, 988 proposals have been presented for new or improved early childhood facilities. Of the total number of proposals, 132 were for new early childhood facilities and 857 proposed improving existing facilities. As a result, 62,889 children and their families are now covered by the plan.

147. In 2016, training was organized for 5,500 staff of early childhood facilities in collaboration with provincial and municipal authorities in 19 provinces.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Proposals</i>	<i>New facility</i>	<i>Improved facility</i>	<i>Total children</i>
North-West Argentina	Salta	22	7	15	1 507
	Jujuy	35	13	22	3 384
	Tucumán	15	3	12	554
	Catamarca	13	6	7	865
North-East Argentina	Santiago del Estero	17	1	16	434
	Misiones	33	16	17	1 535
	Corrientes	31	0	31	3 927
	Chaco	18	1	17	832
Buenos Aires	Formosa	0	0	0	0
	Conurbano	301	28	273	24 266
	Interior	91	19	72	4 221
Central Argentina	Entre Ríos	59	4	55	2 667
	Santa Fe	68	3	65	2 359
	La Pampa	31	5	26	1 626
Cuyo	Córdoba	98	3	95	5 264
	La Rioja	12	4	8	661
	San Luis	10	2	8	408
	Mendoza	10	0	10	750
Patagonia	San Juan	25	9	16	930
	Neuquén	17	0	17	602
	Río Negro	28	0	28	2 063
	Chubut	31	4	27	1 944
	Santa Cruz	19	2	17	1 575
	Tierra del Fuego	5	2	3	515
		989	132	857	62 889

148. Lastly, CONADIS reported on the existence of a network known as the Single Fundamental Benefit Regime for Persons with Disabilities, which comprises 2,301 service providers offering 22 different types of service throughout the country, except in Tierra del Fuego.

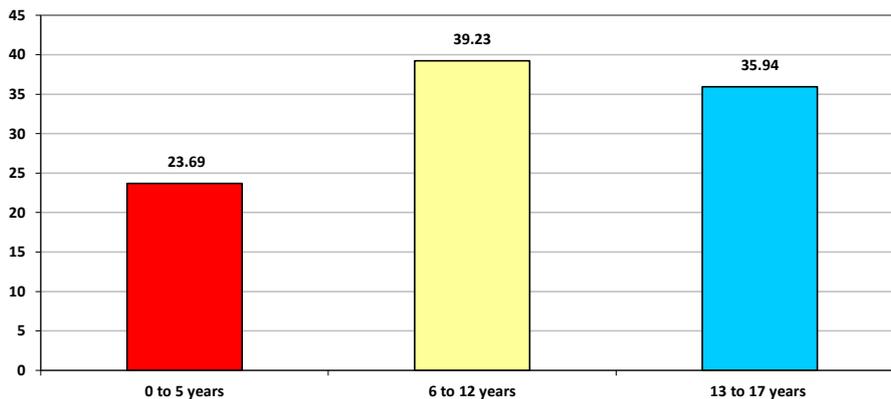
Alternative care

Paragraph 53

149. In 2007, COFENAF adopted an act on national guidelines for children and adolescents without parental care, with a view to standardizing all applicable guidelines for children without parental care throughout the country.

150. In 2010, SENAF, in collaboration with UNICEF, launched a project on the living conditions of children and adolescents without parental care in Argentina and on the promotion and strengthening of the right to family and community life. COFENAF undertook two commitments in follow-up to the study's conclusions, one in September 2011 and one in March 2013.

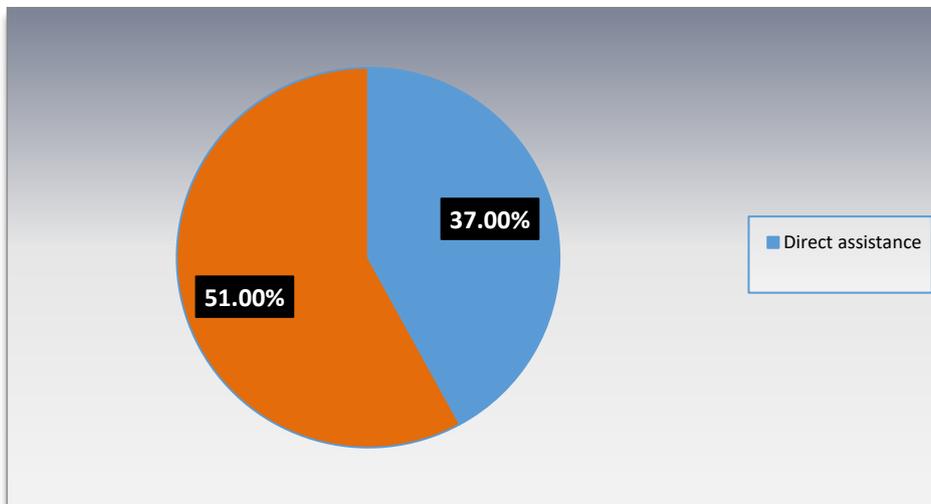
Percentage of children and adolescents without parental care by age bracket



151. Domestic violence and mistreatment are the principle causes of placement in care: 44 per cent of children without parental care left or were separated from their homes because of one of those factors. The second and third most prevalent factors are abandonment and abuse, accounting for 31 and 13 per cent of cases, respectively. The Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and the province of Buenos Aires are the districts with the largest number of children without parental care, accounting for 49 per cent of cases. They are followed by North-East Argentina (Formosa, Chaco, Corrientes and Misiones), with 20 per cent of cases; the central provinces (Córdoba, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos and La Pampa), with 12 per cent; Cuyo (Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis), with 8 per cent; Patagonia (Neuquén, Río Negro, Santa Cruz, Chubut and Tierra del Fuego), with 6 per cent; and North-West Argentina (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja and Santiago del Estero), with 5 per cent.

152. The following restoration measures are provided by SENAF for alternative family-based or institutional care: residential care schemes, including family-based schemes (available in Chubut, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquén, Salta, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán); and action programmes and institutional schemes (available in 20 federal entities).

153. According to the integrated system of information on public policies concerning children, adolescents and the family, schemes involving reparation for violated rights and family-based or institutional care cover 812 services: 51 per cent (416 services) provide financial assistance; 37 per cent (302 services) provide direct assistance, mostly to persons between 0 and 17 years of age, and to a lesser extent to families; and the remainder provide training for persons between 0 and 17 years of age.



154. Standards for alternative care are set out in Act No. 26061, specifically, in articles 37, 39 and 41, regarding exceptional measures, as well as in the implementing regulations of article 41. With regard to single-parent families, the new Civil and Commercial Code uses the term “parental responsibility” instead of “parental authority”, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 7 of Act No. 26061.

155. Article 595 of the Civil and Commercial Code specifies that children over the age of 10 must be consulted regarding consent.

Abuse and neglect

Paragraph 55

156. Act No. 26485 was regulated by National Executive Decree No. 1011/2010. In 2012, a pilot project was launched to offer free specialized assistance to victims of gender-based violence and facilitate their access to justice. Assistance is provided in Access to Justice Centres, which are attached to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. In 2015, 854 consultations relating to gender-based violence took place. Eighty-seven per cent of victims are mothers and a high proportion of victims share at least one child with the person against whom they have lodged a complaint. Seventy-one per cent indicated that their children suffered indirect abuse and 52 per cent indicated that their children suffered direct abuse.

157. In 2014, the Ministry of Social Development conducted a campaign in collaboration with UNICEF entitled “For the proper treatment of boys and girls”. On 14 February 2016, protests were organized as part of a national campaign to prevent dating violence entitled #AmorES (#LoveIS). SENAF, in conjunction with the non-governmental organization Trama, organized online training on the prevention of dating violence for protection system officials. The protests were carried out regionally and in person.

158. The National Women’s Council conducted the “260 men against machismo” campaign in conjunction with the National Anti-Machismo Institute in 2011 and the Argentine edition of the “Show abusers the red card” campaign in 2011 and 2013. The “Equality is a right, machismo is not!” campaign was organized on the same day as the presidential elections in October 2011. The Council carried out awareness-raising initiatives on Decree No. 936/2011, which provides for the establishment of the Sexual Commerce Advertisements Monitoring Office. As part of the institutional capacity-building programme of the Directorate for Administrative Management and Special Programmes, the Council promoted projects concerning municipal women’s offices and civil society organizations in the regions of Buenos Aires, Central Argentina, North-East Argentina, North-West Argentina, Cuyo and Patagonia.

159. The Public Prosecution Service is responsible for organizing training for its staff (as per Decision No. 534/2009 of the Chief Public Defender’s Office) and other judicial officials through conferences in which various stakeholders and jurisdictions take part.

160. Since 2012, the Ministry of Security has organized workshops at its training schools for security forces, as part of the Reasonable Use of Force Programme of the Office of the Under-Secretary for Planning and Training and the Directorate for Follow-up to Cases of Institutional Violence and Crimes of Federal Interest. It runs Comprehensive Centres for Gender, bringing together federal police, gendarmes, and airport and prefectural security. These Centres were established pursuant to Ministerial Decision No. 1021/2011, which sets forth a specific care protocol for gender violence in such Centres (see Decision No. 599/2012). The Ministry also runs National Citizen Counselling Centres, which address issues such as domestic violence, child sexual abuse and bullying.

161. In 2015, the Ministry of Health updated its care protocol for cases involving violence against and the abuse of women and children. Most federal entities have laws and protocols regarding health workers.

162. The Ministry of Education and Sport trains teachers using the guidelines approved by the Federal Education Council. Workshops specifically addressing ill-treatment were delivered at five regional and eight provincial conferences, where training was also given on the guidance for schools on child abuse and the relevant provincial protocols.

E. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26 and 27 (1) to (3) of the Convention)

Children with disabilities

Paragraph 57

163. Act No. 27044 accorded constitutional rank to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

National total. People in private housing, people with permanent disabilities or impairments and prevalence of permanent disabilities or impairments, by sex and age group. 2010.

<i>Sex and age group</i>	<i>No. of people in private housing</i>	<i>No. of people with permanent disabilities or impairments (1)</i>	<i>Prevalence (2) of permanent disabilities or impairments</i>
Total	39 671 131	5 114 190	12.9
0–4	3 326 197	84 118	2.5
5–9	3 378 126	162 677	4.8
10–14	3 488 515	208 375	6.0
15–19	3 518 730	204 554	5.8

164. In March 2016, 84,879 people were registered with the National Social Security Administration as receiving the allowance for families with a child who has disabilities.

165. The National Pensions Commission reports that 141,999 persons under 18 years of age receive a non-contributory pension on the grounds of disability.

<i>Persons living in private housing who are in receipt of a pension or benefits</i>	<i>Type of benefit from the National Pensions System</i>			
	<i>Pension only</i>	<i>Pension only, following death of the beneficiary</i>	<i>Pension and benefits</i>	<i>Non-contributory welfare or ex gratia pension only</i>
6 030 721	3 440 482	60 6123	676 905	1 307 211
54 558	-	3 654	-	50 904
69 818	-	7 907	-	61 911
83 925	-	16 008	-	67 917
86 586	3 028	17 888	691	64 979

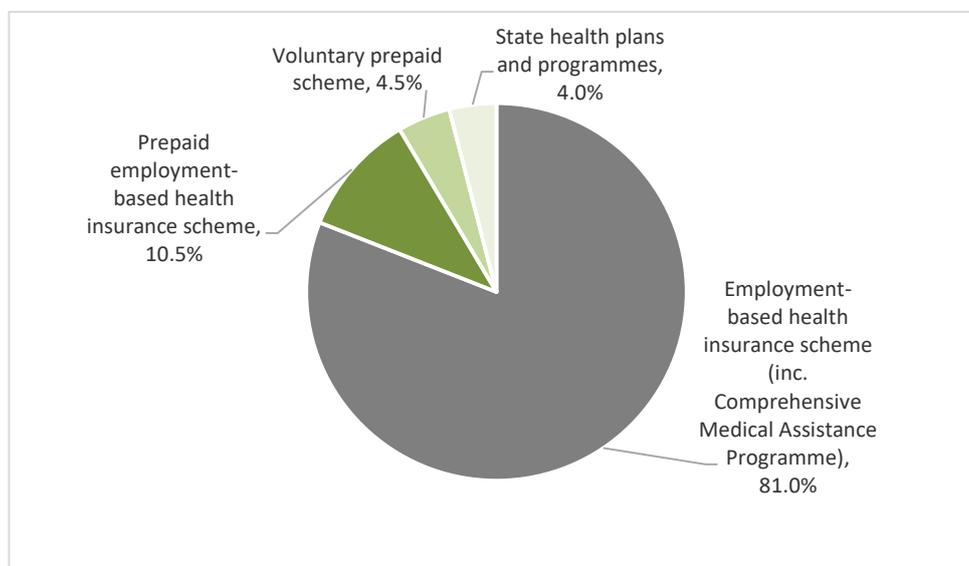
166. With regard to the inclusion of children with disabilities in the education system, CONADIS implements Act No. 25730 establishing the National Fund for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities. The Fund finances programmes on access to learning, access to educational environments, library equipment and access, improvements to institutional infrastructure, institutional transport and technical support for persons with disabilities, as well as the Braille Machine Bank and NGO initiatives.

167. Attendance rates are as follows: 65.6 per cent in preschool education (3–6 years old), with 86.9 per cent for 5 years of age; 96.4 per cent in primary education (6–11 years old); 92.7 per cent in lower secondary education (12–14 years old); and 75.2 per cent in upper secondary education (15–17 years old). The attendance rate for individuals over the age of 3 years who are attending mainstream schools and special education schools, respectively, is 90.2 per cent and 9.8 per cent.

168. The Ministry of Education and Sport funded implementation of the Jurisdictional Plan and supported the Institutional Improvements Plan for Special Education in 200 special schools, made provision for mobility arrangements in 630 special schools and built 2,110 accessible schools for students with disabilities (a further 541 are under construction)

and 54 special education schools. The Ministry of Planning financed a further 51 building projects.

169. According to the 2010 Census, there are 5,114,190 persons with permanent disabilities or impairments, of whom 70 per cent reported being in receipt of some form of benefit. Furthermore, 91.5 per cent are registered in an employment-based health insurance scheme; of those, 10.5 per cent contribute to a prepaid scheme. The Federal Health Inclusion Programme reaches more than a million beneficiaries.



170. In Catamarca, Act No. 4848 covers comprehensive care for persons with disabilities, and there is a Directorate for Comprehensive Care for Persons with Disabilities. In Corrientes, there is a Provincial Disability Council. Entre Ríos adopted Provincial Act No. 9891 on inclusive education. In San Juan, Act No. 7850 governs the provincial comprehensive protection system for persons with disabilities. Río Negro runs a student health-care programme to provide health check-ups to first-, fourth- and seventh-grade students in public and private schools. In San Luis, inclusive education is promoted by the Technical Support Centre for Learning and the relevant diversity unit. The province reports that all children and adolescents with disabilities are enrolled in formal education. In Santiago del Estero, the authorities have been working with the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Disability Directorate since 2011 to make ongoing improvements to the support provided to students with disabilities. In La Pampa, the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Disability Directorate work to integrate children and adolescents into mainstream inclusive education. In the area of health care, medicines and treatments for diagnosed conditions are covered in full (Act No. 24901). In La Rioja, inclusion in the education system is guaranteed by Decision No. 1140/13. In 2011, Decision No. 427/2012 on the administration of special programmes made provision for a module on teaching support assistants for educational integration as part of the Comprehensive Basic Health-Care System. In Salta, access to health care and education is guaranteed by the Secretariat for Disability and Inclusive Policies, which is part of the Ministry of Human Rights and Justice. In Neuquén, the authorities promote integration in mainstream schools and access to health care throughout the primary care network (including community-based rehabilitation) and hospitals in the province. In Tucumán, Decision No. 657/10 established guidelines for the organization and curriculum of special education to support students with disabilities up to 30 years old within the education system. Integration is included in the province's institutional care pathways. In Tierra del Fuego, all children with disabilities are included in the education system through the Social Inclusion Unit of the provincial Ministry of Social Development. The Unit is responsible for enrolment in the health insurance scheme provided by the Independent Joint Provincial Institute for Social Security through the provincial Social Services Institute. In the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, inclusive education is provided to children with disabilities with assistance from pedagogical support teachers, integration support teachers, psychological support teachers,

psychological guidance teachers, assistants for students with motor impairments, Argentine sign language interpreters, non-teaching personal assistants for students with disabilities, home-based education services, hospital-based schools, remedial schools, interdisciplinary education centres, preschool education centres for prevention and support, inclusive education at the secondary level and education guidance services. The City’s Health Coverage Plan aims to ensure the right to health and makes provision for free and comprehensive personalized medical care for anyone who does not have prepaid or employment-based medical coverage, with care and medicines for children with disabilities provided at home, at medical centres or in the City’s health-care facilities. In Santa Fe, Decree No. 2703/10 established the guidelines for the organization and coordination of the institutional integration project for children, adolescents and young people with disabilities. The province also has an Obligatory Health-care Provision Programme.

171. CONADIS funded the construction and/or equipping of 24 rehabilitation centres for children and adolescents. It reported that there is a nationwide network of 2,301 providers in the Common System for Basic Services for persons with disabilities.

Province	ES	IE	BGE	IESS	ET	PE	DC	TEC	H	H/DC	H/TEC	H/IE	BGE	H/ET	H/PE	SRH	RES	RS I	RS II	RS III	GRF	RCVI	
Buenos Aires province	36	71	114	83	57	3	213	97	28	81	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	32	9	4	0	1	
Autonomous City of Buenos Aires	23	14	31	30	21	2	56	38	4	24	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	2	0	0	0	
Catamarca	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaco	17	7	4	10	3	0	16	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Chubut	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Córdoba	6	8	14	52	2	8	45	39	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	1	0	0	0	0
Corrientes	9	6	6	10	2	0	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Entre Ríos	7	3	6	5	3	1	13	7	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Formosa	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jujuy	5	2	2	5	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
La Pampa	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
La Rioja	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Mendoza	15	6	7	13	3	2	36	16	2	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	9	3	0	0	0	0
Misiones	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Neuquén	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Río Negro	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salta	10	6	5	6	0	0	9	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan	1	0	1	3	0	0	7	8	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
San Luis	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Cruz	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Fe	21	0	2	50	6	3	101	68	12	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	6	0	2	1	1
Santiago del Estero	9	0	2	7	0	0	6	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0

Province	ES	IE	BGE	IESS	ET	PE	DC	TEC	H	H/DC	H/		SRH	RES	RS I	RS II	RS III	GRF	RCVI		
											TEC	H/IE								BGE	H/ET
Tierra del Fuego	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tucumán	6	3	6	20	8	1	24	24	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	
Totals	171	126	201	305	106	20	554	367	69	140	16	2	2	1	0	6	174	30	4	2	1

ES: early stimulation. IE: initial education. BGE: basic general education.
IESS: inclusive education support services. ET: employment training. PE: preparation for employment.

DC: day centre. TEC: therapeutic education centre. H: home. H/DC: home and day centre. H/TEC: home and therapeutic education centre. H/IE: home and initial education;

H/BGE: home and basic general education. H/ET: home and employment training. H/PE: home and preparation for employment. SRH: small residential home.

RES: residential home. RS I: Level I rehabilitation service. RS II: Level II rehabilitation service. RS III: Level III rehabilitation service. GRF: geographically remote facility.

RCVI: rehabilitation centre for persons with visual impairment.

172. The National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health, in conjunction with the maternal and child health programmes operated by the federal entities, focus on the early detection of diseases that are common in the first few months of life. Other CONADIS initiatives include a national programme for the early detection and treatment of hearing impairments (Act No. 25415), a national programme for the prevention of blindness, a national programme to improve detection of congenital metabolic disorders, a programme for the treatment of common childhood diseases, a national programme for congenital heart disease, a plan to reduce the waiting list for paediatric cardiovascular surgery and a register of centres for paediatric cardiovascular surgery.

173. Inclusion in special education: the inclusion of students with disabilities is achieved through the Rural Education Improvement Project and a programme to promote digital literacy in primary schools. The Federal Education Council has approved the federal guidelines and accompanying regulations on improvements to teaching and learning and pathways for preschool and primary education and modalities.²²

174. Training: The Ministry of Education and Sport, the National Institute for Industrial Technology, the National Institute for Technical Education and CONADIS have developed a policy for digital inclusion using new technologies alongside the National Plan for Digital Education For All and the Connecting Equality Programme. The policy encompasses technology for children with disabilities, a school fund for equipment and physical education aids for persons with disabilities, a national plan to provide ongoing training for school staff on education for adolescents and young people with disabilities, specialized teacher-training programmes on the use of information and communications technology in education and a rural education improvement programme targeting persons with disabilities in the North-West, the North-West and Cuyo.

175. At meetings of the Federal Council on Disability, CONADIS provides training to health-care managers and professional and technical personnel who work with children with disabilities in the provinces. Youth parliaments on rights and disabilities have also been held.

Health and access to health services

Paragraph 59

176. Since 2010, a social protection allowance has been paid to pregnant women between the twelfth week of gestation and the end of their pregnancy. In March 2016, the allowance was paid to 83,880 recipients, 6,205 of whom were under 18 years of age.²³ Mothers

²² http://portales.educacion.gov.ar/infd/files/2013/04/Res-CFE-174_12.pdf.

²³ Source: National Social Security Administration.

receive 80 per cent of the allowance during pregnancy and the remaining 20 per cent following the birth. Under the SUMAR Plan, health check-ups are recorded and a baby-care booklet is issued to expectant mothers.

177. A number of public policies are in place with respect to pregnancy and childbirth, including the National Sexual Health and Responsible Parenthood Programme, which aims to reduce unwanted pregnancies by facilitating access to contraception; prenatal check-up guides; and safe and family-oriented maternity units where families and their rights are respected and births are guaranteed to meet the basic obstetric and neonatal standards set by WHO. Also provided for is the joint discharge of mother and baby and the identification of at-risk families; a monitoring programme for high-risk newborns; the National Neonatal Metabolic and Hearing Screening Programme; breastfeeding promotion; the promotion of comprehensive health care for children under the age of 6 years and initiatives to improve the availability of data by way of the Digital Perinatal System, which provides information on care during the prenatal period and childbirth.

178. The National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health, within the Ministry of Health, works with jurisdictional maternal and child health programmes on actions and strategies to improve access to and the coverage and quality of maternal and child health care. In this regard, the SUMAR Plan — which was launched in 2012 and including services for high-risk pregnancy care and neonatal care — and the NACER Plan — launched in 2005 in the North-East and North-West regions and rolled out across the country in 2007 — together reached 230,000 children covered by the universal child allowance. The number of children enrolled in the NACER Plan increased by 50 per cent. The number of children and pregnant women undergoing comprehensive health checks rose by 12 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

179. With regard to nutrition, the National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health has developed food guides and operates a nationwide initiative to provide pregnant women, children under 2 years of age and undernourished children under 5 years of age with whole milk that has been fortified with iron, zinc and vitamin C, in accordance with Act No. 25459/01.

180. According to the Department of Health Statistics and Information, the maternal mortality rate fell to 3.2 per cent in 2013; the rate had previously been 3.5 per cent in 2012; 4 per cent in 2011; and 4.4 per cent in 2010. In 2014,²⁴ 290 women died while pregnant or within 42 days of the end of their pregnancy from conditions brought on or worsened by pregnancy. In that same year, there were 777,012 live births, giving a maternal mortality rate of 3.7 per 10,000 live births.

181. With regard to infant mortality, in 2014 there were 777,012 live births, while 8,202 children died before their first birthday. The infant mortality rate was 10.6 per cent. According to the Department of Health Statistics and Information, in 2013 the mortality rate among children under 5 years of age was 10.8 per cent.

182. The Ministry of Health carried out the following initiatives: the National Sexual Health and Responsible Parenthood Programme; improvements in the management and organization of neonatal and obstetrics services; training and assistance for professionals supporting at-risk newborn babies and their families; training in neonatal cardiopulmonary resuscitation; the National Programme for Respiratory Health (respiratory disease is the second biggest cause of death among children aged between 1 and 12 months in Argentina), which included stepping up “winter campaigns” to improve care for acute respiratory diseases; the national programme for the comprehensive treatment of diarrhoea and haemolytic uraemic syndrome (although deaths from this disease are rare in children under 5 years old, Argentina has the highest rate in the world and is therefore taking steps to prevent the disease and to provide appropriate and timely treatment for it); the National Programme to Prevent Sudden Infant Death, and the implementation of the Maternal Mortality Monitoring System.

²⁴ Maternal and child health analysis for Argentina, 2005–2014.

183. Regarding immunization, the Ministry of Health regularly reminds people of the importance of the H1N1 influenza vaccine for pregnant women and children between the ages of 6 and 24 months.

184. The protocol for the comprehensive care of victims of rape was developed in 2011 and updated in 2015. It includes instructions to be followed by health-care teams and makes reference to non-punishable abortions in cases of rape. (The ruling in “F., A. L., no precautionary measures” (March 2012) indicated that in cases of rape, medical intervention is “lawful inasmuch as it is not a punishable act”, Supreme Court, 2012: 25). Similarly, in 2007 the National Sexual Health and Responsible Parenthood Programme (Act No. 25673) in the Ministry of Health developed technical guidelines for the provision of comprehensive care for non-punishable abortions. The guidelines were drafted with support from the Pan American Health Organization and WHO. Santa Fe, Chubut, Chaco, Jujuy, Misiones, Tierra del Fuego and Santa Cruz have adopted the guidelines in full. Salta, La Pampa, Entre Ríos, Córdoba, Buenos Aires province, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Río Negro and Neuquén have partially adopted the guidelines. Mendoza, San Luis, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, Formosa, Corrientes, Catamarca and San Juan have not yet adopted them.

Paragraph 61

185. The State established the Advisory Commission on Breastfeeding in 1993 by way of Ministerial Decision No. 347/93. The Advisory Commission is not mandated to take direct action. The National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health in the Ministry of Health is responsible for the systematic collection of data on breastfeeding through the National Breastfeeding Survey, which was last conducted in 2015 and made available in 2016. The provincial authorities select health services to gather the data using the standard questionnaire issued by WHO.

186. The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes was incorporated in its entirety in the Food Code of Argentina. The National Food Institute, part of the National Administration for Medicines, Food and Medical Technology, is responsible for monitoring its implementation. The International Code was also incorporated into National Act No. 26873 on breastfeeding, advocacy and public awareness, the regulations of which stipulate that the provisions of the International Code should be followed up to the age of 2 years.

187. For more than four years, the National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health has been providing online training for its staff and interested parties as part of the SUMAR Plan. Currently, the course has 4,000 registered participants. Other training opportunities include courses run at breastfeeding centres in conjunction with the Professor Doctor Juan P. Garrahan National Paediatric Hospital and a course on nutrition for premature babies. Breastfeeding counsellors have also been trained and disseminate their knowledge in their home regions.

188. The following legislative measures are noteworthy: 2015 — Ministry of Health Decision No. 1537-15. Framework for establishing breastfeeding centres. Decree No. 2035/15 regulating Act No. 25929; Decision establishing the framework for breastfeeding centres; Decree No. 2035/15 regulating Act No. 25929; and RM270/15, breast milk banks. 2014 — Directive, Ministerial Decision No. 809/14 on operating guidelines for breastfeeding centres. 2012 — Guidelines for the organization and operation of breastfeeding centres. 2011 — Ministry of Health Decision No. 1930/11 prohibiting the sale of breast milk. 2010 — Milk Banks Commission. 2007 — Joint Decisions Nos. 97 and 301. Incorporation of the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes in the Food Code of Argentina. Ministerial Decision No. 1376/07. Adoption of the WHO Child Growth Standards. Food Code of Argentina 2007, Chapter XVII. Foods for special diets.

Adolescent health

Paragraph 63

189. In 2012, the Ministry of Health launched the SUMAR Plan, which is designed to provide health-care services to young people between 10 and 19 years of age. The young

people concerned may seek care alone or be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and care is provided to them confidentially and without discrimination. The services available include medical consultations, treatment for obesity, overweight, anaemia and asthma, support and guidance in cases of alcohol or drug dependency and sexual violence, vaccinations, oral health, gynaecological consultations (including insertion of intra-uterine devices), confidential pregnancy testing and information on sexual and reproductive health (including free contraceptives), addiction prevention, sexually transmitted infections, bulimia, anorexia and domestic and/or gender-based violence. Throughout the country, 8,871 providers have agreed to take part in the Plan and have received support from local trainers to strengthen the capacities of their teams. The National Programme for Comprehensive Adolescent Sexual Health has provided training, monitoring and resources.

190. Basic effective health-care coverage is activated when an adolescent enrolled in the programme contacts a health-care provider for one of the services included in the Health Services Plan. In 2015, 840,828 adolescents received coverage. With regard to teenage pregnancy, in 2014, according to the Department of Health Statistics and Information, 15.2 per cent of live births involved mothers under 20 years of age: of 777,012 live births, 3,007 were to mothers under 15 years of age and 113,945 were to mothers aged between 15 and 19 years of age.

191. The Plan to Reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality among Women and Teenage Girls was established in 2009 and, in 2012, was extended until 2015.

192. With regard to the consumption of psychoactive substances, in 2014 the Secretariat of Planning for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and Action against Drug Trafficking launched the Addiction Support Centres programme to provide assistance to children and young people, in line with Acts No. 26061 and No. 26657. The Centres are staffed by paediatricians, psychiatrists and psychologists. The Secretariat has also provided guidance to public services, interdisciplinary teams and places where family members or persons responsible for young people can find support, as well as to public services, hospitals, municipalities and other entities. It has also launched the nationwide toll-free 24-hour 141 telephone helpline, through which professional specialists provide guidance.

193. The Secretariat of Planning for the Prevention of Drug Addiction and Action against Drug Trafficking has conducted prevention campaigns (see annex III) and operates local addiction prevention centres where young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years can gather and access support services and sports, cultural and recreational opportunities.

194. In connection with health and lifestyle issues among adolescents aged between 13 and 15 years, the global school-based student health survey²⁵ was conducted in Argentina in 2007. The survey was repeated in 2012 with national and provincial representation in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Sport. The following results were obtained:

	2007			2012		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Overweight	24.50%	32.40%	17.60%	28.60%	35.90%	21.80%
Obesity	4.40%	6.50%	2.60%	5.90%	8.30%	3.60%

²⁵ http://www.msar.gov.ar/ent/images/stories/vigilancia/pdf/2014-09_informe-EMSE-2012.pdf.

Contraceptive use among sexually active students aged 13 to 15 years

	2012		
	Total	Male	Female
Condom use at last sexual intercourse	75.8%	77.1%	74.0%
Use of another contraceptive method at last sexual intercourse	46.7%	39.9%	55.0%
Always or almost always used a condom during the past 12 months	40.9%	40.6%	41.5%

Access to information on HIV/AIDS among students, by sex and age

	2012		
	Total	Male	Female
Has heard about HIV or AIDS	88.3%	86.5%	90.1%
Was taught about HIV or AIDS in any subject during the past school year	61.9%	60.0%	63.6%
Was taught how to avoid HIV or AIDS in any subject during the past school year	59.9%	59.2%	60.6%
Has ever discussed HIV or AIDS with his/her parents or caregivers	54.9%	51.9%	57.4%

195. In 2014, the Argentine Drug Observatory conducted a national survey on the consumption of psychoactive substances among secondary students. Data from the 2009, 2011 and 2014 surveys were analysed jointly.²⁶ The results show the prevalence of the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, psychotropic drugs, cocaine and other substances:

Prevalence	Total		
	2009	2011	2014
Have you ever drunk alcohol?	71.6%	73.7%	70.5%
Have you drunk alcohol at least once in the past year?	60.3%	63.3%	62.2%
Have you drunk alcohol at least once in the past month?	46.7%	49.7%	50.1%

Prevalence	14 and under			15–16			17 and over		
	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014	2009	2011	2014
Have you ever drunk alcohol?	52.6%	53.4%	50.7%	79.6%	81.5%	79.8%	88.5%	90.1%	88.7%
Have you drunk alcohol at least once in the past year?	39.1%	39.6%	42.0%	68.9%	72.4%	71.7%	79.3%	82.8%	80.7%
Have you drunk alcohol at least once in the past month?	25.4%	26.7%	32.2%	54.2%	57.1%	57.8%	66.4%	70.0%	67.3%

Prevalence	Total		
	2009	2011	2014
Have you ever smoked?	44.0%	41.0%	35.8%
Have you smoked at least once in the past year?	28.2%	26.5%	22.5%
Have you smoked at least once in the past month?	19.7%	18.7%	15.1%

²⁶ <http://www.observatorio.gov.ar/media/k2/attachments/VIZEstudioZNacionalZaZEstudiantesZdeZNivelZMedioZCENTROZ-ZAoZ2014.pdf>.

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>14 and under</i>			<i>15–16 years</i>			<i>17 and over</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever smoked?	27.3%	24.5%	21.4%	49.2%	45.2%	40.4%	60.3%	56.0%	52.1%
Have you smoked at least once in the past year?	16.3%	14.6%	11.8%	32.2%	30.7%	26.3%	39.3%	36.1%	34.0%
Have you smoked at least once in the past month?	10.1%	9.2%	7.4%	22.1%	21.1%	17.3%	29.5%	27.3%	24.1%

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>Total</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever consumed marijuana?	12.0%	14.0%	15.9%
Have you consumed marijuana at least once in the past year?	8.4%	10.4%	11.8%
Have you consumed marijuana at least once in the past month?	4.8%	6.2%	7.6%

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>14 and under</i>			<i>15–16</i>			<i>17 and over</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever consumed marijuana?	4.5%	5.4%	5.8%	13.2%	14.8%	18.3%	20.3%	23.0%	28.3%
Have you consumed marijuana at least once in the past year?	2.9%	3.7%	4.1%	9.6%	11.3%	13.6%	14.2%	17.2%	21.1%
Have you consumed marijuana at least once in the past month?	1.5%	2.2%	2.5%	5.8%	6.5%	8.8%	8.0%	10.4%	13.7%

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>Total</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever consumed psychotropic drugs?	5.1%	5.8%	5.9%
Have you consumed psychotropic drugs at least once in the past year?	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Have you consumed psychotropic drugs at least once in the past month?	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>14 and under</i>			<i>15–16</i>			<i>17 and over</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever consumed psychotropic drugs?	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	6.1%	6.5%	6.7%	6.1%	7.4%	8.1%
Have you consumed psychotropic drugs at least once in the past year?	1.9%	1.8%	2.1%	3.9%	3.5%	3.9%	3.3%	3.9%	4.3%
Have you consumed psychotropic drugs at least once in the past month?	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	1.7%	2.3%	2.2%

<i>Prevalence</i>	<i>14 and under</i>			<i>15–16</i>			<i>17 and over</i>		
	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2014</i>
Have you ever consumed cocaine?	1.7%	2.2%	1.9%	4.8%	4.8%	3.8%	5.9%	6.7%	6.1%
Have you consumed cocaine at least once in the past year?	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%	2.9%	2.7%	2.1%	3.2%	3.8%	3.2%
Have you consumed cocaine at least once in the past month?	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	1.8%	1.4%	1.0%	1.6%	1.9%	1.5%

Right to an adequate standard of living

Paragraph 65

196. The National Statistics and Census Institute, through Decrees No. 181/15 and No. 55/16, undertook a study to determine the arrangements for data collection and processing, setting of indicators and dissemination.

197. In 2016, UNICEF Argentina released a report indicating that the total poverty rate for children and adolescents was 31.7 per cent and that the moderate poverty rate was 27.5 per cent for children under 5 years, 24.8 per cent for children aged 6–12 years and 26.2 per cent for adolescents aged 12–17 years (2015).

198. The following national public policies have been developed as part of a comprehensive strategy for social equity: the universal child allowance, an additional payment that supplements family income and helps to lift households above the poverty line; the voluntary simplified social tax scheme, which has 146,904 affiliates whose children have health coverage, 7,060 of whom are in receipt of the universal child allowance; the National Early Childhood Plan, which provides nutritional assistance and give support to the community outreach, community gardens and food and nutrition education components of the National Food Security Plan; the NACER Plan; the SUMAR Plan; the granting of scholarships for children and young people in certain socioeconomic situations; the Federal Social Rate for transport, electricity, running water, sewerage charges (in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and surrounding areas) and gas; the Human Development Programmes of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing to urbanize shanty towns and settlements, regulate land ownership and facilitate access to housing; the Matanza Riachuelo River Basin Authority Emergency Health Plan, which is aimed at reducing the impact of environmental hazards on the health of the population and includes provision for assessments and health-care referrals for children aged under 6 years; protection from violence by way of the toll-free 102 helpline; the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour; and the Connecting Equality Programme, which is designed to reduce the digital divide and develop digital inclusion at the federal level and in 2016 provided 201,307 notebook computers nationwide.

F. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29 and 31 of the Convention)

Education, including vocational training and guidance

Paragraph 68

199. In order to guarantee the right to education of children with temporary or permanent disabilities, at all levels and in all situations, and for the purpose of reducing the disparities between the provinces, the Ministry of Education and Sport issued Decision No. 994/2012. In fulfilment of the objectives of the Decision, the following equitable financial transfers were made to the state-level special education administrations throughout the country (amounts are given in Argentine pesos (Arg\$)): Autonomous City of Buenos Aires 246,000; Buenos Aires 3,998,000; Catamarca 170,000; Córdoba 740,000; Corrientes 464,000; Chaco 400,000; Chubut 302,000; Entre Ríos 436,000; Formosa 292,000; Jujuy 200,000; La Pampa 240,000; La Rioja 120,000; Mendoza 580,000; Neuquén 372,000; Misiones 520,000; Río

Negro 312,000; Salta 298,000; San Luis 92,000; Santa Cruz 212,000; Santa Fe 1,118,000; Santiago del Estero 214,000; Tucumán 256,000; and Tierra del Fuego 44,000. These funds were allocated to 1,367 schools and vocational training centres serving 110,000 students on-site and a further 40,000 in various educational levels and institutions. In addition, 200 schools were included in the Institutional Improvements Plan and 630 received provision for mobility accommodation. The National “More Schools” Programme built 2,110 accessible schools, with a further 510 still under construction.

200. With regard to keeping indigenous children in school, 61,841 scholarships were awarded between 2003 and 2013 and 17,571 grants were distributed nationwide to train preschool, primary and secondary teachers. In 2014, 81,456 indigenous children were enrolled in schools nationwide.

201. With regard to teenage mothers, Act No. 26061 prohibits discrimination in schools on grounds of pregnancy or parenthood. Breastfeeding facilities must be provided or arrangements made for mothers to leave school for an hour. Absences are authorized during the pre- and post-natal periods: the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires authorizes 45 days and Buenos Aires province 30 days. In addition, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires has a school retention programme and has provided the universal pregnancy allowance to 6,205 girls under the age of 18 years.

202. Completion rates are as follows:

Completion rate by level of education. Country total. 2005–2013

Completion Rate	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Primary (6 years)	90.7	90.2	92.7	92.8	91.3	92.3	93.3	94.2	95.3
Lower secondary (3 years)	69.0	68.8	72.5	72.9	70.3	69.6	72.2	72.6	73.2
Upper secondary (3 years)	48.5	50.1	51.9	52.9	57.9	56.3	56.2	59.0	59.4

Dropout rate between grades, 2013–2014

Level	Primary (6 years)								Lower secondary			Upper secondary			
	Total	Grade						Total	Grade		Total	Grade			
		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8		9	10	11	12
National total	97.08	98.31	96.22	96.75	96.81	96.82	97.60	80.05	89.58	74.60	75.61	79.13	76.17	84.86	76.69
Buenos Aires	97.96	99.66	96.67	97.19	97.77	97.86	98.72	79.40	85.85	74.57	77.48	76.13	72.63	81.55	75.00
Greater Buenos Aires	97.76	99.13	96.34	96.92	97.57	97.81	98.94	80.08	87.27	75.33	77.25	74.56	71.65	80.17	72.24
Rest of Buenos Aires	98.29	100.56	97.22	97.64	98.08	97.95	98.35	78.27	83.54	73.28	77.86	78.84	74.36	83.93	79.52
Catamarca	97.66	99.56	96.54	97.55	97.87	96.90	97.67	83.91	87.77	86.51	76.38	83.03	84.12	86.83	76.89
Chaco	95.88	98.07	94.96	94.85	95.06	95.87	96.78	80.87	102.32	70.06	73.32	82.70	79.28	88.00	81.39
Chubut	98.98	100.23	97.74	99.15	98.69	98.98	99.14	77.16	79.83	76.74	74.44	78.80	75.52	86.90	74.56
City of Buenos Aires	97.92	97.21	97.82	98.25	97.96	98.61	97.67	87.37	103.99	80.93	78.86	81.92	82.39	85.74	76.98
Córdoba	97.57	97.58	97.54	97.51	97.56	97.08	98.16	80.12	81.64	80.55	77.84	80.44	78.21	90.16	72.18
Corrientes	89.85	90.92	85.83	90.13	87.70	91.65	93.37	79.15	80.72	76.69	80.08	83.06	77.91	86.43	86.41
Entre Ríos	96.05	97.56	95.91	95.80	95.69	94.93	96.54	73.94	76.90	69.58	75.38	84.06	79.61	87.84	86.34
Formosa	96.75	98.75	98.56	95.92	95.49	95.28	96.81	79.39	78.16	79.03	81.49	81.91	82.40	86.06	76.53
Jujuy	99.39	100.36	99.14	99.12	99.18	99.30	99.30	84.57	101.28	82.35	71.12	85.37	84.84	94.79	75.63
La Pampa	99.83	99.85	100.47	99.40	99.71	99.97	99.57	82.27	88.00	78.18	80.47	82.54	82.20	87.02	77.56
La Rioja	95.70	95.48	95.82	95.41	95.71	94.80	97.03	89.59	100.32	87.16	81.40	88.58	85.36	92.22	88.23
Mendoza	95.52	95.45	93.80	96.22	95.10	94.89	97.86	80.01	95.13	73.66	71.46	77.54	74.08	85.34	73.43

Level	Primary (6 years)						Lower secondary			Upper secondary					
	Total	Grade					Total	Grade		Total	Grade				
		1	2	3	4	5		6	7		8	9	10	11	12
Misiones	94.41	97.90	93.35	94.31	94.32	93.06	93.46	84.87	102.57	75.60	77.01	83.94	79.24	89.41	85.29
Neuquén	97.31	98.62	97.92	96.45	98.18	95.86	96.76	72.70	98.31	62.77	60.85	76.09	75.94	80.10	71.43
Río Negro	98.94	100.64	98.70	99.60	98.41	98.03	98.38	75.80	102.17	67.17	60.91	74.15	71.26	76.30	75.70
Salta	96.29	97.64	95.42	96.02	96.76	94.68	97.33	82.69	106.91	70.74	73.75	79.16	77.40	84.40	75.75
San Juan	94.44	90.48	94.05	94.87	95.56	94.94	97.41	73.09	76.38	69.14	73.58	77.68	73.77	85.81	74.05
San Luis	96.70	97.90	95.83	98.04	97.74	95.36	95.34	82.48	88.45	77.51	80.98	85.26	84.00	87.33	84.53
Santa Cruz	98.42	100.43	99.15	97.73	98.86	97.40	96.90	71.84	93.18	59.10	64.00	71.17	68.06	74.77	71.74
Santa Fe	97.42	98.32	97.42	97.80	97.37	97.69	95.85	78.84	101.38	67.96	69.70	79.73	75.86	86.27	77.92
Santiago del Estero	94.88	100.70	93.17	93.59	92.67	94.81	94.63	81.25	94.40	75.26	72.45	77.91	72.87	83.31	79.56
Tierra del Fuego	99.65	101.32	99.53	100.04	99.40	97.75	99.85	81.21	85.62	75.41	82.99	84.08	85.15	90.44	75.23
Tucumán	98.31	99.31	98.37	97.79	97.68	97.66	99.12	80.45	83.36	79.25	78.07	83.78	82.10	89.80	79.02

Dropout rate between grades: percentage of students not enrolled in the following school year.

Source: Annual surveys for 2013 and 2014. National Directorate for Information on and Assessment of the Quality of Education. Ministry of Education and Sport.

203. With regard to vocational training, article 48 of the Education Act indicates that the objective of continuing education is to help people to find employment. In 2014, the province of Buenos Aires ran a train-the-trainer project to improve sexual and reproductive health in application of the law on comprehensive sex education. In 2013, it also ran a campaign for adolescents and young people on sexuality and pleasure, including a gender perspective.

204. Act No. 26390 prohibits employment for children aged under 15 years. It also lays down protective conditions of employment for persons aged between 16 and 25 years, who may be employed only on apprenticeships combining theoretical, practical and training components during working hours.

205. Human rights education forms part of the school curriculum (Act No. 26206). Specific provision is made for comprehensive sex education, which is a fundamental human right, in Act No. 26150. To guarantee related rights, more than 10 million copies of graphic and audiovisual materials have been produced and 100,000 teachers have been trained.

Production and distribution in schools of materials for comprehensive sex education, 2009–2015

<i>Printed materials, CDs and DVDs</i>	<i>No. of copies</i>
Curriculum guidelines	850 000
Awareness-raising posters and leaflets	2 400 000
Workbooks on comprehensive sex education (preschool, primary and secondary students; young people and adults; guides for institutions)	1 620 000
“It’s part of life” booklet for special education	150 000
Comprehensive sex education magazine to support family discussions	7 200 000
Class worksheets on comprehensive sex education	1 485 000
Braille worksheets on comprehensive sex education	8 000
DVDs	30 000
CDs (virtual course)	46 200

<i>Printed materials, CDs and DVDs</i>	<i>No. of copies</i>
Audiovisual materials	Episodes/Sessions
Connecting Equality teaching sessions	40
“We Want to Know” series on the Canal Encuentro channel	14
“Now What?” series on the Paka channel	14
Short videos on comprehensive sex education on the Canal Encuentro channel	13
Advertisement for the comprehensive sex education magazine to support family discussions	1
Videos on comprehensive sex education experiences (for preschool, primary, secondary and special education)	6
Short episodes on comprehensive sex education as part of the Zamba cartoon series (in development)	3

Paragraph 70

206. The State has taken measures to protect children from violence in education. Act No. 26892 sets out the arrangements for tackling social conflicts in the national education system. The Ministry of Education and Sport, in agreement with the Federal Education Council,²⁷ prepared a federal guide for the intervention of educational authorities in complex school situations, which provides guidance on, inter alia, dealing with potential conflicts arising from the use of social media, discrimination or harassment on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, violence involving students and teachers, peer abuse and the restoration of infringed rights (see annex III).

207. In 2009, the Federal Education Council issued Decision No. 93, containing guidance on teaching and institutional arrangements for compulsory secondary education. In 2014, it issued Decision No. 239, which sets out principles and criteria for developing agreements and establishing bodies to encourage participation in school life, including school and class councils at the primary level.

208. A report on “Quantitative surveys on violence in schools from the student perspective 2010” was produced. The Ministry of Education and Sport and the Argentine Observatory on School Violence produced a joint publication on “Coexistence at school: resources and guidance for work in the classroom”.

G. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 38, 39, 40, 37 (b) and (d), 30 and 32–36 of the Convention)

Unaccompanied, refugee or asylum-seeking children

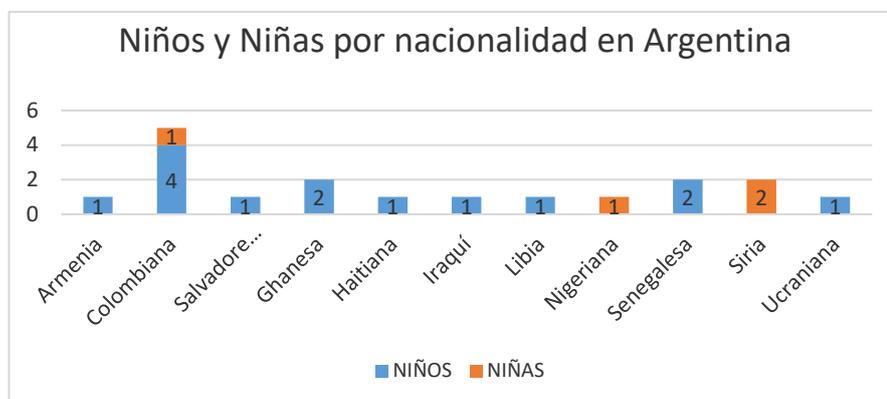
Paragraph 72

209. The Commission on Assistance and Comprehensive Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, which is part of the Chief Public Defender’s Office, provides support to persons with social needs or who are seeking asylum, particularly children arriving in the country. Representatives of Government agencies, NGOs and the courts together provide a support network for the recognition of refugees’ rights. A programme has been established to provide assistance and comprehensive protection for child and adolescent asylum seekers who are unaccompanied or have been separated from their families. A civil servant has been appointed as an ad hoc guardian who can provide unaccompanied children with legal and administrative representation and assistance.

210. In 2011, a working group composed of the National Refugee Commission, the National Migration Directorate, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, SENAF and the Public Defence Service agreed a protocol on protection, assistance and long-term

²⁷ Decision No. 217/14.

solutions for child asylum seekers who are unaccompanied or have been separated from their families. The protocol refers in its opening provisions to the protection, reception and care of children and adolescents who are unaccompanied or separated and contains other provisions on the application of a special procedure to identify international protection needs. Since 2008, assistance has been provided to 251 child and adolescent asylum seekers who were unaccompanied or had been separated from their families. Annual statistics on this group are produced. In 2016, 18 children and adolescents were under guardianship.



211. As part of the NIÑ@SUR Initiative, a package of actions and activities to uphold the rights of children and their families was approved in 2012. The best interests of the child are the basis for the actions and decisions adopted in application of the regional guide produced by the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) on identifying the special protection needs of migrant children and adolescents.

Economic exploitation, including child labour

Paragraph 74

212. The number of children enrolled in mainstream education rose by 10 per cent, from 10,114,000 students in 2007 to 11,134,000 in 2015. During the same period, the number of children enrolled in special education rose by 6 per cent. Child labour is prohibited under Act No. 23690. By way of National Act No. 26847, article 148 bis was incorporated into the Code of Criminal Procedure. The article establishes the economic exploitation of a child as an offence, the penalty for which is between 1 and 4 years in prison.

213. In 2016, Presidential Decree No. 116/16 set out 23 forms of labour, activities, tasks and occupations that are regarded as being hazardous and the worst forms of labour for persons under the age of 18 years, as described in article 3 (d) of ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), which was adopted by way of Act No. 25255. The Decree empowers the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to consult regularly with organizations of employers and employees for the purpose of updating the list of hazardous forms of labour.

214. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security ensures effective oversight through implementation of its National Work Regularization Plan, under which 400 inspectors conduct regular monitoring operations from their bases in 40 regional offices.

215. The Observatory on Child and Adolescent Labour is one component of the programme to survey and monitor child labour as part of an agreement between the Ministry and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of the ILO.

216. Since 2006, the Observatory's activities have been included in a number of Ministry agreements, including an agreement with UNICEF on contributions to the Observatory; an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (ARG/04/036) on an information system to assess and monitor employment, labour and social inclusion; and a joint agreement with ILO, UNDP and UNICEF to provide support to the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour, which is currently being implemented.

217. Results obtained:

Table 9

Percentage of children and adolescents aged 5–17 years engaged in paid and unpaid labour, by age group. National urban total. Third quarter, 2012

Form of labour	5–15 years			
	5–13 years	14–15 years	5–15 years	16–17 years
Employment	2.0	7.5	3.0	16.8
Production for personal consumption	2.1	6.4	2.9	8.5
Intensive domestic work	2.6	6.5	3.4	11.3

Source: Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security — Observatory on Child and Adolescent Labour, based on a questionnaire on the activities of children and adolescents (annual urban household survey — National Statistics and Census Institute).

218. The National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Workers 2016–2020 is coordinated by the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour and takes into account the statistical information gathered.

Trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse

Paragraph 76

219. An executive committee was established by way of Act No. 26842 for the purpose of combating human trafficking and exploitation and providing protection and assistance to victims. The committee is an autonomous body tasked with coordinating the prevention, prosecution and assistance initiatives in the field of trafficking in persons that are developed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

220. In the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the public policies and programmes to tackle trafficking include a national programme to rescue trafficking victims and provide them with support (Decision No. 731/2012), and a unit tasked with monitoring the publication of advertisements for sexual services (Decree No. 936/2011). In the Ministry of Security, there are dedicated units within the federal security forces. The Federal Police Force of Argentina has a Human Trafficking Division, the Gendarmería Nacional Argentina has a Counter-Trafficking Department, the Argentine Naval Prefecture has a Human Trafficking Investigations Department, and the Airport Security Police has an operations unit for the control of drug trafficking and complex crimes. Other initiatives include an integrated crime information system for trafficking offences, a free hotline (0800-555-5065) for reporting complaints, including of human trafficking, and the Coordination Office to Tackle Trafficking in Persons and Sex Crimes. Within the Public Prosecution Service there is a dedicated programme to support child and adolescent victims of ill-treatment and sexual abuse. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has a National Work Regularization Plan, complaints mechanisms (0800-666-4100 or via email), and agreements with various agencies to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking in persons. The National Women's Council (Act No. 26485) operates the 144 telephone helpline intended to provide women with support and advice. SENAF has a unit for the prevention of the worst forms of violations of rights, which provides assistance to victims of trafficking in persons. The provision of support is regulated by the National Protocol for Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation and the accompanying guidelines for implementation of that protocol (2008).

221. With regard to legislative measures, human trafficking was incorporated as a federal crime in the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure by way of Act No. 26364. Act No. 26842 stipulates that the perpetrators of trafficking shall be held criminally responsible irrespective of the age of the victim and of whether the victim provided consent, and without the need for evidence of coercion in order to prove that the offence took place.

It also makes provision for the application of harsher penalties when the victim of exploitation is a minor. The guidelines for the coordination of assistance were endorsed by all of the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in 2012. SENAF, through its unit for the prevention of the worst forms of violation of rights, has established a coordinated system of focal points to provide comprehensive assistance to victims of trafficking. The Secretariat convenes regular meetings of the focal points.

222. A protocol for the action to be taken by federal forces in the rescue of victims of human trafficking was approved in Decision No. 742/11. With regard to sexual abuse, Act No. 26705 amended the Criminal Code to provide that in cases where the victim is a minor, the statute of limitations will begin to run at midnight on the day that the victim reaches the age of majority.

223. In 2014, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights signed a cooperation and technical assistance agreement with Aerolíneas Argentinas, Aeropuertos Argentina 2000 S.A. and the Argentine Federation of Aviation Personnel to train their workers in the prevention and detection of human trafficking and the provision of assistance to victims.

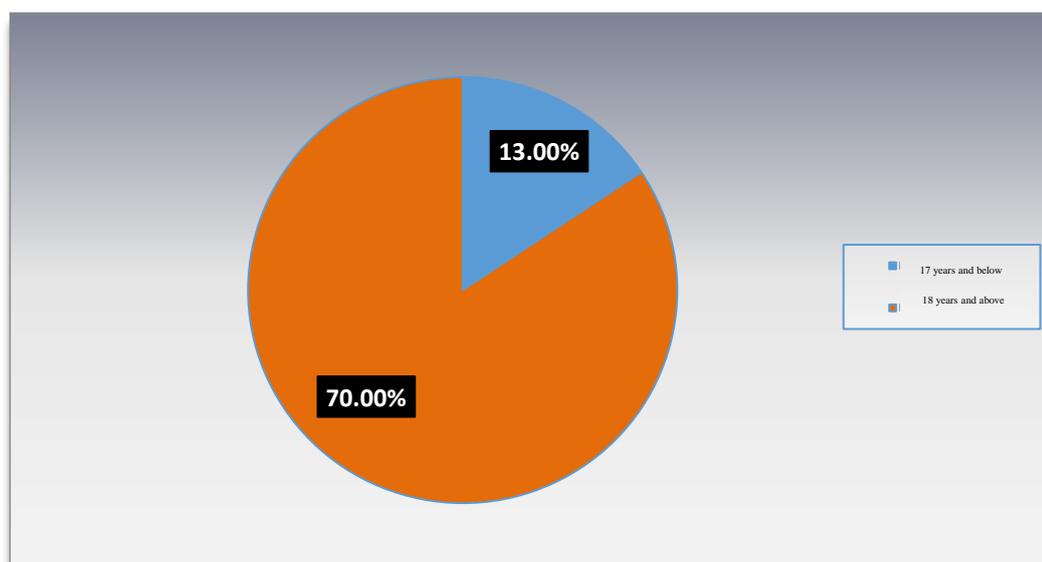
224. With regard to the effective prosecution of cases of sexual violence against children, the Public Prosecution Unit responsible for the investigation of sex crimes against children provides support and technical assistance to the prosecutors involved in such cases and takes measures to ensure that the child's right to be heard is respected. The Unit also promotes prevention measures aimed at avoiding the continuation or repetition of offences of sexual violence and keeps statistical records of ongoing investigations in which the Unit is involved (Annex III).

225. With regard to the criminal prosecution of offences of trafficking in children and adolescents, the Public Prosecution Service established the Prosecution Unit on Human Trafficking and Exploitation,²⁸ which is responsible for defining the Service's criminal policy in that area and for providing support to prosecutors throughout the country in cases of trafficking in children, the rescue of victims and the streamlining of the judicial process.

226. Between 2008 and 2015, there were 448 prosecutions relating to the trafficking of 259 children or adolescents. In 2016, 339 children were victims of trafficking or were in the company of adult relatives who had experienced exploitation. Of those 339, 237 were returned to their place of origin.

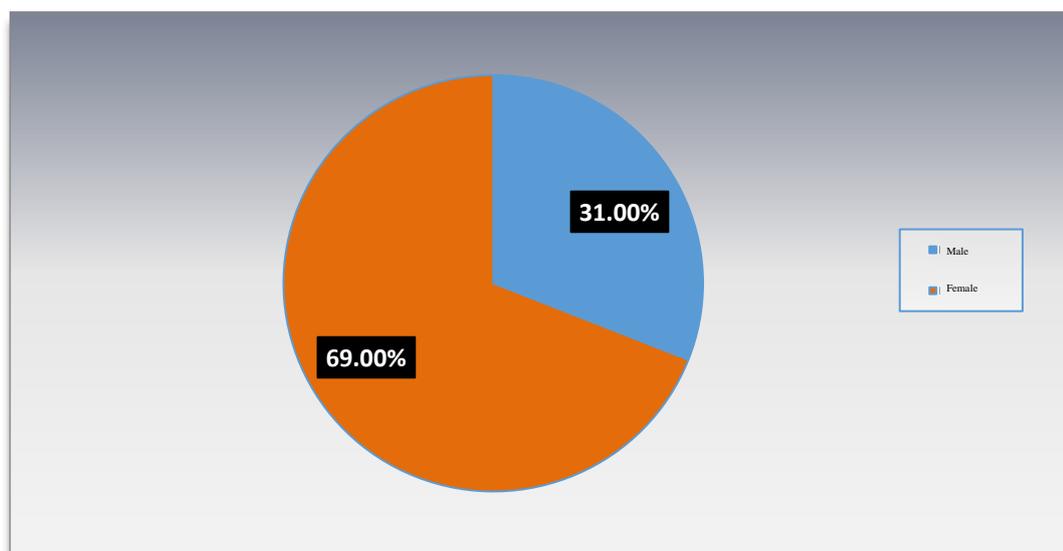
Table

Assistance to victims of trafficking. Cases handled directly, by age. 2015



²⁸ Attorney General's Office Resolution No. 805/13.

Table
Assistance to victims of trafficking. Cases handled directly, by gender. 2015



Administration of juvenile justice

Paragraph 80

227. The Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family (COFENAF) has on several occasions issued opinions on the need for a juvenile criminal justice act that is in line with the Convention, the Beijing Rules, the Havana Rules, the Riyadh Guidelines and the general comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including “Towards institutional improvements in the juvenile criminal justice system” (2011), “Incompatibility of the application of life imprisonment in the context of juvenile justice under the Constitution and conventions” (2013), “Towards a juvenile criminal justice act that complies with rules and guidelines supplementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child” (2014) and “Baseline for a new juvenile criminal justice act” (2016).

228. The implementation of Act No. 26061 in the current juvenile criminal justice system gave rise to the following results: in 2015, the juvenile prison population in the national territory as a whole numbered 3,908 adolescents (0.14 per cent of the total 14–17 age group), including 412 children under the age of 16 years and 3,496 children aged 16–17 years. They had been assigned to 118 specialized units in 31 socioeducational residential facilities (26.3 per cent of all units), 26 supervision and monitoring programmes (22 per cent) and 61 centres of deprivation of liberty (51.7 per cent). With regard to legal defence services, 97.6 per cent of juveniles subject to supervision programmes are formally represented by counsel, while the rates for juveniles in open prisons and closed prisons stand at 92.4 per cent and 90.6 per cent respectively. In total, 96.19 per cent are formally represented by counsel.

Duration of juvenile criminal justice measures, by type — 2015 (provisional data)

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Closed socioeducational centres</i>	<i>Socioeducational residential facilities</i>	<i>Supervision and monitoring programmes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Less than 30 days	23.4	34.3	6.4	10.2
1–4 months	37.6	35.5	15.6	20.2
4–6 months	11.7	9.3	12.2	12
7 months–1 year	16.8	10.5	32	28.7
1–2 years	7.3	8.1	24.5	20.9
More than 2 years	2.8	2.3	8.6	7.4

<i>Time period</i>	<i>Closed socioeducational centres</i>	<i>Socioeducational residential facilities</i>	<i>Supervision and monitoring programmes</i>	<i>Total</i>
No data available	0.3	-	0.8	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100

229. Programmes in vocational education, personal development, informal education, recreation and sports are available in places of deprivation of liberty.

230. In a recent case, the prosecuting attorney before the Supreme Court reaffirmed the obligations of the State in terms of ensuring access to justice and effective legal protection for children²⁹ and considered that judges should take the necessary steps to remove any obstacles to the observance of the rights of every child.³⁰

231. In 2016, with the assistance of UNICEF, an agreement was signed to establish admission centres in all the provinces with the aim of ensuring the application of the principle of speciality, as established in the relevant regulations. In 2014, Protocol No. 33 was developed regarding the actions of the security forces and national police institutions in proceedings involving children who have allegedly committed a criminal offence (Decision No. 906/2014).

232. In 2013, an agreement was signed between SENAF and the International Juvenile Justice Observatory to conduct research, training and outreach in the area of juvenile justice.

Protection of witnesses and victims of crimes

Paragraph 81

233. The Attorney General's Office has developed guidelines to assist prosecutors in taking statements from child victims and witnesses in connection with criminal proceedings, including in cases of human trafficking and sex crimes. The guidelines are designed to facilitate the application of article 250 bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as to give effect to children's right to be heard and to avoid their revictimization while guaranteeing the principle of special protection.³¹ They also set out specific procedures for taking statements from children and adolescents under the age of 16 years in connection with criminal proceedings and avoiding intrusions of the privacy of victims or witnesses.

234. Within the framework of MERCOSUR, guidelines have been adopted for public prosecutors on the criminal investigation of cases of sexual violence committed in the context of international crimes, with a particular focus on crimes against humanity.

235. The Public Prosecution Service has a special programme to provide ongoing assistance and support to child and adolescent victims of ill-treatment and sexual abuse and the adults or institutions responsible for their care during criminal proceedings, with the aim of guaranteeing their right to information and participation. According to data from the Public Prosecution Service, support was provided in 653 cases between August 2014 and January 2016.

H. Follow-up and dissemination

Follow-up

Paragraph 82

236. The Government has made progress in following up on the observations of the Committee. To do so, it has worked with all branches and levels of Government and

²⁹ http://www.mpf.gob.ar/dictamenes/2016/VAbramovich/marzo/MPD_FCB_35784_2013.pdf.

³⁰ http://www.mpf.gob.ar/dictamenes/2015/VAbramovich/diciembre/NL_FRO_2365_2014_RH1.pdf.

³¹ Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20.

considers that the observations that have not yet been acted on are also essential in the formulation and application of public policies on children, adolescents and the family.

Dissemination

Paragraph 83

237. The State, through the Federal Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family (COFENAF), has disseminated the documents CRC/C/ARG/3-4, CRC/C/ARG/CO/3-4, CRC/C/15/Add.187 and CRC/C/70/Add.10 nationwide and in all its initiatives. The documents have also been published in simplified Spanish, indigenous languages and formats accessible to children with disabilities and have been made available to institutions that work with children. The State is committed to ensuring that the Convention and its Optional Protocols are respected in their entirety by all institutions and the general public, in order to guarantee the full exercise of the rights of children throughout Argentina.
