



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
30 June 2021

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of the Child

List of issues prior to submission of the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Liechtenstein*

1. The State party is requested to submit in writing the information requested below (21,200 words maximum), if possible before 15 June 2022. The replies should take into consideration the Committee's previous recommendations contained in its concluding observations adopted in 2006.¹ The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto during the dialogue with the State party.

I. New developments

2. The Committee requests the State party to provide:

(a) Information on the adoption or reform of laws, policies and programmes, and any other type of measures taken, such as the creation or reform of institutions, that are significant for the implementation of the Convention, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(b) Information on the measures taken to ensure the protection of the rights of children in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to mitigate its adverse impacts, including on children's mental health, in view of the statement of the Committee of 8 April 2020 on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) Any other information that the State party considers relevant in this regard and that is not covered in the replies to the questions below, including information on obstacles and challenges faced.

3. The Committee also requests the State party to provide information on how a child rights-based approach is integrated into the planning, implementation and monitoring of measures for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regard to the participation of children and data collection, and how such measures promote the realization of children's rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 11 June 2021.

¹ CRC/C/LIE/CO/2.



II. Rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto

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

Reservations and legislation

4. Please provide information on:

(a) The steps taken to withdraw the State's reservations to articles 7 and 10 of the Convention and to establish procedures on family reunification and access to citizenship in compliance with the Convention;

(b) The revisions to the Refugee Act mentioned in the State party's core document² and their compliance with the Convention;

(c) The legislation in force pertaining to children and the revisions undertaken to bring it in compliance with the Convention, including with regard to the Youth Act, since the State party's last review by the Committee in 2006;³

(d) Mechanisms in place to monitor legislation pertaining to children and the results of such monitoring.

Comprehensive policy and strategy

5. Please provide information on the measures taken to develop a comprehensive policy and strategy covering all areas of children's rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and to adopt a national plan of action for children. Please describe the contents of such a policy and strategy, the mechanism for their monitoring and evaluation, the human, technical and financial resources allocated for their implementation, and the participation of children in their development, implementation and evaluation.

Coordination

6. Please specify which authorities are responsible for coordinating activities relating to the implementation of the Convention and please provide information on their mandate, composition and resources. In the event of multiple authorities, please specify the steps taken to prevent possible overlaps.

Allocation of resources

7. Please specify the efforts made to introduce a child rights approach to budgeting and any budget allocated for children in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, such as children with disabilities, children living in poverty, child victims of abuse, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, children in situations of migration and children in institutions, if applicable.

Data collection

8. Please elaborate on the progress made in establishing a comprehensive system for collecting and analysing data covering all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and on the steps taken to ensure that the data collected is regularly updated and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background.

Independent monitoring

9. Please provide information on:

² HRI/CORE/LIE/2012, para. 154.

³ CRC/C/LIE/CO/2, para. 8.

(a) Any plans to establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

(b) The status of the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People with regard to the Liechtenstein Human Rights Association;

(c) The composition and the responsibilities of the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People with regard to monitoring implementation of the Convention and addressing violations of children's rights and provide information on the results of its work in this respect. Please provide statistical data on the number of children's complaints it has processed and their outcome;

(d) The human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People.

Dissemination, awareness-raising and training

10. Please provide information on the training on children's rights and child-friendly procedures provided to all professionals working with and for children, including teachers, social workers, health-care professionals, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers. Please clarify whether children's rights form part of the school curricula.

Cooperation with civil society

11. Please specify the measures taken to improve the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention, including in the preparation of reports and the development of plans, programmes, budgets and legislation.

Child rights and the business sector

12. Please provide information on the efforts made to engage the business sector on children's rights and to establish a regulatory child protection framework for companies registered in Liechtenstein, and/or operating domestically and abroad, including policies, legislation, regulations, mechanisms for conducting child rights impact assessments, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and access to justice, in order to report and address violations of children's rights.

International cooperation

13. Please provide information on any planned increase in official development assistance with a view to meeting the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

B. General principles (arts. 2–3, 6 and 12)

Non-discrimination

14. Please provide information on:

(a) The progress made in adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation;

(b) Any form of discrimination against children in a vulnerable situation, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, children of same-sex parents, children with disabilities, children in situations of migration and children from single-parent and/or low-income families, manifested in the State party and the measures taken to address such discrimination;

(c) The efforts made to strengthen data collection on discrimination against children, including with regard to conducting a study on the problems encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, as recommended by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance in 2018;

(d) The measures taken to address discriminatory stereotypes regarding gender roles in the family and in society;

(e) The progress made and the results achieved by the working group on questions of social discrimination.⁴

Best interests of the child

15. Please provide information on the development and dissemination to all relevant professionals of policies, procedures, criteria and guidance to determine and consistently apply the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in programmes and administrative and judicial proceedings concerning children.

Respect for the views of the child

16. Please provide information on:

(a) Any legal obligation, criteria and guidelines on hearing the views of children in court and administrative proceedings, including regarding parental custody;

(b) The steps taken to ensure that all relevant professionals, particularly teachers and health-care professionals, are provided with training on the right of the child to be heard;

(c) The measures taken to promote and enhance the participation of children, especially younger children, in the family, schools and in the formulation of laws and policies;

(d) The mandate of and the criteria used to select the members of the National Youth Council of Liechtenstein, Youth Participation in Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein Children's Lobby, and the activities of these groups;

(e) The outcome of the initiative to reduce the voting age to 16 years.

C. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7–8 and 13–17)

Nationality

17. Please provide information on the efforts made to protect children from statelessness, including information on any legislative, policy or administrative changes made since the ratification in 2009 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Please specify whether the five-year residency requirement for naturalization⁵ applies to stateless children and, if so, comment on its compliance with article 7 of the Convention.

D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)

Corporal punishment

18. Please provide information on legislative and programmatic actions to prohibit and prevent all forms of corporal punishment, to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline and to study the prevalence of corporal punishment of children in the family.

Freedom of the child from all forms of violence

19. Please specify the steps taken:

(a) To develop and adopt legislation to prohibit all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence;

⁴ Ibid., para. 16.

⁵ HRI/CORE/LIE/2012, para. 149.

(b) To develop and adopt a comprehensive policy, strategy and action plan to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, including within the family, online and at school, particularly in the form of bullying and from teaching staff;

(c) To establish a mechanism that promotes and facilitates reporting of all forms of violence, including sexual abuse, as recommended by the Committee;⁶

(d) To strengthen the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on the prevalence and incidence of all forms of violence against children;

(e) To ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Abuse and neglect

20. Please provide information on:

(a) Progress made in introducing mandatory reporting of child abuse by health professionals and teaching staff and in reinforcing complaints mechanisms and access to justice for the victims, including free legal aid, and in ensuring accountability for offenders, as recommended by the Committee;⁷

(b) Existing detection, protection and follow-up mechanisms in cases of child abuse and neglect, with a view to providing timely and effective protection, care and services to affected children;

(c) Support available to families at risk in the context of preventing children from becoming victims of domestic violence or abuse, including sexual abuse;

(d) The measures taken to address the phenomenon of “affluent neglect” of children, which is characterized by a lack of the necessary parental care and attention in well-off families.

Harmful practices

21. Please provide information on the legislative and practical steps taken to prevent and protect children from all forms of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and non-consensual intersex surgery, domestically and abroad.

E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9–11, 18 (1)–(2), 20–21, 25 and 27 (4))

Family environment

22. Please provide updated information on:

(a) The legal framework establishing joint parental custody and its practical implementation, including statistical data on the number of custody requests introduced, granted and rejected, by mothers and fathers;

(b) The measures taken to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is a primary consideration in proceedings concerning custody, maintenance and visitation rights, as well as in family reunification cases;

(c) The measures taken to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities and to support parents in taking care of young children, including by introducing flexible working arrangements, increasing paid maternity leave and implementing paid parental and paid paternity leave;

(d) The measures taken to support single-parent and low-income households with two or more children, both with regard to non-citizens and citizens of Liechtenstein;

⁶ CRC/C/LIE/CO/2, para. 31.

⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.143, para. 25.

- (e) Child poverty and the status of the report on poverty initiated in 2019 and its findings, if available;
- (f) The situation of children of same-sex couples and plans to extend the adoption of children to same-sex couples;
- (g) Plans to accede to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Children deprived of a family environment

23. Please provide information on the measures taken:

- (a) To phase out the institutionalization of children;
- (b) To develop a family-based care system and ensure family placement for all children deprived of a family environment, including children with disabilities;
- (c) To regularly monitor alternative care settings and establish a complaint mechanism for the children concerned;
- (d) To provide support to children leaving care to enable them to reintegrate into family and society.

Children of incarcerated parents

24. Please provide information on the situation of children of parents incarcerated in Liechtenstein or abroad and the policies in place to protect children's rights, including visitation rights.

F. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

25. Please describe progress made in:

- (a) Incorporating the concept of reasonable accommodation into legislation;
- (b) Implementing inclusive education, including reasonable accommodation and teacher training, for all children with disabilities, starting at the preschool level;
- (c) Providing support and the necessary community-based services to families with children with disabilities to care for their children at home;
- (d) Providing support to children with autistic spectrum disorder and learning difficulties;
- (e) Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

G. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 24, 26, 27 (1)–(3) and 33)

Health

26. Please provide information on:

- (a) The main causes of child mortality and the measures taken to prevent them;
- (b) The proportion of children and adolescents who are obese or overweight and the measures taken to address these issues;
- (c) The proportion of babies who are breastfed exclusively during the first six months of age;
- (d) The prevalence and incidence of HIV/AIDS among children and adolescents, as well as the modes of transmission and the support programmes provided for them and their families;

(e) The prevalence of and the measures taken to address tobacco, alcohol and drug use by children and adolescents, including through awareness-raising programmes, and the recovery and reintegration services provided to them;

(f) The prevalence of mental health issues among children and adolescents, including depression, anxiety disorders and attempted suicide, and the measures taken to ensure the availability and accessibility of the necessary psychological and psychiatric services, including in schools, with particular attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(g) The efforts made to remove legal obstacles and jeopardy for health-care providers and girls seeking an abortion;

(h) The prevalence of and the measures taken to address adolescent pregnancies and ensure access to contraception and to sexual and reproductive health education at school.

Environmental health

27. Please provide information on:

(a) The sources of pollution and the measures taken to minimize the impact of pollution on children's health;

(b) The policies and instruments aimed at safeguarding environmental health and how the special vulnerabilities and needs of children have been taken into account in their preparation, implementation and evaluation;

(c) How environmental awareness is cultivated in children, including at school, and the efforts made to promote the participation of children in environmental issues and take into account their views.

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)

28. Please provide information on the rates of school attendance at all levels by gender, the reasons why children drop out of school, specifically children with a migrant background, and the measures taken:

(a) To ensure that all children, including children with a migrant background, have access to all levels of education on an equal footing as children who are citizens of Liechtenstein, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) To ensure that all children have the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge of German to pursue their education;

(c) To provide career counselling that is free of gender stereotypes, ensure that children's views form the basis of their career choices and facilitate access to employment;

(d) To eliminate violence in schools, including all forms of bullying and harassment, by improving the conflict resolution skills of children and teachers, ensuring that children have access to support from psychologists and social workers and establishing effective, child-friendly and secure mechanisms to report bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment;

(e) Implement the early childhood development policy with regard to children from socioeconomically deprived families and report on the results of its implementation.

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

29. Please provide information on:

(a) Children's free time for play and leisure;

(b) The measures taken to enhance and promote access by children to sporting, recreational, leisure, cultural and artistic activities and open-air spaces in a supportive environment respectful of their abilities and interests and protected from all forms of violence, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) How children participate in spatial development processes, including in designing indoor and outdoor spaces for children and adolescents, as well as safe and child-friendly traffic planning.

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d) and 38–40)

Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration

30. Please provide information on the reception conditions of asylum-seeking children and children in situations of migration, including separated, undocumented and unaccompanied children, and on the measures taken:

(a) To cease the detention of asylum-seeking children and children in situations of migration and of migrant families with children;

(b) To strengthen the integration of asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, including by adopting and implementing an integration strategy and action plan with time-bound and measurable goals, targets and indicators and by intensifying efforts to combat discrimination and eliminate hate speech;

(c) To provide all asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, including unaccompanied and separated children, with unhindered and speedy access to birth registration, documentation, education, health care, including psychosocial support, accommodation and social protection services;

(d) To appoint a person of trust and provide protection and services to all unaccompanied children in a timely manner and regardless of the children's age;

(e) To facilitate family reunification for asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant persons, particularly with regard to States in the European Economic Area, including by lifting any discriminatory requirement and by providing for hardship exemption in the Foreigners Act;

(f) To ensure systematic and disaggregated data collection and monitoring with regard to asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration, including unaccompanied, undocumented and separated children, with a view to assessing their needs and informing policies accordingly.

Child justice

31. Please provide information on:

(a) Recent trends in violent offences committed by children and the measures taken to address the causes of such violence;

(b) The steps taken to use deprivation of liberty as a last resort and for the shortest possible time and to promote alternatives to detention;

(c) Standards in relation to pretrial detention, including initial court appearance of children, legality of initial detention, the avenues for and the judicial control over the legality and the duration of detention;

(d) The measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty;

(e) The steps taken to ensure that children deprived of liberty are held separately from adults;

(f) The steps taken to ensure prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance for children in pretrial detention, including in relation to questioning;

(g) The steps taken to prohibit the placement of children in solitary confinement;

(h) The steps taken to ensure the right of children in detention to maintain contact with their family, including through regular visits of an adequate duration;

(i) The placement of children in conflict with the law in institutional care as a disciplinary measure for bad or dangerous behaviour and the authority or authorities competent to do so;

(j) The rehabilitation and reintegration services available to children leaving detention.

Child victims and witnesses of crimes

32. Please provide information on:

(a) Any legislation providing protection and support to child victims and witnesses of crimes in criminal proceedings;

(b) The measures taken to improve reporting of and prosecution for sexual offences against children;

(c) Resources allocated and programmes set up to train professionals and integrate services to support child victims and witnesses of crime, including sexual abuse, to ensure their full psychological and physical protection and rehabilitation.

Sale, trafficking and abduction

33. Please describe the efforts made to strengthen measures for the identification of and the specific protection of boys and girls among the migrant population who are victims of trafficking, including through changes to the asylum procedure.

J. Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict

34. Please provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's previous concluding observations.⁸

K. Optional Protocol on a communications procedure

35. Please provide information on the measures taken to raise awareness among children, parents and relevant professionals, to train lawyers and the judiciary on the Optional Protocol, to provide access to justice for children and to ensure the availability of remedies at the domestic level.

III. Statistical information and data

36. The statistical information and disaggregated data provided by the State party should cover the period since the consideration of its previous reports on the implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, type of disability, geographic location and socioeconomic status.

37. The provision of tables presenting trends over the reporting period is recommended and explanations or comments on significant changes that have taken place over the reporting period should also be provided.

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

38. Please provide information on the budget lines regarding children and social sectors by indicating the amount and the proportion of each budget line in terms of the total national budget.

⁸ CRC/C/OPAC/LIE/CO/1.

B. Definition of the child (art. 1)

39. Please provide information, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of cases of child marriage.

C. General principles (arts. 2–3, 6 and 12)

40. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of:

(a) Cases of discrimination affecting children, prosecutions brought before the courts under legislation governing non-discrimination and the sanctions imposed on perpetrators;

(b) Deaths of children caused by abuse, neglect, violence, substance abuse, suicide and road accidents.

D. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7–8 and 13–17)

41. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of stateless children.

E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)

42. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of:

(a) Reported cases of violence and neglect against children, including corporal punishment, physical abuse, domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, the number of investigations and persecutions in such cases and the sanctions imposed on perpetrators, disaggregated by type of offence;

(b) Intersex births;

(c) Intersex children subjected to medically irreversible surgery, domestically and abroad;

(d) Children who have received protective measures and multidisciplinary remedies as victims and/or witnesses of violence and neglect.

F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9–11, 18 (1)–(2), 20–21, 25 and 27 (4))

43. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of:

(a) Families and children receiving economic and other types of support services;

(b) Children in residential care, the number of institutions/group homes and average length of stay;

(c) Children in family and community-based care;

(d) Children adopted domestically and internationally;

(e) Children of incarcerated parents.

G. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

44. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of:

- (a) Children receiving economic and other types of support services;
- (b) Children living with their families;
- (c) Children living in family and community-based care;
- (d) Children living in residential care, the number of institutions/group homes and the length of stay;
- (e) Children attending regular schools, with and without personalized assistance, and specialized schools;
- (f) Reported cases of violence, abuse and neglect, including sexual violence, against children with disabilities, the number of investigations and prosecutions carried out and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

H. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 24, 26, 27 (1)–(3) and 33)

45. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on:
- (a) Children suffering from malnutrition, stunting and obesity;
 - (b) Children suffering from drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse;
 - (c) Children suffering from mental health problems, disaggregated by type of disorder;
 - (d) Paediatric and mental health services and professionals specialized in young children and adolescents;
 - (e) Adolescent mothers;
 - (f) Sexual and reproductive health services available to adolescents;
 - (g) Children living below the poverty line and in extreme poverty.

I. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)

46. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on the number of:
- (a) Children in public and private education at all levels, including stateless, asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration;
 - (b) Children attending special schools and special classes in regular schools;
 - (c) Children not attending compulsory education and children aged 16–18 years not attending school;
 - (d) Children dropping out of school, including children with disabilities, children in situations of migration, girls and adolescent mothers;
 - (e) Cases of bullying, violence, sexual abuse and harassment in schools;
 - (f) Children attending early childhood education, including children with disabilities, and the average years of attendance.

J. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d) and 38–40)

47. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, further disaggregated by accompanied or unaccompanied status, on:
- (a) Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration;
 - (b) Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration who are in detention, whether alone or with their families;

- (c) Children in situations of migration not covered by child protection services;
- (d) Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in situations of migration attending school and with access to health care, housing and legal assistance;
- (e) Children in an irregular migration situation;
- (f) The number of removal orders against children that have been issued and executed.

48. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, and by type of crime, on:

- (a) The number of reported cases and the number of child victims of trafficking;
- (b) The number of children who have been provided with access to rehabilitation programmes;
- (c) Investigations and prosecutions in cases of trafficking in children, with information on the country of origin of the perpetrator and the nature of the penalties imposed.

49. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 36 above, on:

- (a) Children in detention, including in pretrial detention, in facilities such as police cells and prisons, and the average length of stay;
 - (b) Children who spent longer than the maximum limit of 365 days in detention;
 - (c) Children referred to diversion and non-custodial sentencing options;
 - (d) Children detained together with adult and/or child offenders and the average length of stay;
 - (e) Children placed in solitary confinement as a sanction and the length of that confinement;
 - (f) Children placed in institutional care as a disciplinary measure for bad or dangerous behaviour and the length of that placement;
 - (g) Children who have been provided with access to rehabilitation and reintegration services.
-