



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General  
22 June 2023  
English  
Original: Spanish  
English, French and Spanish only

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child

### List of issues in relation to the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Paraguay\*

1. The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information, of 10,700 words maximum, by 15 October 2023. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention during the dialogue with the State party.

#### Part I

2. Please provide information on:

(a) The implementation of the National Plan for Children and Adolescents (2014–2018 and 2020–2024), including gender mainstreaming, and the extent to which laws related to children and adolescents are effectively enforced;

(b) The resources that the new Ministry for Children and Adolescents has to coordinate the implementation of public policies for the protection of children and adolescents;

(c) Specific indicators and accessible mechanisms for monitoring the budget allocated to the protection of the rights of children and adolescents;

(d) The availability of data disaggregated by territory, age, gender, ethnic origin, family income, disability, migratory status and native language;

(e) The ability of the Ombudsman to receive complaints of violations of children's rights.

3. Please inform the Committee of the measures taken to prohibit and prevent any marriages or unions involving children under the age of 18, without exception, particularly in Indigenous communities and rural areas.

4. Please provide information on:

(a) Policies and strategies to address discrimination against children, especially children with disabilities, Indigenous children, children living with HIV/AIDS, children in rural areas, children in street situations and homosexual, bisexual, transgender or intersex children;

(b) Measures taken to create a regulatory framework on the principle of non-discrimination and the manner in which article 2 of the Convention is taken into consideration, as well as measures to develop a law on gender identity and sexual orientation that recognizes and protects the self-perceived identity of;

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\* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 5 May 2023.



(c) The application by public servants, mainly in the fields of justice and education, of the principle of the best interests of the child, taking into account the evolution of a child's abilities;

(d) Measures taken to address poverty, including in Indigenous communities, disappearances of children and the killing of girls;

(e) The spaces provided for the active participation of children, including in education and health matters, and the mechanisms to ensure that children, adolescents and representatives of civil society do not suffer reprisals or persecution;

(f) Educational campaigns to inform children about the existing procedures through which to exercise their right to be heard.

5. Please provide information on the measures envisaged to ensure universal access to birth registration for all children, especially refugees and those living in rural areas or Indigenous communities. Please also provide information on measures to implement Act No. 6148 on the prevention of statelessness among children.

6. Please inform the Committee about:

(a) Measures to eradicate the ill-treatment, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of adolescents in police stations and socio-educational detention centres, the extent to which the recommendations of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture are implemented and complaint mechanisms;

(b) The different situations of violence against children and adolescents, measures to establish a comprehensive, multidisciplinary system for prevention and child protection, mandatory reporting and child-sensitive investigations and interventions, such as forensic interviews and therapy for child victims of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;

(c) Measures to address the high rate of child sexual abuse, particularly of young and adolescent girls, including those of Indigenous background, the provision of assistance for the rehabilitation of child victims of sexual violence and the adaptation of judicial procedures to the needs of child victims and witnesses before, during and after criminal proceedings;

(d) Work with at-risk families to prevent children from falling victim to violence, including infanticide, domestic violence and sexual violence;

(e) The implementation of Act No. 5659/2016 on the protection of children from corporal punishment, its translation into public policies and measures to promote positive and non-violent forms of discipline.

7. Please provide information on:

(a) Legal protection for all types of families, including those composed of same-sex couples and transgender persons;

(b) The deinstitutionalization of children and investigations into cases of violence against adolescents deprived of their liberty in socio-educational detention centres;

(c) The proposed amendment to the Adoption Act and how it will ensure transparency in the adoption process;

(d) The situation of children whose parents are deprived of their liberty and the measures taken in these cases.

8. Please provide information on:

(a) Legislative progress towards developing public policies that address the needs and rights of children with disabilities;

(b) Efforts made to eliminate any use of derogatory terminology and definitions regarding children with disabilities;

(c) The incidence of violence against children with disabilities and the steps taken to prevent and address this violence;

(d) The implementation of Act No. 5136/2013 on inclusive education, the percentage of schools that admit students with disabilities and, of these schools, the number that have the trained personnel, strategies and resources to provide inclusive education.

9. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures to increase access to quality health care, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, particularly in rural areas and Indigenous communities, to improve vaccination coverage and to assess the impact of toxic agricultural chemicals;

(b) Existing measures for the reduction of child morbidity and mortality, including cases of undernutrition and chronic malnutrition in children;

(c) The implementation of Act No. 5508/2015 and the oversight mechanisms for the advancement and protection of motherhood and support for breastfeeding;

(d) Implementation of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan 2019–2023 and its execution at all levels of government;

(e) Comprehensive education on sexuality and gender identity, plans for reducing the child pregnancy rate and the high rates of maternal mortality among adolescents, and measures to ensure safe abortion, particularly in the event of sexual abuse;

(f) Existing policies and resources to promote the mental health of children, the prevention of suicide and bullying, including cyberbullying, the implementing regulations of Act No. 7018/2022 on mental health and the eradication of “conversion therapies”;

(g) HIV prevention among adolescents and measures to ensure discrimination-free development and access to education for children living with HIV/AIDS;

(h) Measures taken to increase water supply, sanitation and hygiene in rural and Indigenous communities.

10. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures taken to promote early childhood education;

(b) Measures taken to address the causes of exclusion from school, including language policies, and measures taken to prevent school dropout and ensure that all children are in school, particularly Indigenous children, children living in poverty, children with disabilities and children living in rural areas;

(c) Action taken and progress made to improve the coverage and quality of education, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;

(d) Gender-sensitive strategies for school retention and reintegration, particularly for adolescents who are mothers, pregnant or have married early, and the inclusion of educational programmes on human rights and gender equality;

(e) Measures taken to prevent discrimination, violence and bullying, including cyberbullying, in schools, particularly when pregnant adolescents or homosexual, bisexual, transgender or intersex children are the targets;

11. Please provide information on:

(a) The adoption of procedures and protocols by the migration authorities to ensure that children and their families, as well as unaccompanied children, gain timely entry to the country of asylum and are guaranteed international protection;

(b) Measures taken to slow the increase in forced evictions in recent years and to guarantee Indigenous children access to their ancestral lands and uncontaminated land and water;

(c) The concrete measures adopted to end the exploitation of children and the worst forms of child labour, especially in rural areas, the implementation of Act No. 6285/16 on forced labour, the persistence of child domestic work, and the assessment of the extent of unpaid domestic labour by children (*criadazgo*), the prevention of the practice and the rehabilitation of victims;

- (d) The number of children in street situations, the measures and budget for putting an end to this problem, and the implementation of the Committee's recommendations;
- (e) The regulation and implementation of Act No. 6202/2018 on the prevention of sexual abuse, comprehensive care for survivors of sexual violence and plans to criminalize the statutory rape of adolescent boys;
- (f) Results of action to detect, process and prosecute cases of sexual exploitation, including cases that occur online or in the context of tourism or that involve Indigenous girls;
- (g) The results of the measures taken to combat the trafficking and smuggling of children and to protect children from these practices;
- (h) Measures to improve conditions in socio-educational detention centres, increase the age of criminal responsibility, implement non-custodial precautionary measures and reduce the maximum duration of detention for adolescents;
- (i) The progress made in separating adolescents from adults held in police stations;
- (j) Measures to prioritize restorative mechanisms and non-custodial penalties for the social reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law.

12. Please provide information on measures taken to bring State policies, practices and legislation into line with the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, including with regard to the prevention of the recruitment of children and training for the armed forces.

## **Part II**

13. The Committee invites the State party to provide a brief update, of no more than three pages, on the information presented in its report with regard to the following:

- (a) New bills or laws and their respective regulations;
- (b) New institutions and their mandates or institutional reforms;
- (c) Recently adopted policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing, especially those relating to oversight of activities conducted under the National System for the Comprehensive Protection and Advancement of Children and Adolescents;
- (d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

## **Part III**

### **Data, statistics and other information**

14. Please provide consolidated information for the past three years on the budget lines regarding children and the social sectors, indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and the gross national product. Please also provide information on the geographical allocation of those resources.

15. For the following questions, please provide, if available, updated statistical data for the past three years, disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location and socioeconomic status.

16. Please provide the statistical data indicated in paragraph 15 on:

- (a) Deaths of children caused by abuse and neglect, suicide and accidents, including road accidents;
- (b) Complaints, investigations, prosecutions and sentences related to the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of children, including within the family;
- (c) Marriages or unions of children under 18 years of age;

(d) Adolescent pregnancies, including information on whether the pregnancies were terminated or carried to term;

(e) Children who abuse substances, with an indication of the type of substance;

(f) Complaints of harassment or persecution of children for having exercised their right to participate.

17. Please report, in accordance with paragraph 15, on the number of children deprived of a family environment:

(a) In alternative care facilities;

(b) In foster families;

(c) Who have been adopted.

18. Please provide data, disaggregated by type of disability and the indicators enumerated in paragraph 15, on the number of children with disabilities who are or have been:

(a) Living with their families;

(b) Living with foster families;

(c) Living in institutions;

(d) Attending regular primary schools;

(e) Attending regular secondary schools;

(f) Attending special schools;

(g) Out of school;

(h) Abandoned by their families.

19. Please provide information on the social and economic situation of asylum-seeking, refugee and stateless children and their access to health care, housing, education and the justice system.

20. Please provide data disaggregated by type of offence and the indicators enumerated in paragraph 15, on the number of children with disabilities who are or have been:

(a) In the juvenile justice system;

(b) Arrested;

(c) Referred to diversion programmes;

(d) In pretrial detention;

(e) Serving a custodial sentence, with an indication of the duration of the sentence.

21. Please 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 those measures promote the realization of children's rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

22. Please provide the Committee with an update of any data in the report that may have become outdated by more recent data collected or other new developments.

23. In addition, the State party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.