



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Seychelles under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*

1. The State Party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information, of 10,700 words maximum, by 15 October 2026. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State Party. In the present document, the Committee uses the term "child" to refer to a person who is under 18 years of age.

2. Please provide information on:

(a) All relevant laws and policies, including criminal legislation, decrees, military codes, manuals or regulations, adopted in order to give effect to the Optional Protocol, including information on the revision of the Defence Act (1980);¹

(b) The governmental departments or bodies with primary responsibility for the implementation of the Optional Protocol;

(c) The dissemination of and awareness-raising on the provisions of the Optional Protocol among relevant professionals, in particular in the armed forces and the police, civil society, parents, caregivers and legal guardians, children and the general public;

(d) Training provided on the Optional Protocol and children's rights to all relevant professional groups, in particular the armed forces and the police, and members of international peacekeeping forces;

(e) The collection of data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location and socioeconomic status, on the number of persons under the age of 18 voluntarily recruited into the national armed forces with parental consent;

(f) The updated number of cases of recruitment or use of persons under 18 years of age in the armed forces, in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

3. Please provide information on:

(a) Any legislation providing for compulsory military service in any circumstances, including during periods of national emergency, and the age at which such service begins;

(b) The minimum age of voluntary recruitment into the national armed forces, as no minimum age of recruitment with parental consent is specified in section 23 of the Defence Act;

* Adopted by the Committee intersessionally on 16 April 2026.

¹ [CRC/C/OPAC/SYC/1](#), para. 15.



(c) Any plans to raise the minimum age of recruitment to 18 years, including for recruitment with parental consent and for situations in which the parents or legal guardians are dead or unknown, and the timetable for doing so;

(d) The documents required to verify the age of potential recruits and, in cases where such documents are not available, alternative measures employed.

4. In cases of the enrolment of persons under 18 years of age into the national armed forces with parental consent, as provided for under section 23 of the Defence Act, please provide information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to ensure that the recruitment is genuinely voluntary and the procedures used for such recruitment;

(b) Whether information is made available to potential recruits aged under the age of 18 years in a child-friendly manner, and to their parents, caregivers or legal guardians, allowing them to formulate their own opinion and to make them aware of the risks, duties and legal obligations involved in military service;

(c) Measures taken to ensure that informed consent is given, whether jointly or separately, by each person with parental responsibility over the child concerned, including copies of any materials used for this purpose;

(d) The procedure by which, in the absence of a parent or legal guardian, the President assumes their role to provide informed consent, and how the specific vulnerabilities of the child concerned are taken into account;

(e) The incentives or measures used by the national armed forces for encouraging voluntary recruitment, such as with regard to financial incentives, scholarships, career prospects, advertising, meetings at schools, access to the personal data of students or games;

(f) The conditions and procedures under which persons under 18 years of age may be released from military service;

(g) Measures taken to ensure that members of armed forces under 18 years of age do not take a direct part in hostilities.

5. Please provide:

(a) Information, in addition to that provided in the State Party's report,² on any military schools in the State Party, specifying the name of such schools and the ministry under whose authority they operate;

(b) Information on military schools, particularly the Seychelles Defence Academy, including the minimum age for entry into military schools and the type of education provided, in particular whether school curricula include human rights education, military training and the handling of firearms, whether confidential, independent and child-friendly complaint mechanisms are available to students, whether students are classified as members of the armed forces and whether they are free to leave the school at any time and not to pursue a military career;

(c) Data on the number of children enrolled in military schools, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location of origin and socioeconomic status;

(d) Information on whether military training of any kind is provided to children in military training camps or other settings, such as mainstream schools, youth organizations or community programmes.

6. Please provide updated information on:

(a) Legislation that criminalizes the recruitment or use in hostilities of persons under 18 years of age by non-State armed groups;

² Ibid., para. 20.

(b) Measures taken to ensure that children are not recruited or used in hostilities by non-State armed groups;

(c) Any non-State armed groups present in the State Party and the number of cases of persons under 18 years of age who have been recruited or used by such groups, in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

7. Please provide information on:

(a) Whether the State Party recognizes extraterritorial jurisdiction over offences covered under the Optional Protocol in the State Party and, if so, under which specific legislation;

(b) The extradition to and from the State Party of persons accused of having committed the offences of the recruitment or use of children in armed forces or non-State armed groups, in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

8. Please provide information on:

(a) The measures taken to identify children who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad, including refugee, asylum-seeking or migrant children, in contravention of the Optional Protocol, and assistance provided for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration;

(b) Measures taken to repatriate children who are nationals of the State Party who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad, in contravention of the Optional Protocol, and who remain abroad.

9. Please provide information on the following:

(a) The measures taken to prohibit the export of arms, including small arms and light weapons, to countries where children are known to be, or may potentially be, recruited or used in hostilities;

(b) The measures taken to cooperate internationally in the implementation of the Optional Protocol, including in the prevention of activities in contravention of the Optional Protocol and in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children who are victims of acts contrary to the Optional Protocol, including through technical cooperation and financial assistance.
