### III. Main areas of concern and recommendations

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

**Best interests of the child**

19. While welcoming the promotion of the guidelines for determining the best interests of the child in all areas, the Committee is concerned that the principle of the best interests of the child is not applied in practice at all levels in the State party.

20. With reference to its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee urges the State party:

- (b) To ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects at the national, entity, district and cantonal levels, in particular in relation to those children deprived of a family environment.

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

**Children deprived of a family environment**

30. Recalling its previous recommendations (para. 49) and drawing the State party’s attention to the guidelines for the alternative care of children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Accelerate the deinstitutionalization process across the State party by supporting and facilitating family-based care for children and harmonizing the foster care system at all levels of government;
- (b) Continue to provide capacity-building programmes for social workers and foster care providers, including those working in the social welfare centres, and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to childcare facilities to ensure equal access to quality services and care regardless of location;
- (c) Ensure the periodic review of placements of children in institutions and foster care and provide accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying the ill-treatment of children;
- (d) Support the social integration of young people prior to their leaving care and provide them with assistance following their departure;
- (e) Strengthen awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns, among the general public on children’s rights in early childhood and the impact of institutional care on children’s development and well-being.

**Adoption**

31. The Committee recalls its previous recommendations (para. 51) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and adopt a comprehensive legal framework on adoption;
- (b) Ensure the provision of a universal integrated database of the social welfare centres on potential adoptees and adopters;
- (c) Ensure that the views of the child are heard and respected in cases of adoption according to the child’s evolving capacities;
- (d) Consider ratifying the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.
Illicit transfer and non-return

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:
   (a) Adopt and implement the draft law on international legal assistance in civil matters to unify the procedures on child transfer and abduction in line with the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
   (b) Consider ratifying the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.

G. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (1)–(3) and 33)

Children with disabilities

33. With reference to its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/BIH/CO/2-4, para. 53) and recommends that the State party:
   ...
   (c) Ensure that parents or caregivers of children with disabilities are given the support and financial assistance necessary to bring up their children;
   ...

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CRC/C/BIH/5-6
16 November 2018
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<td>Recovery and reintegration of victims</td>
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<td>40. The Committee is deeply concerned at the absence of state-run shelters for child victims and that identified child victims do not have access to appropriate care and assistance, including in shelters operated by international and non-governmental organisations. The Committee is particularly concerned that the day care centres, established to provide shelter children involved in forced begging, do not receive State funding.</td>
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<td>41. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure that child victims of the offences under the Optional Protocol are provided with appropriate assistance, including for their full social reintegration and full physical and psychological recovery. In particular, the Committee encourages the State party to ensure the continuity of shelters specifically designated for child victims, including day care centres for children involved in organized begging. The Committee recommends the State party to integrate the latter among its protection programmes for children.</td>
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### III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

**B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)**

**Children with disabilities (art. 7)**

14. The Committee is concerned that corporal punishment of children, especially children with disabilities, is not explicitly prohibited in the family and in alternative care and day-care settings in the State party. It is also concerned that there is no universal and equal access to early childhood recognition and intervention services for children with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

   (a) Explicitly and universally prohibit corporal punishment of children, with particular attention to children with disabilities living in institutions;
Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

26. The Committee is concerned that the current practice permits deprivation of the liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment and provides for involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

27. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws permitting deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, forced treatment and the use of restraints and coercive measures based on a medical-based model of disability, and to provide effective remedies to persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on effective measures to prevent violence against persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and violence against children with disabilities, including sexual violence, in all settings, and about the lack of mechanisms for making complaints against perpetrators and legal remedies.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, and children with disabilities, in particular those still living therein. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms and that it provide appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

34. The Committee is concerned that:
   (a) Institutional care is still prevalent and there is no comprehensive strategy of deinstitutionalization in the State party;
   (b) The number of institutionalized persons with disabilities remains high, and insufficient efforts have been made to provide resources for the development of support services, in particular personal
assistance, in local communities for those leaving institutions;
(c) Resources are still invested in renovating or extending institutions, while initiatives of — and
opportunities provided for — organizations of persons with disabilities for developing services within
the community that enable independent living are not sufficiently supported.

35. The Committee urges the State party to:
(a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy with clear time-bound measures and the allocation of
sufficient funds for effective deinstitutionalization;
(b) Legally ensure that no further investment will be made in new institutions and that the staff of
current institutions will be provided with adequate training on the Convention, and update the
current curricula of social worker students accordingly;
(c) Facilitate the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of
independent living strategies and schemes that provide for accessible community-based services,
especially at the local level.

Respect for the home and the family (art. 23)

40. The Committee is concerned that women with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or
intellectual disabilities, can be separated from their children on the grounds of their disability.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient resources to support families with
children with disabilities so that the family can remain together. This means providing sufficient support to
allow children with disabilities to remain in the family, including through the promotion of foster family-
related services, and support for parents with disabilities to retain full parental responsibility of their
children.

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**Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

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