### III. Main areas of concern and recommendations

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

**Corporal punishment**

41. The Committee is seriously concerned that, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in the family environment, beating remains a prevalent disciplinary measure for children and corporal punishment of children is not explicitly prohibited in all settings and circumstances.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Review article 128 of the Civil Code, article 133 of the Penal Code and article 31 of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, schools, childcare institutions, alternative care settings and in the administration of justice, and in all circumstances, including for disciplinary purposes;

(b) Raise the awareness of parents, professionals working with children and the public in general of the harm caused by corporal punishment and promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline;  
(c) Collect information on the extent of the practice of corporal punishment, with a view to changing social attitudes and practices that justify and accept it;  
(d) Record cases of corporal punishment of children, take adequate measures against perpetrators and ensure that child victims receive appropriate support.

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

Family environment

52. The Committee welcomes the awareness-raising campaigns on responsible parenting carried out by the State party but is concerned that the mother remains the main caregiver in 80 per cent of families, and that most single-parent families that are headed by women are particularly affected by poverty.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to:
   (a) Promote the equal parental responsibilities of fathers and mothers in a continuous and sustained manner;  
   (b) Provide support to single-parent families, particularly those headed by women, to ensure basic living conditions for children.

Children deprived of a family environment

54. The Committee appreciates the information provided about the number of children in institutions and host families (foster care) but is concerned about the limited information available on the situation of children in alternative care, both in centres and foster care, the procedure for
placement and reintegration into the family environment, the accreditation and monitoring of
service providers and the mechanism available to children to make confidential complaints.

55. Drawing the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children
(General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party:
(a) Support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, and establish a
system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, with a view to
reducing the institutionalization of children;
(b) Ensure adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the best interests of the child,
for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care and reintegrated into
the family;
(c) Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in alternative care, monitor the
quality of care therein and provide accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and
remedying maltreatment of children.

Adoption

56. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to regulate and facilitate national
adoption, as well as the creation of the Commission for International Adoption in 2015, but is
concerned that adoption remains an underutilized option for children who could benefit from it.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to promote domestic
adoption, including timely assessment of adoption applications, and ensure that national policies
and practices on intercountry adoptions comply with international standards.

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

Children in situations of migration
83. The Committee is concerned about the situation of children from migrant communities, mainly from West African countries, regarding birth registration, access to nationality, education and health, and vulnerability to exploitation and maltreatment, particularly for unaccompanied children and those whose parents are in an irregular migrant situation.

84. Recalling joint general comments No. 3 and No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families/No. 22 and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the human rights of children in the context of international migration, the Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to identify and provide support to children in situations of migration, ensuring their access to adequate services, with particular attention to the islands of Santiago, Sal and Boa Vista.

Children in street situations

87. The Committee welcomes the support provided to children in street situations but is concerned about children remaining in such situations, and their vulnerability to exploitation, violence and drug use.

88. Recalling its general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to provide adequate support to children in street situations, with full respect for the child’s best interests and giving due weight to their autonomous views in accordance with their age and maturity, particularly in the main urban centres of Praia and Mindelo and the touristic island of Sal.
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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
- ICCPR: 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