II. Follow-up measures undertaken and progress achieved by the State party

4. The Committee notes also the legislative, institutional and policy measures adopted to implement the Convention, especially the Act amending the Family Code of 1987 on 15 July 2016, which introduces some measures against child marriage, and the framework Law on Education of 11 February 2014. It also welcomes the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights in March 2013 as well as a number of strategies and plans, including the National Education Strategy and National Plan for developing literacy and informal education (2012-2020), the 2012 Action Plan to tackle the recruitment and use of children and other grave violations of children's rights by the armed forces and the security services, the Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2015-2018), and the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2016-2020).

Data collection

11. In the light of its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party establish a centralized data collection system and use this data as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights and help design policies to implement the Convention. The State party should ensure that information collected can be disaggregated, inter alia, by age, sex and geographic location and contains up-to-date data on a wide-range of vulnerable groups including former child soldiers, children living in poverty, street children and working children (CRC/C/COD/CO/3-5, para 21).
Corporal punishment

24. In view of the fact that corporal punishment remains lawful under article 326 (4) of the Family Code of 1987 as amended in July 2016 and is frequently practised in various care settings, the Committee urges the State party to enact legislation which clearly prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including in the home, schools and other care settings. The Committee also recommends that the State party introduce sustained public education, awareness-raising and social mobilization programmes, involving children, families, communities and their leaders, on the physical and psychological harmful effects of corporal punishment with a view to changing the general attitude towards this practice and promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment.

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

Family environment

31. Noting the Government’s draft decree on the implementation of article 69 of the Child Protection Code which foresees material and financial assistance to families living in poverty, the Committee recommends that the State party expedite its adoption and ensure its effective implementation in order to guarantee the right of children living in poverty to a family environment.

Children deprived of a family environment

32. Noting that little progress has been achieved to provide children without a parental care with adequate standards of living in a family environment, and the inadequate and insufficient foster care and deplorable situation in institutions, despite the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2010-2014), the Committee draws the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children (General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex) and reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/COD/CO/2, para 46) that the State party develop and strengthen an alternative care strategy for children deprived of their families or no longer able to live with their families that would include an action plan, adequate regulations, training for staff and directors of child care institutions, control measures, the participation of children and parents in the establishment and evaluation of care regulations, criteria for the admittance of a child into residential care, and alternative measures such as foster care families or other family-based care for small groups of children. It recommends that the State party back its strategy and the action plan with sufficient human, technical and financial resources.
Adoption

33. While noting the insufficient legislative basis and procedures for inter-country adoption of children which has led to numerous abuses, including sale and trafficking of children, as well as to the suspension of the cases of inter-country adoption of 1200 children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the central office for adoptions recently established by the State party takes charge of the monitoring of all actors involved in adoption and the coordination with the relevant legal authorities;

(b) Expedite the review of the pending cases of inter-country adoption of children based on their best interests; and

(b) Establish clear regulations concerning inter-country adoptions and consider ratifying the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption of 1993.

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37 (b)-(d), 38, 39 and 40)

Refugee and internally displaced children

41. In view of the fact that large numbers of children continue to be internally displaced due to the armed conflict in the eastern part of the country and the significant numbers of refugees arriving from neighbouring countries, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/COD/CO/2, para.75) to the State party to continue and strengthen its efforts in order to ensure that all refugees and displaced persons, particularly children, are provided with adequate and appropriate assistance, including food, medical and psychological care and access to education and seek support and cooperation of international organizations, including the UNHCR. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a coherent database and national programmes for refugee and internally displaced children with a view to ensuring full protection of their rights.

Children in street situations

43. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/COD/CO/2, para 77) that the State party strengthen its programmes aimed at supporting poor and fragile families, at preventing children from separating from their parents and at reintegrating children in street situations into their families and communities when possible. It also strongly urges the State party to ensure that the rights of street children are fully respected by State agents, such as the military and police. The
Committee recommends that the State party involve street children in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes designed for them. Given that thousands of children continue to live in the streets and be subjected to violence, rape, arbitrary arrests, disappearances, recruitment to armed groups and even summary executions, the Committee urges the State party to immediately ensure that violence and executions of such children are prevented and bring those responsible to justice as well as provide child victims with adequate food, shelter, education and health-care services.

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**Hague Intercountry Adoption**

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- **Link to Country Profile**: n/a

**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