### IV. Main areas of concern and recommendations

#### A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))

**Dissemination, awareness-raising and training**

17. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 32) for the State party to strengthen its efforts to ensure that the provisions and the principles of the Convention are widely recognized and understood by adults and children alike. It also recommends to the State party that it undertake systematic education and training on the rights of the Convention for children and their parents, as well as all professional groups working for and with children, in particular parliamentarians, judges, magistrates, lawyers, law enforcement officials, civil servants, personnel working in institutions and places of detention for children, teachers, health personnel and social workers. The Committee recommends that the State party consider seeking technical assistance from UNICEF and OHCHR in this regard.

**B. Definition of the child (art. 1 of the Convention)**

**Respect for the views of the child**

24. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 40) that the State party:

... 

(b) Amend legislation so that the child is heard and her/his views are taken into account, inter alia, in custody disputes and other legal procedures affecting children;
D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24, para.3, 28, para. 2, 34, 37 (a) and 39)

Torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment

28. The Committee notes the efforts made by the State party to address torture and ill-treatment of children. However, it remains deeply concerned about:
   (a) Reports of widespread acts of torture and ill-treatment of children in detention facilities and in residential homes;

29. With reference to the Committee’s general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, the Committee recommends that the State Party:
   (a) Strengthen its effort to put an end to torture and ill-treatment of children in all settings, including by ensuring that children are only detained as a measure of last resort, and by establishing an independent mechanism for the regular inspection of residential care facilities;

Corporal punishment

29. Committee welcomes the prohibition of corporal punishment in article 39.7 of the Constitution. However, it remains concerned that corporal punishment is not explicitly prohibited in all legislation relating to children’s rights and remains, de facto, prevalent at home, in schools, and in other institutions and forms of childcare.

30. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 48) for the State party to:
   (a) Expressly prohibit corporal punishment and ill-treatment of children by law in the family, schools and other institutions;
   (b) Expedite the process of amending the relevant provision of the Children’s Act and the 1963 Muluki Ain to ensure compliance with article 19 of the Convention;
   (c) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to inform parents, teachers and professionals working with children, particularly in institutions, as well as the public at large, about the negative impact
of corporal punishment and ill-treatment on children and actively involve children and the media in the process; and,
(d) Ensure that positive, participatory, non-violent forms of discipline are administered in a manner consistent with the child’s human dignity and in conformity with the Convention, in particular article 28 (2) as an alternative to corporal punishment at all levels of society.

Abuse and neglect

33. In the light of its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, the Committee recommends that the State party:
(a) Enact legislation which clearly defines and prohibits the abuse and neglect of children in all settings;

Harmful practices

37. The Committee welcomes the initiatives taken by the State Party to eradicate harmful practices. However, it remains deeply concerned at the continuing prevalence of such practices, which primarily affect girls and include:

... (b) Widespread reports of the forced isolation of menstruating women and girls (Chaupadi), which is particularly harmful in rural areas, exposing girls to heightened risk of sexual violence and health hazards;
... (d) The social exclusion that is forced upon girls chosen as Kumari

38. In the light of its general comment No. 18 on harmful practices (2014), adopted jointly with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 68) and urges the State Party to take all necessary measures to eradicate all traditional practices harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of children, by strengthening awareness-raising programmes and adopting and implementing legislation explicitly
prohibiting such practices. It further recommends that in doing so, the State Party prioritize girls, particularly girls with disabilities, girls living in rural areas and Dalit girls.

(b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of early marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of girls, as ordered by the Supreme Court of Nepal in the case Sapana Pradhan Malla and others v. Government of Nepal of 2006, targeting households, local authorities, religious leaders, judges and prosecutors;

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

Children deprived of a family environment

43. The Committee notes that the State party is in the process of considering draft Procedural Guidelines on Alternative Care Regulation and that it has a draft policy on the regulation of foster care. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The continued absence of a legal framework for alternative care and foster care;
(b) The unnecessary placement of children in residential care resulting from the absence of an assessment system based on necessity and appropriateness; and,
(c) The lack of government oversight of private institutions, which often do not comply with the minimum standards, and the inadequate qualification of personnel.

44. Drawing the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children (General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), the Committee emphasizes that financial and material poverty should never be the sole justification for removing a child from parental care, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing a child’s social reintegration. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expeditiously pass legislation that is in compliance with the Convention for the regulation of alternative care and foster care;
(b) Support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, including for children in single-parent families, and establish a system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, with a view to reducing the institutionalization of children;
(c) When alternative care cannot be avoided, ensure adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the needs as well as best interests of the child, for determining whether a child should be placed in such care;
(d) Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and institutions, and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children; and,
(e) Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein to the greatest extent possible.

Adoption

45. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 54) for the State party to develop and implement policies and legal provisions regarding intercountry adoption. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party, in particular:
   (a) Develop and implement strict criteria for the adoption of Nepalese children, ensuring in particular that reasonable time is given for an effective tracing of the parents or close relatives of children separated from them as a result of the 2015 earthquake, and abolish the provision stating that poverty of the parents of a child can be a legal ground for adoption;
   (b) Ensure that exhaustion of all means to prevent termination of parental responsibility and/or separation of the child is set as a clear criterion in all cases involving adoption;
   (c) Regulate and monitor the practice of placing children with close relatives or others to ensure that all their rights, including the right to education and to health care, are fully respected;
   (d) Review the current mechanisms and procedures for domestic and intercountry adoption, particularly the role and responsibilities of the national and district level decision-making bodies with a view to ensuring that professionals responsible for adoption cases are fully equipped with the expertise needed to review and process adoption cases; and,
   (e) Consider ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, in order to inter alia, prevent trafficking and smuggling of children.
F. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (para. 3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (paras. 1-3) and 33)

Children with disabilities

46. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of provisions on the rights of children with disabilities under the new Constitution. However, it remains concerned that:
   (c) Children with disabilities face hindrances accessing health care, and housing;
   (d) There is a lack of adequate physically accessible infrastructure for children with disabilities;

47. In the light of its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of all children with disabilities (with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments) and:
   (a) Prioritise the development of inclusive education and ensure it is given priority over the placement of children in specialized institutions and classes; and in doing so, train and assign specialized teachers and professionals in integrated classes providing individual support and all due attention to children with learning difficulties;
   ...
   (d) Take measures to increase the availability of physically accessible public buildings, including in its ongoing reconstruction process;

Health and health services

48. In the light of its General comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and taking note of Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3.2 on ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age by 2030, the Committee recommends that the State party:
   (a) Expeditiously allocate additional human, technical and financial resources for improving access to and quality of health services, particularly in rural areas;

56. The Committee also reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, paras. 73 and 73) for the State party to:
(b) Reinforce its efforts to provide support and material assistance to economically disadvantaged families, notably in rural areas, slums and squats and to guarantee the right of children to an adequate standard of living;

Internally displaced children

61. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) (2007) and the efforts of the State party to find lasting solutions for children displaced by the 2015 earthquake. However, it is deeply concerned about the impact of the earthquake on children’s rights and about the high number of displaced children living in IDP camps or informal settlements without adequate access to food, safe drinking water, sanitation, health care and education.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:
   (a) Expeditiously strengthen its efforts to provide adequate housing for internally displaced children and their families living in IDP camps or informal settlements and ensure that they have access to sufficient food, clean drinking water, sanitation, health care and education;
   (b) Take immediate measures to prevent all forms of violence against displaced children, including by ensuring that women and girls have access to separate lockable latrines and safe houses, as well as by increasing police controls and providing functioning illumination in IDP camps and informal settlements; and,
   (c) Ensure that children are informed and consulted about all stages of disaster response and preparedness.

Administration of juvenile justice

69. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.261, para. 99) for the State party to review its legislation and policies to ensure the full implementation of juvenile justice standards, in particular article 37 (b) and article 40, paragraph 2 (b) (ii)-(iv) and (vii), of the Convention, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33) and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112), and in the light of the
Committee’s 1995 day of general discussion on the administration of juvenile justice. In this regard, the Committee recommends the State party, in particular to:

(a) Ensure that detained children below 18 years are always separated from adults, and that deprivation of liberty is used only as a last resort, for the shortest appropriate time and in appropriate conditions;
(b) Expedite the construction of separate facilities (child correction centre) and separate cells in detention facilities for persons below 18 to ensure that they exist in all districts;
(c) In cases where deprivation of liberty is unavoidable and used as a last resort, for the shortest appropriate time, improve procedures of arrest and conditions of detention and establish special units within the police for the handling of cases of children in conflict with the law;
(d) Ensure that persons under 18 years are not held accountable, detained or prosecuted under anti-terrorism laws;

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III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

B. Specific rights (arts. 5–30)

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

13. The Committee is concerned about the absence of clear linkages between policies aimed at protecting children, such as the Ten-Year Children’s National Action Plan and the Thirteenth Plan (2013–2016), and their actual implementation. The Committee is particularly concerned about the absence of specific measures to
support children with disabilities and their families, and about the inadequacy of inclusive education for children, particularly those from rural areas, marginalized ethnic minority groups and indigenous communities. The Committee is also concerned about reports of children with disabilities being abandoned, and exposed to exploitation and abuse as a result.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps, which should include consultations with the representative organizations of persons with disabilities and the relevant ethnic minorities and indigenous groups, to ensure an overall increase in the enrolment of children with disabilities in primary school education; an improvement in the implementation of inclusive early childhood education; increased opportunities for vocational training for young people with disabilities; and strengthened measures for the prevention of violence, abuse, exploitation and abandonment of children with disabilities. The State party should pay particular attention to children with disabilities belonging to marginalized groups in rural and mountainous areas, especially children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and those from indigenous communities.

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

27. The Committee is concerned about the absence of any monitoring mechanism to collect disaggregated data on the prosecution of cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities, in particular data on the sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse both within and outside the home.

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

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are not provided with adequate means to enable them to exercise choice and control over their lives and make their own decisions, particularly to live independently and within their community. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not adopted any policy measures to protect persons with disabilities against forced institutionalization.
30. In line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to implement independent living schemes and to ensure access to disability-specific community services. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities who live with or are dependent on their families receive appropriate support to enable them to live independently in the community.

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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