

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	29 Nov 1994	<p>CRC/C/WSM/2-4 11 Jul 2016</p> <p><b>Concluding observations on the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Samoa**</b></p> <p><b>III. Main areas of concern and recommendations</b></p> <p><b>A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))</b></p> <p><b>Legislation</b></p> <p>8. The Committee welcomes the establishment, in 2008, of the Samoa Law Reform Commission, the Commission’s work on the legislative compliance review undertaken of the Convention and the preparation of the strategic policy brief to address policy gaps and legislative harmonization. The Committee is concerned, however, that some legislation, in particular the Infants Ordinance of 1961 and the Youth Offenders Act of 2007, still has to be harmonized with the Convention. It also notes that the State party intends to adopt the Child Care and Protection Bill by the end of 2016.</p> <p>9. <b>The Committee recommends that the State party:</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Strengthen its efforts to implement the revisions recommended by the Samoa Law Reform Commission and bring the existing legislation into conformity with the Convention;</b></p> <p>(b) <b>Expedite its efforts to adopt the Child Care and Protection Bill.</b></p>

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 13 July 2016.

\*\* Adopted by the Committee at its seventy-second session (17 May-3 June 2016).

		<p><b>F.Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))</b></p> <p><b>Children deprived of a family environment</b></p> <p>34. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a legal framework for monitoring alternative care institutions run by non-governmental organizations and for monitoring family-based care for children, as well as at the limited services and the lack of alternative care quality assurance standards in the State party. It is also concerned at the limited capacity to monitor and oversee the status and conditions of children placed in alternative care. The Committee is further concerned at the lack of monitoring and intervention mechanisms, in particular for the system of “informal adoption” within the extended family.</p> <p><b>35. Drawing the State party’s attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (see General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party implement the findings of the Samoa Law Reform Commission to improve alternative care options and, in particular, that it:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <b>Establish a legal framework for monitoring family-based care for children and alternative care institutions run by non-governmental organizations and establish a system of foster care for children who cannot stay with their families, ensuring that institutionalization is used as a last resort;</b></li><li>(b) <b>Provide all necessary services and support to families and alternative care providers;</b></li><li>(c) <b>Establish quality standards for all available forms of alternative care options and take children’s views into consideration in any decision made about alternative care;</b></li><li>(d) <b>Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and institutions and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying the maltreatment of children;</b></li><li>(e) <b>Ensure that children are separated from their parents only as a measure of last resort, when it is in their best interests and when it is necessary for their protection;</b></li><li>(f) <b>Establish intervention mechanisms and strengthen the capacity to monitor the system of “informal adoptions” within the extended family.</b></li></ul>
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		<b>Country Report</b>
		CRC/C/WSM/2-4 <a href="http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fWSM%2f2-4&amp;Lang=en">http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fWSM%2f2-4&amp;Lang=en</a>
<b>OPSC to CRC</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	29 Apr 2016	
<b>OPAC to CRC</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	17 May 2016	
<b>ICCPR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	15 Feb 2008	
<b>ICESCR</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
<b>CEDAW</b>	<b>Accession Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>
	25 Sep 1992	
<b>CRPD</b>	<b>Ratification Date</b>	<b>Care-Related Concluding Observations</b>

	24 Sep 2014	
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	3 May 2016	<a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/WSSession25.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/WSSession25.aspx</a>
Hague Inter-country Adoption	Accession Date	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
OPSC to CRC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review