III. Main areas of concern and recommendations

5. The Committee reminds the State party of the indivisibility and interdependence of all the rights enshrined in the Convention and emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee would like to draw the State party’s attention to the recommendations concerning the following areas, in respect of which urgent measures must be taken: definition of the child (para. 18), non-discrimination (para. 20), corporal punishment (para. 27), children deprived of a family environment (para. 32), education, including vocational training and guidance (para. 39) and administration of juvenile justice (para. 46).

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the realization of children’s rights in accordance with the Convention and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also urges the State party to ensure the meaningful participation of children in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals as far as they concern children.

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

26. The Committee is deeply concerned that, despite repeated recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including the Committee’s previous recommendation (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3, para. 40), and
as reconfirmed by the delegation during the dialogue, corporal punishment remains legal in all settings, except in early childhood development centres.

27. In the light of its general comments No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment and No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence and taking note of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Adopt, without further delay, legislation explicitly and unconditionally prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, namely in the home, schools, alternative care settings and the administration of justice;
(b) Collect, share and make publicly available data on all cases of corporal punishment and violence against children, including in educational institutions, alternative care institutions and in the home, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and ethnic origin of the child;
(c) Further strengthen and expand programmes and policies aimed at combating violence against children, including evidence based positive parenting programs;
(d) Conduct campaigns aimed at raising awareness on the harmful effects of corporal punishment with a view to changing the general attitude towards this practice and involve children, parents, teachers and other persons working with or for children so as to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline.

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

Family environment

30. The Committee welcomes the increase in pre-school places the introduction of a second mandatory week of paternity leave and measures taken to support low-income families and divorced parents, but remains concerned that despite enhanced subsidies for kindergarten and child care services, mothers who do not meet the eligibility criteria, particularly mothers that do not work, might be denied access to child care services. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3 para. 43) and
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country care review:
singapore

recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to disseminate information about the availability of already existing child care support services in the State party.

children deprived of a family environment

31. While the Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation regarding the current review of the Beyond Parental Control system, including the focus on a more family-oriented and child-centric approach, the Committee remains seriously concerned that the system in its current form, may stigmatize children in need of support and that it may be perceived as punitive rather than supportive. The Committee is further concerned that institutionalization is not used as a measure of last resort, that alternatives to institutionalisation, such as temporary foster care, are not sufficiently provided for and that prolonged periods of institutionalization are harmful. The Committee is also concerned that children placed in institutions in accordance with the Beyond Parental Control system could sometimes come into contact with children in conflict with the law.

32. Drawing attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (see General Assembly resolution 64/142, annex), and recalling its previous recommendations (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3 para. 47), the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Take advantage of the current review of the Beyond Parental Control system, and transform it into a social support system ensuring that children are placed in institutions only as a measure of last resort, for the shortest possible period of time;
(b) Provide for alternative measures to institutionalization such as temporary foster care and placement with extended family;
(c) Ensure periodic review of the placement of children in institutions and foster care and monitor the quality of care in such institutions and foster care, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children;
(d) Ensure that children placed in institutions under the Beyond Parental Control system are kept separate from children in conflict with the law;
(e) Ensure that children placed that in institutions or foster care are not stigmatized;
(f) Ensure that children placed in institutions have access to adequate support services.
Adoption

33. Taking note of the State party’s efforts to strengthen safeguards for children in the adoption process, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3 para. 49) and recommends that the State party maintain a registry of all adopted children, establish a central authority to ensure protection of the rights of children involved in the adoption process and consider ratifying the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Children whose parents have been sentenced to death

34. The Committee is seriously concerned at the situation of children whose parents have been sentenced to death and urges the State party to take the best interests of the child into consideration when issuing the death penalty. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide psychological and other support necessary to children whose parents have been sentenced to death.

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

Migration

41. While taking note of the State party’s arguments against amending its immigration laws, the Committee remains concerned that children, whose parents’ immigration, employment or housing status is uncertain, face insecurity and may be at risk of separation or deportation. In line with its 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 and recalling its previous recommendation (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3 para. 45), the Committee urges the State party to reconsider its position and bring its legislation in line with article 9 of the Convention, ensuring that no child is separated from his or her parents.
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<th>Care-Related Concluding Observations</th>
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<td><strong>V. Prohibition and related matters</strong></td>
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**Prohibition of recruitment**

15. The Committee notes that the State party refers to the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap. 38) as the key legislation providing for the welfare, care and protection of children and young persons. However the Committee regrets that the Act still does not cover children between the ages 16 and 18, and lacks any provisions explicitly prohibiting the recruitment or use of children in conflict situations.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party explicitly include the prohibition of recruitment or use of children in conflict situations in the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap. 38). In so doing, the State party should also include explicit legal provisions providing for the protection of children who have been recruited or used in conflict situations, or have in any other way fallen victim to armed conflict. Furthermore, with reference to the Committee’s observations under the Convention (CRC/C/SGP/CO/2-3, para. 28), the Committee recommends that the State party harmonize the definition of the child in its
national laws, in line with the Convention, and extend the Children and Young Persons Act to cover all persons under the age of 18

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<th>Date/Consideration</th>
<th>Link to Page</th>
<th>Care-Related Concluding Observations</th>
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