

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
<p>CRC/C/STP/CO/2-4</p> <p>Concluding observations on the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Sao Tome and Principe, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (16 September–4 October 2013)</p>	<p>14 May 1991 (Accession)</p>	<p>http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx</p> <p>A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (para. 6) of the Convention)</p> <p>The Committee’s previous recommendations</p> <p>6. While welcoming the State party’s efforts to implement the Committee’s concluding observations of 1 July 2004 on the State party’s initial report (CRC/C/15/Add.235), the Committee notes with regret that some of the recommendations contained therein have not been fully addressed.</p> <p>7. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to address the recommendations in the concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.235) that have not been implemented or sufficiently implemented, and in particular, it recommends and urges the State party to:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) Amend the current legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including in the home, schools and other childcare settings, defining what constitutes ill-treatment and prohibiting such practices in all settings; carry out public education campaigns on the negative consequences of ill-treatment of children and promote positive, non-violent forms of discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment, in light of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention.</p> <p>Training</p> <p>21. The Committee is concerned that the general level of awareness and knowledge of the Convention is inadequate among professionals working with and for children.</p>

	<p>22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all professional groups working for and with children, in particular judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, social workers and personnel in childcare institutions, are adequately and systematically trained on the Convention. In this regard, the Committee recommends that human rights education be included in the official curriculum at all levels of education and in training activities.</p> <p>E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (paras. 1 and 2), 19-21, 25, 27 (para. 4) and 39 of the Convention)</p> <p>Family environment</p> <p>38. The Committee remains concerned that despite measures taken by the State party, there are often families with unstable conjugal relations, resulting in many children living with single mothers or in an unstable family environment. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the high rate of child abandonment by one or both parents, including parents who leave for neighbouring countries.</p> <p>39. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to:</p> <p>(a) Provide abandoned children with social and financial support;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that children born out of wedlock are registered and enjoy the same protection and services as children born in wedlock;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that fathers — as well as mothers — meet their parental responsibilities, if necessary by acceding to or concluding international agreements to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child when a parent is abroad, in line with article 27, paragraph 4, of the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Undertake targeted measures to enhance the role of the family in the promotion of children’s</p>
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		<p>rights, including by developing family counselling services in both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Children deprived of a family environment</p> <p>40. The Committee is concerned at the lack of preventive measures, safeguards and procedures for ensuring that children are only placed in alternative care as a measure of last resort. The Committee is deeply concerned that abandonment frequently constitutes a basis for placing young children in institutions and that family-based alternative provisions are lacking. The Committee regrets that there is no foster care system in the State party and that children who cannot stay with their families are placed in institutions. The Committee is concerned at reports of abuse, including sexual abuse, at alternative care centres and inadequate Government response to such violations. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the inadequacy of measures for the rehabilitation of child abuse victims and for the reintegration of children in alternative care centres with their families and/or communities.</p> <p>41. The Committee draws 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 — or conditions directly and uniquely attributable to such 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:</p> <p>(a) Support and facilitate family-based care for children, particularly those under the age of 3 years, wherever possible, and 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;</p> <p>(b) 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 alternative care;</p>
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OPSC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations

OPAC to CRC	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICCPR	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
ICESCR	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CEDAW	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
	3 June 2003	
CRPD	Accession Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
UPR	Date of Consideration	Link to Page
	31 January 2011	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/STSession10.aspx
Hague Intercountry Adoption	Accession Date	Link to Country Profile

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