

UN CRC	Ratification Date	Care-Related Concluding Observations
CRC/C/STP/CO/2-4	14 May 1991 (Accession)	http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx
Concluding observations on the combined second to	, ,	A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (para. 6) of the Convention) The Committee's previous recommendations
fourth periodic reports of Sao Tome and Principe, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (16 September–4 October 2013)		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
		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:
		(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.
		Training 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.



- 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.
- 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)

Family environment

- 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.
- 39. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to:
- (a) Provide abandoned children with social and financial support;
- (b) Ensure that children born out of wedlock are registered and enjoy the same protection and services as children born in wedlock;
- (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;
- (d) Undertake targeted measures to enhance the role of the family in the promotion of children's



rights, including by developing family counselling services in both urban and rural areas.

Children deprived of a family environment

- 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.
- 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:
- (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;
- (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;



- (c) 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;
- (d) 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

- 42. The Committee notes that the State party is in the process of establishing a legal framework for intercountry adoptions. However, the Committee is deeply concerned at reports that child trafficking occurs through unregulated intercountry adoptions, and has continued despite the ongoing reform of adoption laws.
- 43. The Committee recommends that the State party consider acceding to the Hague Convention No. 33 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, and ensure the implementation of legislation and procedures to give full effect to this Convention. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party expeditiously take measures to prevent the trafficking of children, particularly with regard to unregulated intercountry adoptions.

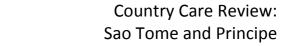
Country Report

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/ layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=856&L ang=en

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	Link to Page
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	31 January 2011	http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/STSession10.aspx
Hague Intercountry	Accession	Link to Country Profile
Adoption	Date	

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



Country Care Review: Sao Tome and Principe

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