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Committee on the Rights of the Child**Concluding observations on the combined 5th and 6th periodic reports of Norway*****I. Introduction**

1. The Committee considered the combined 5th – 6th periodic reports of Norway (CRC/C/NOR/5-6) at its 2296th and 2297th meetings (see CRC/C/SR.2296 and 2297), held on 23 May and 24 May 2018, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2310th meeting, held on 1 June 2018.

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined 5th – 6th periodic reports of the State party and the written replies to the list of issues (CRC/C/NOR/Q/5-6/Add.1), which allowed for a better understanding of the situation of children's rights in the State party. The Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the high-level and multisectoral delegation of the State party.

II. Follow-up measures taken and progress achieved by the State party

3. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved by the State party in various areas, including the ratification of or accession to international instruments, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee notes with appreciation the legislative, institutional and policy measures adopted to implement the Convention, in particular the introduction of a provision on children's rights into the Constitution (2014), the new Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act (2018), amendments to the Education Act (2017) and the Giant Leap Programme to apply the Convention locally. It further welcomes the efforts made to increase gender equality and to combat discrimination against various categories of children.

III. Main areas of concern and recommendations

4. 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: independent monitoring (para.8); non-discrimination (para. 12); sexual exploitation and abuse (para. 18); children deprived of a family environment (para. 21); mental health (para. 26); and asylum seeking and refugee children (para. 32).

* Adopted by the Committee at its seventy-eighth session (14 May-1 June 2018).

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

Comprehensive policy and strategy

5. While noting with appreciation the services provided by local authorities, the Committee recommends that the State party increase efforts to eliminate regional disparities in service provision, and that any plans and measures to increase the autonomy of local authorities be matched with clear guidelines to ensure that services are of equally high quality throughout the State party.

Allocation of resources

6. With reference to its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs for children, with a particular emphasis on children in vulnerable and marginalized situations;

(b) Allocate adequate budgetary resources, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention;

(c) Significantly strengthen efforts to ensure that each municipality is allocated the necessary funds to fulfil its obligations with regards to implementing children's rights;

(d) Allocate earmarked funds to local authorities instead of block grants so as to ensure that funds intended for the implementation of child rights are adequately used for their intended purpose.

Independent monitoring

7. The Committee welcomes the establishment in 2015 of a national human rights institution and its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It welcomes also the additional funds allocated to the Ombudsman for Children. It is concerned, however, about the absence of any institution mandated to receive complaints on violations of the rights of the child.

8. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2002) on the role of independent human rights institutions, and in line with its previous recommendations (CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 14) the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that the Ombudsman for Children and/or the National Human Rights Institution are entrusted with the mandate to receive, investigate and address complaints by children, in all areas that concern them, in a child-sensitive manner.

Data collection

9. The Committee, while welcoming the availability of disaggregated data on a significant number of issues, encourages the State party to increase its efforts to ensure that the data-collection system covers the collection of disaggregated data for all areas of the Convention. In this regard the Committee recommends that the State party disaggregate data by ethnicity, as the absence of such data prevents the State party from gaining the knowledge needed to measure discrimination based on such criteria and develop measures to overcome it, in particular regarding children exposed to intersecting forms of discrimination.

Dissemination, awareness-raising and training

10. The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts taken to provide training on the Convention to relevant professionals. However, given that the training provided still does not fully cover all professional groups and is not systematic, and that the knowledge on the rights of the child among the relevant professional groups remains insufficient, the Committee, in line with its previous recommendations (CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 18) recommends that:

- (a) **Teachings on the Convention be a part of the school curricula at all levels;**
- (b) **The State party continue and strengthen systematic dissemination and training of all professional groups working for and with children, including personnel of childcare institutions, health personnel, social workers and law enforcement officials;**
- (c) **Awareness of children's rights is raised in the policy making bodies and the administration of municipalities.**

B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

Non-discrimination

11. The Committee, while welcoming the legislative progress made by the State party to tackle discrimination against children, notes , with concern that:

- (a) Girls are sometimes represented in an oversexualized and objectifying manner in the media;
- (b) Children with an immigrant background are exposed to discrimination and often face difficulties at school, which teaching staff are insufficiently trained to address;
- (c) Children who do not conform to gender stereotypes are subjected to discrimination, bullying and intimidation, and violence.

12. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Allocate resources for research into the root causes and possible impact of oversexualized representations of girls in the media and the possible connections between sexualisation and pornography and the root causes of gender-based violence, in particular in relation to girls, in line with the recommendation by the CEDAW (CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/9, para. 23 (c), 2017);**
- (b) **Research and develop specific measures on how to address the particular difficulties and discrimination faced by many children with an immigrant background, and train teachers accordingly, and include the results of the ongoing survey on the living conditions of the Norwegian-born children of immigrant parents in its 7th periodic report to the Committee;**
- (c) **Develop a new plan of action for promoting gender and preventing ethnic discrimination;**
- (d) **Take awareness-raising measures to foster tolerance and openness about non-conforming with gender stereotypes and the harmful effects of social pressure targeting the public at large, in addition to specific awareness-raising campaigns targeting children.**

Best interests of the child

13. **The Committee, with reference to its general comment No 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to:**

- (a) **Establish clear criteria regarding the best interests of the child for all those authorities that have to take decisions affecting children;**
- (b) **Ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions as well as in all policies, programmes, projects and international cooperation relevant to and having an impact on children.**

Respect for the views of the child

14. **While noting with appreciation that the State party's legal framework is to a large extent in line with the principles enshrined in article 12 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Increase its efforts to strengthen compliance in practice with the child's right to be heard, particularly with regard to children who are more vulnerable to exclusion in this regard such as children with disabilities, children of a younger age, and migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children;

(b) Ensure that relevant professionals are regularly trained on implementing an age-appropriate, meaningful and empowered participation of children in decisions affecting their lives and sensitising parents on the positive impact of respecting the views of their children;

(c) Strengthen the implementation of the child's right to be heard in asylum and expulsion procedures affecting children, particularly with respect to younger children, and ensure that children are given the possibility to be heard individually in all instances in all cases affecting them;

(d) Ensure that children are informed about their possibility to participate in mediation processes in the context of their parents' separation;

(e) Increase its efforts to ensure the meaningful participation of children through youth councils or other forums accessible to all children in all municipalities, address disparities in this regard, and consider making the availability of these forums or other forms of child participation bodies mandatory for each municipality.

C. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, and 13-17)

Nationality

15. The Committee, taking note of target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals on providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, and in line with the recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/NOR/CO/7, para. 35, 2018), recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish all necessary safeguards to ensure that all children born in the State party are entitled to a nationality at birth if otherwise stateless;

(b) Provide in the law a specific definition of statelessness, in line with international standards.

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

Abuse and neglect

16. While noting with appreciation the many legislative and policy measures by the State party to prevent and address violence against children, the Committee, with reference to its general comment No. 8 (2006) on corporal punishment and target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase efforts to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline, with the cooperation of the media and by offering information sessions for parents and parents to be on this topic, and on the illegality of violence against children;

(b) Ensure that children have access to a 24/7 helpline, as well as to other reporting avenues, such as specially designated and trained staff, like school nurses who can be approached confidentially, and special desks at municipality level, and ensure that children are informed about these reporting avenues;

(c) In light of information before the Committee that students have on occasions been subjected to violence from adults in school, investigate the occurrence of violence and threats by teaching and school staff and develop and implement a zero-tolerance policy with a view to ensuring that each allegation of violence is duly investigated;

(d) Ensure that child victims of violence and abuse are provided with adequate support at municipality level and strengthen the capacities of municipalities in this regard.

Sexual exploitation and abuse

17. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken by the State party to prevent and combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including by strengthening legislation on child sexual abuse and exploitation in the new Penal Code. The Committee is concerned, however, that current plans of action insufficiently focus on the dangers arising online. It is especially concerned about:

(a) The particular vulnerability of girls to sexual abuse and exploitation, exacerbated with regards to Sami girls, girls with disabilities, unaccompanied children, children belonging to minorities, and children living in poor households and where there is a strong consumption of alcohol;

(b) The lack of free consent not being at the centre of the definition of rape in section 291 of the Penal Code, regarding which the CEDAW and the Human Rights Committee already raised concerns (CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/9, para. 24 (g) and CCPR/C/NOR/CO/7, para. 14 (b)), which applies to children above 14 years of age;

(c) The reported increase of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including grooming cases, online child sexual extortion, and child pornography;

(d) The reported trend of underreporting of sexual abuse of children, in particular if the victim is a boy, ;

(e) Cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed by persons under the age of 18;

(f) The lack of disaggregated data on the different forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts on prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims, and:

(a) Adopt a specific plan of action to combat violence against women and girls, which focuses on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence, including in the Sami community, and include precise segments on preventing and combating sexual abuse and exploitation occurring or being initiated online, and increase efforts to prevent and combat grooming, sexual extortion and child pornography;

(b) Increase the allocation of human, technical and financial resources, including to KRIPOS to improve protection of children who are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation;

(c) Amend section 291 of the Penal Code to ensure that the lack of free consent is at the centre of the definition of rape;

(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns to encourage reporting, with specific segments targeted at boy victims, and ensure accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels;

(e) Undertake research and develop specific measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children by other children and ensure that perpetrators are provided with specific treatment;

(f) Ensure that data collected on sexual abuse and exploitation of children is disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, and improve policies based on the results of this data;

(g) Accelerate its efforts to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention).

Harmful practices

19. While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the State party to prevent harmful practices, including through the adoption of the Action Plan against Negative Social Control, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (2017–2020), the Committee, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and programmes targeted at religious communities who conduct child marriages, on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and on the well-being of girls;
- (b) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns targeted at children on how to seek help if they fear being sent abroad to be subjected to female genital mutilation or child marriage and how they can raise the attention of border personnel about this.

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

Children deprived of a family environment

20. The Committee, while noting with appreciation the efforts made by the State party, in particular through its Child Welfare Services, to ensure that each child grows up in a safe and conducive environment, is concerned about:

- (a) Reported separations of children from their families which may not always be in their best interests;
- (b) Use of coercion in some cases of child separation;
- (c) The significant disparities between counties regarding the number of out of home placements;
- (d) Siblings being separated when placed in alternative care;
- (e) Insufficient monitoring of the situation of children placed in alternative care;
- (f) Children belonging to minorities, who are placed in alternative care, being at risk of losing connection with their culture and language;
- (g) Insufficient communication and information between the child welfare services and families, in particular migrant families;
- (h) Insufficient support provided to children of incarcerated parents.

21. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (see 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) Ensure that all forms of separation of children from their parents are always in the best interests of the child best interests of the child, including by:
 - (i) Reviewing the current practices for out of home placements, deprivation of parental rights and limitation of contact rights with a view to ensuring that such drastic steps are only used as measures of last resort, based on the needs as well as best interests of the child and are subject to adequate safeguards, with a particular emphasis on Roma families where children seem to be disproportionately separated from their families;
 - (ii) Ensuring that all municipalities follow the same criteria regarding out of home placements;
 - (iii) Providing parents with the necessary support to avoid the separation from their children;

(b) Review the procedures to remove children in emergency cases and provide for a more sensitive approach, ensure that no form of coercion is used, and provide regular training to relevant professionals in this regard;

(c) Conduct research on the reasons behind the significant disparities between counties regarding children subjected to alternative care measures and emergency placements;

(d) Ensure that siblings are not separated when placed in alternative care;

(e) 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 and remedying maltreatment of children;

(f) Take the measures necessary, including adequate training of personnel, to ensure that children belonging to an indigenous or national minority who are placed in alternative care learn about and keep the connection to their culture;

(g) Improve the communication and information between the child welfare services and families, in particular migrant families.

Children of incarcerated parents

22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that children of incarcerated parents are provided with adequate psychological treatment and social support.

F. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)

Children with disabilities

23. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to adopt a human rights approach to disability and strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities, including through the clause in the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act to expand the universal design obligation for information and communication technology in the teaching and education sector. With reference to its General comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party further:

(a) Increase its efforts to combat violence, abuse and neglect of children with disabilities, including through research about the form and frequency of violence children with disabilities are subjected to, and ensure that these children have accessible and suitable reporting channels, especially children with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Ensure that all cases of violence, including sexual violence against children with disabilities, be systematically registered by the authorities, and that child victims have adequate access to redress and rehabilitation measures and support services;

(c) Strengthen efforts to prevent institutionalization, and discontinue the possibility of institutionalization without the child's and/or the child's parents' consent;

(d) In the light of the outcome of the April 2018 expert group report, ensure that inclusive education is more inclusive, more adapted and obtains better results, with higher quality;

(e) Ensure that inclusion is given priority over the placement into special education institutions or classes, increase training and the assignment of specialized teachers and professionals in inclusive classes providing individual support, and improve the physical accessibility of schools;

(f) Increase support provided to parents of children with disabilities and remove obstacles to access support, which, reportedly, affect in particular children from families of ethnic minorities and eliminate the disparities in municipalities with regards to the provision of personal assistance.

Health and health services

24. The Committee notes with appreciation the increase in funds for health centres and school health services. With reference to its general comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that municipalities are allocated sufficient funds for health services for children, based on the individual needs of the municipalities;

(b) Ensure that reception facilities for child victims of violence and sexual abuse have a clearly defined organizational structure to guarantee child victims speedy attention;

(c) Provide children with irregular residence status with immediate access to health care institutions in order to receive the necessary treatment, independently of considerations regarding their departure date.

Mental health

25. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Resources allocated to the mental health sector are insufficient despite the reported increase in the number of children in need of such services;

(b) Some transgender children and some children in migration reception centres show suicidal tendencies;

(c) Despite improvements in this regard, the number of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) remains relatively high, in particular boys.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Allocate sufficient resources to the mental health sector, in general, and also according to the individual need of each municipality for this purpose;

(b) Investigate the causes of suicidal tendencies, particularly among transgender children and children in migration reception centres, and ensure that measures are developed to prevent such tendencies and that health personnel is adequately trained in this regard;

(c) Improve the diagnosis of mental health problems among children, ensure that the initial diagnosis with ADHD is re-assessed; and that appropriate non-medical, scientifically based psychiatric counselling and specialist support for children, their parents and teachers is given priority over the prescription of drugs in addressing ADHD and other behavioural specificities, with particular attention to boys; and that parents and children are informed about the negative side effects of treatments with psycho-stimulants and provided with information on non-medical treatments.

Environmental health

27. In the light of the State party's exploitation of fossil fuels, the Committee recommends that it increase its focus on alternative energy and establish safeguards to protect children, both in the State party as well as abroad, from the negative impacts of fossil fuels.

Standard of living

28. While noting the introduction of the strategy Children Living in Poverty (2015-2017), the Committee, in the light of continuing child poverty, draws attention to target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and recommends that the State party increase resources allocated to combat child poverty, including by increasing child benefit rates and by adapting them to wage inflation.

G. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29, 30 and 31)

Education, including vocational training and guidance

29. In the light of the Committee's General Comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education, and target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase efforts to implement a zero-tolerance approach for discrimination based on race, migration status, and sexual orientation and gender identity in the school context, and expand it to include private schooling, ensuring recurrent training for all school staff on equality and gender identity, and addressing all forms of discrimination as well as civic training for students on the importance and methods of intervention and on reporting occurrences of discrimination. The State party should also develop a new plan of action for promoting gender equality and preventing ethnic discrimination;

(b) Continue its efforts to combat bullying, and raise awareness on its harmful effects, with particular emphasis on the prevention of cyberbullying, and on how children can defend themselves against it; introduce mandatory elements into the school curriculum at all levels of education on accepting diversity, non-violent conflict resolution skills; critical and safe use of the Internet, and further build up the capacity of teachers and school personnel in this regard; and ensure that schools conduct special information sessions for parents on these issues.

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

30. The Committee welcomes the Fritidserklæringen declaration, enabling Norwegian children to participate in a spare time activity for free. It draws the State party's attention to its general comment No 17 (2013) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts and recommends that the State party increase possibilities for children with limited financial means, with disabilities, from a minority ethnic background, and isolated religious community to benefit from access to safe, accessible, inclusive spaces for play and recreational activities.

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

Asylum-seeking and refugee children and children in migration situations

31. The Committee welcomes the State party's integration efforts with regards to refugee children and their families, such as with respect to access to education. The Committee is concerned, however, about:

(a) The increase in the use of temporary residence permits for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and the absence of any system to automatically reassess the cases of unaccompanied children with temporary residence permits, resulting in the fear that their applications for permanent residency would be denied, which is an important reason for the relatively high number of children who have disappeared from reception centres;

(b) Children who have disappeared from reception centres being particularly vulnerable to become victims to human trafficking and prostitution;

(c) Children being sent back to countries where their rights are at high risk of being violated, which would contravene the principle of *non-refoulement*;

(d) Significant variations between reception centres in terms of living conditions, such as access to adequate food and nutrition;

(e) Reports according to which children in reception centres are frequently absent from school, and often suffer from mental health issues resulting in self-inflicted harm;

(f) The possibility to detain children for up to 9 days prior to their deportation;

(g) Insufficient care for unaccompanied children in some municipalities, and children 15 years and older not receiving the same quality of care as children under 15.

32. **In the light of its general comment No. 6 (2005) on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin and joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Consider establishing a system to automatically reassess temporary residency permits of unaccompanied children as well as issuing residence permits of a longer duration;**

(b) **Address further root causes of disappearance of children out of reception centres;**

(c) **Increase efforts to search for missing children, provide them with the necessary protection, redress and rehabilitation, and ensure that if they have fallen victim to crimes, perpetrators are brought to justice;**

(d) **Under no circumstances deport children and their families back to countries where there is a risk of irreparable harm for the children such as, but by no means limited to, those contemplated under articles 6 (1) and 37 of the Convention;**

(e) **Place children and their families into reception centres only for the shortest time possible, and increase human, technical and financial resources allocated to reception centres with a view to ensuring adequate conditions for children while residing therein, in particular that they are protected from violence, have their mental health needs checked and have access to nutritious food;**

(f) **Ensure that children are under no circumstances placed in detention based on their immigration status;**

(g) **Ensure that unaccompanied children in all municipalities, including those above 15, receive good quality care;**

Children belonging to minorities and indigenous children

33. **With reference to its general comment No. 11 (2009) on indigenous children and their rights under the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure that all Sami children of school age have their right to Sami language education enforced, and that the new Education Act significantly strengthen their rights, independently from their residence ;**

(b) **Undertake research on violence against and sexual abuse of children among the Sami, and develop specific measures of intervention, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice;**

(c) **Increase its efforts to combat discrimination, hate speech and violence against Sami children and children belonging to Roma and other minorities, including specific measures to combat the intersecting and multiple forms of gender-based discrimination affecting girls from minorities, and take measures to strengthen knowledge about indigenous and minorities and their rights among the public at large.**

Sale, trafficking and abduction

34. **The Committee welcomes the efforts taken by the State party to combat trafficking of children, including strong legislation in the Penal Code, and the plan of action to prevent and combat human trafficking (2016). It recommends that the State party increase its efforts to combat trafficking of children by vigorously tackling the demand side and that it:**

(a) **Strengthen effective policies and procedures to identify and support child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and children, who may be at particular**

risk of falling victim to these crimes, as well as protect children from additional factors, which may increase their vulnerability to trafficking such as unsupervised exposure to the internet;

- (b) Take specific efforts to abolish the discrepancies regarding the application of the definition of trafficking by municipalities, which is particularly necessary with respect to children who are not yet residents;
- (c) Allocate additional resources to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice;
- (d) Improve coordination to provide assistance to child victims of trafficking;
- (e) Conduct research to better assess the scope of trafficking in the State party.

Administration of juvenile justice

35. The Committee welcomes the amendments to the Execution of Sentences Act abolishing the possibility of using isolation as a disciplinary measure. With reference to its general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice, the Committee urges the State party to bring its juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention and other relevant standards. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Discontinue preventive detention for children;
- (b) Where detention is unavoidable, ensure that the children are not detained together with adults, both in pre-trial detention and after being sentenced, and in line with its previous recommendations, withdraw the reservation to article 10, paragraph 2(b) and paragraph 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights "with regard to the obligation to keep accused juvenile persons and juvenile offenders segregated from adults" (CRC/C/NOR/CO/4, para. 7);
- (c) Strengthen safeguards to ensure that isolation as a preventive measure is avoided to the greatest extent possible;
- (d) Make the necessary legislative amendments to extend the application of the alternative form of sanction, the so-called "juvenile sanction" to asylum seeking children.

Follow up to the Committee's previous concluding observations and recommendations on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

36. While noting with appreciation the State party's efforts in implementing the Committee's recommendations from 2005 on the State party's initial report under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC/C/OPSC/NOR/CO/1), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Bring the Penal Code fully into line with the Optional Protocol, including by ensuring that it explicitly prohibit the sale of children;
- (b) Apply sanctions to the purchase of sexual services from children and for child pornography that take into account their grave nature;
- (c) Adopt specific legislation on the obligations of Internet service providers in relation to child pornography on the Internet;
- (d) Abolish requirement of double criminality regarding extraterritorial jurisdiction for offences related to the Optional protocol;
- (e) Take the necessary legislative amendments to ensure that child victims of sexual exploitation abroad and sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism can also bring claims under the Tort Liability Act;

Follow up to the Committee's previous concluding observations and recommendations on the Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict

37. While noting with appreciation the State party's efforts in implementing the Committee's recommendations from 2007 on the State party's initial report under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC/C/OPAC/NOR/CO/1), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Raise the minimum age of volunteers joining the Home Guard from 16 years to 18 years;

(b) Provide systematic and recurrent training on the Optional Protocol for all relevant professional groups working with and for children;

(c) Take appropriate bilateral measures to follow up on asylum-seeking children who have been recruited or used in hostilities and returned from Norway to their home countries;

(d) Identify children who have been recruited or used in hostilities residing in the State party and provide them with adequate support and supervision as well as adequate psychological and psychiatric care.

I. Ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure

38. The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

J. Ratification of international human rights instruments

39. The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, consider ratifying the following core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party:

(a) Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

(b) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

K. Cooperation with regional bodies

40. The Committee recommends that the State party cooperate with the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Convention and other human rights instruments, both in the State party and in other Council of Europe member States.

IV. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

41. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations are fully implemented. The Committee also recommends that the combined fifth and sixth reports, the written replies to the list of issues and the present concluding observations be made widely available in the languages of the country.

B. National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up

42. The Committee recommends that the State party establish and/or strengthen a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up as a standing government structure that is mandated to coordinate and prepare reports to and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with coordinating and tracking national follow-up to and implementation of the treaty obligations and the recommendations and decisions emanating from such mechanisms. The Committee emphasizes that such a structure should be adequately and continuously supported by dedicated staff and should have the capacity to consult systematically with the national human rights institution and civil society.

C. Next report

43. The Committee invites the State party to submit its seventh report by 6 February 2023 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present concluding observations. The report should be in compliance with the Committee's harmonized treaty-specific reporting guidelines adopted on 31 January 2014 (CRC/C/58/Rev.3) and should not exceed 21,200 words (see General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 16). In the event that a report exceeding the established word limit is submitted, the State party will be asked to shorten the report in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution. If the State party is not in a position to review and resubmit the report, translation thereof for the purposes of consideration by the treaty body cannot be guaranteed.

44. The Committee also invites the State party to submit an updated core document, not exceeding 42,400 words, in accordance with the requirements for the common core document contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents (see HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I) and paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/268.
