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Committee on the Rights of the Child**List of issues prior to the submission of the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Croatia**

The State party is invited to submit in writing the information requested below, if possible before 30 June 2019 (21,200 words maximum). The replies should take into consideration the Committee's previous recommendations (see CRC/C/HRV/3-4) adopted in 2014. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention and its Optional Protocols during the dialogue with the State party.

I. New developments

1. The Committee requests the State party to provide:
 - (a) Information on the adoption or reform of laws, policies and programmes, and any other type of measures taken, such as the creation or reform of institutions, significant for the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols;
 - (b) Any other information that the State party considers relevant in this regard and that is not covered in the replies to the questions below, including information on obstacles and challenges faced.

II. Rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols**A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))****Comprehensive policy and strategy**

2. Please provide information on the measures taken for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Rights and Interests of the Child 2014-2020 and the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013-2020, and on the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the impact of the Strategy on children's lives. Please also provide information on the financial resources available at the local level for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Rights and Interests of the Child, especially in the rural areas and the islands.

Coordination

3. Please explain what are the roles, responsibilities and coordination between the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (MDFYSP) and the Council for Children.
4. Please inform the Committee whether the Council for Children is effective, whether its members have been formally appointed, and its plan of work and financial resources.

Allocation of resources

5. Please provide detailed updated information on the impact of the financial and economic crisis on children's rights and on the measures that have been taken to safeguard adequate resources for the implementation of the Convention and to ensure the wellbeing of children.

Data Collection

6. Please provide information on any steps taken to establish a disaggregated data collection system for persons under 18, including on Roma children, children with disabilities and children in the context of migration.

Independent monitoring

7. Please inform the Committee about:

(a) Human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Ombudsperson to support its activities;

(b) Whether the Ombudsperson receives complaints on behalf of children and, if yes, how many, and what is the nature and outcome of such complaints;

(c) Follow-up measures on the recommendations made in the Ombudsperson's Annual Reports;

(d) How the State party guarantees the independence of the Ombudsperson, given that the rejection of its Annual Report by the Parliament may result in the Ombudsperson's early impeachment.

Dissemination, awareness-raising and training

8. Please provide information on awareness raising programmes, including campaigns, among children in marginalised situations, especially Roma children, and about systematic training to relevant professional groups on the provisions of the Convention, its Optional Protocols and the 2014 Concluding Observations.

B. Definition of the child

9. Please explain what protection is afforded to children having been declared adult before 18 through marriage or parenthood, and what measures have been taken to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is 18 years without exceptions.

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

Non-discrimination

10. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to prohibit and eradicate all forms of *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination and hate speech against children of ethnic minorities, including Serbs and Roma, religious minorities, children with disabilities, LGBTI children, and migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children, in particular with regard to access to education and health.

Best interests of the child

11. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken as a primary consideration when drafting, adopting and reviewing legislation concerning children. Please provide information on policy, procedures, criteria or guidance issued to determine and consistently apply the best interests of the child as a primary consideration into programmes and administrative and judicial proceedings concerning children, in particular, for children in situations of migration, in custody disputes, and also the placement in institutions of children with disabilities, children without adequate parental care, unaccompanied migrant and refugee children.

The right to life, survival and development

12. Please inform the Committee about the measure taken to reduce traffic accidents, particularly fines for not using seatbelts, helmets, baby/child car seats and their strict implementation. Please also inform the Committee on any road infrastructure contributing to safety of children and on road safety trainings for children and adults.

Respect for the views of the child

13. Please provide information on any systems and procedures to ensure the right of the child to be heard in any decision affecting her or him. Please inform the Committee if all the relevant professionals are provided with training on the right of the child to be heard. Please explain what are the opportunities for children to express their opinion in matters affecting them and whether they are given support for meaningful child participation. Please provide information on the activities of the Network of Young Advisors of the Ombudsperson for Children, the children's and student's councils and any steps taken to strengthen and promote their roles.

D. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, and 13-17)**Nationality**

14. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that the Act on Croatian Citizenship is in line with the Convention and implemented in a non-discriminatory manner. Please explain if any steps have been taken to reduce administrative obstacles related to acquisition of Croatian citizenship, affecting particularly Roma children.

Access to appropriate information

15. Please explain why the budget for child-focused TV production was reduced by 44 per cent in 2016 and how the State party ensures quality TV programmes for children, including for children of minorities and children with visual and hearing impairments. Please also explain which measures are in place to protect the privacy of children in the media, including social media, as well as the protection from exploitation in electoral campaigns.

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

16. Please provide information on the efforts, including awareness-raising and parenting education programmes, to end the practice of corporal punishment in all settings, particularly in the family, and to promote positive, non-violent and participatory alternative forms of child-rearing and discipline.

Violence against children

17. Please inform the Committee on how the National Strategy of Protection against Family Violence has been replaced, whether there is a database on cases of domestic violence against children and on any preventive programmes and activities, reporting and monitoring mechanisms to end all forms of violence against children including abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation, particularly in family and schools. Please inform the Committee if there is a free 24-hour helpline for children. Please also provide information on any support system for child victims of violence, sexual exploitation and abuse.

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

18. Please provide information on the measures and timeframe for the establishment of family courts. Please inform the Committee on the measures taken to make child maintenance regulations and judicial proceedings more efficient. Please also provide information on any steps taken to strengthen and expand the community and family-based services for children and families at risk, including parenting support services. Please also inform the Committee on whether courts consider the best interests of the child when sentencing caregivers.

Children deprived of family environment

19. Please provide information on the implementation of the Master Plan for the Deinstitutionalisation and Transformation of Social Welfare Institutions 2011-2018, the transformation of institutions into centres for community services and the funding available for the process. Please inform the Committee on the measures taken to strengthen the foster care system and on monitoring mechanisms for quality care in institutions and in foster care.

G. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)**Children with disabilities**

20. Please provide information on measures taken to support families with children with disabilities in order to prevent the children from being abandoned or institutionalised, and indicate progress made with deinstitutionalisation. Please explain the steps taken to adopt a social model of disability and to introduce an integrated model for early identification and intervention for all children with disabilities, including behavioural and mental health problems. Please also indicate measures taken to ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities, including early-childhood education.

Health care and health services

21. Please inform the Committee on the steps taken to:

- (a) Address the insufficient availability of paediatric health care teams, particularly in rural regions;
- (b) Ensure full vaccination coverage across the State party to avoid outbreaks of communicable diseases especially through education campaigns for parents and children;
- (c) Ensure exclusive breastfeeding and child-friendly practices in all hospitals;
- (d) Ensure equal access to all health services, including by children belonging to minority groups, children with disabilities and migrant children.

Adolescent health

22. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to prevent and address:

- (a) Mental health problems among adolescents;
- (b) The use of drugs and alcohol;
- (c) Suicide of children;
- (d) Barriers to accessibility of and support for sexual and reproductive health education and services for adolescents.

Standard of living

23. Please provide an update on the measures taken to address child poverty, particularly on funding for all child-related social protection programmes and activities.

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29, 30 and 31)**Education, including vocational training and guidance**

24. Please inform the Committee on the steps taken to:

- (a) Improve the availability of affordable early child care and education and other community-based services.
- (b) Improve the quality of education, particularly in science, mathematics and reading.
- (c) Introduce compulsory human rights education into all school curricula.
- (d) Eliminate school dropout. Please also describe steps taken
- (e) End segregation in schools and over-representation of Roma children in special schools.

Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

25. Please provide information on the measures taken to provide children with full access free of charge to inclusive sport, recreational, leisure and artistic activities, particularly to children with disabilities and children in disadvantaged situations.

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37 (b)-(d), 38, 39 and 40)**Asylum-seeking, refugee children and children in situations of migration**

26. Please provide information on:

- (a) What are the regulation and criteria concerning deportation of asylum seeking and migrant children under age of 18, and whether the 2017 amendments to the Foreigners Act introduced any changes affecting children;
- (b) How the principle of *non-refoulement* is applied in all cases of migrant, including irregular migrant, children, and how the State party ensures their access to the provision of free legal aid, skilled guardians and other forms of assistance in all stages of the process;
- (c) The measures taken, including the possibility of amending the International and Temporary Protection Act and the Foreigner's Act, to ensure that asylum-seeking, unaccompanied and migrant children are not administratively detained under any circumstance.

27. Please provide information on:

- (a) Whether the Protocol for unaccompanied children has been adopted, what system is in place for the reception of unaccompanied and separated children, including irregular migrant children, and what steps has the State party taken to ensure appropriate and adequate services for these children, in particular psychological, social, health and educational services;
- (b) Steps taken to investigate alleged violence and abuses against migrant and asylum seeking children;
- (c) Steps taken to remove migrant and asylum seeking children from residential institutions for children with behaviour problems and whether there are any family-based types of care available.

Sale, trafficking and abduction

28. Please provide detailed updated information on strategies, programmes and legislation for identifying child victims of trafficking, including in the context of migration, and provide information on measures taken to provide such children with adequate protection, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Administration of juvenile justice

29. Please inform the Committee about:

(a) Measures taken to introduce diversion as a pre-trial alternative to trial, to reduce the use of pre-trial detention and limit its duration to the shortest time possible, and to establish special correctional institutions for juveniles as foreseen in the Juvenile Courts Act while reducing reliance on detention;

(b) The effectiveness of the non-custodial measures and the funds and institutions available to carry out non-custodial measures and the rate of reoffending;

(c) The training provided to professionals involved in the administration of juvenile justice.

Child victims and witnesses

30. Please provide information about what psychological, social, educational and health services are available to child victims and witnesses.

J. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

31. Please explain the reasons for the delay concerning the initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

K. Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict

32. Please provide information about the follow-up to the Committee's recommendations on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC/C/OPAC/HRV/CO/1), in particular on:

(a) Any legislation to restrict the transfer of arms and other forms of military assistance to States which recruit or use children in hostilities;

(b) Measures in place to prevent recruitment of children by non-State armed groups;

(c) Any criminal offences under anti-terrorism legislation that may be applicable to children;

(d) Any schools controlled by the Ministry of Defence, regulations applied to such schools and on the minimum age for entering military schools;

(e) Any age-appropriate reintegration and recovery services available to children formerly associated with "terrorist" or "violent extremist" groups.

Annex

I. Introduction

1. Statistical information and disaggregated data provided by the State party should cover the period since the consideration of its previous report. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographic location and socioeconomic status.
2. The provision of tables presenting trends over the reporting period is recommended and explanations or comments on significant changes that have taken place over the reporting period should also be provided.

II. Statistical information to be provided in the report

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

Allocation of resources

3. Please provide information on the budget lines regarding children and social sectors by indicating the amount and the proportion of each budget line in terms of the total national budget.

B. Definition of the Child

1. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on the number and proportion of children under 18 years of age living in the State party.

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

Right to life

2. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on the number of children who attempted or committed suicide.

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

Birth registration and nationality

3. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:
 - (a) The number of children who do not have their births registered immediately after birth, especially Roma children;
 - (b) Number of children registered, but who do not have birth certificates issued;
 - (c) Number of stateless children.

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

Violence against children

4. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on the:
 - (a) Number of child victims of ill-treatment, violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, as well as the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in that regard;

(b) Number of cases of neglect and abuse, especially in institutions and alternative care settings;

(c) Number of cases of corporal punishment, especially in schools, institutions and alternative care settings; and

(d) Number of shelters that provide services to child victims of violence.

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

Family environment and alternative care

5. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:

(a) Number of children separated from and children abandoned by their parents;

(b) Number of children placed in institutions and with foster families, including children with disabilities, as well as children deinstitutionalised;

(c) Number of children adopted;

(d) Number of children in institutions for children with behavioural problems; and

(e) Number of children with incarcerated mothers.

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

1. Health

6. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:

(a) Infant mortality and under five mortality rate;

(b) Vaccination coverage per region;

(c) Number of teenage pregnant girls and girls receiving medical and professional services for pregnancy and childbirth;

(d) Number of teenage abortions;

(e) Number of cases of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, among children and adolescents;

(f) Number of cases of alcohol and drug consumption among children.

2. Standard of living

7. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:

(a) Number of children living in poverty and extreme poverty, including Roma children;

(b) Number of children who have benefited from the State's welfare system.

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28, 29, 30 and 3)

Education

8. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:

(a) The enrolment and completion rates, in percentage, of the relevant age groups, including for Roma children and children with disabilities, in pre-primary school, primary school and secondary school;

- (b) Number of children attending special schools, including for Roma children;
- (c) Number and proportion of children who have access to early childhood education
- (d) Number and proportion of dropouts and repetitions, including for Roma children and children with disabilities;
- (e) Number of children out of school, including for Roma and children with disabilities;
- (f) The teacher-pupil ratio per region;
- (g) Number of cases of bullying in schools.

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

Asylum-seeking, refugee children and children in situations of migration

9. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on:
- (a) Number of refugee, asylum-seeking children, unaccompanied and separated children, and children in situation of migration;
 - (b) Number of children in situation of migration, including irregular migrant children, in pre-detention and detention settings, including juvenile and adult detention centres, in police custody and in residential institutions for children with behaviour problems;
 - (c) Number of children in situation of migration, including irregular migrant children, who are deported
 - (d) Number of facilities available for the initial reception of unaccompanied and separated children.

Trafficking

10. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, on the number of child victims of trafficking, including in the context of migration, disaggregated by purpose for trafficking.

Juvenile justice

11. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 1 above, and by the type of offence on:
- (a) Number of children in pre-detention and detention facilities, including migrant children, and penitentiary institutions, including children detained for petty crimes; and
 - (b) The average time children spend in pre-detention and detention, including for cases of illegal migration.