

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child NEW – Dialogue Structure

The Committee on the Rights of the Child during its 95th session (15 January – 02 February 2024) approved a **revised dialogue structure**. This structure is used by the Committee in its dialogues with States as well as in the concluding observations. It should also be used to guide governments and Civil Society when reporting to the Committee to facilitate the comparison of information. The dialogue structure is divided into **clusters** and those, into different subjects (sub-headings).

Please note that the Committee has not yet formally updated the reporting guidelines for States ([CRC/C/58/Rev.3](#)), which set the initial clusters and subjects.

What are the clusters and why are they important?

The Committee has grouped *“the articles of the Convention in clusters with a view to assisting States parties in the preparation of their reports. This approach reflects the holistic perspective on children’s rights taken by the Convention: i.e. that they are indivisible and interrelated, and that equal importance should be attached to each and every right recognized therein”*. (Reporting guide for States - [HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#))

These clusters should be used by Civil Society when developing their report to the Committee (both for thematic and comprehensive reports). An article-by-article approach should not be used, as it will make it difficult for the Committee to compare its previous Concluding Observations with the State party report and the reports from NHRIs and UN bodies.

What are the main changes in the clusters and subjects (sub-headings)?

The main changes of the new dialogue structure, approved by the Committee during the 95th session, are:

- The cluster “Definition of the child” has been deleted. This article will now be discussed under “Legislation” in general measures of implementation cluster
- The issue of child marriage will continue to be covered under “Harmful practices” in the cluster on violence.
- Creation of two new separate clusters: (1) Standard of living and; (2) Children’s rights and the environment.
- The cluster on “Civil rights and freedoms” is now called “Civil and political rights”.
- Incorporation of the Optional Protocols into relevant clusters, e.g. OPSC into the violence cluster and OPAC into the cluster on special protection measures.

The Committee has also created new sub-headings for the following issues:

- **Access to justice and remedies** under “General Measures of Implementation”.
- **Intersex children** under “Health”.
- **Inclusive education** under “Education”.

Find the **updated clusters below**:

1. General measures of implementation (arts. 1, 4, 42 and 44(6))

Subject
Reservations and declarations
Legislation
Comprehensive policy and strategy
Coordination
Allocation of resources
Data collection
Access to justice and remedies – NEW –
Independent monitoring
Dissemination of the Convention and awareness-raising
Cooperation with civil society
International cooperation
Children’s rights and the business sector

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

Subject
Non-discrimination
Best interests of the child
Right to life, survival and development
Respect for the views of the child

3. Civil and political rights (arts. 7-8 and 13-17)

Subject
Name and nationality / Birth registration
Right to identity / Preservation of identity
Freedom of expression
Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
Freedom of association and peaceful assembly
Right to privacy
Access to appropriate information

4. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24(3), 28(2), 34, 35, 37(a), 39 and OPSC)

Subject
Abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation and abuse
Corporal punishment
Harmful practices
Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
OPSC [if relevant] – NEW –
Recovery and reintegration of child victims

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

Subject
Family environment
Children deprived of a family environment
Adoption
Illicit transfer and non-return
Children of incarcerated parents

6. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

Subject
Children with disabilities

7. Health (arts. 6, 24 and 33)

Subject
Health and health services
Breastfeeding
Mental health
Adolescent health
Drug and substance abuse
HIV/AIDS
Intersex children – NEW

8. Standard of living (arts. 18(3), 26 and 27(1)-(3)) – NEW

Subject
Standard of living, including social security and housing

9. Children's rights and the environment (arts. 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 24 and 26-31) – NEW

Subject
Children's rights and the environment

10. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28-31)

Subject
Education: aims and coverage
Quality of education
Inclusive education – NEW –
Vocational training and guidance
Human rights education
Rest, play, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities



**HOW TO
CHILD
RIGHTS**

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

Subject
Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children
Children belonging to minority or indigenous groups
Economic exploitation, including child labour
Children in street situations
Trafficking
Administration of child justice
Children in armed conflict including OPAC [as relevant] – NEW –