

Country session: Qatar

Date: 75th session – 22 and 23 May 2017

Background information

[OHCHR press release](#)

[Webcast](#)

[Audio file](#)

[Summary records](#)

Reporting

Reporting methodology

Regular reporting procedure

Simplified reporting procedure

Concluding Observations with urgent measures

State report:

Common core document	
Initial submission	Not submitted

No. of report	Fourth and fifth periodic reports	No. of report	Integrated report	No. of report	Integrated report
Due date	02 May 2013	Due date	-	Due date	-
Submission	10 February 2014	Submission	-	Submission	-

Written replies to LOIs - CRC	
Due date	23 February 2017
Submission	27 March 2017

Additional comments: The Committee welcomed the accuracy and quality of the State Report.

Public reports from children's rights defenders:

Alternative reports/ Additional information	
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR) and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) ▪ Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

State delegation

Large high level and multisectoral delegation led by Mr. Ahmad Hassan Al-Hamadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was supported by delegates from the Ministry of Education and Higher



Education, Ministry of Administrative Development and Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Justice and the permanent Mission in Geneva.

List of State delegation representatives on [OHCHR site](#)

Committee's Task Force members

Name & Last Name	Country
Jorge Cardona	Spain
Luis Pedernera	Uruguay

Dialogue description:

i. Character of the dialogue

The atmosphere during the session was cordial. The answers of the State to the Committee's questions were both political and technical, focused mainly on law development and program implementation.

ii. General assessment made by the Committee

The Committee welcome the withdrawal of reservations to OPAC and OPSC and invited the State to not step back from the progress made until now. However, the Committee remained concerned about the existing contradictions between some national laws and the provisions of the CRC, and urged the State to address discrimination against girls and migrant children.

iii. Main issues discussed

- **Gender-based discrimination:** The Committee was deeply concerned about the discrimination that girls continue to be subjected to throughout all the stages of their life. This due to traditional values and cultural norms, as well as the absence of systematic measures to tackle this issue with the public, religious leaders and the media. Committee members asked about programs to raise awareness on gender equality within schools and with traditional leaders, and whether the education system would allow boys and girls to attend the same classroom. The delegation replied that the government was willing to ensure gender equality, and stressed that gender parity was already achieved in higher education.
- **Juvenile justice:** The Committee was deeply concerned about the extreme low age of criminal responsibility at 7 years old, and the existence of death penalty for children aged 16 and above for crimes of espionage and apostasy. Committee members also inquired about life sentence, flogging and hard labor imposed on children aged 16 to 18 years and about children in detention. The delegation replied that within the revision of the Bill on the rights of the child the possibility of raising the age of criminal responsibility up to 18 years was under discussion. It also clarified that the penal code prohibited the death penalty for persons under the age of 18 and that children were only placed in juvenile prisons, close to where they lived. While it was legally possible to expose children to hard labor, these sentences were no longer issued.

- **Harmful practices:** The Committee asked whether the State would prohibit the marriage of girls below 18 and about awareness measures on the harmful effect of child marriage. Committee members also requested more information on the measures taken to eliminate discrimination against girls. The delegation replied that the national law was aligned with the provision of the CRC, although the age of marriage for girls was 16 and for boys 18. It clarified that a marriage was valid under the law only if it was accepted by both parties. Awareness-raising campaigns on early marriage were being conducted in secondary schools and universities.

Recommendations of the Committee

In its [Concluding Observations](#), the Committee drew attention to the need of **urgent measures** concerning the 6 following areas:

- **Definition of the child in relation to child marriage:** The Committee reiterated its previous recommendations to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years.
- **Non-discrimination:** The State should design and implement a comprehensive strategy with defined targets to change negative discriminatory attitudes, practices and stereotypes towards girls. This in a coordinated manner with relevant stakeholders, with the participation of girls themselves and with monitoring tools to assess the results of such strategy.
As per discrimination against children born out of wedlock, children of migrant workers and children with disabilities, the State should implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all types of discrimination against these children.
- **Nationality:** The Committee referred to its previous recommendations, recommendations of other treaty bodies and the UPR, and urged the State to revise its national legislation to ensure that nationality is transmitted to children both through the mother and the father. The State should also ratify both Conventions on stateless persons and seek technical assistance from UNHCR and UNICEF.
- **Corporal punishment:** The State should explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (homes, schools, justice, system) without any exception, and ensure that in practice it is adequately enforced and perpetrators are brought to justice. It should also promote positive, non-violent and participatory methods of discipline and provide training and guidelines to teachers and personnel working with/for children. A safe and confidential complaint mechanisms for children should be set up and awareness-raising campaigns to prevent corporal punishment must be carried out among communities, families and public.
- **Children in situation of migration:** The Committee referred to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and recommended the State to abstain from detaining children and families with children in immigration detention facilities taking in consideration the best interests of the child and the family unit. It should also prioritize alternative to detention measures and set up shelters for children and their families. Moreover, it should ensure decent conditions for migrant workers and their right to family life, abolish the sponsorship system in place and properly regulate the work of migrant workers.
- **Administration of Juvenile Justice:** The Committee referred to its previous recommendations and urged the State to fully align its juvenile system with the Convention. The State should expeditiously raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with acceptable international standards, as well as derogate all provisions related to life imprisonment, hard labor and flogging for offenses committed by all persons below 18 years. Moreover, it should establish a children's court and guarantee free, qualified and independent legal aid to children in conflict with the law throughout the whole legal process. Alternative measures for sentences should be fostered and detention of children should be a last resort measure. If detention is the only way forward, its conditions should comply with international standards (no imprisonment with adults, and access to health and education).



Sustainable Development Goals

Throughout its Concluding Observations the Committee referred to the following targets:

- 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 5.2 on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Next State report

CRC	
No. of report	Fifth and sixth periodic report
Due date	2 May 2023

Disclaimer: Child Rights Connect reports are all drafted in English. If the State report and/or the alternative reports were submitted in another UN language (Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian or Chinese) the report will be translated accordingly.