

**Country session: Côte d'Ivoire**  
**Date of session: 20-21 May 2019**

### Background information

[OHCHR press release](#)

Webcast: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

[Audio file](#)

### Reporting

#### Reporting methodology

Regular reporting procedure

Simplified reporting procedure

Concluding Observations with urgent measures

#### State report:

Common core document	
Initial submission	-
Updated document	-
Annexes	-

<a href="#">CRC</a>	
No. of report	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Due date	5 March 1998
Submission	27 November 2017

<a href="#">Written replies</a>	
Submission	13 May 2019
Due date	15 February 2019

#### Public reports from children's rights defenders

<b>NGOs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance</li> <li>• ECPAT International</li> <li>• Forum des ONG</li> <li>• Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children</li> <li>• ISS</li> <li>• Juvenile Justice Advocates International</li> <li>• National Secular Society</li> <li>• Réseau International des Droits Humains</li> <li>• Under the Same Sun</li> </ul>
<b>NHRIs</b>	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme
<b>Other stakeholders</b>	African Child Policy Forum

## State delegation

The delegation was small and consisted of both high level and technical staff. The delegation was composed of a representative of the Ministry of Women, Families and Children, the Child Protection Director and the Director of the Programme on the protection of vulnerable children and adolescents.

## Committee's Task Force members

Name & Last Name	Country
Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi (coordinator)	Morocco
Suzanne Aho Assouma	Togo
Philip Jaffé	Switzerland
Aïssatou Alassane M.EP. Sidikou	Niger

## Dialogue description

- i. Character of the dialogue  
The atmosphere of the dialogue was in general open and interactive but lacked a more in-depth discussion on some subjects.
- ii. General assessment made by the Committee  
The Committee commended the number of acts and pieces of legislation adopted but remained concerned about the degree of implementation and the lack of appropriate budget allocation for implementation, for instance in relation to the Act on people with disabilities. The Committee showed similar concerns about the high cost of birth registration, the lack of inclusive education for children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law and the existence of harmful practices as well as the situation of children human rights defenders.
- iii. Main issues discussed:
  - **General measures of implementation:** The Committee asked about the different mechanisms for coordination between different sectors. The delegation responded that the primary mechanism of coordination is the inter-ministerial Committee for the protection of the child and that the Ministry of family, women and children is the leading one for the protection of children in Côte d'Ivoire. With regards to allocation of resources, the Committee showed concern about the poverty affecting at least 46% of the population and about the low part of its budget allocated to social and protection programmes despite the economic solidity of the country. The delegation acknowledged that it is difficult to have a clear nomenclature of the budget allocated to the issue of protection of children, as various ministries such as the Ministry of education, the Ministry of Health, etc which both handle different budgets. Furthermore, the delegation added that the government is planning to put in place what is called the "budget programme" which will target different activities related to the protection of the child in the different Ministries in order to be aware of the precise budget needed for the concerned ministries and their activities.
  - **Respect for the views of children:** The Committee welcomed existing venues for children to express their views, such as the Youth Parliament, as proof of freedom of expression in the country. In relation to the Youth Parliament, the Committee asked for more information on the criteria to select its members, whether children have control on the budget and their ability to take initiatives. The delegation responded that members are chosen according to specific criteria such as the education performance, being an exemplary member of their community; the criteria have been revised in 2018. It was added that the Youth Parliament established by presidential decree is a place for public expression open to all children without discrimination and between the ages of 12 and 18. As to the budget, it is under the Ministry of Family, women and children.

- **Birth registration:** The Committee expressed concern with regards to the fact that 2.8 million children are not registered and that there exist disparities in the registration process between rural and urban areas; they also asked whether information on free registration is well disseminated. The delegation responded that two laws to facilitate birth registration have been introduced in Côte d'Ivoire; it was added that various establishments for registration are available across the country so there is no need to go to Abidjan. The delegation clarified that there are no disparities between rural and urban areas since the procedure is similar in every part of the country. The Committee also regretted that the cost of birth certificates is too high.
- **Violence against children:** The Committee was highly concerned about the fact that 40% of children are corporally punished by teachers in schools and asked if teachers received appropriate training to use non-violent forms of education - according to information received, 1 out of 3 teachers believe that violence is necessary. The delegation responded that corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited in Côte d'Ivoire's legislations since 2009 and more awareness raising was needed. The Committee asked clarifications on the definition of rape in the national legislation and if the new definition will as well extend to boys; they also wondered if marital rape will be part of the types of rape provided for by the law. The Committee regretted the fact that there was lack of data on children sexually exploited. Moreover, the Committee took the opportunity to ask the delegation when its government would ratify the OPSC. It was acknowledged by the delegation that Côte d'Ivoire is a departure and transit place for child trafficking and added that 11 Nigerian girls were found as victims and ensured that they were safe. The government is making significant efforts to address this issue, assured the delegation. The Committee raised questions on Female Genital Mutilations, child marriage and the ritual crimes committed against children born with albinism; they asked which measures are taken so far to tackle such issues. The delegation replied that FGM is a criminal offence under Ivorian's legislations. As to children with albinism, delegates noted that such children have been victims of violations such as abduction and facing a number of challenges; one of the important measures taken was that of awareness-raising campaigns from both the government and civil society.
- **Adolescent health:** The Committee noted that early pregnancy was a common problem in Côte d'Ivoire and asked about the measures being taken to reduce such a phenomenon. The delegation responded that the best interest of the child to be born is at the foremost and that the young pregnant girls are given the opportunity to take a yearlong leave to deliver and get back to school. The delegation highlighted that most young mothers choose to dropout from school themselves, fearing stigmatization.
- **Environment:** The Committee asked questioned around toilet structures and the fact that not the whole population has access to it; it also raised concern about water consumption and the fact that it is very contaminated and further asked about the role of the municipalities in addressing this. The delegation replied that since 2011, there is a new programme called "water for all" aimed at providing water for big cities like Abidjan. The Committee also questioned the measures taken to address the issue of street medicine. The delegation replied that the government is aware that street medicine is a business in Côte d'Ivoire and that it has taken serious efforts to fight against this phenomenon. To the question of which ways, the victims of flooding are compensated, the Committee did not receive a clear answer.
- **Education:** The Committee showed concern on the fact that although compulsory education for children from 6 to 16 years is free, there are however hidden costs for students. Moreover, the Committee questioned the measures taken to address the phenomenon of a high percentage of private schools and the lengthy periods of teachers' strikes.
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### Recommendations of the Committee:

- **Legislation:** The Committee recommends the state party to review its existing legislation to ensure that all are in compliance with the Convention and refrain from applying customary law in cases which its application would be contradictory with the CRC.
- **Child rights and the business sector:** The Committee, while referring to its GC 16, recommends the state party to adopt and implement regulations to hold the business sector accountable for complying with international standards, including on labour and the environment, that are relevant to children's rights. It also



urges the state party to ensure that victims s affected by the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan in 2016, including children, have access to health care and receive compensation and to ensure investigations are conducted.

- **Cooperation with civil society:** The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and amend the Act of 20 June 2014 to ensure that child human rights defenders are addressed.
- **Definition of the child:** The Committee recommends the state party to expedite the adoption of the draft law on marriage and its Article 2 to remove all exceptions that allow marriage under the age of 18 years.
- **Birth registration:** The Committee urges the state party to strengthen measures to promote mandatory, universal and timely birth registration, and eliminate any fees and costs associated with registration; to implement Law No. 2018-862 of 19 November 2018 and Law No. 2018-863 of 19 November 2018, with the aim to decentralize birth registration as far as possible, to benefit rural and marginalized populations and to facilitate registration of those children who do not yet possess a birth certificate.
- **Nationality:** The Committee urges the state party to amend Act No. 1961-415 to automatically grant nationality at birth also to children who cannot acquire the nationality of their parents or who are found abandoned on the State party’s territory and to remove any limitations to the right of women to pass on their nationality to their children.
- **Harmful practices:** The Committee, while referring to its GC 18, recommends the state party to enforce existing legislation on the prohibition of FGM, expressly prohibit child marriage in the Law of 7 October 1964 on Marriage, by amending its article 22, bring those who carry out such harmful practices to justice, ensuring commensurate sanctions, and ensure the efficient implementation of relevant action plans nationwide; to put in place protective mechanisms and children victims of FGM and child marriage.
- **Children with albinism:** The Committee urges the State party to prevent and combat killings, kidnapping of and attacks against children with albinism, protect them, punish those responsible for such crimes, and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns against superstitious beliefs concerning children with albinism.
- **Children with disabilities:** The Committee urges the state party to ensure inclusive education, access to health services and reasonable accommodation in all spheres of life for all children with disabilities; to undertake awareness raising programmes to combat the stigmatization of children with disabilities.
- **Administration of juvenile justice:** With reference to its GC 10, the Committee urges the state party to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level; to ensure that every child arrested and deprived of his or her liberty is brought before a competent authority to examine the legality of the deprivation of liberty or its continuation; to promote alternatives to detention, and ensure that detention is used as a last resort only, for the shortest possible period of time; to ensure that, in cases where detention is unavoidable, children are not detained together with adults; and to strengthen programmes of assistance to children at risk of coming in conflict with the law, and provide services for reintegration of children released from prisons, including access to education and vocational training.

### Sustainable Development Goals

- 8.7, on eradicating forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and child labour in all its forms.

### Next State report

CRC	
No. of report	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup>
Due date	5 March 2024



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