

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

Distr.: General
16 September 2024

Original: English
Arabic, Chinese, English, French,
Russian and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of the Child**Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh reports of Mexico*****I. Introduction**

1. The Committee considered the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports submitted by Mexico at its 2825th and 2826th meetings¹, held on 30 August 2024, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2846th meeting, held on 13 September 2024. In the present document, the Committee uses the term “child” to refer to a person who is under 18 years of age.

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of the State party and the written replies to the list of issues², which allowed for a better understanding of the situation of children’s rights in the State party. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the 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 since its last review, including institutional and policy measures related to children’s rights taken, such as the adoption of the National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (2021-2024); the Guidelines for risk and emergency management for the protection of early childhood; the Action Plan in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (2019-2024); the Strategic Plan of Action for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents in Situations of Mobility 2021, and its update in 2022; the establishment of a National Commission for Mental Health and Addictions; and the adoption of the National Strategy on Inclusive Education in 2019. The Committee also welcomes the Instrument of Acceptance of the Declaration recognising the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals under its jurisdiction, in 2020.

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

* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-seventh session (26 August – 13 September 2024).

¹ CRC/C/MEX/6-7

² CRC/C/SR.2804 and CRC/C/SR.2805.

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: comprehensive policy and strategy (para. 8); non-discrimination (para. 17); right to life, survival and development (para. 20); abuse, neglect and sexual abuse and exploitation (para. 27); torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and gang violence (para. 31); asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children (para. 49).

5. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the realization of children's rights in accordance with the Convention, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It urges the State party to ensure the meaningful participation of children in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals as far as they concern children.

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

Legislation

6. Recalling its previous recommendation³, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, at the federal, state and municipal levels, including by:

(a) Strengthening the implementation of the General Act for the Rights of Children and Adolescents and improve monitoring and accountability mechanisms, especially regarding key areas such as the protection of children in vulnerable situations;

(b) Expediting harmonization in order to bring legal provisions at the federal and state levels into conformity with the Convention and the General Act;

(c) Increasing awareness at local, state and federal levels about the content of the General Act for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

Comprehensive policy and strategy

7. The Committee is deeply concerned about the dismantling of the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA), by placing its Executive Secretariat under the National System for the Integral Development of Families.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Stop the process of rolling back the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPINNA) and strengthen the approach of comprehensive protection in public policies on children's rights including by ensuring sufficient human, technical and financial resources at the federal, state and municipal levels;

(b) Ensure effective coordination between the Federal Public Administration, the state and municipal SIPINNAs, and other public, private, and social institutions;

(c) Consolidate the institutional capacity of Child Protection Authorities for their effective functioning;

(d) Implement the special protection measures issued by the Child Protection Authorities, including the establishment of an information and data system.

Allocation of resources

9. Concerned by the significant decrease in the budget allocations for children, in particular in the areas of education, health and early childhood, and recalling its

³ CRC/C/MEX/CO/4-5, para. 8.

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

(a) Ensure that all states have specific budget classification for children, improving increased public spending in critical areas for realizing the rights of children, particularly in health, education, social protection, protection from violence as well as towards ensuring children's participation;

(b) Ensure that child-related goals are adequately reflected in the federal and state budgets guidelines, and criteria to catalogue programs and actions with sufficient resources;

(c) Undertake measures to disaggregate information on public expenditure by age and domain of rights to determine more effectively the impacts of spending by disaggregated categories.

Data collection

10. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expeditiously improve its data collection system and ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, indigenous, ethnic, national, afro-descendent origin, migration status, in alternative care, and socioeconomic background;

(b) Prioritize the strengthening of the National Information System on Children and Adolescents (INFOSIPINNA) to inform policy-making and ensure that all federal entities establish information systems in line with the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

Access to justice and remedies

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Harmonize and ensure across the State the effective implementation of the protocols adopted by the judicial system to guarantee that all children have access to confidential, child-friendly and independent complaint mechanisms in schools, alternative care settings, including foster care, and detention for reporting all forms of violence, abuse, discrimination and other violations of their rights;

(b) Raise awareness among children of their right to file a complaint under existing mechanisms across all states while undertaking efforts for homogenization of laws relevant to the delivery of child friendly justice;

(c) Ensure that the process of judicial reform strengthen a child rights approach in judicial reviews, and ensure systematic and mandatory training of all relevant professionals working with children on child-friendly procedures and remedies, children's rights and the Convention.

Independent monitoring

12. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Take all necessary measures for the National Human Rights Commission to effectively and independently carry out its mandate to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights, including its capacity to receive, investigate and address complaints from children on the violation of their rights;

(b) Guarantee that the Children's Rights Unit of the National Human Rights Commission effectively carries out its mandate to protect children's rights, in accordance with the Convention and its Protocols.

Dissemination of the Convention and awareness-raising

13. The Committee recommends that the State party reinforce its efforts for the systematic dissemination of the Convention and awareness-raising among the general public, including children, adolescents, families and teachers, public officials, among other groups, including in Indigenous languages.

Cooperation with civil society

14. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen measures to protect and promote the work of human rights defenders, including child rights and environmental defenders and those working in the field of children's rights, to exercise their right to freedom of expression, association and opinion without threats or harassment, and that reported instances of violence are promptly and independently investigated and those responsible are held accountable.

Children's rights and the business sector

15. Recalling its general comment No. 16 (2013) on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights and to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the Human Rights Council in 2011, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish and implement regulations to ensure that the business sector complies with international and national human rights, labour, environment and other standards, particularly with regard to children's rights;

(b) Establish a clear regulatory framework for the industries/businesses operating in or managed from the State party to ensure that their activities respect labour and other standards, especially those relating to children's rights, do not negatively affect human rights or endanger the environment and the health;

(c) Require companies to undertake assessments, consultations, and full public disclosure of the environmental, health-related and children's rights impacts of their business activities and their plans to address such impacts;

(d) Require companies to undertake due diligence in their operations and across supply chain with regard to the harmful effects of environmental degradation on children's rights.

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

Non-discrimination

16. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of *de facto* discrimination deeply rooted in cultural practices that perpetuate inequality, particularly affecting girls and adolescents, because of sex, gender, age, race, socioeconomic status, disability, ethnicity, situations of migration or refugee status, gender identity/expression, and sexual orientation. The Committee is further concerned on the generational marginalization of Afro-Mexican and Indigenous children who lag behind in all indicators, as well as the prevalence of gender norms and stereotypes that deepen gender-based discrimination and inequalities.

17. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To put in place laws and regulations to explicitly prohibit all forms of discrimination on the grounds of social and national origin, ethnicity, disability, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation, and to promote a positive image of children as rights holders;

(b) Implement affirmative actions with adequate resources to close the gaps affecting specific groups of children in vulnerable situations;

(c) Intensify policies and awareness-raising strategies for behavioural or transformative changes on social and gender norms, and stereotypes in collaboration

with children and adolescents, civil society, schools, families, communities, the private sector, faith-based actors, community leaders and mass media.

Best interests of the child

18. Recalling its general comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Committee recommends that the State party, undertake measures to ensure a clear application of best interests of the child, as a primary consideration, by applying this principle in all decisions concerning children by the courts, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects, including for children in migratory, or institutionalized settings, and any other situations that are relevant to, and have an impact on children.

Right to life, survival and development

19. The Committee is deeply concerned about the:

- (a) High levels of child homicides and femicides, including by the police;
- (b) High rates of enforced disappearance of children;
- (c) Armed violence, drug trafficking and the fight against organized crime causing the killing of numerous children;
- (d) The lack of information about the possible deaths of children during the fire incident at the detention centre in Ciudad Juarez, in 2023.

20. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) **Declare the fight against child homicides and femicides as a national cause and urgently develop measures to prevent and eradicate this phenomena, in particular by further identifying and addressing their root causes and dedicating adequate financial and human resources to it;**
- (b) **Systematically and promptly investigate, prosecute and sanction cases of killing of children, including those committed by the police, and strengthen measures to monitor the performance of the police and judicial institutions;**
- (c) **Devote the highest level of priority and take immediate and effective measures to prevent, investigate, and sanction the disappearances of children, including enforced disappearances, ensuring the immediate search notably by removing the requirement of 72-hour waiting period in the procedural laws;**
- (d) **Address root causes of disappearances of children, design and implement procedures, and follow-up of cases of disappeared children by the Police and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, ensuring the adequate training and awareness of the staff on such nature of cases;**
- (e) **Investigate and make the findings publicly available of the fire incidence at the detention centre in Ciudad Juarez in 2023, especially in regard to its impact on children, ensure accountability of those responsible and provide reparation to the victims, including the families.**

Respect for the views of the child

21. Taking note of the information provided by the State party on the National Consultative Council of Children and recalling its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Ensure that children's views are given due consideration in the family, at schools, and in courts and in all relevant administrative, health and other processes concerning them;**
- (b) **Introduce legislation that mandates consultation with children in all matters affecting them, and implement through a systemic mechanism the regular consultation of children and adolescents;**

(c) Conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, with particular attention paid to girls and children in vulnerable situations and inform children of the mechanisms in place for them to be heard.

C. Civil and political rights (arts. 7, 8 and 13–17)

Birth registration and nationality

22. While welcoming the almost universal birth registration in the State party and noting that the draft General Act on Civil Registration Operations is pending before the Senate, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure particular attention for the birth registration of children of internally displaced parents or whose parents may be undocumented;

(b) Provide adequate guidance and resources to the staff in consulates abroad, in order to facilitate the birth registrations of children whose parents may have foreign residence.

Right to Identity

23. The Committee notes the incorporation of the right to identity into the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and recommends that the State party further facilitate the access to information of biological origin by adopted children and children born out of surrogacy arrangement as well as to take measures to speedily re-establish children's identity, particularly in cases of illegal adoption.

Freedom of association and peaceful assembly

24. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure and strengthen children's right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and ensure that children, particularly child human rights defenders, including child environmental human rights defenders, are not threatened in any manner for exercising these rights such as by use of force or detaining measures.

Access to appropriate information

25. Recalling its general comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to digital environment, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reduce inequalities in access to ICTs with strategies for expansion in remote areas, and improve inclusion of children in disadvantaged situations, ensuring safe access to relevant and culturally appropriate information online;

(b) Intensify awareness-raising measures to ensure the digital literacy and skills of children, teachers and families and awareness of protection mechanisms, for protecting children online, including against cyberbullying and matters of privacy;

(c) Ensure implementation of adequate legislation on digital platforms for the protection of children and adolescents from cybercrime, to curb harmful content and materials as well as online risks, and provide mechanisms to prosecute violations.

D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 35, 37 (a) and 39 of the Convention, and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography)

Abuse, neglect and sexual abuse and exploitation

26. While noting the adoption of a protocol to assist child victims of sexual abuse, the Committee is seriously concerned about the:

- (a) High prevalence of sexual violence, especially rape, that affects mostly indigenous girls, as well as of sexual abuse at schools;
- (b) Sexual abuse by religious personnel of the Catholic Church;
- (c) Lack of adequate investigation and accountability measures in cases of sexual abuse, exploitation and violence;
- (d) Insufficient awareness of the reporting channels, access to justice and compensation and rehabilitation measures for the victims.

27. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) **Implement long-term programmes to address the root causes of violence, abuse and sexual exploitation of children including by allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources to the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents;**
- (b) **Raise awareness of the Ministry of Public Education's guidelines for the prevention of child sexual abuse in schools or educational institutions and provide support to teachers, health professionals and social workers to identify various forms of violations and making referral of the victims;**
- (c) **Institute a formal State-led independent inquiry into child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church, with full power of investigation, with a view to identifying the failures of the State institutions, identifying the victims, including of past abuses, and establishing a mechanism to compensate them;**
- (d) **Provide for accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels for children, and provide support to the vulnerable groups of Indigenous children and children with disabilities to report violence;**
- (e) **Promote mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual abuse, and ensure that all such cases are properly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and duly sanctioned;**
- (f) **Ensure that child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, have access to multidisciplinary support, including one-stop centres or shelters, with medical assessment and trauma-focused therapy services;**
- (g) **Strengthen awareness-raising and training programmes, targeting teachers, health professionals, religious or faith-based actors, police, prosecutors and judges on violence against children and its gender-related aspects.**

Corporal punishment

28. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2006) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) **Ensure that corporal punishment of children is prohibited in all settings, including home, schools or educational institutions, day cares, penal and alternative care facilities;**
- (b) **Expedite the amendments related to prohibition of corporal and humiliating punishment in all states in order for the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents to come into effect;**
- (c) **Repeal the parental authorities' "right to correct" from Article 423 of the Federal Civil Code 1928, which contradicts the provisions banning corporal punishment;**
- (d) **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for parents and professionals working with and for children to promote behavioural change, within the family and the community, with regard to corporal punishment and promote positive parenting.**

Harmful practices

29. **Noting the persistence of child marriage, particularly in rural areas and indigenous communities and the high rates of adolescents in informal unions, and recalling the joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) on harmful practices, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Address the persistence of child marriage and informal unions, particularly in rural areas and Indigenous communities in view of transforming gender norms and cultural practices affecting most at-risk girls;**

(b) **Undertake a comprehensive study to collect data, set indicators informed by gender-sensitive and culturally respectful approaches of Indigenous Peoples and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to address the issue of child marriage;**

(c) **Develop awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of adolescents, targeting households, local authorities, religious and Indigenous leaders, judges and prosecutors.**

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and gang violence

30. The Committee is seriously concerned about the following:

(a) Reports stating that the police, prosecutors and soldiers commonly use violence and torture to obtain confessions, and engage in other abuses against those accused of crimes, including children, and that the justice system regularly fails to ensure due process;

(b) Increasing cases of the ill-treatment or cruel or degrading treatment of children in detention centres or situations of deprivation of liberty;

(c) Lack of transparency and disregard for the prosecution and accountability of those responsible for such abuse;

(d) Child victims not receiving adequate remedies or specialized care and limited capacity of the National Agency for Family Development;

(e) The increased insecurity and negative impact on the lives and development of children due to organized crime, armed violence and drug cartels.

31. **Recalling its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Enforce the prohibition of torture and ensure that all allegations of violence and torture, committed by the police, prosecutors or soldiers, including in institutions where children are deprived of liberty, are duly investigated, and sanctioned, and that children who are victims receive effective remedies;**

(b) **Enhance the monitoring of children's detention facilities guaranteeing access to independent institutions and civil society organizations, and ensure that all recommendations of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture are carried out;**

(c) **Ensure that peace and security policies, such as the National Strategy on Peace and Security (2018-2024), are evaluated, updated, implemented in full compliance with the Convention and its Protocols;**

(d) **Ensure justice and reparation for children through a demobilization program for recruited adolescents, and guarantee an effective coordination among institutions, as well as provide human, technical, and financial resources for such program.**

Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

32. The Committee regrets the limited information on the implementation of its concluding observations on the report of the State party submitted under article 12 of the Optional Protocol. Recalling its 2019 guidelines on the implementation of the Optional Protocol, and its concluding observations on the initial report of the State party under the Optional Protocol, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Strengthen its efforts to prevent, detect and prosecute all offences under the Optional Protocol;
- (b) Ensure that child victims of offences under the Optional Protocol have access to justice including free legal aid; adequate information in child-friendly language; and special protection in all stages of criminal proceedings;
- (c) Ensure that child victims of offences under the Optional Protocol have access to effective remedies, including compensation, services for rehabilitation and reintegration, and recovery of child's identity;
- (d) Undertake comprehensive research on the nature and extent of the sale, sexual exploitation of child in prostitution and child sexual abuse material, particularly online.

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

Family environment

33. The Committee draws the State party's attention to its Statement on article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that mothers and fathers equally share the responsibility for their children in law and practice;
- (b) Adopt a comprehensive alternative childcare policy that includes mechanisms to prevent family separation.

Children deprived of a family environment

34. Drawing the State party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Phase out institutionalization and adopt, without delay, a strategy and action plan for deinstitutionalization, ensuring that it has adequate human, technical and financial resources for its implementation;
- (b) Ensure the National Program of Foster Families is provided with sufficient human, technical and financial resources, and implemented with adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the needs as well as best interests of the child;
- (c) Ensure sufficient alternative family-based and community-based care options for children who cannot stay with their families, including by allocating sufficient financial resources for foster care and adoption;
- (d) Facilitate the reunification of children with their families whenever possible in accordance with the best interests of the child;
- (e) Establish quality standards for all alternative care settings, 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, monitoring, and remedying maltreatment of children;
- (f) Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to Social Assistance Centers and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children resident therein to the greatest extent possible.

Adoption

35. Taking note of the information provided by the State party on the prohibition of private adoption, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration in the adoption procedures, including for the pre-adoption care, for children of all ages and that the right of adoptive children to know their biological parents is effectively enforced.

F. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

36. Recalling its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and:

(a) Ensure the effective implementation of the National Programme for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, including the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities;

(b) Organize the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, including on those living in institutions, victims of violence and on those without access to education;

(c) Ensure effective and appropriate protection, health care and support, including early detection, and community-based services to children with disabilities;

(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of, and prejudice against, children with disabilities and promote a positive image of children with disabilities as rights-holders.

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

Health and health services

37. Recalling 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) Adopt a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the New Model of Integrated Health Care, and further guarantee universal access of children to quality, affordable and inclusive health services at federal and states level;

(b) Pay particular attention to provide culturally sensitive health services for Indigenous children and those living in remote rural areas;

(c) Ensure the availability of all needed vaccines and the timely vaccination of all children, with priority for children under 5 years of age in order to reduce child mortality by strengthening the National Centre for Child and Adolescent Health, with sufficient human, technical and financial resources;

(d) Urgently accelerate the reduction of chronic malnutrition of children from 0 to 5 years of age;

(e) Effectively implement the measures taken to reduce obesity and overweight in children and strengthen strategies that enable poor households to access healthy food.

Mental health

38. Taking note of the information provided by the State party on the National Commission on Mental Health and Addictions, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national strategy to address mental health, including capacity-

building of mental health specialists, and strengthen existing initiatives, such as the emergency line “*Línea de la Vida*” and the program “*Contacto Joven*”.

Adolescent health

39. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2003) on adolescent health and general comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curriculum and of informal education;

(b) Strengthen the effective implementation of the Second phase of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy, with sufficient human, technical and financial resources based on a targeted budgetary line, and a monitoring and coordination mechanism;

(c) Ensure that all children and adolescents, including those who are out of school, Indigenous children and those living in rural areas, receive confidential, child-friendly, age appropriate and culturally sensitive sexual and reproductive health information and services;

(d) Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances in all states and ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescent girls, making sure that their personal information remains confidential, while their views are always heard and given consideration as a part of the decision-making process;

(e) Strengthen the measures taken to protect children from substance abuse and provide adequate care.

Intersex children

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that intersex children are not subjected to unnecessary medical or surgical treatment, in line with the rights of the child to bodily integrity, autonomy and self-determination;

(b) Provide social, medical, and psychological services, as well as adequate counselling, support, and reparations, to families with intersex children.

H. Standard of living (arts. 18 (3), 26 and 27 (1)–(3))

41. Noting with concern the decreased social spending for children, particularly for the early childhood age group in the period 2018 – 2023 that lead to higher social deprivations, particularly in the Southern states and rural areas, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a universal social protection program including financial transfers to children, and effectively integrate it in the public policies and programs on health, nutrition, education, and childcare;

(b) Adopt complementary measures at the federal, state, and local levels necessary to eradicate the extreme poverty of children by 2030, including by prioritizing the provision of drinking water as well as the accessibility, availability and affordability of food;

(c) Consider scaling up successful programmes such as *Mi Beca para Empezar*, which demonstrate the value of the social protection for children living in multiple deprivation.

I. Children's rights and the environment (arts. 2-3, 6, 12-13, 15, 17, 19, 24, 26-31)**Impact of climate change on the rights of the child**

42. Recalling its general comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that children's views are considered in developing environmental, climate change, disaster risk reduction and crisis management policies and systems;
- (b) Increase children's awareness and preparedness for climate change and natural disasters by incorporating it into the school curriculum and teachers' training programmes;
- (c) Prioritise strengthening the climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructures in schools;
- (d) Ensure children's participation in the implementation of the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution 2022, as well as in the preparation of the next Nationally Determined Contribution, which should include a child right impact assessment.

J. Education, leisure, and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)**Education: aims and coverage**

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Increase the budget allocated to the public education sector to provide education policies and infrastructure, including water and sanitation, with adequate human, technical and financial resources;
- (b) Adopt measures to address the root causes of drop out and to detect at-risk or out-of-school children in order to prevent student drop-out, in particular among children in vulnerable situations;
- (c) Consider reversing the cancellation of the Full Time Schools Program, or strengthen new measures to fully mitigate its negative effects, such as access to adequate food, with school breakfast and other meals, and risks associated to gang violence;
- (d) Adopt a comprehensive policy for school retention and reintegration, including measures to assist pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers so as to continue their education in mainstream schools;
- (e) Maintain and strengthen the National Strategy for Initial Education with sufficient human, technical and financial resources;
- (f) Ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and outcomes of the Benito Juarez Scholarship program.

Quality of education

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Urgently adopt a comprehensive strategy to tackle the structural causes of the low learning outcomes in education;
- (b) Strengthen the quality of education, ensuring the availability of qualified teachers, and ensuring that schools are fully and safely accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure, including access to water and sanitation, and educational technologies;

(c) **Ensure the protection and safety of children at school, notably by ensuring the effective implementation of the 2024 Protocol for the eradication of bullying in basic education.**

Inclusive education

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

(a) **Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive and culturally appropriate education in mainstream schools;**

(b) **Ensure the effective implementation of the 2019 National Strategy on Inclusive Education;**

(c) **Expand and ensure the effective implementation of the Inclusion and Equity in Education programme;**

(d) **Strengthen the program *La Escuela es Nuestra* with a monitoring mechanism to assess its impact, notably on retention, learning outcomes and nutrition.**

Human rights education

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that human rights education and the principles of the Convention are integrated into the mandatory school curriculum in primary, secondary, higher education and vocational training, and in the training of teachers and education professionals, notably through the effective implementation of the Sectoral Education Plan, taking into account the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.**

Rest, play, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities

47. **The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to ensure access of all children to safe playground and outdoor spaces, in particular children in vulnerable situations.**

K. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d), and 38–40 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict)

Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children

48. **The Committee welcomes the legislative reforms to the Migration Law and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum. However, the Committee is deeply concerned about the lack of implementation of these Laws in the context of the increasing number of asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children in the State party, in particular regarding:**

(a) **The lack of alignment between the Migration law and the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents;**

(b) **The limited coordination between consular authorities, migration authorities and the Child Protection Authorities;**

(c) **The lack of disaggregated data on asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children;**

(d) **The persistent practice of detention of migrant children, including unaccompanied or separated children;**

(e) **The lack of capacity to promote and facilitate family reunification;**

(f) **The weak application of the best interests determination procedure;**

(g) **The lack of protection measures for asylum-seeking children.**

49. Recalling the joint general comments No. 3 and No. 4 of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families/No. 22 and No. 23 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017) on the human rights of children in the context of international migration and its General Comment No. 6 (2005) on treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the effective implementation of the legal measures adopted to align the Migration Law and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum with the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents;

(b) Strengthen the capacities and coordination mechanism among the relevant entities, including the National System for Integral Family Development, the National Institute of Migration, the Protection Attorney and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance to ensure that the best interests of children and adolescents are evaluated and remedies are guaranteed on case-by-case basis;

(c) Strengthen coordination between consular authorities, migration authorities and the Child Protection Authorities to guarantee special protection of returned Mexican children from the United States of America;

(d) Ensure the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Care Route for the Rights of Migrant Children and Adolescents;

(e) Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on asylum-seeking and refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children;

(f) End immediately the practice of detention and deprivation of liberty of migrant children and ensure special protection measures instead;

(g) While banning all forms of deprivation of liberty in the context of migration, ensure that all places of accommodation or rescue meet international standards, including with provisions on access to information, translation and interpretation services to ensure understanding by children in their languages, and guarantee their security, health, food, and other rights;

(h) Adopt measures to ensure family tracing for unaccompanied and separated children to promote family reunification;

(i) Guarantee the application of the best interests determination procedure by the Child Protection Authorities to prevent family separation and ensure special protection and restitution of their rights;

(j) Strengthen the mechanism to detect the international protection needs of asylum-seeking children;

(k) Ensure that children have access to confidential, child-friendly complaint mechanisms, including free and appropriate legal aid, for the reporting of cases in children's detention centres and facilities taking care of asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children;

(l) Consider ratifying the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Internally displaced children

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the approval of the draft General Law to Comprehensively Prevent, Address, and Provide Reparations for Internal Forced Displacement and ensure its effective implementation with sufficient human, technical and financial resources and harmonization with relevant legislation;

(b) Ensure the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive response for internally displaced persons, including a national prevention strategy and measures of protection, notably against child labour, and care for internally displaced children.

Indigenous and Afro-Mexican children

51. Recalling its general comment No. 11 (2009) on Indigenous children and their rights under the Convention, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Accelerate the harmonization process of constitutional reform to ensure recognition of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican as rights-holders;
- (b) Put in place measures for early detection and timely interventions in cases of conflict in areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples, through peaceful dispute resolution measures and addressing the root causes of these conflicts;
- (c) Systematically guarantee free, prior and informed participation of Indigenous children before adopting and implementing any legislative or administrative measures that may affect them and provide effective remedies in cases of violation of their rights.

Economic exploitation, including child labour

52. Welcoming the information provided by the State party on the ratification of ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the Intersectoral Commission on the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor to effectively address the magnitude of the phenomenon;
- (b) Strengthen child labour inspection mechanisms conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security with sufficient human, technical and financial resources;
- (c) Take prompt and effective action to ensure that no child engages in activities considered to be the worst forms of child labor, especially in rural areas and in domestic labour, and ensure their reintegration into education and social protection systems;
- (d) Ensure that all safe labour conditions are complied with for adolescents at a legal working age.

Children in street situations

53. Drawing attention to its general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, the Committee recalls its previous concluding observation⁴ and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a comprehensive protection system for children in street situations or at risk which operates at the federal and state levels;
- (b) Conduct regular in-depth studies on the scope and root causes of the phenomenon of children in street situations.

Administration of child justice

54. Recalling its general comment No. 24 (2019) on children's rights in the child justice system, the Committee urges the State party to bring its child justice system fully into line with the Convention and other relevant standards. In particular, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Raise the legal age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age;
- (b) Ensure that free legal assistance, as provided in the state and national laws, is available from an early stage throughout the legal proceedings and in all states;
- (c) Ensure the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act to further expand the use of non-judicial measures, such as diversion and mediation for children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law and, wherever

⁴ CRC/C/MEX/CO/4-5, para. 66.

possible, the use of non-custodial sentences for children, such as probation or community service;

(d) For the few situations where deprivation of liberty is justified as a measure of last resort, ensure that the children are not detained together with adults and that detention conditions are compliant with international standards, including with regard to access to education and health services.

Children in armed conflict including implementation of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict

55. While commending the State party for amending the Rules for the Recruitment of Personnel for the Mexican Army and Air Force to establish the minimum recruitment age at 18 years, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt local strategies to implement the Optional Protocol, including reaching the most at-risk children, and based on an in-depth evidence-based assessment of the structural causes of child recruitment and involvement in armed violence;

(b) Explicitly criminalize in the Federal Penal Code violations of the provisions of the Optional Protocol regarding the recruitment and the use of children in hostilities;

(c) Ensure that children recruited and involved in hostilities are recognized and treated as victims to ensure their protection and their rights, especially girls, in the context of measures taken to ensure public security, as well as protection from armed violence by non-State armed groups.

L. Ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure

56. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on a communications procedure.

M. Ratification of international human rights instruments

57. 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. The Optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the acceptant of article 32 of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances on Interstate Communication Procedure.

N. Cooperation with regional bodies

58. The Committee recommends that the State party cooperate with the Organization of American States (OAS) on the implementation of the Convention and other human rights instruments, both in the State party and in other OAS member States.

IV. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

59. 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 and that a child-friendly version is disseminated to, and made widely accessible for, children, including those in the most disadvantaged situations. The Committee also recommends that the combined sixth and seventh periodic 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

60. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a standing government structure and ensure that it has the mandate and the adequate human, technical and financial resources to effectively coordinate and prepare reports to international and regional human rights mechanisms and to coordinate and track national follow-up to, and implementation of, 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 Commission and civil society.

C. Next report

61. The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the combined eighth to ninth periodic reports of the State party in due course, in line with the envisaged predictable reporting calendar based on an eight-year review cycle and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State party. The report should be in compliance with the Committee's harmonized treaty-specific reporting guidelines⁵ and should not exceed 21,200 words⁶. In the event that a report exceeding the established word limit is submitted, the State party will be asked to shorten the report. If the State party is not in a position to review and resubmit the report, translation thereof for the purposes of consideration by the Committee cannot be guaranteed.

⁵ [CRC/C/58/Rev.3](#).

⁶ General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 16.