United Nations CRC/C/TJK/CO/6-7

Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Tajikistan*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Tajikistan[1] at its 2961st and 2962nd meetings,[2] held on 18 September 2026, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2974th meeting, held on 28 September 2026.

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 issues,[3] 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 high-level and 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, including the banning of corporal punishment in all settings (Act on Responsibility for Child Education and Upbringing, of June 2024), the introduction of compulsory general secondary education (Education Act, as amended in 2024) and the adoption of the Act on Equality and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination in 2022. The Committee also welcomes the adoption of the National Programme on the Protection of Child Rights (2026–2030).

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 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: abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation (para. 20), children deprived of a family environment (para. 27), children with disabilities (para. 29), mental health (para. 32), asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children (para. 43) and administration of child justice (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**

* Adopted by the Committee at its 101st session (1–28 September 2026).

[1] CRC/C/TJK/6-7.

[2] See CRC/C/SR.2961 and CRC/C/SR.2962.

[3] CRC/C/TJK/RQ/6-7.

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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. **While welcoming the adoption of various new laws and amendments and the harmonization of laws with the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Continue its efforts to ensure the full alignment of the various laws on children, including the Children's Rights Act, the Act on Responsibility for Child Education and Upbringing, the Family Code and the Criminal Code, with the Convention;**

(b) **Address gaps in the implementation of legislation, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, and including in respect of children with disabilities and girls.**

Comprehensive policy and strategy

7. **The Committee recommends that the State Party develop a comprehensive national strategy on children's rights that encompasses all areas covered by the Convention and guarantee the human, technical and financial resources necessary for its implementation.**

Coordination

8. **Noting with concern the lack of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the advancement and monitoring of children's rights, the Committee urges the State Party to:**

(a) **Ensure that the Commission on the Rights of the Child under the Government and the division for the protection of the rights of the child in the Executive Office of the President are provided with the human, technical and financial resources necessary for their effective operation;**

(b) **Strengthen resource allocation to, and coordination among, the national commission on child rights, the Ministry of Education and Science and the children's rights commissions at the local level.**

Allocation of resources

9. **While noting that the State Party allocates a significant portion of its budget to social spending, and with reference to its general comment No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights, the Committee recalls its previous recommendations[4] and recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs for children and government spending on children;**

(b) **Develop child rights budgeting with monitoring and evaluation systems for assessing and tracking the impact of resource allocations on children's rights;**

[4] CRC/C/TJK/CO/3-5, para. 8.

(c) **Systematically involve and consult children in budgeting processes, including by ensuring the participation of children in vulnerable situations and non-governmental organizations representing children;**

(d) **Continue to strengthen public financial management systems to better reflect child rights priorities, including by strengthening audits to increase transparency and accountability with regard to public expenditure across all sectors, take immediate measures to combat corruption and strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect, investigate and sanction corruption.**

Data collection

10. **While welcoming the creation of a unified national database on children with disabilities, and recalling its general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Improve its data-collection system and ensure that data collected on children's rights cover all areas of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background, in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability;**

(b) **Strengthen and harmonize inter-agency digital systems to generate, collect and manage disaggregated data on children's rights, including on healthcare, alternative care, violence against children, children with disabilities, stateless children and children in conflict with the law;**

(c) **Ensure that statistical data and indicators on children's rights are regularly published and are accessible, shared and used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention.**

Access to justice and remedy

11. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure that all children have access to: (i) confidential, child-friendly and independent complaint mechanisms in schools, in foster care systems, in alternative care settings and in places of detention for reporting all forms of violence, abuse, discrimination and other violations of their rights; and (ii) legal support and age-appropriate information on access to counselling and remedies, including compensation and rehabilitation;**

(b) **Raise awareness among children of their right to file a complaint through existing mechanisms, such as the Children's Rights Ombudsman;**

(c) **Ensure systematic and mandatory training for all relevant professionals working with children on child-friendly procedures and remedies.**

Independent monitoring

12. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Guarantee the independence of the Children's Rights Ombudsman, including with regard to funding, mandate and immunities, so as to ensure its full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);**

(b) **Ensure a clear, transparent and participatory selection process for the staff of the Children's Rights Ombudsman, based on objective criteria, and encourage children's participation in the work of the Children's Rights Ombudsman.**

Cooperation with civil society

13. **Noting with concern the continued intimidation and closure of civil society organizations, including those working on children's rights, as well as the imprisonment of and threats against civil society representatives, the Committee urges the State Party to:**

(a) **Recognize and support civil society organizations working in the area of children's rights and take specific measures to protect and promote their right to operate without external influence, threats, harassment, pressures leading to self-censorship, or restrictions, building a climate of trust and inclusive cooperation, and respecting the sector's diversity and important role in society;**

(b) **Actively and systematically involve civil society organizations in the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans, programmes, services and legislation related to children's rights.**

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

Non-discrimination

14. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure the compliance of the Equality and Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Act (No. 1890 of 19 July 2022) with article 2 of the Convention, including with regard to the definition of discrimination, and ensure that children are informed about the law and its complaint mechanism;**

(b) **Take measures to end discrimination against children, particularly girls, children with disabilities, children living in poverty and in rural areas, children living with HIV, Mugat, Pamiri and other minority children, migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and other children in vulnerable situations, and ensure that they have access to quality healthcare, education and other essential social services;**

(c) **Address the practice of sex-selective abortion favouring boys.**

Best interests of the child

15. **The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure that the right of children to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to, and have an impact on, children.**

Respect for the views of the child

16. **While welcoming amendments to the Children's Rights Act and to the Family Code, and recalling its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee recommends that the State Party take measures to:**

(a) **Enforce children's right to be heard in legal proceedings that affect them, in accordance with the legislative amendments to the Family Code;**

(b) **Enforce the right of children to express their views and ensure that these are given due weight, including in decision-making processes at home and in schools;**

(c) **Ensure that all professionals working for or with children systematically undergo appropriate training on the right of children to be heard and to have their opinions given due consideration in all issues that affect them.**

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

Birth registration, name and nationality

17. **While welcoming the elimination of all fees and fines for late birth registration, as well as the introduction of digital modules for the registration of births and deaths of children, the Committee notes with concern that many children, including children above the age of 5, still lack birth certificates. Taking note of target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State Party to:**

(a) **Ensure the issuance of free birth certificates for all children born in its territory, immediately after the birth, taking special measures to address unregistered births and the lack of birth certificates, with a particular focus on rural areas, unattended births, Mugat children, parents without identity documents and children born to unmarried parents, and collect the data necessary for monitoring birth registration;**

(b) **Assess the possible negative implications of the pre-approved list of names, which restricts parents' choice of names for their children, and address those implications;**

(c) **Amend national citizenship legislation and strengthen measures to prevent and end statelessness from birth.**

Right to identity

18. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Recognize the right to identity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and put in place measures to ensure respect for the physical and psychological integrity, gender identity and emerging autonomy of all adolescents;**

(b) **Ensure that children who experience bullying, discrimination or harassment in relation to their sexual orientation and gender identity receive protection and support.**

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, sexual abuse and exploitation

19. While taking note of the amendments introduced in 2024 to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, the Committee is seriously concerned about the:

(a) High rates of physical, sexual and emotional violence, including gender-based violence and domestic violence, as well as harmful gender norms and unequal power relations within households;

(b) Limited availability of disaggregated statistics and low level of inter-agency coordination on violence against children, including gender-based violence;

(c) Limited scope and reach of awareness campaigns to address violence against children and encourage reporting;

(d) Lack of special procedures for investigating sexual crimes against children and limited guarantees for the rights and protection of children who have suffered from sexual violence;

(e) Increasing rates of bullying and cyberbullying of children;

(f) Misconception that sexual acts involving force or the threat of force against boys are not rape;

(g) Discriminatory son preference, which can culminate in filicide followed by maternal suicide.

20. **In the light of 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) **Continue to strengthen existing measures and establish a robust legal and institutional framework and a policy and strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children, including by criminalizing them;**

(b) **Address the gender dimension of violence and establish a data-collection system on gender-based violence, in cooperation with civil society and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and undertake a comprehensive assessment of the extent, causes and nature of such violence;**

(c) **Ensure that allegations of crimes related to gender-based violence are independently and thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice;**

(d) **Establish a mechanism with a dedicated mandate to lead and coordinate violence prevention and response efforts across sectors;**

(e) **Continue to strengthen the mechanisms for the early identification of victims, and establish an early warning and case management system;**

(f) **Raise public awareness of the right of children to be protected from all forms of violence and abuse, including from caregivers, and develop campaigns with the involvement of children; and strengthen educational programmes to combat the stigmatization of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse;**

(g) **Ensure the mandatory reporting of all forms of violence against children, identify accessible focal points to receive such reports, including by establishing a single toll-free national helpline or website, and promote awareness among parents, caregivers, professionals and children themselves of the importance of reporting and early intervention in cases of child abuse and violence against children;**

(h) **Ensure accessible, confidential, child-friendly and effective reporting channels for such violations;**

(i) **Ensure that all cases of the abuse of children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, are promptly investigated, applying a child-friendly approach with the aim of avoiding the revictimization of the child, that perpetrators are prosecuted and duly sanctioned and prevented from having contact with children and that reparations are provided to victims, as appropriate;**

(j) **Consider establishing as a standard procedure the admission of audiovisual recordings of statements made by children who are victims, subject to the safeguards of due process, as evidentiary testimony in court with the aim of preserving the evidence and avoiding lengthy and distressing pretrial delays for the children;**

(k) **Encourage community-based and family-based programmes aimed at preventing and tackling domestic violence, child abuse and neglect;**

(l) **Implement the measures necessary to enhance awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation and respond to all manifestations of child sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular online;**

(m) **Criminalize all forced sexual acts against boys as rape;**

(n) **Strengthen measures to prevent filicide and maternal suicide and end violence relating to son preference;**

(o) **Strengthen the training of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, the police and other relevant professional groups on standardized gender- and child-sensitive procedures for dealing with victims and strengthen the enforcement of laws to combat stereotypes, gender-based violence and sexual abuse.**

Corporal punishment

21. **While welcoming improvements to legislation, including the legal prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings introduced in 2024, the Committee is concerned**

about the widespread belief that, to educate a child properly, physical punishment is needed. 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) **Enforce the ban on corporal punishment in all settings, including at home, in schools, childcare institutions and alternative care settings and in the administration of justice, and ensure prompt and systematic investigation of all cases;**

(b) **Promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline;**

(c) **Develop and implement a national-scale and multidisciplinary parenting programme equipping parents and caregivers with skills in positive parent-child interaction and discipline;**

(d) **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for parents and professionals working with and for children to promote attitudinal change, within the family and the community, with regard to corporal punishment.**

Harmful practices

22. **Noting with concern that courts grant exceptions allowing 17-year-olds to marry despite the legal minimum age for marriage being 18 in the State Party, and that child marriage is likely more prevalent than reflected in official administrative statistics, the Committee, recalling 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, recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure the enforcement of a legal marriage age of 18 without exceptions and repeal article 13 (2) of the Family Code;**

(b) **Adopt a national strategy to combat child marriage and develop awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of girls;**

(c) **Establish protection schemes for victims of child marriage;**

(d) **Ensure that no child is exposed and subjected to "healing" or "exorcism" practices intended to suppress or change their sexual orientation or gender identity.**

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

23. **Recalling its general comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Promptly investigate cases of the torture and ill-treatment of children by law enforcement authorities in the course of criminal proceedings and prosecute and duly sanction perpetrators;**

(b) **Expeditiously adapt specialized institutions for children to ensure that they comply with international instruments in the area of eliminating violence against children and the corporal punishment, ill-treatment and torture of children.**

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

24. **The Committee regrets the lack of comprehensive information on the implementation of its concluding observations on the report submitted by the State Party under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol.[5] Recalling its 2019 guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol, and its concluding observations on the report submitted by the State Party under the Optional Protocol, the Committee urges the State Party to effectively implement the existing legislation that protects**

[5] CRC/C/OPSC/TJK/CO/1.

children from the offences covered by the Optional Protocol, as well as to ensure that the national criminal law covers the sale of children, which is similar to but distinct from trafficking, and, in particular, procuring children for sexual exploitation and possessing child sexual abuse material.

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

Family environment

25. **The Committee draws the State Party's attention to its statement on article 5 of the Convention,[6] and recommends that the State Party strengthen its efforts to:**

(a) **Ensure that mothers and fathers share the responsibility for their children equally in accordance with article 18 (1) of the Convention;**

(b) **Consider ratifying the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, the Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations and the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.**

Children deprived of a family environment

26. While welcoming reforms and the recent shift towards family- and community-based alternatives, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The increase in the number of children left behind by parents, the lack of dedicated structures for conducting comprehensive assessments of children at risk of family separation and the insufficient statutory family support mechanisms to prevent such separation and reunite separated children with their biological or extended families;

(b) The absence of non-residential services, which continues to result in the unnecessary entry into residential institutions, especially due to economic hardship, of children in vulnerable situations, such as those in street situations, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law and children without parental care;

(c) The lack of operational mechanisms or by-laws for implementing professional foster care nationwide, the lack of capacity-building structures to equip guardians and adoptive parents with the necessary skills and the lack of social workers at the community level;

(d) The lack of standardized minimum requirements for the operation of residential institutions and limited monitoring and accountability for violence, abuse and neglect within residential childcare institutions.

27. **Drawing the State Party's attention to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Take the measures necessary to implement the National Programme on the Protection of Child Rights (2026–2030) and ensure the implementation of a multidisciplinary parenting programme focused on strengthening parenting skills, with particular attention paid to poor households, single mothers, families with children with disabilities and families of migrant workers and refugees;**

(b) **Ensure that policies and practices are guided by the principle that financial and material poverty are never the sole justification for removing a child from parental care, for placing a child into alternative care or for preventing the family reintegration of a child;**

[6] Available at https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/crc/statements/CRC-Article-5-statement.pdf.

(c) **Strengthen family support to prevent separation and take immediate measures to improve the situation of children left behind by parents, including children born to unmarried parents;**

(d) **Phase out institutionalization and adopt, without delay, a strategy and action plan for deinstitutionalization, ensuring that they are allocated adequate human, technical and financial resources for implementation and include the systemic transformation of the childcare, welfare and protection systems;**

(e) **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, regularly reviewing placement measures and facilitating the reunification of children with their families when it is in their best interests;**

(f) **Ensure adequate safeguards and clear criteria, based on the needs and best interests of the child, for determining whether a child should be placed in alternative care and ensure that, in practice and in all cases, the removal of children from their families is subject to judicial review;**

(g) **While working on deinstitutionalization, establish quality standards for all alternative care settings, ensure periodic review of the placement of children in foster care and institutions, monitor and inspect the quality of care therein, including in unregistered homes and informal family-based alternative care, and provide accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying the maltreatment of children;**

(h) **Ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children in their care;**

(i) **Strengthen the capacity of professionals working with families and children, in particular family judges, law enforcement personnel, social workers and service providers, to ensure family-based alternative care responses and to enhance their awareness of the rights and specific needs of children deprived of a family environment.**

F. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack or limited availability of:

(i) Early detection and intervention services for children with disabilities;

(ii) Mental health support, specialized healthcare, rehabilitation and assistive technologies for children with disabilities;

(iii) Community-based alternatives to institutional care;

(iv) Inclusive infrastructure, trained teachers and accessible learning materials in schools to include children with disabilities;

(v) Information on children with autism spectrum disorder;

(vi) Targeted benefits for children with disabilities;

(vii) Access to inclusive education within mainstream schools;

(b) The predominance of the medical approach to disability;

(c) The widespread stigmatization of and discrimination against children with disabilities;

(d) The Rights and Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2026 giving limited attention to the specific rights and needs of children with disabilities.

29. **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) **Harmonize national legislation with the human rights model of disability, and ensure that the definition of disability is aligned with international human rights law;**

(b) **Take immediate measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to healthcare, including mental healthcare and early detection and intervention programmes, provide adequate training to professionals and ensure that children with disabilities benefit effectively from early development programmes based on scientific knowledge;**

(c) **Take immediate measures to implement the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities;**

(d) **Include autism spectrum disorder in the official list of neurological conditions qualifying for disability status, carry out early screening and diagnosis, address the specific needs of children with autism spectrum disorder and, in particular, ensure that they are fully integrated into all areas of social life, including recreational and cultural activities;**

(e) **Reassess the amount of the targeted social benefit based on the cost of living;**

(f) **Undertake public awareness-raising campaigns, including campaigns aimed at 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) **Give priority to inclusive education over special schooling and day care and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education in mainstream schools, equipping schools with trained teachers, accessible infrastructure, tools for individual support and teaching materials adapted to the needs of children with disabilities;**

(h) **Approve the education code to allow for the integration of more children with disabilities into mainstream educational settings.**

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

Health and healthcare services

30. **While welcoming consistent progress in reducing child mortality, the Committee, recalling its general comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Introduce compulsory health insurance coverage, ensure, in practice, free basic healthcare for all children throughout the country and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for families, particularly in rural areas and for children with chronic illnesses;**

(b) **Ensure access to primary healthcare during childhood and motherhood, including antenatal and neonatal care and immunization, especially in rural areas;**

(c) **Implement and apply the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, paying particular attention to children under the age of 1;**

(d) **Strengthen measures to prevent and treat tuberculosis in children, including drug-resistant tuberculosis, and continue to fight hospital-related infections;**

(e) **Promote exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life, ensure access to breast milk substitutes for HIV-positive mothers and decriminalize breastfeeding by HIV-positive mothers;**

(f) **Fully implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and develop a national programme for the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding through comprehensive campaigns, provide appropriate support to mothers through counselling structures in hospitals, clinics and the community and implement the baby-friendly hospital initiative throughout the country.**

Mental health

31. The Committee is concerned about the neglect of the mental health of children in the State Party, in particular:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive mental health strategy;

(b) The increasing number of suicides among adolescents;

(c) The limited availability of disaggregated data on suicide and suicide attempts, the limited data available on the cause of each suicide and the lack of investigation into suicide cases;

(d) The geographical concentration of mental health services.

32. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Develop a mental health strategy;**

(b) **Allocate sufficient funding to mental health protection and ensure the availability of mental health support services, including mental health centres for adolescent girls, to reduce the very high number of suicide cases;**

(c) **Ensure that all professionals working with children are adequately trained to identify and refer situations involving early suicidal tendencies and mental health problems.**

Adolescent health

33. **Noting with concern the limited access to information on reproductive health, confidential services and sexual health education in the educational system, and recalling its general comments No. 4 (2003) on adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention and No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure, pursuant to Government Decision No. 748 of 28 November 2015, the provision of mandatory sexual and reproductive health education in schools in a child- and adolescent-friendly and age-appropriate manner, with special attention paid to preventing early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections;**

(b) **Ensure that all adolescents, including those who are out of school and those in rural areas, receive confidential and child-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services, including access to contraceptives, safe abortion, maternal healthcare and comprehensive sexual health education;**

(c) **Evaluate the effective implementation of the eight annual hours of sexual and reproductive health education (in the seventh to eleventh grades);**

(d) **Strengthen measures to prevent and reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections and adolescent pregnancy and ensure confidential access to treatment;**

(e) **Develop and implement a policy to protect the rights of pregnant adolescents, adolescent mothers and their children and combat discrimination against them;**

(f) **Address the prevalence of the use by children and adolescents of drugs and other psychoactive substances by providing them with accurate and objective**

information and life skills education on preventing substance abuse, including with regard to vaping, tobacco and alcohol, and develop accessible, specialized and child-friendly drug dependence treatment.

HIV/AIDS

34. **The Committee is concerned about the HIV prevalence among children and recalls its general comment No. 3 (2003) on HIV/AIDS and the rights of the child. The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and implement a road map to ensure the implementation of effective preventive measures, ensuring access to free early testing and treatment;**

(b) **Improve access to and coverage of antiretroviral therapy and prophylaxis for pregnant women living with HIV and improve follow-up care for mothers living with HIV and their infants to ensure early diagnosis and early initiation of treatment;**

(c) **Take effective measures to address HIV infections in the hospital environment and to support children living with HIV/AIDS;**

(d) **Ban the discriminatory requirement to present a negative test for HIV to enrol children in educational institutions.**

Nutrition

35. **The Committee is concerned about the persistence of malnutrition among children in the State Party, including severe wasting among children under six months of age, stunting, obesity and overweight, and recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Systematically collect data on food security and nutrition for children, including those relevant to breastfeeding, overweight and obesity, in order to identify the root causes of child food insecurity and malnutrition;**

(b) **Regularly monitor and assess the effectiveness of policies and programmes on child food security and nutrition, ensuring adequate and healthy nutrition for children in schools and in families on low incomes;**

(c) **Integrate a budget line for nutrition and commit to progressively increasing the financial resources allocated to nutrition programmes;**

(d) **Ensure access to healthy and nutritious food with a view to decreasing the levels of micronutrient deficiency, stunting, obesity and underweight.**

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

36. **While noting progress in reducing poverty, the Committee is concerned about the heavy reliance on remittances from workers abroad, that only around half of the population have access to safely managed water services and that much of the country's water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure is outdated. The Committee recommends that the State Party take measures to:**

(a) **Reduce child poverty in rural areas and expand coverage of social protection systems and family allowances;**

(b) **Establish a comprehensive social protection system;**

(c) **Ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including in schools;**

(d) **Ensure access to water, separate sanitation facilities and menstrual hygiene products for girls in school, particularly in rural areas.**

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

37. **While welcoming the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2019–2034), yet noting with concern the State Party's vulnerability to climate change and frequent natural disasters, the Committee, recalling its general comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change, recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019–2034 with a specific focus on children's needs and protection;**

(b) **Collect data concerning the impact of environmental degradation on children, including data relating to air quality, water and soil contamination, and other climate-related risks;**

(c) **Protect children from natural disasters and prevent deaths of children due to natural disasters;**

(d) **Ensure that children's special vulnerabilities, needs and views are considered in developing policies and programmes to address climate change and disaster risks and that children are properly consulted in both the development and the assessment of such policies and programmes.**

J. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)

Aims and coverage of education

38. **While welcoming amendments to the Education Act, which made the completion of general basic education (nine grades) mandatory and created the obligation to continue education thereafter within the general secondary or vocational education system, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Strengthen measures to reduce school dropouts, particularly among girls, in rural areas and after the ninth grade, and increase the enrolment of refugee and asylum-seeking children in school;**

(b) **Take all measures necessary to end discriminatory practices against Mugat and Pamiri children and ensure that they are provided with the same educational opportunities as other children;**

(c) **Regularly conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of education for girls, dismantling established gender stereotypes in society, and ensure that pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers are supported and assisted in continuing their education in mainstream schools and that menstrual hygiene facilities and separate bathrooms for girls and boys are available in schools.**

Early childhood development

39. **While welcoming the increase in enrolment among children aged 3 to 6 years, the Committee is concerned that the majority of young children still lack access to formal pre-primary education and that there is a persistent shortage of preschool institutions, particularly in rural regions. It recommends that the State Party allocate sufficient financial resources for developing and implementing a national strategy for early childhood development, paying particular attention to ensuring access to preschool education for children living in poverty, children in rural areas and children with disabilities.**

Quality of education

40. **The Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen the quality of education, focusing on student mastery of skills and knowledge, including by:**

(a) **Fully implementing the National Strategy for Education Development up to 2030, including with regard to competency-based education and digital transformation, and increasing budgetary allocations;**

(b) **Updating curricula to be responsive to a rapidly changing world and encourage the direct participation of children in their learning process;**

(c) **Strengthening teacher training, ensuring the availability of qualified teachers and providing high-quality pre-service and in-service training;**

(d) **Ensuring that schools are fully and safely accessible to all and equipped with adequate infrastructure and educational technologies.**

Vocational training and guidance

41. **The Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen vocational education, developing an updated curriculum and increasing incentives and support for girls.**

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

42. The Committee is concerned about the significant rise in the number of cases of arbitrary detention, deportation and expulsion of asylum-seeking and refugee children without due process, legal representation or access to their families, particularly since July 2025.

43. **Recalling 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 the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all decisions and agreements in relation to the transfer of any asylum-seeking or refugee children, including Afghan children, regardless of whether they are accompanied by their families;**

(b) **Stop the immigration-related detention, deportation, mass pushbacks and forced return of children without due process, legal representation or access to their families;**

(c) **Process cases involving unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children in a positive, humane and expeditious manner aimed at identifying durable solutions, in line with article 10 (1) of the Convention;**

(d) **Guarantee respect for family unity in all migration and asylum proceedings, end the detention of families with children and implement non-custodial measures in cases of asylum-seeking and refugee families with children;**

(e) **Facilitate access to the asylum system for children in need of international protection;**

(f) **Ensure the right to freedom of movement and remove the residence restriction imposed on asylum-seekers and refugees, including children;**

(g) **Amend relevant laws, including the Refugees Act and the Act on the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Tajikistan, and by-laws and develop State integration programmes at the local level to ensure that vulnerable refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in practice enjoy basic rights, with an emphasis on social benefits, access to healthcare, primary and secondary education, skills building and employment opportunities;**

(h) **Develop comprehensive referral and case management frameworks for services for unaccompanied and separated children, including in the areas of physical and mental health services, education, policing and justice, including the provision of free legal aid;**

(i) **Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and bring national legislation into line with these international instruments.**

Economic exploitation, including child labour

44. **Welcoming the National Programme to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour for 2024–2028, the Committee is concerned that child labour persists in the country, with a high prevalence in rural areas and in the context of cotton harvesting. With reference to target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, it recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Continue efforts to ensure that child labour is eradicated and strengthen the monitoring of child labour, with a sufficient number of trained inspectors, especially in cotton harvesting;**

(b) **Prohibit and eliminate hazardous labour practices where children are exposed to environmental risk factors, secure the prompt return of affected children to educational settings and ensure their rehabilitation and reparation;**

(c) **Conduct effective, thorough and impartial investigations into all cases of child labour and ensure that perpetrators, including officials, are prosecuted and duly sanctioned and that reparations are provided;**

(d) **Strengthen its efforts to ensure that no child engages in hazardous work and raise public awareness of child labour, its exploitative character and its consequences;**

(e) **Seek technical assistance from the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour of the International Labour Organization in this regard.**

Children in street situations

45. **Noting with concern that, during raids by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, officials continue to arbitrarily detain and place in custody a large number of children in street situations, and drawing attention to its general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Cease police raids in which children in street situations are detained and placed in custody for vagrancy, begging, loitering and informal activities in markets and public spaces;**

(b) **Assess the number of children living and/or working in the streets, and update studies on the root causes of their situations;**

(c) **Adopt a programme aimed at reducing the number of children in street situations, with a focus on supporting and reintegrating them.**

Children belonging to minorities

46. **Noting with concern that Mugat children continue to face difficulties in accessing education and healthcare, as well as discrimination and social exclusion, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Systematically collect and analyse data on the situation of children belonging to minorities, especially Mugat children, and take targeted measures to eliminate barriers to accessing healthcare, education and other social services and to prevent their social exclusion;**

(b) **Ensure sufficient opportunities for children belonging to minorities to be educated in their mother tongues, including through the adequate provision of trained teachers and textbooks in minority languages;**

(c) **Empower, and develop appropriate competencies of, regional and local authorities concerning minority education and support the participation of minorities in the process of policy formulation at the regional and/or local level.**

Trafficking

47. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Take measures to improve the identification of children who are victims of trafficking and to strengthen the prevention and elimination of trafficking in children;**

(b) **Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2025–2027;**

(c) **Investigate all cases of trafficking in children and bring perpetrators to justice;**

(d) **Improve services for children who are victims of trafficking and ensure the effective provision of referral and support services for such children;**

(e) **Conduct awareness-raising activities in order to make both parents and children aware of the dangers of trafficking.**

Administration of child justice

48. Welcoming the progress made in reforming the juvenile justice system, the Committee is seriously concerned about:

(a) The torture and ill-treatment of children by law enforcement authorities during criminal proceedings;

(b) The lack of free and specialized legal aid for children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the criminal law;

(c) The increase in pretrial and post-trial detention, the systematic detention of children for prolonged periods of time and a near total absence of measures aimed at diverting children from the justice system and at implementing non-custodial mechanisms;

(d) The detention of children with adults.

49. **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 international instruments. In particular, the Committee urges the State Party to**:

(a) **Ensure the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Programme for 2023–2027;**

(b) **Expeditiously establish specialized child court facilities and procedures with adequate human, technical and financial resources, designate specialized investigators and judges for children and ensure that they receive appropriate training;**

(c) **Ensure the provision of free and specialized legal aid to children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the criminal law at an early stage of the procedure and throughout the legal proceedings;**

(d) **Actively promote non-judicial measures, such as diversion mechanisms for children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the criminal law, and, wherever possible, the use of non-custodial sentences for children, such as probation or community service, and ensure that healthcare and psychosocial services are provided to such children;**

(e) **Ensure that detention is used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time and is reviewed on a regular basis with a view to the release of the child;**

(f) **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 instruments, including with regard to access to education and health services.**

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

50. **The Committee regrets the lack of information on the implementation of its concluding observations on the State Party's report submitted under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict[7] and recommends that the State Party take measures to:**

(a) **Ensure that students at military schools are not trained in the use of weapons before the age of 18;**

(b) **Explicitly prohibit and criminalize the recruitment of children under the age of 15 in hostilities as a war crime, and explicitly prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children under 18 years of age in hostilities;**

(c) **Ensure that children are not affected by landmines and provide information on the assistance provided to children who are victims;**

(d) **Improve data coordination in relation to families repatriated from conflict zones and establish targeted educational support for the repatriated children.**

L. Ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure

51. **The Committee recommends that the State Party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure.**

M. Ratification of international human rights instruments

52. **The Committee recommends that the State Party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.**

IV. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

53. **The Committee recommends that the State Party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations**

[7] CRC/C/OPAC/TJK/CO/1.

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

54. **The Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen the Government Commission on International Human Rights Obligations and its secretariat and ensure that the Commission 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 effectively. The Committee emphasizes that the Government Commission on International Human Rights Obligations should be adequately and continuously supported by dedicated staff and should have the capacity to consult systematically with the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Tajikistan and civil society.**

C. Next report

55. **The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of the State Party in due course, in line with the envisaged predictable reporting calendar and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State Party. The reports should be in compliance with the Committee's harmonized treaty-specific reporting guidelines[8] and should not exceed 21,200 words.[9] In the event that reports exceeding the established word limit are submitted, the State Party will be asked to shorten the reports. If the State Party is not in a position to review and resubmit the reports, translation thereof for the purposes of consideration by the Committee cannot be guaranteed.**

[8] CRC/C/58/Rev.3.

[9] General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 16.