



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General  
27 May 2022

Original: English

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child Ninetieth session

### Summary record of the 2608th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 19 May 2022, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi (Vice-Chair)

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*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Croatia*

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*In the absence of Ms. Otani, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Consideration of reports of States parties (continued)**

*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Croatia (CRC/C/HRV/5-6; CRC/C/HRV/QPR/5-6)*

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Croatia joined the meeting.*
2. **Ms. Barilić** (Croatia), introducing her country's combined fifth and sixth periodic reports (CRC/C/HRV/5-6), said that Croatia went to great lengths to ensure the physical and mental health and well-being of children, especially those with developmental and behavioural problems and other vulnerable children. A multisectoral action plan for 2022–2026 had been launched to further strengthen the protection and promotion of children's rights, and another action plan for 2021–2027 focused on ensuring equal rights for persons with disabilities. Projects had been developed to improve teachers' understanding of child mental health issues and to raise awareness among adolescents of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The Government had taken action to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on children's education, health and social lives.
3. According to Eurostat, one fifth of all children in Croatia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In response, a series of measures had been introduced, including psychosocial support programmes and a national action plan to combat poverty and social exclusion over the period 2021–2027. Croatia was also participating in the European Child Guarantee programme to combat poverty and inequality among children. A proposed national action plan for implementing the Guarantee would include measures to ensure adequate early child education and care, access to secondary education and educational support services, quality nutrition, health care and social services.
4. Croatia had a policy of zero tolerance for any form of violence, and steps were being taken to combat all forms of discrimination and exploitation. In 2018, an interdepartmental commission had been established under the Protocol on the Treatment of Unaccompanied Children to provide special protection to migrant children. The Government was keen to promote and protect the rights of children from minority communities. A new national plan for the inclusion of Roma had been launched for 2021–2027, and a national strategy for Roma inclusion was already in place. One of the main goals of the strategy was to encourage Roma children to participate at all stages of the education system and to stay in school.
5. **Mr. Mezmur** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that the Committee appreciated the legislative work that had been done to further the implementation of the Convention, but there was some concern that the large number of amendments could have created legal uncertainty. Was that a fair assessment? He also wished to know whether implementing regulations or guidelines for the proper enforcement of the new laws had been adopted. Noting that the constitutionality of the Family Act had been challenged, he wondered whether children had been left unprotected while the case was being heard in court. Various children's rights strategies had expired in 2020. He would be interested to hear whether impact assessments had been conducted before the strategies had been renewed and, if so, what lessons had been learned.
6. He would like to know whether the Children's Council had sufficient authority and funding to perform its role effectively. He would be interested to learn whether any single body had been responsible for coordinating the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports (CRC/C/HRV/CO/3-4). He wondered how the COVID-19 pandemic had altered resource allocation and expenditure for social and other services for children, and whether the reported increase in expenditure had been in nominal terms or in proportion to the number of children in need of assistance.
7. As it appeared that much of the Government's data came from administrative sources, he wondered how the State party supplemented its data to deal with the fact that some children, such as those who did not attend school, might not be covered by those data sources.

He would like to know what progress had been made in discussions on the introduction of indicators of child well-being.

8. He would be interested to hear whether plans to merge the Office of the Ombudsperson with the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children were going ahead and, if so, whether the potential impact of such a merger had been assessed. What impact had Parliament's rejection of the report of the Ombudsperson for Children had?

9. He wished to know how the use of different words for "child" across various pieces of legislation affected their interpretation and implementation. He would be grateful for an indication as to what percentage of applications for exceptions from the minimum age of marriage were granted and whether there were any plans to eliminate such exceptions.

10. **Mr. Chophel** (Country Task Force) said that he wondered what action had been taken by the Government to prevent and address discrimination on the basis of factors such as disability, gender identity or expression, national or ethnic origin, religion and sex. How did the Government ensure meaningful participation of Roma and asylum-seeking children and children in institutional care in matters that affected them? He would appreciate details on the progress made in boosting the school attendance of Roma children.

11. He would be grateful if the delegation could highlight the measures that were being adopted to apply the principle of the best interests of the child in all matters concerning children. He would be interested to learn how the State party monitored the application of that principle and what steps had been taken to build the capacity of professionals working with children for determining the best interests of children in all areas. He would like to know what action had been taken since the 2019 amendment of the Road Traffic Safety Act to improve road safety. Had the number of road traffic accidents and fatalities fallen?

12. Information would be welcome on the measures being taken to ensure the meaningful participation of children, particularly children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, in their communities and schools and in decision-making in all matters that concerned them, including environmental issues. Did they have access to child-friendly information? He would be interested to hear more about measures to strengthen the Network of Young Advisers to the Ombudsperson for Children.

13. He wondered what action the State party had taken to enforce the ban on corporal punishment, to promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and change societal perceptions about the use of verbal and physical abuse as a means of discipline. He would appreciate information on the factors driving the alarming increase in violence against children, as improved reporting mechanisms could offer only a partial explanation. It appeared that a significant majority of perpetrators were family members or persons within the children's circle of trust. He would be interested to learn whether there were any plans to establish a dedicated agency for the protection of children from all forms of violence that could also gather data to inform child safety policies. An overview of the current situation in terms of the risk of child sexual abuse, especially online exploitation, and the measures in place to protect children from such abuse would be helpful. Did the State party regulate Internet service providers to ensure online safety? He wished to know what capacity-building measures were in place to allow law enforcement agencies to deal effectively with child abuse and exploitation, as well as what standards and accountability mechanisms had been established for the prevention of such abuse in the travel and tourism industry.

14. He would welcome further information on arranged and child marriages, particularly in the Roma community, and on the steps taken to address the issue. He wished to know whether the State party intended to put an end to child marriage as part of its commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. It would be useful to have data on irreversible medical procedures, including surgery to treat hypospadias, performed on intersex children, disaggregated by type of intervention and age at intervention. He would like to know what remedies were available to intersex people who had undergone such procedures involuntarily as children.

16. **Ms. Kiladze** (Country Task Force) said that she would appreciate comments on reports that the Act on Croatian Citizenship was implemented in a discriminatory manner

with regard to children from minority groups and that mothers who chose to give birth at home faced difficulties in registering their child's birth. She wished to know whether the State party was considering ratifying the European Convention on Nationality and the Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession.

17. She would be interested to hear the delegation's comments regarding the failure to provide high-quality television programmes for children, especially those with visual or hearing impairments, owing to budget cuts. She was concerned that media literacy courses were not consistently offered at all schools and that key topics such as fake news and hate speech were not covered. She would be grateful for the delegation's response to claims that the media and the Government had failed to follow up on the recommendations of the Ombudsperson for Children to ban pornographic teletext advertising and place stronger restrictions on electronic media advertisements for alcohol, gambling and betting. How was the Government addressing the unauthorized online use of children's photographs and personal information by the media or the children's family members?

18. **Ms. Todorova** (Country Task Force) said that it would be helpful to have an update on the State party's plans to create a pool of specially trained experts to support judges in family law and child protection cases. She also wished to know how the State party planned to reduce delays in processing cases involving children. Information would be appreciated on any plans to develop a comprehensive social service system and on any efforts to move from a project-based approach in service delivery to a centrally funded, policy-based one. It would be helpful for the delegation to identify the entities responsible for providing services and describe the monitoring and funding mechanisms for any non-governmental service providers. She wished to know what types of training and support social workers received.

19. She would be grateful for information on any programmes for teaching parenting skills or providing support to parents involved in bitter divorce proceedings and facilitating contact between the child and both parents after the proceedings had concluded. It would also be helpful to know how the State party ensured that children in its care continued to have contact with their parents. She wished to learn about legislative or policy measures, such as those relating to parental leave or child support, that encouraged fathers to assume their parental role. She wished to learn about the support provided to children with incarcerated parents and their caregivers.

20. She would appreciate an update on the deinstitutionalization process begun by the State party. She wished to know whether social welfare centres handled child protection cases, how the Government identified cases where child protection services were needed, how decisions regarding a child's separation from his or her family were made and who was responsible for case management. She wished to find out more about the recent increase in the number of children placed in care; the length of placements; the transfers of children, including children with disabilities, between institutions; the mechanisms for monitoring institutional placements; and the support given to care leavers. Information about any plans to develop the foster care system or to expedite the adoption process would be welcome.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.05 p.m.*

21. **Ms. Barilić** (Croatia) said that the Government frequently amended regulations either to harmonize them with European Union law or to incorporate improvements identified through its monitoring of the effectiveness of existing regulations.

22. **Ms. Bičanić Šlogar** (Croatia) said that the incorporation into domestic law of European Union Directive 2016/800, on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, had provided additional rights to juveniles in conflict with the law. Those minors could now designate a contact person and choose whom they wanted to accompany them during the proceedings. Measures had also been introduced to help minors understand the proceedings more fully.

23. The Protection against Domestic Violence Act had stiffened the penalties for domestic violence and provided for the collection of data on domestic violence and violence against children. Under the ordinance on data collection and reporting, all institutions involved in handling cases of domestic violence were required to keep records of any action that they

took in connection with those cases. The records must indicate the sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between the two. The data for a given year had to be submitted to a central government office by March of the following year in both hard copy and electronic format using a form that was set out in the ordinance. A monitoring committee reviewed the proceedings and sanctions and then submitted a report to the Ministry of Justice, which was posted on the Ministry's website in June.

24. **Ms. Kregar Orešković** (Croatia) said that extensive research had been conducted in connection with the implementation of the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma. The data yielded by that research, which had covered over 4,500 households and over 350 variables, including those related to poverty, would be used to formulate subsequent measures for the inclusion of Roma adults and children. A new plan for promoting their inclusion had been developed following consultations with over 5,000 people, some 4,000 of whom were Roma.

25. **Ms. Koren** (Croatia) said that the social programmes and services provided for under the Government's strategic plans were funded from both national and European Union resources, and evaluations of those programmes were planned. Support for certain programmes also came from the World Bank.

26. **Ms. Barilić** (Croatia) said that the Children's Council, which had been operating since 1998, included representatives of regional and local authorities, civil society and the National Student Council. The number of children on the Council would be increased under the 2022–2026 National Plan for the Rights of the Child. The Council's activities – which included monitoring the implementation of the Convention and relevant regulations, making recommendations on funding for children's programmes and reviewing children's programmes in other European Union member States – would be coordinated with the activities of government agencies.

27. Children had many opportunities to participate locally, regionally and nationally. Institutions such as children's forums had contributed to an increase in participation by both children and parents in their local communities. From the age of 15, children could participate in Youth Advisory Boards, where they could take part in decision-making on issues affecting young people.

28. **Ms. Koren** (Croatia) said that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, government agencies working with children had been able to reallocate their budgets to fund necessary measures such as the purchase of personal protective equipment for the children and families whom they served. An additional €10 million in funding had been provided to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. The Government had set up a committee to provide support to social welfare service providers and had created a dedicated email address and a telephone hotline to receive queries from service providers and other stakeholders. A clear crisis management strategy had been put in place by February 2020.

29. **Ms. Sarta** (Croatia) said that there were no plans to merge the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children with the offices of other ombudspersons, such as those focusing on gender equality and persons with disabilities. The ombudspersons kept abreast of changes in relevant regulations and international instruments and monitored measures for promoting the applicable rights. The ombudspersons received instructions from no one and at all times had access to the information they needed. The legislature appointed the ombudspersons in accordance with the pertinent national and international regulations. Debates in the legislature were televised.

30. **Ms. Koren** (Croatia) said that the Government was using data that it collected and data from publicly available surveys to map the distribution of poverty and social exclusion at the local level.

31. **Ms. Bičanić Šlogar** (Croatia) said that the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Juvenile Courts Act defined a child as a person under 18 years of age. With respect to the safeguards in place for young people accused of having committed an offence, a distinction was made in the law between persons who had been between 18 and 20 years of age at the time the offence had been committed and those who had been between 14 and 18 years of age at the time of the offence. If a person turned 18 during the course of the

criminal proceedings, he or she would continue to benefit from the legal provisions for minors.

32. **Ms. Barilić** (Croatia) said that the minimum age for marriage was 18 years. An exception could be made if a person was over the age of 16 years and had the authorization of a court. The court must establish that the person had a sufficient level of mental maturity to enter into marriage and was required to take into account the opinion of the corresponding social welfare centre.

33. **Ms. Bičanić Šlogar** (Croatia) said that the court must also establish whether there were justified reasons for a person aged 16 or 17 years to marry. The person in question must submit a request to the court stating his or her reasons for wanting to marry and provide a psychological and physical health certificate. The court would hear from the parents of the person and from the prospective spouse.

34. **Ms. Kregar Orešković** (Croatia) said that, within the Roma community, couples often cohabited without entering into a legal marriage. Early marriages were therefore hard to track. However, the available data showed that approximately 50 per cent of Roma girls in Croatia gave birth to their first child while under the age of 18 years. The new National Strategy for Roma Inclusion therefore included a campaign to raise awareness about reproductive health and discourage cohabitation among minors. That nationwide campaign would be implemented alongside activities at the local level. Campaigns would also be conducted to encourage Roma girls to continue their education and to change the attitudes of members of the Roma community in that respect. Efforts to carry out research on underage pregnancy and child marriage in the Roma community had not been successful because they were taboo subjects. However, it was hoped that if researchers remained in the field for longer periods, they could build trust within the community so that the necessary data could be compiled.

35. A total of 17 bases for discrimination were prohibited by law. In addition, 22 minority groups benefited from special protections. Legal frameworks dealing with discrimination were supplemented by other laws, including the Criminal Code. The Government had recently drafted two new operative documents for the protection and promotion of human rights and the prevention of discrimination.

36. Campaigns had been launched to address the disparities in educational achievement between Roma and non-Roma children by working with children and parents to raise their awareness of the importance of education. Those initiatives encouraged Roma parents to enrol their children in kindergarten; they also focused on improving the educational attainment of Roma children at the high school level. Over 60 per cent of Roma children were not in education, employment or training courses. The Government also carried out campaigns to promote education in the developing world.

37. **Ms. Čukelj** (Croatia) said that the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the national education plan that was being formulated would serve as important strategic documents underpinning the Government's efforts to combat discrimination in education and reduce disparities between different population groups. The Preschool Education Act and other laws were being amended with a view to ensuring equal opportunities for all children. The length of the preschool programme had been increased to two years to provide greater opportunities for inclusion.

38. Children who arrived in the country and did not speak Croatian were immediately enrolled in language classes so that they could participate in the national education system. Children with developmental difficulties were entitled to support from a range of experts starting from their very first day in school. Those children attended mainstream schools if they were able to follow the lessons. If they were not able to keep up, they attended special classes, which were often located in mainstream schools.

39. **Ms. Barilić** (Croatia) said that all legal strategies related to children emphasized the principle of the best interests of the child. In legal proceedings, children up to the age of 14

years were assisted by a specialized professional to ensure that their opinion was taken into account.

40. **Ms. Crnoja-Bartolić** (Croatia) said that standardized mechanisms were in place for determining a child's best interests. Professionals who worked with children, including police officers, received annual training in assessing children's best interests in various situations, including violent ones. Training was also provided on child protection.

41. **Ms. Bičanić Šlogar** (Croatia) said that judicial reforms had made it possible to establish court departments that specialized in family issues. Those departments were located in municipal courts, and a new court had recently been established in Zagreb. Judges had to undergo specialized training to work in those courts.

42. **Ms. Matijević** (Croatia) said that a national road safety plan to be implemented over the period from 2021 to 2030 had achieved a reduction in road accident casualties among children.

43. The Government closely monitored the causes of deaths among children at the national level and took immediate preventive action where possible. For example, a campaign had swiftly been carried out in response to an increase in fatal incidents caused by children being left unattended in parked cars during the summer months. Suicide prevention was a priority. The Government collaborated with civil society organizations to establish effective prevention mechanisms. A national awareness-raising campaign had been launched about the risks of agricultural work for children.

44. **Ms. Crnoja-Bartolić** (Croatia) said that the Government took a zero-tolerance approach to corporal punishment. There had been a large number of cases involving child victims of domestic violence, and an exhaustive national campaign to combat domestic violence had been carried out. In 2023, the regional family centres and social welfare centres, which contributed to such efforts, would become independent institutions. Programmes were in place to support positive education in kindergartens, and the Government was working with civil society organizations on initiatives such as the Growing Up Together workshops in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). European Union funding had been provided for many such initiatives.

45. **Ms. Čukelj** (Croatia) said that there were protocols for preschools to follow in establishing the facts and circumstances surrounding any violent incident and for providing support to children and their parents to prevent further violence.

46. **Ms. Matijević** (Croatia) said that ending child abuse was a priority. The number of cases of child endangerment had increased significantly, which indicated that the identification of victims had improved. The Ministry of the Interior had 11 nationwide preventive programmes, including the "Behind Closed Doors" campaign that had been conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. An online "Red Button" application had been introduced to make it easier for people to report violence against children. Over 500 reports had been received in 2021.

47. Any sort of sexual abuse of children was a criminal offence. The Government had detailed data on all reported incidents, including the age and gender of the child, the type of offence, where it took place and the child's relationship to the perpetrator. Police officers received training in meeting the high standards for the burden of proof in sexual abuse cases. Workshops were held twice a year where participants could exchange information about missing children and on IP addresses from which sexually explicit content had been distributed. Such information-sharing had enabled the police to identify numerous victims and perpetrators of child sexual abuse. Her Government participated in European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) child protection projects.

48. Some cases of sex tourism had been identified, including ones involving tourists who had travelled to Croatia in order to take pictures and videos of children on its beaches. Hospitality and tourism workers had been trained to spot such behaviour and report it to the police, who had also received relevant training.

49. Any violation of children's privacy was liable to prosecution. All police and judicial proceedings involving children, either as victims or as witnesses, were confidential. Pursuant

to the Electronic Media Act, the exposure of children to harmful, sexually explicit or discriminatory media content was punishable by a fine. The Council for Electronic Media had issued recommendations for protecting children and on the safe use of electronic media. There was no statute of limitations for offences involving the sexual exploitation of children.

50. **Ms. Krištić** (Croatia) said that gender reassignment surgery was contingent upon the results of a psychological assessment, among other requirements.

51. Home births could be registered by the father, mother, doctor or anyone else present during the delivery. Children born or found in Croatia acquired citizenship if both parents were unknown, if their citizenship could not be established or if it was determined that the parents were stateless. The use of electronic birth registration procedures was not mandatory but was instead meant to facilitate the registration of children born at home. An acknowledgement of paternity could also be registered electronically. Registration was free of charge.

52. **Ms. Matijević** (Croatia) said that Croatia had acceded to all instruments ratified by the former Yugoslavia.

53. **Ms. Bičanić Šlogar** (Croatia) said that clear procedures were in place to deal with any problems with the proper administration of juvenile justice. There was a legal obligation to ensure speedy trials in cases involving children; judges failing to abide by that rule were subject to disciplinary measures or sanctions. As of 1 January 2023, all child welfare services would be brought under one office in order to address uneven service delivery and performance.

54. **Ms. Koren** (Croatia) said that some child welfare services were delegated to civil society organizations. Compliance with quality standards was closely monitored, and civil society organizations were required to submit reports on the services they provided. State-funded projects were subject to close scrutiny, including financial scrutiny, and professionals working with children were required to submit a certificate of good conduct.

55. **Ms. Čukelj** (Croatia) said that children whose lives or welfare were endangered by their families were placed in safe homes. Legislation was currently being developed to set quality standards for alternative care arrangements. Deinstitutionalization was progressing, and new care facilities were being built.

56. **Mr. Mezmur** said that he wished to know how many children with disabilities were currently living in institutions, why the deinstitutionalization process was progressing quite slowly and what measures were envisaged to address obstacles to that process. Information would be appreciated on how the State party intended to remove access barriers to health care and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities residing in rural areas and on the islands. Would the State party agree that there was a need to improve cooperation between sectors providing services for children with disabilities in areas such as health, education, and social welfare?

57. It would be useful to know whether the State party had considered a moratorium on new institutional admissions of children with disabilities. Information on trends in child abandonment, especially in regard to children with disabilities, and progress in addressing that problem would be appreciated.

58. The Committee would be grateful for updated information on preschool enrolment and for any insights regarding the barriers to further expansion of preschool coverage. It would also be helpful to find out how the State party planned to tackle the problem posed by uneven levels of local government investment in preschool education. Information would be welcome on methods that had been found to be effective in curbing high dropout rates among Roma pupils and on recent curricular modifications. What measures had been taken to close learning gaps arising from pandemic-related school closures and ensure equal access to online teaching formats, including for children with disabilities?

59. **Ms. Kiladze** said that she would be grateful for information on the steps taken to improve maternity care services and to address the underfunding of outpatient palliative paediatric care. She would also welcome information on measures taken to counter the upward trend in caesarean section operations and growing vaccine hesitancy among parents



and to increase the availability of specialized outpatient health care for socially and economically disadvantaged children. The State party might also wish to describe its efforts to monitor and promote breastfeeding and to address childhood obesity and poor nutritional habits.

60. It would be helpful to learn how children were guaranteed access to mental health services, given that parental consent was required. Additional information was needed on the measures taken to close gaps in adolescent health care and on the steps taken to address the impact of climate change on children's enjoyment of their rights.

61. She would welcome updated information on child poverty and the steps taken to combat the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child social protection. It was unclear what measures were envisaged to improve access to decent housing, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and environmental protection. She wondered whether the State party had any plans to expand social services designed to improve educational outcomes for poor children.

62. The Committee would be grateful for information on mechanisms for the early identification of asylum-seeking children from conflict areas. It would be useful to know whether those children were given appropriate support for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration. Did the State party provide training for its military personnel involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations on the rights of children in armed conflict?

63. **Ms. Tedorova** said that she would like to learn more about the State party's procedures for registering and tracking unaccompanied children. She would also welcome information on the number of unaccompanied children currently entering the country and on the State party's policy on accommodations for them. Additional information was needed on guardianship practices and on efforts to improve them.

64. She wished to know whether the State party had investigated the unlawful returns of persons potentially in need of international protection and the excessive use of force in that context that had occurred in 2016. Had the child victims of those practices been provided with remedies? It would also be useful to hear the delegation's views on reports that asylum procedures were not always carried out in accordance with the applicable regulations, that legal assistance was not made available at all stages of asylum proceedings and that unaccompanied minors were routinely denied international protection. She wished to know whether access to foster care, education and health services for asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children had been improved, whether there was a complaints mechanism accessible to those children and, if so, how many complaints had been received.

65. It would be interesting to learn more about the role of youth councils in the administration of juvenile justice and about measures taken to address delays in criminal cases involving children, insufficient training of judicial personnel and the practice of interviewing child victims multiple times. She wondered whether judges had an obligation to monitor conditions in juvenile detention centres and whether they did so in practice. She wished to know whether the correctional facilities for children provided for in the Juvenile Courts Act had actually been established, what type of non-custodial and restorative measures were available, how often they were implemented and what safeguards were in place to ensure that children's procedural rights were respected. Additional information was also needed on the measures taken to strengthen support services for child victims and witnesses and to rectify shortcomings in the system for protecting children from trafficking.

66. **Mr. Chophel** said that clarification on the current situation of child marriage and sexual exploitation of children would be appreciated. The delegation might wish to elaborate on the relationship between the so-called "Roma customs" of arranged marriages and trafficking.

67. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he wished to know where and how interviews of child victims of sexual abuse were conducted. It would also be useful to know whether testimony given by children was video recorded or whether they had to appear in court. He wondered whether child victims were routinely offered trauma-focused therapy and, if so, which agency provided those services.

68. **Ms. Aho** asked what programmes were available for young people suffering from drug addiction or alcoholism and what preventive measures were in place.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*