

**AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CAHENF)**

*Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.*

**Type of committee:** Ad hoc Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019**

<b>PILLAR/SECTOR/PROGRAMME</b>
<p><b>Pillar:</b> Human Rights  <b>Sector:</b> Promoting Human Rights and Dignity  <b>Programme:</b> Children's Rights</p>
<b>MAIN TASKS</b>
<p>Under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers, the CAHENF will guide the intergovernmental work in the field of the rights of the child. In particular, the CAHENF will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021);</li> <li>(ii) ensure that the rights of the child are mainstreamed into all relevant Council of Europe committees and bodies and support member States in mainstreaming children's rights;</li> <li>(iii) facilitate regular exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experiences among member States in the areas covered by the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (e.g. through thematic factsheets and handbooks);</li> <li>(iv) provide expertise to member States on the development of legislation, policies, practice, training schemes and awareness raising material to support implementation of international standards including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Council of Europe standards related to the rights of the child at national level, as well as of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development to reach children's rights-related targets;</li> <li>(v) advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on appropriate action to be taken and provide advice as requested;</li> <li>(vi) advise on the priority areas for the development of co-operation activities in the area of the rights of the child;</li> <li>(vii) without prejudice to the mandates of intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe that already follow the work of monitoring mechanisms, follow the activities of the relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms, in particular the Lanzarote Committee;<sup>1</sup></li> <li>(viii) take due account of a gender perspective and to building cohesive societies in the performance of its tasks;</li> <li>(ix) review the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers' recommendations;</li> <li>(x) ensure co-operation and synergies with relevant UN bodies, notably the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as with the European Union and other relevant international organisations and civil society;</li> <li>(xi) promote the visibility of the Council of Europe's standards at international level;</li> <li>(xii) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,<sup>2</sup> in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers.</li> </ul>
<b>SPECIFIC TASKS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Update the action plan for the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child and performance indicators for evaluation.</li> <li>(ii) Undertake the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy implementation in 2019, including through the organisation of a Mid Term Review Conference and adjust the Strategy if necessary.</li> <li>(iii) Contribute to the Action plan on protecting refugee and migrant children in Europe, in particular by preparing guidelines regarding guardianship and age assessment, and following adoption, identifying follow-up activities where appropriate; as well as by reviewing Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors.</li> <li>(iv) Enhance the implementation of the international and Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence in member States, in particular through the promotion of the Council of Europe Policy Guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence and the European Day on the</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, T-ES.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in CM(2017)132.

Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November).

- (v) Conduct needs' assessments and advice on the development of standards in the area of the rights of the child, with a particular focus on child budgeting and child impact assessments.
- (vi) Support member States in strengthening child friendly services, in particular justice, social and health services.
- (vii) Undertake practical steps to ensure effective participation of children in decision making both at the level of the Organisation and at the level of member States.

## COMPOSITION

### Members:

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representative of the highest possible rank, with wide expertise and high responsibilities in the field of children's rights.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair). Member States may send other representatives without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

### Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union: one or more representatives, including the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- other international organisations including: United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR); World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (UN SRSG VAC), United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

### Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Belarus;
- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- Eurochild;
- European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC);
- Defence for Children International;
- Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children;
- Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile justice (IPJJ);
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT international);
- Save the Children;
- SOS Children's Villages;
- Missing Children Europe;
- Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE);
- International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates;
- World Vision International;
- other civil society and representatives of professional communities, as appropriate.

## **WORKING METHODS**

### **Meetings:**

48 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 3 days

48 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 3 days

### **Additional working methods:**

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.