Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)

List of decisions

6th meeting
Strasbourg, 21-22 May 2019
Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Room 8

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division
Directorate of Anti-Discrimination
# LIST OF DECISIONS

## I. Opening

The 6th plenary meeting of the CAHENF in Strasbourg from 21 to 22 May 2019 was chaired and opened by Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece). The agenda and the list of participants are appended to the list of decisions.

## II. Decisions

The CAHENF:

### Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and order of business

- adopted the draft agenda and order of business, as they appear in documents CAHENF(2019)OJ1 / CAHENF(2019)OJANN1;
- welcomed and heard the presentations by the new members who had joined the CAHENF since the last meeting (Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Poland, Spain).

### Agenda item 3: Information by the Chair and Secretariat

#### 3.1 Election of the position of Vice-chairperson and Bureau member

- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the procedure for electing a Bureau member and a Vice-Chairperson, following the departure of Ms Satu Sistonen (Finland) and thanked Ms Sistonen for her work and contribution to the work of the Committee;
- elected Mr Eduard Israyelyan (Armenia) as Vice-Chair, and Ms Odete Severino (Portugal) as Bureau member.

#### 3.2 Information on developments since the last Plenary meeting

- took note of the recently adopted decisions in the Ministerial session in Helsinki (16-17 May) and the proposals by the Secretary General regarding intergovernmental work, and any relevant implications for the work of the CAHENF;
- welcomed the priority focus of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (May to November 2019) on the rights of the child;
- took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the current budgetary situation of the Council of Europe;
- took note of developments presented by the Secretariat on work carried out since the last meeting and relevant events;
- considered PACE Recommendation 2156(2019) on Anonymous donation of sperm and oocytes: balancing the rights of parents, donors and children, with a view to preparing a comment for the Committee of Ministers by 6 June; agreed that any further comments should be submitted by 23 May, and decided to entrust the Bureau and the Secretariat to prepare a draft opinion and circulate for adoption by expedited procedure through electronic communication for communication to the Committee of Ministers.
Agenda item 4: Elaboration of guidelines: Final examination of the Draft Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Human Rights Principles and Implementing Guidelines on age assessment for children in migration (for approval before communication)

4.1. Report on consultations with unaccompanied children on the topic of age assessment

- took note of the outcomes of the consultations with children and young persons subject to age assessment aimed at supporting the drafting process of the CAHENF and heard a presentation on the process and findings in Portugal (Comissão Nacional de Promoção dos Direitos e Proteção das Crianças e Jovens).

4.2. Outcome of final consultations on the draft Recommendation: Secretariat paper on outstanding issues and proposed revisions

- started the examination of the draft Recommendation CM/REC(2019)x of the Committee of Ministers to member states on Human Rights Principles and Guidelines on age assessment for children in the context of migration, together with the draft revisions proposed to take into account the views of children;
- approved the text of the draft recommendation, and discussed and completed the examination of the appendix (up to Principle 2), as amended;
- took note of the positions and reservations expressed by Germany and Denmark at this stage, and agreed to reflect those in the meeting report;
- took note that a revised draft explanatory memorandum would also be circulated for comments following the finalisation of the consultation process on the draft text;
- agreed to hold a last round of consultations in June 2019 on the appendix (principles 2-9 only) and decided to entrust the Secretariat and the Bureau members to finalise a revised version of the appendix for approval through an online procedure in July 2019, in order to be able to communicate the draft recommendation to the Committee of Ministers for consideration; unless any major outstanding issues would require pursuing the examination of the revisions in November 2019.

Agenda item 5: CAHENF’s contribution to the Action plan on protecting refugee and migrant children in Europe

5.1. Review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors: update on progress and follow-up required

- took note of the information provided on the state of progress of the review of the Recommendation and also of the proposals made to complement the information received through a review of other relevant sources and, subject to funding available, of a thematic visit to examine policy options and proposals to be made for follow-up;
- taking into account the limited responses received, invited delegations which had not yet responded to do so by 30 June 2019
- agreed to examine and adopt a final report at its next plenary meeting in November 2019.

Agenda item 6: Mid-term evaluation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)

6.1. Update by the Secretariat on the outcome of the main survey launched for the mid-term evaluation and the state of play of the survey amongst partner organisations

- took note with interest of the update provided on the outcomes and state of play of the main survey, including with regard to responses received and further responses awaited from partner organisations;
- took note of the fact that further responses to the survey circulated to CAHENF could be provided to the Secretariat by 17 June 2019 at the latest.
6.2. Preliminary findings of the draft report on the implementation of the Strategy: exchange of views on progress and outstanding challenges under each priority area and follow-up required by CAHENF

- took note with interest of the overview of preliminary findings and the proposed format and timeline for finalising the report on the implementation of the Strategy;
- provided comments on the preliminary findings, format and calendar for the publication of the report.

6.3. Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy (as of April 2019)

- examined and endorsed the updated Action plan;
- invited delegations to communicate to the Secretariat possible topics to be highlighted in the thematic section of the Second implementation report, which is planned to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers in October 2019.

6.4. Organisation of the Mid Term Evaluation Conference (13-14 November 2019): draft programme and update on state of preparations, including child participation

- took note with interest of the information provided by the Secretariat, on the state of play of the organisation and format of the upcoming Mid-term evaluation conference on the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) (Strasbourg 13 to 14 November) and welcomed the suggestions for topics which could be considered as well as possible new communication tools facilitating interactive exchange between participants at the Conference;
- took note of the dates of its next plenary meeting (12 November and 14 November (afternoon only));
- welcomed the approach proposed for the agenda of the conference and the suggestion of elaborating a declaration on challenges and strategic priorities for action, also in the context of follow-up to be given to the conference and CAHENF’s role in this context.

Agenda item 7: Priority area 2 - Participation of children

7.1. Implementation of the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT): update by delegations

- took note with interest of the state of play of the current work cycle III of the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT) in which the tool is used by Malta, Finland and Slovenia, and heard the oral report by one of the international consultants involved in the process and the reports of national delegations.

7.2. Update on relevant activities and events on child participation

- noted with interest information provided on the child-friendly DOSTA! Campaign materials prepared in the framework of the Strategy.

Agenda item 8: Priority area 3 - Implementation of the international and Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence in member states

8.1. Oral update on CAHENF-VAC’s work and outcomes of the meeting held on 13-14 May 2019

- took note with interest of the information on the results of the recent CAHENF-VAC meeting, including the work undertaken with a view to setting up a clearinghouse on responses to violence against children (“VAC clearinghouse”).
### 8.2. Draft report “A life free from violence for all children”: exchange of views

- took note with interest of the preliminary findings of the VAC survey, taking stock of actions with regard to the implementation of integrated national strategies and action taken against violence encountered by children in specific settings (home, school and alternative care);
- agreed to the proposal, put forward by the CAHENF-VAC of preparing a comprehensive report on responses to violence against children;
- discussed and endorsed the themes identified by the CAHENF-VAC as requiring further priority action by the Council of Europe.

### 8.3. European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: 2019 edition

- took note of the information provided on the 2019 edition of the European Day (this year topic: “Empowering children to stop sexual violence”) and the invitation conveyed to national governments to contribute to the event.

### Agenda item 9: Priority area 5 - Children’s rights in the digital environment

#### 9.1. Draft Handbook for policy makers

- took note of the current state of preparation and calendar foreseen for the finalisation of the Handbook for policy makers on “The rights of the child in the digital environment”, to support the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment;
- invited the thematic rapporteur on the implementation of CM/Rec(2018)7 to review the current draft and thanked the delegations of Belgium and the Netherlands for volunteering to act as additional reviewers;
- noted that the reviewers’ contributions and any further comment on the current draft should be communicated to the Secretariat by 17 June 2019.

#### 9.2. The experiences of children with disabilities in the digital environment: presentation of findings

- took note with interest, and discussed the findings of the report prepared with the participation of children with disabilities and agreed on the publication of the report;
- instructed the Bureau to report back to the Committee with suggestions for further action.

#### 9.3. Activities proposed to follow up and support implementation of CM/Rec(2018)7

- took note of the work undertaken to support the implementation of CM/Rec(2018)7 and the development of a child-friendly version of the recommendation;
- agreed to consider a joint action with the Convention 108 Committee (T-PD) and invited the Chair to discuss this possibility with the T-PD at their next meeting (13-14 June 2019) and invited the Secretariat to report back to the CAHENF on the outcomes of the meeting and modalities for implementation;
- invited the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated plan for follow-up activities to be examined at the 7th plenary meeting in November 2019.
Agenda item 10: CAHENF’s implementation of the workplan in 2019 and discussion of priorities

10.1. Draft workplan for 2019 (update as of April 2019)
- took note of the updated work plan prepared by the Secretariat.

10.2. Discussion on priorities for CAHENF’s thematic focus (2020-2021)
- discussed the proposal of priorities and activities prepared by the Secretariat and endorsed the draft terms of reference for the upcoming biennium (2020-2021).

10.3. Relevant Council of Europe actions and activities and possible contributions or follow-up by the CAHENF, including participation of CAHENF representatives in other events
- took note of the list of Council of Europe events in 2019 that are relevant for the CAHENF.

Agenda item 11: Thematic exchange: child impact assessments
- postponed holding the thematic exchange to the next plenary meeting.

Agenda item 12: Gender equality and children’s rights: examination of a proposal for the development of policy briefs on selected topical aspects
- considered the proposal to develop topical policy briefs on the rights of the child and gender issues and decided to re-examine the proposal at a further meeting.

Agenda item 13: Information on relevant initiatives, cooperation activities and projects at European and international level in the area of the rights of the child
- took note with interest the information provided by members, other bodies and organisations on work in the area of the rights of the child.

Agenda item 14: Co-operation activities and projects by the Council of Europe
- postponed this agenda item to a further meeting.

Agenda item 15: Any other business
- noted that the website (public and restricted) of the CAHENF will be revisited before the next meeting.

Agenda item 16: Adoption of the list of decisions and close of the meeting
- considered the draft list of decisions and adopted it before closing the meeting.
APPENDIX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting at 9.15
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business
3. Information by the Chair and Secretariat
   4.1. Report on consultations with unaccompanied children on the topic of age assessment
   4.2. Outcome of final consultations on the draft Recommendation: Secretariat paper on outstanding issues and proposed revisions
5. CAHENF’s contribution to the Action plan on protecting refugee and migrant children in Europe
   5.1. Review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors: update on progress and follow up required
   6.1. Update by the Secretariat on the outcome of the main survey launched for the mid-term evaluation and the state of play of the survey amongst partner organisations
   6.2. Preliminary findings of the draft report on the implementation of the Strategy: exchange of views on progress and outstanding challenges under each priority area and follow-up required by CAHENF
   6.3. Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy (as of April 2019)
   6.4. Organisation of the High-Level Mid Term Evaluation Conference (13-14 November 2019): draft programme and update on state of preparations, including child participation
7. Priority area 2: Participation of all children
   7.1. Implementation of the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT): update by delegations
   7.2. Update on relevant activities and events on child participation
8. Priority area 3: Implementation of the international and Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence in member states
   8.1. Oral update on CAHENF-VAC’s work and outcomes of the meeting held on 13-14 May 2019
   8.2. Draft report “A life free from violence for all children”: exchange of views
9. Priority area 5: Children’s rights in the digital environment
   9.1. Draft Handbook for policy makers
   9.2. The experiences of children with disabilities in the digital environment: presentation of findings
   9.3. Activities proposed to follow up and support implementation of CM/Rec(2018)7
10. CAHENF’s implementation of the workplan in 2019 and discussion of priorities
   10.1. Draft workplan for 2019 (update as of April 2019)
   10.2. Discussion on priorities for CAHENF’s thematic focus (2020-2021)
   10.3. Relevant Council of Europe actions and activities and possible contributions or follow-up by the CAHENF, including participation of CAHENF representatives in other events

11. Thematic exchange: child impact assessments

12. Gender equality and children’s rights: examination of a proposal for the development of policy briefs on selected topical aspects

13. Information on relevant initiatives, cooperation activities and projects at European and international level in the area of the rights of the child

14. Co-operation activities and projects by the Council of Europe

15. Any other business

16. Adoption of the list of decisions and close of the meeting at 18.00 pm
APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA/ALBANIE

Ms Alma Tandili
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ANDORRA/ANDORRE

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State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic (SCFWCA)

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Ms Laura Veres
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Ms Célia Chamiça  
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National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Children and Young People

**ROMANIA/ROUMANIE**

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION/FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

Ms Olga Opanasenko  
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**SLOVAK REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE**

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*Apologised/excusée*

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Ms Johanna Aurell Viklund
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**UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI**

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**Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work / Comités ou autres organes du Conseil de l'Europe engagés dans des travaux similaires**

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United States of America/États Unis d’Amérique

Countries concerned with the Council of Europe policy towards neighbourhood regions / Pays concernés par la politique du Conseil de l'Europe à l'égard des régions voisines
Children’s Rights Information Network (CRIN) / Réseau d’information sur les droits des enfants (CRIN)
Mr Leo Ratledge
Legal and Policy Director

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Mr Benoît van Keirsbilck
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Ms Laurence Lwoff
Secretary of DH-BIO / Secrétaire du DH-BIO

Ms Katrin Uerpmann
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Roma and Travellers/Roms et gens du voyage

Ms Chrisoula Arcoudis
Seconded official / Fonctionnaire mise à disposition

European Social Charter/Charte Sociale Européenne

Ms Margarita Galstyan
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INTERPRETERS / INTERPRÊTES

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Ms Clarissa Worsdale
Ms Katia Di Stefano