

## STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDENF)

*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:** Steering Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021**

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME
<p><b>Pillar:</b> Human Rights  <b>Programme:</b> Equality and Human Dignity  <b>Sub-programme:</b> Children's Rights</p>
MAIN TASKS
<p>Under the supervision of the Committee of Ministers, the CDENF will guide the intergovernmental work in the field of the rights of the child and advise the Committee of Ministers on appropriate action to be taken in its field of competence, taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives. In particular, the CDENF will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) 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>(ii) 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, policy briefs, handbooks, thematic visits, and the Clearinghouse to exchange good practices and tools on integrated and systemic approaches against violence);</li> <li>(iii) 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) and the Council of Europe standards related to the rights of the child at national level;</li> <li>(iv) advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on appropriate action to be taken and provide advice as requested;</li> <li>(v) advise on the priority areas for the development of co-operation activities in the area of the rights of the child;</li> <li>(vi) oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021);</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) follow the implementation of the non-binding instruments that it has prepared and, where appropriate, review the implementation of relevant Committee of Ministers' recommendations;</li> <li>(ix) 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>(x) promote the visibility of the Council of Europe's standards at international level;</li> <li>(xi) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;</li> <li>(xii) take due account of a gender perspective, building cohesive societies, and promoting and protecting rights of children with disabilities in the performance of its tasks;</li> <li>(xiii) 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><a href="https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM(2013)131&amp;Language=lanEnglish&amp;Ver=addfinal-P3825_205230">https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM(2013)131&amp;Language=lanEnglish&amp;Ver=addfinal - P3825_205230</a> in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;</li> <li>(xiv) contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 10: Reduce inequality; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions and Goal 17: Global partnership for sustainable development.</li> </ul>

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

<sup>2</sup> Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2019)132.

SPECIFIC TASKS
<p>(i) Update the action plan and prepare a final report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021).</p> <p>(ii) Ensure follow-up to the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy, including by contributing to a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2021.</p> <p>(iii) Continue work to enhance the implementation of international and Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence in member States, notably through the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November) and the development of non-binding instruments (e.g. guidelines, guide to good practices, recommendation) on systems for professionals to report violence against children, and on measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and sexual abusive behaviour by children.</p> <p>(iv) In close co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe committees, undertake actions for the development and promotion of activities and draft non-binding instruments (for example recommendation, declaration, policy guidelines, guide to good practices) concerning the rights of the child, and in particular on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the protection of the best interests of the child in situations of a) parental separation, and b) child-care proceedings (in co-operation with the CDCJ),</li> <li>2) the rights of children and children's participation in the decision-making process in the biomedical field (DH-BIO);</li> <li>3) children's privacy and personal data (in co-operation with T-PD);</li> <li>4) addressing welfare and child protection challenges relating to child returnees, as a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018-2022).</li> </ol> <p>(v) Organise events, thematic visits and/or exchanges on selected topics, including on the follow-up given by States to Recommendation CM(2018)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Guidelines to protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment, and the implementation of guidelines on guardianship and age assessment for children in the context of migration.</p> <p>(vi) Undertake practical steps to strengthen effective participation of children in decision making both at the level of the Organisation and of member States, taking into account the need to develop and implement adequate child-safeguarding policies.</p> <p>(vii) Review progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), as evidenced by monitoring mechanisms and promoted through standard-setting and exchange of experiences and good practices.</p>
COMPOSITION
<p><b>Members:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Participants:</b></p> <p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their administrative budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>- European Court of Human Rights;</li> <li>- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;</li> <li>- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Union: one or more representatives, including the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA);</li> <li>- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;</li> <li>- 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).</li> </ul>

**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;
- International Social Service (ISS)
- World Vision International;
- other civil society and representatives of professional communities, as appropriate.

**WORKING METHODS****Plenary meetings:**

48 members, 2 meeting in 2020, 3 days

48 members, 2 meeting in 2021, 3 days

**Bureau meetings:**

5 members, 4 meetings to be held by video-conference and where possible, in the margins of plenary meetings.

**Groups of experts**

2 limited groups of experts (8 members each), 4 meetings, 2 days.

The Committee may also appoint up to 7 thematic Rapporteurs, including Gender Equality Rapporteur(s), from amongst its members (priority topics: violence, migration, digital environment, gender equality, disability).

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.

Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.

**SUBORDINATE STRUCTURE**

The CDENF supervises its subordinate body:

- Committee of experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE) (see separate terms of reference).

**BUDGETARY INFORMATION\***

	Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €K	Bureau €K	Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2020	2	3	48	132.3		24.9	1 A; 1 B
2021	2	3	48	132.3		24.9	1 A; 1 B

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2020 standard costs.