



Building a Europe
for and with children

Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 27 July 2022
CDENF(2022)AR02

Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Abridged report of the 5th plenary meeting
(Strasbourg, 4-6 July 2022)

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) held its fifth plenary meeting in Strasbourg in an online format on 4-6 July 2022, with Ms Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou (Greece) in the Chair.

The agenda as adopted at the beginning of the meeting is contained in the Appendix. The full meeting report including the list of participants will be made available on the CDENF's webpage once adopted by the Committee.¹

At its plenary meeting the CDENF took the following decisions and actions:

Approval of the meeting report of the plenary session dedicated to the rights of children in migration (1-3 February 2022)

The CDENF:

- **approved** the draft meeting report of its second plenary session dedicated to the rights of children in migration (1-3 February 2022).

Statement of the Chair and Secretariat

The CDENF:

- **took note of** the information provided by the Chair and the Secretariat.

CDENF workplan: Overview of main activities, priorities and meetings

The CDENF:

- **considered and approved** its workplan for the first biennium of its terms of reference (2022-2023).

¹ www.coe.int/cdenf

Review of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)

The CDENF:

- **took note of and exchanged on** the Implementation Report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) and, without further comments, **instructed** the Secretariat to submit the report to the Committee of Ministers for information.

Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027)

The CDENF:

- **took note of** the report on the High-level Launching Conference for the Strategy (Rome 7-8 April 2022), hosted and co-organised by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and **exchanged on** the outcome and conclusions;
- **took note of** the operational documents under preparation by the Secretariat to facilitate the follow-up of the implementation of the Strategy.

Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children

The CDENF:

- **appreciated** the progress achieved by the Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE) towards a draft Recommendation on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children and its draft Explanatory Memorandum;
- **took note of and commented** on both texts in view of providing guidance towards their finalisation;
- **agreed to send further comments** on both draft texts in writing by 4 September 2022.

Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children

The CDENF:

- **took note of** the information provided on the seminar on “Early intervention on intersex children - Promoting the Rights of the Child”, organised by the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) on 31 May 2022, with active participation by a member of the CDENF Bureau;
- **took note of** the information presented by the Chair of CDBIO on the possible follow-up to the seminar and expressed its interest in further collaboration on the issue with CDBIO;
- **considered and approved** a concept note on Children’s access to quality mental health care and **instructed** its Secretariat to take appropriate steps towards the elaboration of a mapping study.

Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children

The CDENF:

- **heard a presentation** by the Director of International Advocacy at the 5Rights Foundation on human rights challenges for children raised by AI technologies;
- **took note of the information** provided by the Secretary of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) on upcoming relevant work;
- **emphasised** the importance of including a child-rights perspective in upcoming Council of Europe activities in the area;
- **considered, revised and approved** a concept note on a Report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence, and **instructed** its Secretariat to take appropriate steps towards initiating the preparation of the report.

Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children

The CDENF:

- **took note of** an update by the Chair of the Committee of Experts (CJ/ENF-ISE) on the work underway on the Rights and the Best Interest of the Child in Parental Separation and In Care Proceedings in preparation, and welcomed the progress achieved;
- **decided to examine** the draft Recommendation at the 6th CDENF plenary meeting;
- **welcomed** the organisation, in the framework of the Irish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, of an international conference relevant to the thematic of the CJ/ENF-ISE, including a hearing of stakeholders (Dublin, 3-5 October 2022);
- **took note** of information on the outcome of a webinar on Determining and Evaluating the Best Interests and Rights of Children in Parental Separation and Care Proceedings, organised by the CINGO Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child on 21 June 2022;
- **took note** of the ongoing work for the update of the HELP course on child-friendly justice, and the development of an assessment tool on child-friendly justice by the Children's Rights Division.

Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child

Proposals for initiating the CDENF activity on children as defenders of human rights

The CDENF:

- **heard** a presentation by the Director of Child Rights Connect on his organisation's actions and findings concerning Child Human Rights Defenders;
- **considered and approved** a concept note on a Report on children as defenders of human rights and **instructed** its Secretariat to take appropriate steps towards initiating the preparation of the report;
- **took note** of the work led jointly with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the field of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) in the Drafting Group on good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP), and welcomed the progress achieved;
- **agreed** to send any additional comments on the draft Guide to the Secretariat by 5 August 2022;
- **agreed** to send further practical examples, notably relating to the individual decision-making process, by 5 August 2022.

Strategic Objective 6: Children's Rights in Crisis and Emergency Situations

The CDENF :

- **welcomed**, in the framework of a thematic exchange on the situation of children in and from Ukraine, the presentation by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Ms Leyla Kayacik, on the outcome of her fact-finding missions in neighbouring countries,
- **took note** of information by the Secretariat on relevant activities by the Lanzarote Committee and co-operation activities related to children affected by migration as a result of the conflict;
- **exchanged** on the situation of children in and from Ukraine, noting key challenges faced by member States in this context, and reflected on possible supportive action by the CDENF;
- **instructed** its Bureau to consider possible options for future exchanges on topical issues;
- **adopted** the draft Explanatory Memorandum of the draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Human Rights Principles and Implementing Guidelines on age assessment for children in migration, to be transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for information together with its draft recommendation, as approved by the CDENF on 2 February 2022.

Transversal issues

The CDENF:

- **heard** a presentation on an initiative on child participation of the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on violence against children;
- **was reminded** of the transversal approaches promoted by the Strategy (gender equality, non-discrimination, child participation);
- **heard** a presentation by the representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on action promoting the UNSDGs for children at the local level.

Co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies and other organisations

The CDENF:

- **took note** of information and updates provided by the Secretariats of different Council of Europe units (Lanzarote Committee, Co-operation unit of the Children's Rights Division), and representatives of other bodies and international and civil society organisations (Parliamentary Assembly, Eurochild).

Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers

The CDENF:

- **revised and approved** a draft opinion on PACE Recommendations 2225(2022);
- **approved** a draft opinion on PACE Recommendations 2227(2022);
- **agreed to send any additional comments on** the draft opinion on PACE Recommendation 2234 (2022) by 19 August 2022 in view of its subsequent adoption in written proceedings.

CDENF Working methods

The CDENF:

- **considered and approved** the proposed working methods for thematic mainstreaming and co-operation between Council of Europe intergovernmental committees;
- **agreed to postpone** the appointment of Thematic Rapporteurs to its 6th plenary meeting.

Elections (Bureau) and appointments (Rapporteurs)

The CDENF:

- **elected, by secret ballot,**
 - o Ms Rosário FARMHOUSE (Portugal) as its Chair for a term of office of one year, renewable once;
 - o Ms Ruzićá BOŠKIĆ (Slovenia) as its Vice-Chair for a term of office of one year, renewable once;
 - o Ms Solvor BÄCKLUND (Norway) as a Bureau member to complete Ms Boskić term of office following her election as Vice Chair (until 31 December 2023). The term of office may be renewed once.

Requests for observer status with the CDENF

The CDENF:

- **considered** two requests for observer status, in the light of the proposal made by its Bureau;
- **decided to grant observer status to** "Hope for Children CRC policy center";
- **decided not to grant observer status to** "Hope and Homes for Children".

Any other business

The CDENF:

- Expressed its gratitude to the outgoing Chair for her dedicated work and long-standing commitment to the CDENF's cause and to promoting the rights of the child at the Council of Europe more generally.

Date and place of next meeting

The CDENF:

- **took note** of the following dates of the upcoming meetings:
 - **26 September 2022** (Paris): 8th CDENF Bureau meeting;
 - **15-17 November 2022** (Strasbourg/hybrid): 6th CDENF plenary meeting.

Approval of the abridged meeting report

The CDENF:

- Approved this abridged report in written proceedings after the meeting.

Appendix

Agenda

-
1. **Opening of the meeting**

 2. **Adoption of the agenda and order of business**

 3. **Approval of the meeting report of the Plenary session dedicated to the rights of children in migration (1 – 3 February 2022)**

 4. **Statement of the Chair and Secretariat**

 5. **CDENF workplan: Overview of main activities, priorities and meetings**

 6. **Review of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)**

 7. **Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027)**

 - 7.1 **Conclusions of the High-level Launching Conference for the Strategy (Rome 7-8 April 2022), hosted by the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers**

 - 7.2 **Development of implementation tools facilitating follow-up of and reporting back on the Strategy**

 - 7.3 **Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children**

Draft Recommendation and draft Explanatory Memorandum on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)

 - 7.4 **Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children**

Proposals for initiating the CDENF activity mental health

 - 7.5 **Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children**

Proposals for initiating the CDENF activity on artificial intelligence

 - 7.6 **Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children**

Draft Recommendation(s) on the protection of the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

 - 7.7 **Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child**

-
- 7.7.1 Draft Guide to good practice concerning the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP)**
- 7.7.2 Proposals for initiating the CDENF activity on children as defenders of human rights**
- 7.8 Strategic Objective 6: Children’s Rights in Crisis and Emergency Situations**
- 7.8.1 Thematic exchange on the situation of children in and from Ukraine**
-
- 7.8.2 Age assessment for children in migration**
-
- 8. Transversal issues**
-
- 9. Co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies and other organisations**
-
- 10. Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers**
-
- 11. CDENF Working methods**
-
- 12. Elections (Bureau) and appointments (Rapporteurs)**
-
- 13. Requests for observer status with the CDENF**
-
- 14. Any other business**
-
- 15. Date and place of next meeting**
-
- 16. Approval of the abridged meeting report**
-