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10 March 2022

## **LANZAROTE COMMITTEE**

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe  
Convention on the protection of children against sexual  
exploitation and sexual abuse

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### **List of decisions**

#### **36<sup>th</sup> meeting (remote)**

#### **Venue: KUDO platform**

7 - 10 March 2022

Adopted by the Lanzarote Committee on 10 March 2022

The Committee of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Committee” or “the Committee”) to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (hereinafter referred to as “the Lanzarote Convention” or “the Convention”) held its 36th meeting remotely on the KUDO platform on 7 - 10 March 2022.

**During this meeting, the Lanzarote Committee:**

1. Adopted its agenda.
2. Agreed on the following statement:

Recalling that the unjustifiable and unprovoked military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in violation of international law and human rights, including the rights of the child, has been strongly condemned by the Council of Europe,

Affirming that the safety and protection of all children should be a priority and that children in vulnerable situations such as unaccompanied and missing children are at a higher risk of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,

Noting the increasing number of refugee, migrant and internally displaced children and recognising the urgent need for safe passages,

The Lanzarote Committee solemnly reaffirms, in the current context, its [Declaration on protecting refugee and migrant children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) adopted on 28 June 2018, which calls upon the States Parties to the Convention to:

1. *uphold the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status;*
2. *ensure that follow-up is given to the recommendations contained in its urgent monitoring round report on “[Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)”;*
3. *take measures to address the specific risk of exposure to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of migrant and refugee children, taking into account the increased vulnerability caused by factors such as deprivation of liberty, family separation, inadequacy of reception and care and lack of effective guardianship systems;*
4. *cooperate with relevant stakeholders in Europe and beyond to:*
  - *prevent the exposure of migrant and refugee children to the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;*
  - *provide appropriate support and assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in their physical and psychosocial recovery;*
  - *fight against the impunity of sexual offenders.*

***As regards monitoring the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention***

*In the context of the evaluation procedure on “The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs): addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos”:*

3. Adopted its 2nd monitoring round report after having examined a series of last suggestions and amendments, in particular in its legal frameworks chapter.

*In the context of the compliance procedure on “Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”:*

4. After having agreed on a few modifications, adopted compliance reports concerning the following Recommendations:

- R7 on mechanisms for data collection,
- R11 on protection to child victims,
- R13 on coordination and collaboration of different actors,
- R31 on child-friendly proceedings,
- R37 on a coordinated approach between responsible agencies.

*With regards to the report prepared by civil society representatives on “Contribution to the Implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and Engagement with the Lanzarote Committee: A civil society perspective”:*

5. Entrusted its Bureau and the representative of ECPAT having coordinated the preparation of the report to agree on a set of initial concrete actions (possible workplan) to strengthen civil society’s cooperation with the Lanzarote Committee, for consideration at its 37th meeting (29 June - 1 July 2022).

*With regards to the pilot country profiles*

6. Asked the Secretariat to prepare two or three additional pilot country profiles, taking into account the comments made during the current meeting and invited Parties interested in being pilot countries to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible ([lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)).

***As to capacity building work***

7. Decided to invite a representative of the [BRAVE Movement](#) at a forthcoming meeting to exchange views with this international survivors’ movement and agreed to ask it to consider requesting observer status to the Lanzarote Committee.

***As to procedural matters***

8. In addition to the points already agreed upon during its 35th meeting (30 November - 3 December 2021), agreed on the following points:

On Rule 7 (Venue of meetings):

- in the first paragraph, “normally” was replaced with “as a general rule”;
- a new paragraph 3 was included: “If deemed appropriate, the meetings of the Lanzarote Committee may be held by videoconference or in a hybrid nature, in conditions permitting confidentiality of discussions and also interpretation in the Council of Europe's official languages.”

On Rule 10 (Documents, list of decisions and meeting reports): the following text was added to paragraph 7: “In this connection, videoconference tools may be used as indicated in rule 7§3.”

On Rule 18 (Voting): a new paragraph 6 was added to specify that: “Voting may take place online as long as it is in conditions permitting confidentiality.”

On Rule 20 (Hearings): various new paragraphs were agreed and the full text now reads:

1. The Chairperson, the bureau or the Lanzarote Committee may decide to organise hearings with any qualified persons, including from civil society, who are in a position to contribute to the work of the Lanzarote Committee within the limits of resources available.
2. These hearings may also serve as a means of receiving contributions from children in the form of views expressed by them on the themes covered by the Committee's monitoring round.
3. These hearings of children carried out pursuant to paragraph 2 shall:
  - respect the geographical balance of the Parties to the Lanzarote Committee
  - be based on voluntary participation by children and conducted without discrimination on any grounds including race, ethnicity, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth, sexual orientation or other status.

9. Decided to examine any possible other amendment to its Rules of Procedure during its 37th meeting (29 June - 1 July 2022).

10. Adopted this list of decisions.

**Dates of the next meetings**

- **37<sup>th</sup> meeting, 29 June - 1 July 2022** (Strasbourg/hybrid)
- **38<sup>th</sup> meeting, 29 November - 2 December 2022** (Strasbourg/hybrid)