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10 February 2025

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

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

Meeting report

43rd meeting

Venue: Vienna, Austria

6-8 November 2024

Prepared by the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ("the Lanzarote Committee)" held its 43rd meeting at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria, on 6-8 November 2024. The agenda and the list of participants are appended (Appendices I and II) to this meeting report.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Chairperson, Portugal) opened the meeting. The Committee adopted its agenda.

2. Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

2.1. "Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks"

2.1.1. Presentation by Rapporteurs of the main trends emerging from the replies to the following questions:

- Support to children in investigative and judicial proceedings (Q17 and 18)
- Measures to protect children during investigation (Q19)
- Measures to protect children in judicial proceedings (Q20)

2. Corah CAPLES (Ireland), Nina VARRANEN-VALKONEN (Protect Children), and Madalena PAMPALK-LORBEER (Austria) acting as Rapporteurs presented their preliminary analysis of the information received from State Parties and civil society representatives in respect of Questions 17-20 of the thematic questionnaire on legal frameworks. During a discussion of the information presented, several Parties provided clarifications and commented on the preliminary findings and the wording of the preliminary recommendations. It was agreed that Parties would submit clarifying information, in particular in response to the Secretariat's country-specific requests, as well as any comments on the presentations made by the Rapporteurs, by 20 November 2024.

2.1.2. Update from the Secretariat about next steps in the preparation of the monitoring report

3. Ekaterina MALAREVA (Legal Advisor, Secretariat to the Lanzarote Committee) noted that at this meeting the Committee had completed examining the information relevant to the questionnaire on legal frameworks which was launched in June 2023. The preliminary findings and observations shared by the Rapporteurs in their presentations would become part of a draft implementation report which would be made available to the Committee for examination and comments in advance of its next plenary meeting. The adoption of the implementation report on legal frameworks is tentatively scheduled for the second plenary meeting in June/July 2025. It is also proposed to the Committee to examine and adopt, at its next plenary meeting in March 2025, a draft questionnaire on policy frameworks, to be prepared by the Secretariat and shared in advance of that meeting. The Committee agreed to proceed on the basis of an updated indicative timeline (Appendix III).

2.2. Update on the procedure to assess State Parties' compliance with the 2nd monitoring round recommendations concerning the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs: addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos

4. Ekaterina MALAREVA further confirmed to the Committee that Parties' replies to the compliance procedure launched on 1 and 2 October 2024 are expected by 1 March 2025. Preliminary analysis of the replies would be provided by the Secretariat at the Committee's second plenary meeting in June/July 2025. The Committee agreed to proceed in accordance with this indicative timeline (Appendix III).

2.3. Data collection mechanisms: Update on replies received to the survey and thematic exchange with representatives of UNODC, UNICEF, United Kingdom, and the project "CAN via MDS"

5. Páll MAGNÚSSON (Bureau member and representative of Iceland) moderated the thematic exchange on data. Agnes VON MARAVIĆ (Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee) gave a preliminary analysis of the 32 replies received to the survey on data collection mechanisms on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and informed the Committee that a draft report would be shared in early 2025.

- Martijn KIND (Statistician, UNODC Data, Analytics and Statistics Section, Research and Trend Analysis) presented the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), emphasising that this is based on behavioural descriptions rather than criminal codes which allows for international classification. He highlighted that one challenge for data collection relates to the lack of centralisation of data and barriers to data sharing between institutions at national level.

- Anja TELTSCHIK (Child Protection Specialist – Monitoring, Evaluation and Data, UNICEF) presented the SDG targets and indicators related to violence against children highlighting data sources and informing the Committee that a questionnaire and survey model was being finalised to collect data on sexual violence experienced in childhood in the course of 2025. She underlined the scarcity of comprehensive and comparable data on violence against children – an issue also raised with many countries by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. She further presented the International Classification of Violence against children (ICVAC), emphasising the importance of data collection on all forms of violence against children, including sexual violence. The ICVAC provides an international standard to ensure rigorous methodology and ethical standards for data collection. She highlighted that challenges to data availability, comparability and quality include the highly fragmented and multisectoral nature of data collection on violence against children and referred to guidance developed by the Conference of European Statisticians on statistics on violence against children. She also indicated that lack of systematic screening may contribute to significant underreporting of sexual offences against children. She further emphasised the

importance for countries to build a comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate violence against children (including all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) at national level and highlighted the need for clear mandates and the necessary resources for national statistical offices and line ministries to produce data on violence against children based on an agreed set of indicators.

- Leah BUCK (United Kingdom) informed the Committee about the various data collection mechanisms in place in the UK. She explained that the Government receives data in relation to child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse from a number of sources, including, but not limited to, the Department for Education (which has responsibility for safeguarding children, including child protection plans), Ministry of Justice (crime data, prosecutions and convictions relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse) and the National Referral Mechanism (regarding data related to child victims of modern slavery and trafficking that have a child sexual exploitation element). In addition, Law Enforcement agencies provide data relating to arrests and offence codes and data on registered sex offenders is collected via "Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements" (MAPPA). In addition, the UK Government gathers survey-based data through the annual Crime Survey for England and Wales. Relevant data is aggregated by the Office of National Statistics and reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation. To support improved data collection, the UK has an operational definition of child sexual exploitation as outlined in the "Child Sexual Exploitation Disruption Toolkit" which provides a common definition to all agencies involved in child protection and who in turn may contribute to data collection in this field (social workers, policy officers, housing officers, education staff, healthcare workers, charity staff and others). Leah BUCK highlighted that the first recommendation made by Independent Inquiry into Sexual Abuse in their final report (2022) related to improving data collection, notably through one single core dataset, and informed the Committee that the UK Government is exploring options available to implement this recommendation and improve data collection on child sexual exploitation and abuse, which in turn will support our continued understanding of this crime.

- George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece) presented the European Project to develop a co-ordinated response to Child Abuse and Neglect via a Minimum Data Set (Can via MDS). He highlighted the difficulties posed by a lack of systematic recording and reporting of data on child abuse and neglect (including sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) which can lead to an increased risk of re-victimisation, insufficient prevention efforts and underestimation of the extent of the phenomenon. He emphasised that the CAN via MDS project sought to build a system capable of collecting data from all relevant sectors that is compatible and comparable using the child abuse and neglect incident as the common registering unit. This was a result of research regarding data collection across 27 countries. The minimum data set includes information related to the child, the incident, the child's living environment and their caregiver as well as the response provided by the service. He confirmed that the system, along with relevant manuals and training module, was free to use for States and (at the date of reporting) was available in

8 languages, he also confirmed that States could adjust some of the variables used to collect data. He emphasised that the use of this system could serve as a good basis to strengthen evidence-based policy making, targeted service provision and ultimately better outcomes for children facing abuse and neglect.

6. During the exchange, the Committee discussed relevant sources of information relating to research into the economic cost of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse offending. UNODC raised the possibility of making some questions more specific regarding sexual offences against children and indicated that some questions under the Crime Trends Survey could be revised to accommodate this. UNICEF indicated that a number of tools and guidance to support States to collect data was available including via the Conference of European Statisticians. The Committee also discussed the challenges of gathering survey data directly from children, notably in terms of safeguarding, training for relevant professionals and the need to ensure adequate provision of support services for any children who disclosed abuse during such research exercises, emphasising that such research was necessary if done well.

7. The Committee took note of the scheduled examination of the report on the survey of data collection mechanisms planned in 2025. The Committee decided to further follow up on this work by dedicating its capacity building activities in 2025 to strengthening mechanisms for data collection and that the theme of the 18 November Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse would also be related to the Committee's work on data collection.

3. Capacity-building, exchange of information, experiences, and good practices

3.1. Debriefing of the 2024 capacity-building event and possible follow-up:
Examination and possible adoption of draft declaration on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies (T-ES(2024)09_en)

8. The Committee briefly exchanged on the capacity building workshop that took place on 5th November 2024, emphasising the importance for the Committee to examine a wide variety of responses and policies to tackle child sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies. Some members called for more research to understand why these technologies were being used to harm children and to better understand what responses are already in place in State Parties. There were also calls to strengthen protective measures to empower children to enjoy their rights both online and offline, and to pay particular attention to appropriate responses when such cases occur in schools to ensure child victims receive support and to tackle issues of underreporting.

9. Following the discussion, the Committee examined the draft declaration on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies (T-ES(2024)09). Naomi TREWINNARD (Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat) presented the draft declaration to the Committee.

10. The Committee dedicated a large part of its meeting to this discussion. It was felt important to recognise the harm that these technologies can cause to children when used to facilitate sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Discussions also highlighted that harmful or risky sexual behaviours among children added an additional layer of complexity for policy makers seeking to protect children against sexual abuse. At the same time, several delegations emphasised that it was important to recognise that children use technologies in positive ways in their everyday lives and to consider the ways that these technologies may be used to help prevent and disrupt sexual offences against children. There was discussion about the importance for States to pay careful attention to the ways in which these technologies were being used to facilitate offences when considering whether current criminal law provided adequate definitions of offences, and for child victims of sexual abuse facilitated by these technologies to be referred to victim support services.

11. In the context of the discussion on the draft declaration, the Committee noticed different viewpoints on the use of the term “survivor”. As a result, the Committee took note of the Secretariat’s proposal to prepare a concept note on the possibility of initiating reflection on the use of the term “survivor”.

12. The Committee adopted the revised declaration, agreed that it would be published immediately and to bring it to the attention of the Global Ministerial conference on ending violence against children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024).

3.2. Information by members, participants and observers

3.2.1. Follow up to Lanzarote Committee decision (T-ES(2024)07) regarding the Global Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024)

13. Agnes von MARAVIĆ informed the Committee that Marja RUOTANEN (Director General, Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe) and Regína JENSDÓTTIR (Head of Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe) represented the Council of Europe at the Global Ministerial Conference. The Declaration on emerging technologies adopted by the Committee at this meeting has been brought to the attention of the conference participants.

3.2.2. Annual round table with updates from civil society organisations

14. The Committee has continued its practice of holding an annual panel to showcase recent work of the observers to the Committee, in order to enrich and inform its work.

15. Nina VAARANEN-VALKONEN (Suojellan Lapsia (Protect Children)) updated the

Committee about the implementation of its several research projects and practical programmes, as well as the insights gained:

- The survey of individuals searching for child sexual abuse material online had now been carried out in 21 languages and included 56,000 respondents, with questions aimed at establishing what drives their behaviour.
- The online self-help Redirection programme aimed at such individuals had been replicated in numerous countries and is available to any interested State. The organisation has also commenced a research project in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University to evaluate the effectiveness of the Redirection programme.
- The global survivor survey Our Voice has been replicated in numerous languages. Among other things, it has revealed even more severe trauma symptoms related to the experience of online child sexual exploitation and abuse compared to contact sexual offences (attributed, in part, to a victim's difficulties with grasping the imbalance of power when the offence took place online).
- A pilot of You are Enough parental peer support groups in Finland and Ireland has confirmed the importance of supporting caregivers to enable them to support the healing process in children, as well as the need for training for professionals working with families.

16. The organisation has also translated its child safety materials into several languages. In response to a question about help to children with the immigrant background, Protect Children informed the Committee about the availability of digital safety workshops online for kindergartens and schools which can be replicated in any country.

17. Matthew McVARISH (Brave Movement) shared information about the organisation's engagement at the Global ministerial conference on ending violence against children which took place in November 2024 in Bogota, Colombia, including hosting a few satellite and side events focused on the promotion of the Lanzarote Convention and digital safety and encouraging States to set up national survivor councils. A Global survivor council taskforce has been formed to help ensure survivor-centred reforms and use survivor insights for effective policy guidance.

18. Vineeca KUO (INHOPE) updated the Committee about the most recent expansion of the hotline network which now includes four new countries: Argentina, Moldova, Nigeria and Slovakia. 400+ professionals were trained by the network in 2024 to detect, report and remove CSEA content online. INHOPE has been active in EU advocacy efforts advocating for the inclusion of new mechanisms to process industry reports and the creation of a firm legal basis for the work of the hotlines. Its total volume of CSAM reports has increased by 25 per cent since 2022 signifying heightened awareness of the issue in the public domain. 88 per cent of the content is new underlining the needs to escalate awareness raising activities. The reports of illegal content have increased by 68% since 2022. The network highlighted that the global removing time for the illegal content within the network amounted to 2.5 days as opposed to 28 days for the content removal outside the network. INHOPE also shared information it has gathered concerning the profile of the victims identified in the illegal content: the majority fell within the pre-pubescent age range (3-13 years old) and were female. Among the emerging threats observed INHOPE

listed non-consensual intimate image abuse and AI-generated CSAM.

19. Katerina MELISSARI (Hope for Children Centre Cyprus) informed the Committee about the development of a board game created in collaboration with two universities to support children in judicial proceedings, notably by familiarising children with legal terminology, their rights, judicial roles and participants. The game is led by trained professionals.

20. Hannah SWIRSKY (Internet Watch Foundation) shared with the Committee the findings of the IWF's 2024 AI CSAM report update. In addition, she informed the Committee that in the past six months the Internet Watch Foundation has seen a six per cent increase in confirmed reports containing AI-generated CSAM, and almost all of the content was found on publicly available areas of the Internet instead of the dark web. More than half of the AI generated content found in the past six months was hosted on servers in two countries, the Russian Federation (36%) and the United States (22%). Addresses of webpages containing AI generated child sexual abuse images are uploaded on to the Internet Watch Foundation's URL list which is shared with the tech industry to block the sites and prevent people from being able to access or see them. AI images are also hashed and tagged on a Hash List of more than two million images which can be used by law enforcement in their investigations. The report also included policy recommendations for governments and tech companies.

21. Aagje IEVEN (Missing Children Europe) presented to the Committee the final outputs of its CESAGRAM (Comprehensive European Strategy against Grooming and Missing) project. They included notably an online awareness raising platform CESAGRAM Ville promoting educational activities aimed at preventing grooming and child sexual abuse by using gamification elements. They also included an online toolkit to be used for monitoring online spaces, including websites and social media, to assess risks of grooming behaviour and prevent it through early warnings.

3.2.3. *Tour de table* of members on any developments since the last meeting reflecting the impact of the Lanzarote Convention at national level

22. The Committee was informed of:

- Legislative amendments adopted, proposed or being prepared to provide for free legal aid for child victims in criminal proceedings and protect children against early or forced marriages (Azerbaijan), strengthen criminal sanctions for CSAM offences (Finland), introduce new criminal law definitions relevant to sexual offences against children (Republic of Moldova), abolish statutes of limitations in respect of sexual offences against children (Montenegro), codify victims' rights (United Kingdom), prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse and secure electronic evidence (Tunisia);

- National strategies or action plans in preparation or adopted to strengthen children's online safety (Albania, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia), to combat violence against children and in close relationships in general (Norway, Republic of Moldova), and to improve the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and bring national legislation in line with EU Directive 2011/93 (Republic of Moldova);
- Awareness raising campaigns and other measures to tackle sexual abuse of children in sports (Cyprus), to raise awareness among the general public about the consequences of child sexual abuse and how to detect and report such abuse and to educate children and parents about online safety (Tunisia);
- Training a wide range of professionals on issues related to online child sexual abuse (Republic of Moldova);
- Plans to set up a register of sexual offenders against children (Bulgaria);
- Leading work on developing ISO standards on Barnahus (Iceland);
- Improved treatment for survivors and young adult perpetrators and plans to strengthen the police capacity and quality of investigation into violence against children and neglect of children, collaboration across services and the work of children's houses (Norway).

3.2.4. Update by the European Commission, Europol and other participants to the Lanzarote Committee

23. Emerick LOVASZ (European Commission, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs) informed the Committee that the proposal for an EU Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse was still under negotiation at the Council of the EU, whereas the interim regulation had been extended until April 2026. The prolongation of the interim regulation foresaw the harmonisation of reporting templates for companies which the European Commission was in the process of preparing. The work on the recast of EU Directive 2011/93 was still ongoing in the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

24. Anton Toni KLANČNIK (Europol) shared information about Europol's 2024 Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA), a document updated on an annual basis since 2014, which is compiled with the assistance of operational and strategic partners and other stakeholders. The Committee was also informed about the development of an online platform for children Help4U (to be launched shortly), designed together with children, to assist children seeking help in unsafe situations. Members were invited to provide information about their own similar child-friendly resources which Europol could share and promote on the Help4U platform.

25. For an update on recent work on children's Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee of Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, please see appendix IV.

3.2.5. Update on the draft UN Convention against Cybercrime

26. Celso CORACINI, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC, updated the Committee on the background to the UN Cybercrime Treaty and emphasised that the Treaty sought to criminalise cyber-dependent crimes in a similar approach to that taken by the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention. He confirmed that the provisions related to child sexual abuse material are intended to cover all behaviours listed in the Lanzarote Convention and that the provision on solicitation and grooming was drafted in line with the Lanzarote Convention and the Committee's opinion on Article 23 Lanzarote Convention. He informed the Committee that the Convention was expected to be adopted and opened for signature in December 2024.

27. Denise MAZZOLANI, Council of Europe Cybercrime Division also updated the Committee regarding the complementarity between the UN treaty and the Cybercrime Convention. She underlined that UN Cybercrime Treaty does not reflect the procedural provisions of the second additional protocol to the Cybercrime Convention on co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence. She suggested that it could be helpful to especially have a legal analysis of Article 20 Lanzarote Convention and Article 9 Cybercrime Convention along with Article 14 of the UN Cybercrime Convention.

28. During the discussion, the Committee emphasised the importance of ensuring that the implementation of these Conventions remained complementary to the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, highlighted the importance of ensuring good visibility of its work in this context and also emphasised the importance of referring to relevant UNCRC work, such as General Comment number 25. The Committee agreed to continue following the progress of this instrument and to initiate reflection on the relationship between the Lanzarote Convention and the various instruments proposed at international level.

3.2.6. Follow-up to the report "Civil Society's Perspectives on Implementation of the Lanzarote Convention"

29. Dorothea CZARNECKI (Head of Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection, Forensik IT) presented to the Committee a summary of the findings and recommendations of a report "Civil Society's Perspective on Implementation of the Lanzarote Convention" co-authored by her in her position of a representative of ECPAT International, an observer to the Committee, together with Zsuzsanna RUTAI, in 2021-2022. The recommendations of the report aiming to strengthen the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention included the following:

- enhancing the visibility of the Lanzarote Convention among civil society organisations to strengthen their engagement and advocacy efforts,
- increasing incentives for civil society's participation through awareness raising and capacity building initiatives,
- involving civil society organisations more in child consultations,
- defining and formalising the role of observers to the Lanzarote Committee,

- publishing annual workplans with clear objectives and timelines, thus ensuring structured involvement in Lanzarote Committee's activities,
- better co-ordination with the Council of Europe's INGO Conference to ensure aligned priorities and methods,
- building two-way communication channels between the Lanzarote Committee and national civil society organisations, led by observers to the Committee, and
- promoting civil society engagement opportunities with targeted advocacy tools, training, and resources tailored to child protection needs.

30. Dr CZARNECKI proposed the following questions for the Committee's reflection:
- How can the Lanzarote Committee create a sustainable and inclusive framework that maximizes civil society engagement, bolsters the Convention's impact, and enhances child protection efforts across State Parties?
- What can Committee members, participants and observers do?
- How can the Secretariat help advance civil society participation?

31. In view of time constraints, the Committee decided to postpone the discussion about the follow-up to be given to the report to its next plenary meeting.

4. Information about Council of Europe work relevant to the Lanzarote Committee's mandate

4.1 Debriefing from Lanzarote Committee members having participated in meetings or events on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

4.1.1. T-CY Cybercrime Committee (Online, 18-20 June 2024)

32. Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Chair and representative of Portugal), informed the Committee that she had attended the T-CY meeting online and invited them to consult the meeting report. In relation to the promotion of the Lanzarote Convention globally, she invited the Committee to take note of the list of Parties to the Cybercrime Convention and encouraged the Committee to continue co-operating with the T-CY.

4.1.2. Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine Plenary (Strasbourg, 1-2 July 2024)

33. Due to the unavailability on that day of the Committee's representative to the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine, the Committee decided to postpone this debriefing.

4.1.3. EPAS Cyprus launching of "Start to Talk" Campaign (18 September 2024)

34. Panayiota TRIFILLI (Cyprus) updated the Committee that the Start to Talk campaign was launched in Cyprus in September 2024, highlighting that the project was based on implementation of Articles 5 and 12 Lanzarote Convention in the field of sports. She informed the Committee that part of this campaign launch included the development and implementation of child safeguarding policies by authorities responsible for sports as well

as a 2-day training course for stakeholders and professionals working with children.

4.1.4. CJ/ENF-ISE Working Group (Strasbourg, 14-16 October 2024)

35. George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece) informed the Committee that the work on the draft recommendation on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings had been completed by the committee of experts (CJ/ENF-ISE) and that it would be examined by the CDENF on 3 December 2024.

5. Procedural matters

5.1. Election of the Bureau

36. The Committee re-elected by acclamation, for a second term of office (two years):
- Maria José CASTELLO-BRANCO (Portugal) as Chairperson;
- Philippe OLIVIER (France) as Vice-Chairperson;
- Jana LOVŠIN (Slovenia), Páll MAGNÚSSON (Iceland) and George NIKOLAIDIS (Greece) as members of its Bureau.

37. The Committee also elected by acclamation Kristina STEPANOVA (Lithuania) and Jelena GRDNIĆ (Montenegro) for a first term of office (two years) as members of its Bureau.

5.1.bis Nomination of rapporteurs to other Council of Europe committees

38. The Committee appointed:
- Kristina STEPANOVA (Lithuania) as its representative at the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU);
- Lorna MUSCAT (Malta) as its representative and Stevan POPOVIĆ (Serbia) as a substitute representative at the Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE);
- Syuzanna MAKYAN (Armenia) as its representative and Iván BUJDOS (Hungary) as a substitute representative at the Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS).

5.2. Update on ratification and accession processes and decision on possible participation of a representative from Chile at the 44th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee in line with Rule 2.3 of the Rules of Procedure.

39. Naomi TREWINNARD updated the Committee that during the previous 12 months the Secretariat had held bilateral discussions with representatives of 13 States regarding possible accession to the Lanzarote Convention. She recalled the key steps in the accession procedure applicable. She informed the Committee that in October 2024 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile requested that a representative be authorised to participate in the 44th meeting of the Lanzarote Committee (scheduled 4-6 March 2025 in Strasbourg).

40. The Committee agreed to invite a representative of Chile to participate at its 44th meeting, in accordance with Rule 2.3 of the Rules of Procedure.

5.3. Adoption of the list of decisions of this meeting

41. The Committee adopted the list of decisions of this meeting.

6. Any other business

6.1. Discussion of thematic priorities for the Lanzarote Committee's workplan (T-ES(2024) 04_en rev.1), including:
- 18 November Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse 2024 and 2025
- Celebration of 15 years of entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention – July 2025

42. Agnes von MARAVIĆ presented the updated workplan (T-ES(2024) 04_en rev.1), which reflects the monitoring timeline set out in Appendix III.

43. Muscat LORNA (Malta) informed the Committee that the Maltese authorities plan to organise a Ministerial Conference at the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention. The Conference would be organised in the framework of Malta's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and take place, subject to confirmation, in July 2025 in Malta. Inna CHIRILIUC (Republic of Moldova) communicated the invitation of the Moldovan authorities to hold the 46th plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee on 18-20 November 2025 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. The Chairperson thanked both members, on behalf of the Committee, for the commitment to the Lanzarote Convention shown by their respective State Parties.

44. The Chairperson closed the meeting thanking again the Austrian authorities for the support provided for this meeting.

Dates of the next plenary meetings

- **44th plenary meeting:** 4-6 March 2025, Strasbourg
- **45th plenary meeting + 15th anniversary conference:** 23-27 June or 30 June-4 July 2025 (venue to be confirmed)
- **46th plenary meeting:** 18-20 November 2025, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Appendix I

Agenda

6-8 November
43rd MEETING OF THE LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

2.1. "Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks"

2.1.1. Presentation by Rapporteurs of the main trends emerging from the replies to questions 17 to 20

2.1.2. Update from the Secretariat about next steps in the preparation of the monitoring report

2.2. Update on the procedure to assess State Parties' compliance with the 2nd monitoring round recommendations concerning 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

2.3. Update concerning information received in the context of the Survey on Data collection mechanisms

3. Capacity-building, exchange of information, experiences, and good practices

3.1. Debriefing of the 2024 capacity-building event and possible follow-up

3.2. Information by members, participants and observers on changes in national policy, legislation, institutional arrangements, practice and/or presentation of relevant activities

3.2.1. CSO annual round table

3.2.2. Thematic exchange on mechanisms for data collection

3.2.3. Brief tour de table of the members to inform the Committee about any recent changes in the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse at national level that reflect the impact of a Lanzarote Committee recommendations and decisions

3.2.4. Exchange of information with the European Commission on progress on the Recast of Directive 2011/93 and the proposal for a regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse

3.2.5. Up-date on progress in the negotiations of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee (UN AHC) to elaborate a comprehensive international Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

3.2.6. Follow up to Lanzarote Committee decision regarding the Global Ministerial Conference on ending violence against children (Bogota, 7-8 November 2024)

4. Information about Council of Europe work relevant to the Lanzarote Committee's mandate

4.1 Debriefing from Lanzarote Committee members having participated in meetings or events on behalf of the Lanzarote Committee

4.1.1. T-CY Cybercrime Committee (Online, 18-20 June 2024)

4.1.2. Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine Plenary (Strasbourg, 1-2 July 2024)

4.1.3. EPAS Cyprus launching of "Start to Talk" Campaign (18 September 2024)

4.1.4. CJ/ENF-ISE Working Group (Strasbourg, 14-16 October 2024)

5. Procedural matters

5.1. Election of the Bureau

5.2. Adoption of the list of decisions of this meeting

6. Any other business

6.1. Discussion of workplan and plans for 2025: celebration of 15 years since entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention on 01/07/2010 and 10th edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Dates of the next plenary meetings

- **44th plenary meeting:** 4-6 March 2025, Strasbourg
- **45th plenary meeting (+ 15th Anniversary & capacity-building event):** 24-27 June or 1-4 July 2025 (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- **46th plenary meeting:** 18-20 November 2025, Strasbourg

Appendix II

List of participants

MEMBERS / *MEMBRES*

STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION / *ÉTATS PARTIES À LA CONVENTION*

ALBANIA / *ALBANIE*	**Alma TANDILI** Chairperson of the State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality
ANDORRA / *ANDORRE*	**Lara FORTÓ RIBERA** Psychologue Unité « Enfance et Adolescence » Ministère des Affaires sociales et de la Fonction publique
ARMENIA / *ARMÉNIE*	**Syuzanna MAKYAN** Deputy Director Legal Education and Rehabilitation Programs' Implementation Center
AUSTRIA / *AUTRICHE*	**Madalena PAMPALK-LORBEER** Public Prosecutor / Consultant Section IV – Criminal Law Division IV 1 – Substantive Criminal Law Federal Ministry for Justice
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STATES HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE CONVENTION / *ÉTATS AYANT PARTICIPÉ À L'ÉLABORATION DE LA CONVENTION*

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / *ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE*	**Awaiting nomination /** *Nomination en attente*

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Appendix III

Indicative timeline for the continuation of the monitoring round on the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust

41st meeting (13-15 February 2024)	Agreement on the methodology for the next questionnaire to assess the policies and strategies in place to protect children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust, with an emphasis on specific dimensions of the circle of trust.
44th meeting (4-6 March 2025)	Discussion/adoption of a draft policy frameworks questionnaire to be addressed to State Parties Examination of the legal frameworks implementation report
45th meeting (June/July 2025)	Continued (if necessary) examination and adoption of the legal frameworks implementation report
September 2025	Deadline for State Parties to submit information on policy frameworks
November 2025	Deadline for other relevant stakeholders to submit additional information on policy frameworks
46th meeting (18-21 November 2025)	Preliminary information on replies submitted to the policy frameworks questionnaire
47th meeting (February/March 2026)	Analysis of replies submitted to the policy frameworks questionnaire
48th meeting (June 2026)	Continued analysis of replies submitted to the policy frameworks questionnaire
49th meeting (October/November 2026)	Examination and possible adoption of the policy frameworks implementation report

Appendix IV

Recent work on children's Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee of Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

- Set-up of a Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine: see terms of reference.
  - The Network was launched in Strasbourg on 27 June (web item)
  - The Network held its first meeting on 1st October in Strasbourg
    It elected its Bureau: Ms Olena Khomenko (Ukraine, EC/DA) Chairperson and Ms Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Finland, SOC) Vice-Chairperson
    It held an exchange of views on "Ukraine's path to ensuring every child's right to grow in the family environment & International initiatives creating family settings for children deprived of parental care" with:
    Ms Iryna Tuliakova, Head of the Coordination Center, and Kateryna Novokhatnia, First Deputy Head of the Coordination Centre;
    Ms Darya Kasyanova, National Program Development Director at SOS Children's Villages Ukraine, Chairman of the Board at the Ukrainian Child Rights Network;
    Ms Olena Khomenko, Member of Parliament of Ukraine, PACE Vice-President and former Rapporteur on the situation of the children of Ukraine.

- Two hearings held in September for the preparation of Ms Kluit's report on the humanitarian situation of women and children in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel
  - Declassified minutes of the hearing held in Lisbon on 13 September
  - The minutes of the public hearing with Mr Sam Rose, Director of Planning and Ms Amal Abu Shawareb, Associate Protection Officer, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) held in Strasbourg on 30 September will be declassified on 6 December.
    On this issue, the Assembly held a current affairs debate in plenary on 1st October on "The situation in Middle East: escalation of violence and mounting humanitarian crisis, particularly in Gaza" (web item).

- As a follow-up of Mr O'Reilly's report on "The protection of children against online violence" (the one he presented in the Lanzarote Committee meeting on 11-13 June), the Social Affairs Committee will organise two events in Rome, Italy, on 9-10 December, in the framework of the PACE project "Parliamentary action for the rights of the child 2024-2027", to mark the annual awareness raising Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
  - On 9 December, a seminar co-organised with the Italian Parliament on "The protection of children against online violence"

- On 10 December, a child consultation workshop on comprehensive sexuality education co-organised with the Office of the Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents, with the participation of Irish and Italian children