

T-ES(2026)15_en

31 August 2026

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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Meeting report

48th meeting

Open of the meeting: Tuesday 2 June 2026, 14:30

Close of the meeting: Thursday 4 June 2026, 16:00

Lunch break: between 13:00 and 14:30

Venue: Room G02, Agora building, Strasbourg
(in-person only)

Thematic exchange with Cybercrime Convention Committee and 48th plenary meeting of the Lanzarote Committee

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Maria José Castello-Branco (President, Portugal) opened the meeting, recalling that the [meeting report](#) from the 47th plenary and the special anniversary edition 10th [Activity Report](#) have been published online. The Committee adopted its agenda.

2. Monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention

2.1. Compliance procedure 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

2.1.1. Adoption of revised thematic compliance report on victim services and prevention [T-ES(2026)05_en rev.]

The Committee examined and adopted a revised version of the thematic compliance report on victim services and prevention, which had been amended, since the previous meeting, on the basis of additional information received from the Parties and their comments. This report, together with the thematic compliance report on criminal substantive and procedural law, will be published as a single consolidated document on the Committee's website.

2.1.2. Discussion on follow-up to the compliance procedure

Ekaterina Malareva (Legal advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat) presented several proposals for the next steps to help Parties close gaps in the implementation of the recommendations, as identified in the compliance procedure. The Committee decided to explore further the issues linked to reporting and to jurisdiction rules in its future capacity building work. Members were encouraged to continue updating the Committee about progress in the implementation of any outstanding recommendations.

2.2. New monitoring round: "Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children" [T-ES(2026)06_en]: update

Andrea Varrella (ECPAT International) presented the results of ECPAT [mapping research](#) on criminal background checks carried out in 128 jurisdictions, with a special focus on volunteers. Few countries have comprehensive safeguarding systems covering employees, volunteers, and foreign nationals consistently. Many countries focus only on formal education or childcare settings, leaving tourism, volunteering, and other child-contact activities largely unregulated. Criminal records do not automatically equal safeguarding: some countries maintain offender registries but do not require

organisations to screen staff or exclude convicted individuals from child-related roles. When criminal record checks are imposed through immigration rules rather than child protection laws, this may create inconsistencies, with background checks applying to foreign nationals but not to citizens. Two-thirds of the countries surveyed did not use any criminal background checks for volunteers.

Mark Beavan (Head of the Crimes against Children Unit, INTERPOL) updated the Committee about the work of the [Soteria project](#) aiming to prevent perpetrators of sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment from working in the aid and development sector. The project has developed a security check helping organisations screen job candidates for sexual exploitation and abuse risks by securely sharing data with INTERPOL, which checks it against criminal databases and alerts law enforcement if a threat is found. Members were invited to promote the initiative among NGOs and humanitarian actors operating nationally and internationally and to encourage them to use the security check. For further information, members were encouraged to reach out by email.

Kristina Stepanova (Lithuania) presented the recent steps taken by Lithuania to screen for sexual offences against children more effectively. All persons carrying out any activity in institutions providing service exclusively to children, as well as all other persons, including self-employed, whose work involves direct and regular contact with children, are subject to criminal record checks. They are expected to use a special website where they can generate a QR code, which is then checked by their potential employer or recruiter. In the ensuing discussion, members shared their national challenges with screening and asked clarifying questions.

Ekaterina Malareva presented the proposed modalities for the preparation of the draft implementation report in the ongoing monitoring round on the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children. It was proposed, specifically, that the initial analysis and recommendations be shared with a working group, for a first discussion. Members and observers were invited to join the working group by liaising with the Secretariat. It was also specified that feedback from civil society would be integrated directly into the text of the report, together with any responses by the State Party concerned, and that it would be decided on a case-by-case basis whether relevant “invite” recommendations made in the first monitoring round would be upscaled to the level of “require” recommendations in the draft implementation report. Finally, it was proposed that following an adoption of the implementation report, a checklist of measures would be created, as a summary of the recommended measures and a reminder of the specific countries’ status with regard to those measures.

The Committee agreed to proceed with the methodology for the draft implementation report as presented by the Secretariat.

2.3. Follow-up to the Implementation report on protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust

The Committee took note of a proposal that a future compliance procedure to measure progress made in the implementation of recommendations made in July 2025 report on [Protecting Children in the Circle of Trust](#) could be organised around a thematic part of the report. The Committee discussed potentially focusing on the recommendations related to intrafamilial abuse in the context of a future compliance report.

2.4. Discussion on potential topics for next monitoring round

Maria José Castello-Branco (President, Portugal) informed the Committee that the Bureau had discussed potential themes for the next monitoring round. Naomi Trewinnard (Co-secretary to the Lanzarote Committee) recalled the various topics previously identified for future work including: intrafamilial abuse, restorative justice, reporting, sexual exploitation, prevention, training and awareness, education, harmful sexual behaviours and victim support.

The Committee decided to hold a thematic exchange on sexual exploitation at its next plenary meeting with a view to a possible monitoring round on that theme, including some exchange with the [Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#). The possibility of co-ordinating procedures with parallel implementation reviews undertaken by the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDENF) was also discussed. A pilot was underway whereby a question on the implementation of Article 9.1 Lanzarote Convention (child participation) was included in the review of the Council of Europe [Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under 18](#). If successful, this methodology could also be used in the future when the CDENF reviews the implementation of the Council of Europe [Recommendation on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children](#). The Committee expressed interest in future capacity building activities to address implementation challenges faced in relation to prevention (including offender side prevention), out of home care, training, awareness raising and victim support. Potential topics for future awareness raising activities included the issues of harmful sexual behaviours and education.

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

3.1. Thematic exchange on follow-up to paragraph 25 of the [Final Declaration](#) of the informal conference of ministers (1 July 2025, Malta), which calls on the Committee to “[e]nsure the Lanzarote Convention remains a living and forward-looking instrument addressing both current and evolving issues, with a view of upholding children’s protection in the context of an accelerating digital transformation”.

Maria-José Castello Branco (President, Portugal), recalled the extensive discussions on ensuring the continued relevance of the Lanzarote Convention held by the Committee particularly at its 45th and 46th meetings ([2-3 July 2025, Malta](#), [19-21 November 2025, Republic of Moldova](#)). She recalled that the Committee had exchanged in detail on the

independent analysis prepared by Professor Victoria Baines “The Lanzarote Convention in light of emerging trends and evolving norms” as well as the possible ways forward to address potential gaps identified (47th meeting, [24-26 March 2026, France](#)). The Committee had tasked the secretariat with preparing a table summarising the gaps identified with a view to taking a decision on a way forward at its 48th meeting.

Hallvard Gorseth (Director of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe) congratulated the Committee for the successful adoption of the joint statement on [AI-generated or altered child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse material](#). He re-confirmed the full support of the Secretariat for all aspects of the Committee’s work, including in relation to the ongoing reflections to ensure that the Lanzarote Convention remains a living and forward-looking instrument.

The Committee held an in-depth exchange based on a table summarising potential legal and implementation gaps identified in the independent analysis and previous work of the Committee. Members recalled the technology neutral language of the Convention which has enabled the Committee to take a dynamic approach when interpreting provisions in light of evolving trends notably through Opinions and Recommendations on technology-facilitated child sexual abuse. The discussion covered, inter alia, ICT facilitated child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse material, criminal law, prevention, protection, international co-operation and the potential to strengthen the monitoring mechanism. In a tour de table, members shared national positions as to whether a feasibility study on a potential protocol to the Lanzarote Convention be commissioned, which topics should be included in the scope, and what alternative approaches could be considered to address the gaps identified. Members emphasised that any future work should remain in the technology neutral spirit of the Convention to ensure continued flexibility to address future trends. After an extensive exchange, a large majority expressed support for the preparation of a feasibility study to enable the committee to take a decision on the best way forward. The Committee decided to form a working group to prepare the study, with a view to its consideration at the 49th plenary meeting.

3.2. Capacity building – follow up to joint exchange with Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) on 2 June 2026

The Committee briefly exchanged on the joint session with the Cybercrime Convention Committee that took place on 2 June 2026 and took note of the very positive feedback received following the exchange, with 59% of respondents indicating that they would take some action as a result of the exchange including:

- exploring acceding to the Lanzarote Convention,
- legislative review/amendment,
- strengthening co-ordination between child protection and cybercrime sectors at national level,
- raising awareness about the joint statement on [AI-generated or altered child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse material](#) and national practices shared during the exchange.

71% of respondents indicated that the exchange had increased their capacity to implement the Lanzarote and Budapest Conventions. Various topics were identified for potential future follow up including:

- Removal of child sexual abuse material, reporting and detection,
- Protecting children against criminalisation for self-generated material,
- Working with victims and survivors/ensuring a victim-centred approach,
- Sharing examples of national laws addressing child sexual abuse material,
- Keeping children safe online through education and prevention.

Participants indicated a strong interest in case studies and sharing of national practices.

The Committee also identified sexuality education and reporting as potential topics for future work with other committees.

3.3. Initiating reflection on the legal age for sexual activities

Committee members were invited to provide updates on any changes to national legislation on the legal age or its implementation since May 2023, when the relevant capacity building seminar took place. Andorra, Bulgaria and Romania have raised the legal age from 14/15 to 16. Luxembourg has introduced an age difference clause to eliminate the risk of criminal liability for sexual exploration among adolescents: children aged above 13 but below 16 can have sexual relations with a partner who is no more than 4 years their senior.

Andrea Varrella (ECPAT International) presented the results of [mapping research](#) on the “age of consent” in 158 jurisdictions, with a focus on gender-neutral application of the law. In some countries, no minimum legal age for sexual activity is established in the law for boys, leaving them unprotected, or offences against them are less severely punished and exclude certain acts.

Ekaterina Malareva recalled that several issues related to the different approaches to the legal age had been previously explored in the [comparative study of the legal age for sexual activities in the State Parties to the Lanzarote Convention](#), published in September 2023. She presented an overview of the various challenges, including protecting children below the legal age while at the same time avoiding the criminalisation of consensual sexual activity between peers, difficulties establishing whether a similar level of maturity exists between partners, etc. The Committee requested that the Secretariat prepare a draft opinion on the legal age for sexual activities for examination at one of the forthcoming plenary meetings.

3.4. Thematic exchange on ethical media reporting: 2026 edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November)

Mireya García de Murcia (Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat) presented the draft Media Guidelines for ethical reporting on sexual violence against children which would be revised in line with comments received from relevant stakeholders and the proposed timeline for their finalisation. The revised document will be published as a Council of Europe document in English and French on 18 November 2026, to mark the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, which this year focuses on [ethical media coverage](#). Parties are encouraged to translate and adapt the guidelines to their national contexts.

Recognising the importance of addressing this topic, Parties shared national initiatives and discussed potential enhancements to the document. The Committee noted the value of integrating journalists' perspectives and safeguarding press freedom. Finally, the Secretariat thanked the Parties that had sent comments and the Committee agreed to provide written comments, if any, on the draft document by 19 June 2026, to feed into revision process to be carried out by the Secretariat, and to raise awareness among national stakeholders about the 18 November [Day for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#).

3.5. Information by members, participants and observers

3.5.1. Updates by members on changes to legislation, policy or practice to implement the Lanzarote Convention (changes that have occurred since November 2025)

With reference to a question asked by the Secretariat in advance of this meeting regarding any national update to legislation, policy or practice in implementation of the Lanzarote Convention since November 2025, the Committee was informed of:

- Legislative amendments in force: Albania (real and synthetic depictions CSAM, grooming), Bulgaria (age of sexual activity raised to 16), Republic of Moldova (mechanisms for CSAM removal, updated terminology, special hearing conditions), Montenegro (child treatment in legal proceedings, social care, cybercrime), the Netherlands (court ruling against xAI/Grok over undressing images and CSAM), Portugal (banning under-13s from social media, electronic evidence in criminal proceedings), United Kingdom (AI-generated CSAM related changes including a testing defence and offence to optimise models to generate CSAM, nudification apps banned, powers to UK Border Force to search devices, mandatory reporting, no limitation period on civil cases).
- Legislative amendments in progress: Armenia (raising child protection age thresholds), Azerbaijan (CSAM, tech-facilitated violence), Bosnia and Herzegovina (sex offender registry), France (statute of limitations extension, school violence, background checks), Finland (Barnahus investigation bill, media literacy policy), Germany (Draft bill to strengthen the criminal prosecution of trafficking in human

beings and sexual exploitation, draft bill to strengthen civil and criminal law protection against digital violence), Greece (minimum social media age, professional screening in sports), Ireland (legislative review of CSAM), Republic of Moldova (screening), the Netherlands (EU AI Act implementation), Norway (minimum social media age, abuse in public organisations), United Kingdom (grooming aggravating sentencing factor).

- National strategies or action plans: Albania (national children's rights agenda), Azerbaijan (draft children's rights agenda), Finland (action plan to combat violence).
- Barnahus/MDIA centres for child victims: Albania (specialised centres operational), Montenegro (new social care law with Barnahus principles, model implementation), Finland (Barnahus investigation bill), Bosnia and Herzegovina (initial Barnahus model implementation), Portugal (development planned).
- Awareness-raising, education, and resources: Bulgaria (CyberKidz app, child-friendly reporting services), Finland (media literacy policy), Norway (information packages), Ireland (child wellbeing guidance).

In addition, Leah Buck (United Kingdom) informed the Committee of the G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial meeting, where a [declaration](#) and a [set of principles](#) were published, reaffirming the G7's commitment to addressing a range of issues, including child sexual exploitation and abuse.

3.5.2. Updates by participants

Mark Beavan (INTERPOL) reported the organisation's ongoing efforts to combat child sexual exploitation and technology-facilitated abuse, announcing that North Macedonia, Botswana, and Thailand have joined its victim identification database, now covering 75 countries and over 63,000 identified victims. Regional task forces in Asia and Latin America have led to the identification of hundreds of victims and offenders, and collaborative activities continue with law enforcement partners, including awareness-raising campaigns in Montenegro and Namibia.

3.5.3. Civil society observers round table

The Committee maintained its practice of holding an annual exchange with its Civil Society Observers to highlight their recent work and to being informed of evolving threats and trends.

Sara Alaoui (Global Collaborative) informed the Committee about their recent advocacy efforts at the [Global Summit 2026](#) (Vatican City), highlighting that survivors are actively shaping the discussions and emphasising the importance of building systems that place accountability at the centre.

Andrea Varella (ECPAT International) informed the Committee about the "[No Wi-Fi Means No Life: The digital lives, risks, and protection pathways of children on the move](#)" project. Working directly with children on the move to better understand how intersectional

factors like gender, age or backgrounds influence risks of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation. Children described technology as central to their daily lives, functioning both as an everyday tool and as a lifeline during their journeys. Digital devices supported communication with family and peers, adaptation to new environments, learning, entertainment and access to information, while also helping children navigate unfamiliar places, overcome language barriers, and stay safe. Children's digital engagement was shaped by intersectional factors, including gender, background, and mobility conditions. [Project report](#)

Paola Rando (Missing Children Europe) presented the report "[From Grooming to Abuse, Exploitation and Disappearance: Protecting Children Across Digital Spaces](#)" ([Snapshot overview](#)), exposing the connection between online grooming, sexual exploitation and child disappearance. The report warns that current EU responses remain fragmented and insufficient, particularly following the expiry of the EU's temporary legal framework allowing platforms to voluntarily detect and report child sexual abuse material and grooming online. Among key recommendations, Missing Children Europe calls on EU policymakers to criminalise grooming for all children under 18, including online-only abuse; ensure enforcement of platform obligations under the Digital Services Act to address grooming and harmful contact with minors and improve EU-wide data collection on grooming, child sexual exploitation and child disappearance.

Katie Burke (We Protect Global Alliance) presented key findings of the [Global Threat Assessment 2025](#). The report highlights the rapid growth of AI-enabled harms, including the creation of synthetic CSAM that, while not always involving real children, raises ethical and legal concerns. WeProtect calls for stronger and harmonised legal frameworks, clearer responsibilities for tech companies, and enhanced international collaboration. She also noted the importance of anticipating emerging risks and ensuring products are safe by design, while recognising the potential for AI to help detect and prevent abuse.

Grete Raidma (INHOPE) informed the Committee that a sharp rise in AI-generated CSAM, online enticement and sextortion, and sadistic online exploitation had been noted across its global hotline network. The rapid growth of AI-generated CSAM, along with more complex and severe forms of online exploitation, pose major challenges for detection and intervention. Recent trends show differing patterns of victimisation among boys and girls and a growing role for peers in reporting abuse. INHOPE called for urgent, clear legal frameworks, stronger international cooperation, and operational measures to respond quickly and effectively to these evolving threats. ([Annual report 2025](#))

Matthew McVarish (Brave Movement) informed the Committee that survivor movements had been established in 80 countries and that a taskforce had been established to focus on limitation periods. He informed the Committee that the 2026 [Out of the Shadows Index](#) had been launched at the World Health Assembly, which assesses how 60 countries across 6 regions are preventing and responding to sexual violence against children and adolescents. Drawing on [the PACE report "Sexual violence against men and boys"](#) and [ECPAT's Global Boys Initiative](#), he called on the Committee to address sexual crimes against boys and encouraged States to ensure that support services were available for male and female victims and survivors.

Maria José Castello-Branco (President, Portugal) highlighted that non-discrimination is one of the most important principles of the Lanzarote Convention and should ensure that all children, including boys, are protected and have access to relevant services. The Committee exchanged on this issue, noting that boys and girls may be affected by different patterns of victimisation giving rise to the need for awareness raising, reporting and victim support services that address these differences to ensure that all victims are supported. ECPAT International informed the Committee that it hosts a [Global Boys Initiative](#) which seeks to better understand the unique needs of boys and how to better respond to sexual violence against boys. The Committee agreed to hold a thematic exchange on the sexual abuse of boys at a future 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. 9th plenary meeting of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) and thematic exchange on technology facilitated and AI-enabled violence affecting children in conflict, 14-16 April 2026, Strasbourg

Kristina Stepanova (Lithuania) informed the Committee that the CGU has been working on the following topics: accountability for crimes committed against children of Ukraine, indoctrination and militarisation of children, access to education, and safe return and reintegration of children from Council of Europe States. She also informed the Committee that she presented the Lanzarote Committee's work related to emerging technologies and online child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse during the exchange on AI-enabled violence affecting children in conflict (see [meeting report](#)).

4.1.2. 3rd meeting of the Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS), 23-24 April 2026, Strasbourg

Páll Magnússon (Iceland) informed the Committee that good progress had been made with the draft recommendation on integrated services for children affected by violence, which will include operational guidelines. The draft recommendation would be finalised at the next meeting of the Committee of Experts for consideration by the CDENF at its next plenary (25-27 November 2026). Lanzarote Committee members are invited to co-ordinate feedback with their [CDENF counterparts](#). A [Child Impact Review Report](#) was presented during the meeting which analysed 51 international studies on children's experiences of using Barnahus services ([meeting report](#)).

4.1.3. 31st Award Ceremony of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, 19 May 2026, Lisbon

Maria José Castello-Branco (President, Portugal) and Mireya García de Murcia (Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat) informed the Committee about their participation in the North-South Dialogue “[Barnahus as a concrete implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and child-friendly justice standards](#)”, held in Lisbon on 18 May 2026. The event took place as part of the 31st North-South Prize Award Ceremony, where one of the laureates was Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson, founder of the Barnahus model in Iceland and former President of the Lanzarote Committee. The event raised awareness about the Lanzarote Convention to over 70 stakeholders across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. They also reported on a bilateral meeting with Sabrina Gahar, Chair of the African Union’s Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), who updated about the work of the ACERWC of relevance to the Committee. The Committee expressed interest in exploring potential opportunities for joint action and co-operation with the ACERWC.

4.2. Updates from the Secretariat

4.2.1. Evaluation of the Sub-programme on Children’s Rights, Management response and Action plan (DIO-EVA(2026)02)

Malcom Cox (Directorate of Internal Oversight) presented the findings of the [evaluation](#) of the Council of Europe sub-programme on children’s rights, published in March 2026. The evaluation assessed the key achievements and the interplay between the different workstreams of the Council of Europe sub-programme on children’s rights.

The evaluation found that the sub-programme had influenced legislative and policy reforms, enhanced awareness of children’s rights and fostered peer learning among Member states.

Among the recommendations made, the evaluation called for an independent in-depth study on the scope of the Lanzarote Convention in light of evolving trends in child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

4.2.2. Conference on Human Rights in immersive realities, 18-19 May 2026, Strasbourg

The Secretariat informed the Committee that on 18-19 May 2026, the Council of Europe hosted a conference entitled “[Human Rights in Immersive Realities \(XR\): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children’s Rights and Well-being](#)” in Strasbourg. The conference reflected on how immersive technologies are reshaping human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law. Discussions covered themes including freedom of expression, mental autonomy, children’s rights and age-appropriate design, mental health and neurotechnologies. The event also contributed to broader reflections under the New Democratic Pact process on the impact of emerging technologies on democratic participation.

4.2.3. Child-friendly Justice Project: draft feasibility study on Diversion, Alternatives to Detention, Prevention of Offending and Reoffending and Restorative Justice

Anne-Laure Baulieu, Senior Project Officer updated that an [Assessment Tool](#) and [Handbook](#) had been developed under the joint EU-Council of Europe [Child-Friendly Justice Project](#).

Leo Ratledge, Co-Director of Children's Rights International Network informed the Committee about research on restorative justice as a tool to reduce reoffending. According to the literature review restorative justice should not be excluded in all cases of sexual violence against children. Some sources indicated that restorative justice measures could be useful for example in addressing harmful sexual behaviours between children and also where victims or survivors wish to engage in restorative justice processes as part of their own healing process. He highlighted that engagement with restorative justice should always voluntary, with the full and informed consent of all parties and that there are many practices available that do not involve direct contact between the victim and the offender. During the exchange that followed, the Committee expressed interest in better understanding the potential impact on victims that have engaged in restorative justice processes regarding children displaying harmful sexual behaviours and the possible interaction between restorative justice and traditional justice systems.

4.2.4. INHOPE Members Meeting: Strengthening Hotline Effectiveness

Mireya García de Murcia updated the Committee about the Secretariat's participation at the INHOPE annual conference on 14 and 15 April 2026 in Latvia. The Secretariat presented resources and tools developed by the Lanzarote Committee to support national advocacy against AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and participated in a workshop with Latin American hotlines to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention.

4.2.5. Conference on child protection in the digital environment in Kazakhstan

Ekaterina Malareva informed the Committee about the Secretariat's participation in the UNICEF conference "Protecting children in the digital environment: current challenges and approaches" in Astana, Kazakhstan, in May 2026. The Secretariat held bilateral meetings with representatives of Kazakh authorities and national human rights institutions to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention and the Committee's work. State Parties are invited to make financial contributions to the special voluntary contribution fund to continue supporting initiatives to raise awareness about the Lanzarote Convention as a global tool for protecting children against sexual offences and encourage accession by other States.

5. Procedural matters

5.1. Adoption of the list of decisions

The Committee adopted the list of decisions.

6. Any other business

The Committee was informed that the joint Council of Europe / We Protect Global Alliance conference would take place on 1-2 June 2027 and agreed to hold its 51st Plenary on 3-4 June 2027 in Strasbourg, France.

The Committee was informed that on 29 May 2026, the UN Human Rights Office issued Child Safety Online [Guidelines](#) and a [statement](#) by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, calling for States and tech companies to make online platforms safer for children through effective regulation, oversight and accountability.

The Committee also expressed interest in continuing the fruitful co-operation with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children following the appointment of [Ms Ai Kihara-Hunt](#) as of 1 May 2026.

Dates of the next plenary meetings

- 49th plenary meeting: 17-19 November 2026, Strasbourg, France
- 50th plenary meeting: 15-18 March 2027, Strasbourg, France
- 51st plenary meeting: 3-4 June 2027, Strasbourg, France (preceded by the joint COE/WPGA conference on 1-2 June 2027)
- 52nd plenary meeting: 16-18 November 2027, Strasbourg, France (TBC)

Appendix I

Agenda

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 - 2.1.1. Adoption of revised thematic compliance report on victim services and prevention [T-ES(2026)05_en rev.]
 - 2.1.2. Discussion on follow-up to the compliance procedure
 - 2.2. New monitoring round: “Screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children” [T-ES(2026)06_en]: update
 - 2.3. Follow-up to the Implementation report on protecting children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust
 - 2.4. Discussion on potential topics for next monitoring round
3. Capacity-building, exchange of information, experiences, and good practices
 - 3.1. Thematic exchange on follow-up to paragraph 25 of the [Final Declaration](#) of the informal conference of ministers (1 July 2025, Malta), which calls on the Committee to “[e]nsure the Lanzarote Convention remains a living and forward-looking instrument addressing both current and evolving issues, with a view of upholding children’s protection in the context of an accelerating digital transformation”.
 - 3.2. Capacity building – follow up to joint exchange with Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) on 2 June 2026
 - 3.3. Initiating reflection on the legal age for sexual activities
 - 3.4. Thematic exchange on ethical media reporting: 2026 edition of the Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November)

- 3.5. Information by members, participants and observers
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 - 4.1.2. 3rd meeting of the Committee of Experts on access to child-friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services (ENF-JUS), 23-24 April 2026, Strasbourg
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 - 4.2.3. Conference on Human Rights in immersive realities, 18-19 May 2026, Strasbourg
 - 4.2.4. Child-friendly Justice Project: draft feasibility study on Diversion, Alternatives to Detention, Prevention of Offending and Reoffending and Restorative Justice
- 5. Procedural matters
 - 5.1. Adoption of the list of decisions
- 6. Any other business

Appendix III

List of participants

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

STATE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION / ÉTATS PARTIES À LA CONVENTION

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	1. Alma TANDILI Chairperson of the State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights Ministry of Health and Social Protection 2. Anila BREGU Specialist State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights Ministry of Health and Social Protection	Apologised / Excusée
ANDORRA / ANDORRE	Lara FORTÓ RIBERA Psychologue Unité « Enfance et Adolescence » Ministère des Affaires sociales et de la Fonction publique	
ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE	1. Mariam CHIFLIKYAN Advisor Ministry of Justice 2. Mane GEVORGYAN Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Justice Ministry of Justice	Apologised / Excusée
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Manuela TROPPOCHER Judge Legal Advisor Federal Ministry of Justice	
AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN	1. Kamil ABDULLAYEV Inspector-Translator Main Department on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings Ministry of Internal Affairs 2. Jeyran RAHMATULLAYEVA Head of the Administrative Office State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs	Apologised / Excusée
BELGIUM / BELGIQUE	Christel DE CRAIM Head of Service Service for Criminal Policy FPS Justice	

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / <i>BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE</i>	Ajla NANIĆ Expert Advisor Human Rights Department Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees	
BULGARIA / <i>BULGARIE</i>	Marga STOYANOVA Chief Expert Policy and Programmes Directorate for Children, Strategic Development and Coordination State Agency for Child Protection at the Council of Ministers	
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CYPRUS / <i>CHYPRE</i>	Stavroulla ELIA-DRAKOU Social Welfare Officer Social Welfare Services Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare	
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	2. Joséphine PIBAULT Magistrate – Rédactrice Bureau de la négociation pénale européenne et internationale Direction des Affaires Criminelles et des Grâces Ministère de la Justice	
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UKRAINE / UKRAINE	Awaiting nomination / <i>Nomination en attente</i> Ihor PITTSYK Chief Specialist Division for the Development of Family Forms of Upbringing Department for the Protection of the Rights of Families, Children and their Welfare Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity Online / <i>En ligne</i>

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PARTICIPANTS / PARTICIPANTS

STATES HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE CONVENTION / ÉTATS AYANT PARTICIPÉ À L'ÉLABORATION DE LA CONVENTION

CANADA / CANADA	Awaiting nomination / <i>Nomination en attente</i>
HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIÈGE	Aleksandra BRZEMIA BONAREK Professeure Membre du Dicastère pour les Laïcs, la Famille et la Vie Faculté de Droit Canonique Université Pontificale Jean-Paul II de Cracovie Juge ecclésiastique au Tribunal métropolitain de Katowice Apologised / <i>Excusée</i>
JAPAN / JAPON	Awaiting nomination / <i>Nomination en attente</i>
MEXICO / MEXIQUE	Awaiting nomination / <i>Nomination en attente</i>
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE	Awaiting nomination / <i>Nomination en attente</i>

STATE INVITED BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO ACCEDE TO THE CONVENTION / ÉTAT INVITÉ PAR LE COMITÉ DES MINISTRES À ADHÉRER À LA CONVENTION

MOROCCO / MAROC	1. Khalid HANEFOUI Chargé des droits de l'enfant et de la jeunesse Conseil national des droits de l'Homme (CNDH) Apologised / <i>Excusé</i> 2. Sara EL BOUAYCHI Cheffe d'unité chargée de la protection de l'enfance Présidence du Ministère Public
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

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OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

THE BRAVE MOVEMENT	Matthew McVARISH Co-founder Survivor Advocate (GER)	
ECPAT INTERNATIONAL	Andrea VARRELLA Head of Programme: Justice and Child Rights	
GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE	Sara ALAOUI Co-founder and President	
"HOPE FOR CHILDREN" CRC Policy Center Cyprus	Katerina MELISSARI Coordinator of Child Protection Department	Apologised / Excusée
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SAFE ONLINE	Marija MANOJLOVIC Executive Director	Apologised / Excusée
SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL	Tiina-Maria LEVAMO Senior Child Rights and Advocacy Advisor Save the Children Finland	Apologised / Excusée

WePROTECT Global Alliance	1. Iain DRENNAN Executive Director 2. Katie BURKE Policy Manager	Apologised / Excusé
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SPEAKER / INTERVENANT

Child Rights International Network	Leo RATLEDGE Co-Director
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT / *SECRÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE*Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / *Secrétariat de l'Assemblée parlementaire*

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development / <i>Commission des questions sociales, de la santé et du développement durable</i>	Catherine DU BERNARD ROCHY Head of Secretariat / <i>Cheffe du Secrétariat</i>
	Jannick DEVAUX Secretary to the Committee / <i>Secrétaire de la commission</i>

Directorate of Internal Oversight / *Direction de l'Audit interne, de l'Évaluation et de l'Investigation*

Evaluation Division / <i>Division de l'Évaluation</i>	Malcolm COX Senior Evaluator / <i>Évaluateur senior</i>
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DGII: Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity / *DGII : Direction générale de la démocratie et de la dignité humaine*Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity / *Direction de l'égalité en droits et en dignité*

Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity / <i>Direction de l'égalité en droits et en dignité</i>	Hallvard GORSETH Director / <i>Directeur</i>
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Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department / *Service de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité de genre*

Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department / <i>Service de la dignité humaine et de l'égalité de genre</i>	Irena GUIDIKOVA Head of Department / <i>Cheffe de Service</i>
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Children's Rights Division / *Division des droits des enfants*

Children's Rights Division / <i>Division des droits des enfants</i>	Agnes von MARAVIĆ Head of the Children's Rights Division / <i>Cheffe de la Division des droits des enfants</i> Executive Secretary to the Lanzarote Committee / <i>Secrétaire exécutive du Comité de Lanzarote</i>
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Secretariat of the Lanzarote Committee / <i>Secrétariat du</i> <i>Comité de Lanzarote</i>	Naomi TREWINNARD Co-secretary to the Lanzarote Committee / <i>Co-secrétaire du Comité de Lanzarote</i>
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INTERPRETERS / *INTERPRÈTES*

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