

Strasbourg, 3 September 2021

**Observations of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion on Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2206 (2021) on “The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children’s rights”**

1. The Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) takes note with interest of the adoption of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation **2206 (2021) on “The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children’s rights”**, in particular the invitation addressed to the Committee of Ministers to consider a possible review of the post Covid-19 pandemic recovery programmes of the member States from the perspective of the rights of the child and to promote the use of child rights impact assessments.
2. As recommended in §§ 21 et seq. of the [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar crises in the future](#) (CM(2021)37-add1final, adopted on 5 May 2021), the authorities of member States should regularly assess their crisis-related measures, their impact on vulnerable groups – including children belonging to such groups – and whether these measures are in accordance with human rights standards and uphold equality. Based on those assessments, the authorities should where necessary improve their response to the ongoing crisis, strengthen the positive impact of the measures taken on vulnerable groups and eliminate any discriminatory effects. They should furthermore use the lessons learned from an ongoing crisis to enhance their general preparedness for future crises.
3. The regular Council of Europe monitoring through the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and other monitoring bodies could also usefully contribute to the review of the Covid-19 pandemic recovery programmes of member States from the perspective of the rights of the child.
4. The CDADI is convinced that the above-mentioned Guidelines form an important source of inspiration for any such assessment of post COVID-19 recovery programmes. This guidance will be valuable also when considering, as suggested in § 4.6 of the PACE Recommendation, a strategy for future action on the impact of Covid-19 and other future crisis situations. As stated in § 49 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to those Guidelines, persons belonging to vulnerable groups including children belonging to such groups can, even after the end of the acute crisis, still be heavily affected by its negative effects. Therefore, it may indeed be necessary to take measures along the lines of the Guidelines to offset the negative impact of the crisis, even once the initial crisis is over. Those measures could cover the different areas dealt with in the Guidelines, and in particular the field of education.