

Strasbourg, 30 July 2020

CDEFN-GT-VAE(2020)PV1rev

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CDEFN)

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WORKING GROUP ON THE RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (CDEFN-GT-VAE)

Meeting by videoconference

First meeting (23-24 June 2020, respectively from 10 to 13 am)

Revised meeting report

*Prepared by the Children's Rights Division
Directorate of Anti-Discrimination
Directorate General of Democracy*

First meeting of the CDENF-GT-VAE

Part I of the meeting – Tuesday, 23 June, 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The Working Group on responses to violence against children (“CDENF-GT-VAE” or Working Group hereinafter”) held its first meeting by videoconference on 23-24 June 2020. The meeting was opened and chaired by **Matthew VELLA**, Member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (“CDENF” hereinafter), appointed chairperson of the Working Group.
2. **Eida MORENO**, Head of the Children’s Rights and Sports Values Department within the Directorate of Anti-Discrimination, welcomed all members of the Working Group and the observers. She noted that the past Council of Europe’s strategies on the rights of the child had all contained a focus on violence against children and the COVID-19 pandemic has once again shown how relevant this issue was. Indeed, she asserted that to build more resilient societies in view of future crises we had to invest more in preventing and responding to violence against children.
3. The Working Group was then greeted by **Regina JENSDOTTIR**, Head of the Children’s Rights Division, who gave an overview of the current Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) which assigns great importance to VAC responses. The CDENF-GT-VAE would be a key source of support and advice for the development of the CDENF’s violence agenda. The objective foreseen for this Working Group was to prepare at least one non-binding standard by the end of 2021, i.e. a draft Recommendation to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers, on one of the focus topics. Substantive guidance from the experts and observers of the Working Group would also be welcome in the process of building up for a new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027 - *exact duration still to be confirmed*).

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the revised draft agenda

4. The draft agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix I; members were informed that a late change had been necessary because of the non-availability of one of the experts for compelling personal reasons.
5. The Working Group took due note of the list of members and observers of the CDENF-GT-VAE as it appears in Appendix II.

Agenda item 3: Tour de Table of experts and observers

6. A *tour de table* was held, during which all members and observers of the Working Group had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their area of expertise.

Agenda item 4: Address by Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou – Chairperson of the CDENF

7. **Maria-Andriani KOSTOPOULOU**, Chairperson of the CDENF, addressed the Working Group in order to set its work into the context of the CDENF’s activities, recalling, in particular, the role of the CDENF in overseeing the implementation of the Council of Europe’s Strategy on the Rights of the Child and ensuring that the rights of the child are mainstreamed both in all the relevant committees within the Organisation and at the national level. The current Strategy prioritised the achievement of a life free from violence for all children under one of its pillars and required enhancing the implementation of relevant standards as a common challenge of member States. Regrettably, States were still far from achieving the latter objective, but the work of the CDENF-GT-VAE was an opportunity to get closer to it. With regard to the post-pandemic period ahead experts involved in Council of Europe activities should also reflect on whether and how the work of committees needed to be changed, adapted or better tailored to the new conditions. The pandemic had exacerbated issues of reporting of violence against children and made the prevention of (peer) violence both online and offline more difficult. In her capacity as CDENF Chair, **Ms Kostopoulou** therefore entrusted the CDENF-GT-VAE to explore and analyse potential responses.

Agenda item 5: CDENF activities under priority area 3 of the Strategy and planned under the CDENF terms of reference and workplan: priorities of the CDENF-GT-VAE

8. The Secretariat presented the workplan as outlined in document no.1 and went through the tasks foreseen for the Working Group for 2020-2021. It was reiterated that the main task of the Working Group was the contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools on the following two issues of violence against children ("VAC" hereinafter):
 - Systems for professionals to report on violence against children;
 - Measures and interventions aimed at peer violence and sexually abusive behaviour by children.
9. Other tasks for the Working Group include:
 - Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), notably target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children;
 - Support other CDENF activities that may be related to violence against children, especially related to child participation and children in the digital environment;
 - Gather further contributions to the Clearinghouse on violence against children;
 - Contribute to the next Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

Due to the meeting taking place virtually and therefore being shorter than a physical meeting, the Secretariat invited the Working Group to focus mainly on the two key VAC deliverables for this meeting and on reflecting on the contribution to the 2022-2027 Strategy. Moreover, in view of the upcoming CDENF thematic exchange on COVID-19 taking place on 26 June, the Working Group was invited to provide feedback on the most relevant VAC issues concerning children during the pandemic.

Agenda item 6: Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states

10. The Chairperson invited the Working Group to start with the substantive task on the agenda, which related to two key areas of work, namely mandatory reporting of VAC and peer violence/sexually abusive behaviour.

Agenda item 6.1: Systems for professionals to report violence against children

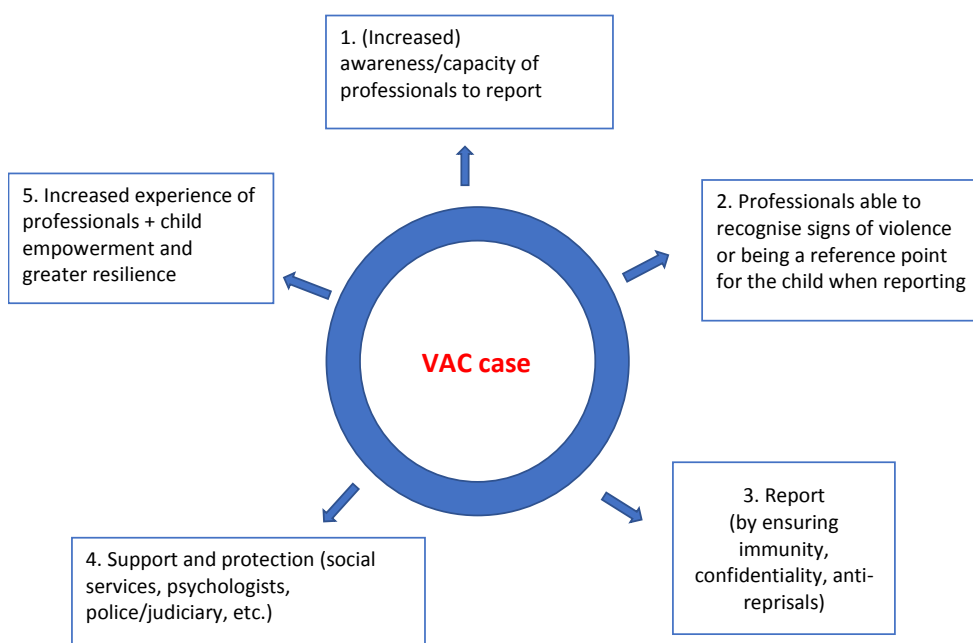
11. **Professor Ben MATHEWS**, from the Queensland University of Technology (AUS) presented his work on mandatory reporting based on his report entitled "*Strengthening mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse in Europe – A study setting the scene for further action responding to violence against children*", as well as on the [slides summarising the key findings](#).
12. The presentation was followed by a discussion on mandatory reporting laws. Experts and observers on the group highlighted the following:
 - Creating a legal duty for mandatory reporting was generally a strong signal, but reporting laws had not always increased reporting rates significantly;
 - Greater change had been brought by other laws and regulations, such as child safeguarding policies for care institutions / out-of-home care;
 - The importance of cultural safety in a country (*NB: initially defined as providing a focus for the delivery of quality care through changes in thinking about power relationships and patients' rights*) and the clarity of pathways to be followed once a report has been made, including an efficient referral and support system;
 - Interservice cooperation was of utmost importance, ideally through formal structures, such as statutory interdepartmental groups;
 - The importance to generate a change in people's minds regarding reporting, while also making them feeling safe. In order to achieve this objective, States need resources but also adequately trained professionals;
 - It was not common to legislate separately on one form of violence (e.g. sexual abuse) while having all forms of violence in mind. – In response, **Professor Mathews** added that reporting duties should not be established too broadly; especially for emotional neglect and abuse, which had to cross the threshold of 'significant harm' before being reported; a difficult question also was if non-reporting should be followed by sanctions or penalties.

13. On behalf of the Secretariat, **Ms Jensdottir** noted that the need to have mandatory reporting systems for different types of violence and not only in the case of child sexual abuse had been endorsed by the group. Training and duty to report were inextricably interlinked and had to come in tandem. There was also need for different stakeholders of child protection systems (judiciary, social services, police, etc.) to cooperate to provide effective support and assistance to children victims of violence, and for provisions encouraging the general public to report VAC.
14. **Professor Mariëlle BRUNING**, from Leiden University (NL), then presented her discussion paper entitled "*Current International and European reporting systems, for professionals, of violence against children, as well as key challenges and recommended future actions in this regard*", following the slides available [here](#).
15. During the second part of the discussion, resumed after Professor Bruning's presentation, further aspects of mandatory reporting were discussed:
 - Certain experts expressed doubts about extending the mandatory duty to report to the general public and were against a general legal duty to be imposed on professionals, as that could trigger proceedings, including criminal ones, which could be perceived as too harsh, especially in certain national contexts where legal duties for mandatory reporting did not exist yet (in particular Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands in Western Europe) – **Professor Bruning** confirmed that it was the attitude of professionals that had to be changed and laws should encourage and protect reporters rather than penalise them; the questions of child-friendly procedures and victim support systems that could take over after a report were also crucial;
 - Some wondered what the margin of appreciation of States regarding reporting laws was, and what the European Court of Human Rights ("ECtHR" hereinafter) would identify as a violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (relating to the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment) – **Professor Bruning** explained that the ECtHR gave States a wide margin of appreciation on reporting mechanisms but identified a violation when the State does not conduct an effective investigation on a case;
 - In some countries, e.g. Portugal, non-judicial systems of reporting were extended to the public at large and foresaw the possibility of filing a report anonymously to protect both the reporter and the child from any risks or reprisals;
 - Experts generally agreed that educating professionals on their reporting duties was key. – **Professor Bruning** added that, furthermore, child participation should be ensured through experts trained in non-verbal signals (e.g. psychologists), as children were not always speaking up openly. As an example, the Dutch professionals' code of conduct (*Meldcode*) included five steps before reporting, including the expression of concerns or suspicions to another professional and, where appropriate, engaging the family. In this context, reporting organisations did not only receive reports but it also issued advice to professionals who had suspicions about a child.
16. **Ms Jensdottir** recalled that reporting systems mainly needed to have positive outcomes for children from a holistic point of view. It seemed useful to involve groups of children for consultations already when it came to reporting systems based on their experience and feedback.

17. Following the presentations and discussions, it was proposed that the draft Recommendation on VAC could address the following issues (non-exhaustive list in free format):

Key issues	Content
Area of application	Key concepts, terms and definitions
	Forms and settings of violence to be addressed.
	Categories of professionals targeted.
Adoption or review of legislation	<p>Encourage member States who do not have mandatory reporting laws to establish one. Ensure that States that already have a law in place respect specific features (refer to 16 features of mandatory reporting laws by Mathews), and in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clearly drafted central concepts 2) Application to known/suspected past, present and future cases 3) Applications to professionals dealing with children 4) Strong protections for reporters (immunity, confidentiality, anti-reprisals) 5) Education, training and customised resources for reporters 6) Support by integrated agency response systems
Implementation of laws	Legal provisions
	Reporting data
	Reporter education and training
	Reporter attitude (mindset)
	Multiagency cooperation
	Child-friendly procedures
	Code of conducts
	Child safeguarding policy for institutions
	Professionals need to be constantly involved
Monitoring and evaluation	Effective monitoring systems of implementation of legislation
	Identifying the most appropriate, child-friendly procedures
	Adequate resources for the improvement of reporting systems

18. The concept of a “VAC reporting cycle” was proposed to describe reporting processes:



Part II of the meeting – Wednesday, 24 June, 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

19. At the beginning of the second session, the Secretariat invited the Working Group to reach a consensus on some of the key issues at stake in the area of mandatory reporting discussed under item 6.1 on the previous day.

The Working Group took action by consolidating the following key assumptions for the upcoming work process on mandatory reporting:

1. The key objective would be to draft a Recommendation on mandatory reporting containing possible guidelines;
2. The draft Recommendation would consider all forms of violence against children;
3. It should promote a holistic approach based on cooperation between stakeholders;
4. Reporters would firstly include different professionals working with children and adults;
5. Emphasis should be put on victim's assistance and support, also considering the consequences of reports on children and their families;
6. The voice of the child should be listened to and taken into account for reporting procedures and subsequent support proceedings;
7. In order to collect good national practices, the preferred working method was considered to be a survey to be submitted to member States via the Steering Committee (CDENF) which could look at both good practices and obstacles in reporting.

20. **Ms Jensdottir** pointed to the fact that some issues had not yet been discussed in depth but should be reflected in the text of an upcoming draft Recommendation, including:
- The legal consequences of non-reporting;
 - The confidentiality of reporting;
 - Ways of encouraging the reporting of VAC amongst the general public;
 - The possibility for the child to report without the consent of the parents or legal guardian (e.g. via helplines).
21. Experts on the group further added that it would be interesting, through a possible survey, to get an idea of possible different “reporting systems”. Key professions should not be forgotten about even if not always or exclusively working with children directly, such as health professionals.
22. Reference was made to several Council of Europe and international instruments that could shed light on these issues, such as the 2009 Guidelines on Integrated Strategies for the Protection of Children from Violence on violence against children, the UNCRC and the ECHR case law; links to selected key resources had also been provided in the agenda of the meeting. Members of the group also pointed to the most valuable resources offered by the World Health Organization (WHO) in this context.

Agenda item 6.2: Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and sexual abusive behaviour by children

23. **Tara BEATTIE** from the Secretariat presented the work undertaken by **Professor Simon HACKETT**, from the University of Durham (UK), who was excused for the meeting. The presentation was based on his report entitled “*Sexual Violence and Harmful Sexual Behaviour displayed by children*”, following the slides available [here](#).
24. The presentation was followed by in-depth discussion on some of the issues raised where the following was pointed out:
 - Considering the diversity in approaching issues of sexual violence against children in member States, related aspects such as the age of criminal responsibility and restorative justice options for children who commit such actions should be clarified to allow States to gradually raise their relevant standards;
 - Harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children was still an extremely sensitive issue and a taboo in many member States, which in turn made the issue of mandatory reporting even more relevant – the two focus topics of the group were thus closely linked. In any case, children displaying harmful sexual behaviour should not be generally pushed into the justice system, but States should have solid prevention and diversion mechanisms in place;
25. **Ms Jensdottir**, on behalf of the Secretariat, reminded of some of the preventive tools that needed further strengthening throughout Europe, including family education, sexuality education, and support for both victims and offenders (through restorative justice).

The Working Group agreed that the best follow-up action for this topic would be, as a first step, be the preparation of an in-depth report mapping out prevention, referral and response mechanisms to harmful sexual behaviour committed by children, identifying good practices in Europe.

Agenda item 7: Other tasks of the Working Group

26. The Chairperson recalled the other tasks of the Working Group and, for the present meeting and limited time available, suggested to focus on:
 - Contributing to the preparation of proposals for elements to be included into a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027); and
 - Supporting the ongoing development of the “Clearinghouse on responses to violence against children”.
27. The Secretariat recalled the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) and the work of the Lanzarote Committee which tackled issues of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation more specifically. Two important VAC dimensions should be reflected in the new Strategy: (1) new VAC issues to be addressed by the CDENF, such as reporting, peer violence, children in vulnerable situations, etc.; (2) issues to be addressed by other Council of Europe’s bodies, such as on trafficking in children, violence in sports, violence against girls, and others. However, it still needed to be decided whether the new Strategy would address similar issues or be given a new focus. Spontaneously, certain members on the group wondered if the Council of Europe, through its Strategy, could promote and stimulate evidence-based approaches for law and policy making at the national level.
28. The main features of the Council of Europe “Clearinghouse on responses to violence against children” were outlined. The creation of this resource centre directly follows from the approach taken in the “Council of Europe policy Guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence” which promote the idea that information should be shared more systematically in an accessible online platform. Experts were invited to contribute to further completing the resource centre by the September 2020; a relevant call would soon be sent out to all CDENF delegations. As an immediate reaction, the [Global Status Report on Violence against Children](#) (edited by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNSRSG/VAC and End Violence Against Children in June 2020) was suggested as an additional resource to be shared.

Agenda item 8: The COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on children and their protection against violence, and possible actions to be considered by the Working Group

29. With reference to document no.5, some of the key VAC challenges and responses provided during the recent confinement period were outlined. Members and observers were invited to highlight any particular aspect of the impact of COVID-19 on children and their exposure to violence that they had seen in their respective national contexts and make any proposals for possible action to be taken by the CDENF.
30. Whilst there seemed to be large agreement on the fact that it was more difficult to follow VAC incidences during the crisis and lock-down, certain members pointed to the fact that varying reactions could be observed, interesting tools being launched across Europe (e.g. new helplines, guidance for teachers to continue observing and reporting in times of confinement) some of which might be worth being looked at in more depth.

The Working Group noted the following challenges and lessons learned on VAC during COVID-19:

- **VAC reporting** : the rates of VAC reporting seemed to show variations between countries, with less VAC reports in certain countries (e.g. Portugal) and more in others (e.g. via helplines in Belgium, Iceland, Ireland or Mexico); the establishment of new helplines provided more some opportunities to report. Reporting from the general public (through helplines) rather tended to increase.
- **Awareness-raising**: distributing information sheets to teachers to recognise the signs of violence on children was helpful in some cases. Reporting systems were based on children being visible, and those who did not have access to computers at home became completely invisible;
- **Equal opportunities** : the gap between disadvantaged and more advantaged children increased due to a strong difference in opportunities relating to access to online schooling and the availability of parents to support them;
- **Domestic violence** : It was generally more difficult to follow VAC incidences during confinement; and important not to forget that children witnessing violence in their families were victims too;
- **Best interests of the child** : this important principle that should guide any decisions taken regarding children was disregarded and not given the attention that it deserves. Fundamental rights of children were affected by the crisis, including the right to play and have a social life of their own.

31. A key challenge recalled by the Secretariat was how to fill any gaps or flaws in existing systems in order to be better prepared for any future public health crises. All experts and observers present were invited to send any further suggestions and lessons learned from the confinement period regarding VAC to the Secretariat over the following week, by Friday 3 July at the latest.

Agenda item 9: Partnership and collaboration

32. The Secretariat outlined the partnership and collaboration approach of the Council of Europe, which foresees the involvement of many external partners, such as international organisations and NGOs concerned with the issues at stake and present at the meeting, as well as internal partners, via the Task Force on the Rights of the Child composed by staff members of different sectors of the Council of Europe.

Agenda item 10: Dates envisaged for the next meetings of the working group in 2020

33. The Secretariat presented the calendar of the CDENF-GT-VAE future meetings, which will have to be confirmed in the next months in accordance with (post-)pandemic developments. However, for now the next meetings were foreseen as follows:
 - 2nd meeting: 5-6 October 2020, Strasbourg (or virtual)
 - 3rd meeting: 1-2 December 2020, Strasbourg (or virtual)

Appendix I

REVISED AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

Welcome to the online meeting by the Secretariat

Opening by the Chairperson, Matthew Vella, Member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

2. Adoption of the revised draft agenda

CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)OJ1rev

3. Tour de table of experts and observers

4. Address by:

Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

5. CDENF activities under priority area 3 of the Strategy and planned under the CDENF terms of reference and workplan: priorities of the CDENF-GT-VAE

Information by the Secretariat

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should take note of its responsibilities in the framework of the CDENF and discuss the specific contribution it would make to the intergovernmental work in this area.

Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01](#) – CDENF-GT-VAE work plan 2020/2021
- [Task list of the working Group on responses to violence against children \(CDENF-GT-VAE\)](#)
- [List of Members of the CDENF-GT-VAE](#)
- [CDENF terms of reference](#)

Background documents:

- [Report on the third priority area of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\): “A life free from violence for all children”](#)
- [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Policy Guidelines on Integrated Strategies for the Protection of Children Against Violence](#)

6. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states

6.1 Systems for professionals to report violence against children

Presentations by:

- Professor Ben Mathews, Queensland University of Technology, QUT (AUS)
- Professor Mariëlle Bruning, Leiden University (NL)

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should consider the study and discussion paper presented by the experts, hold an in-depth exchange about key challenges in the relevant area and decide on follow-up action.

Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)02](#) – Study on Strengthening Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse in Europe
- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)03](#) – Discussion paper on mandatory reporting of violence against children

6.2 Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and sexual abusive behaviour by children

Presentation by:

Tara Beattie, Programme Adviser, Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe
(on behalf of Professor Simon Hackett, University of Durham (UK) – excused)

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should consider the study presented by the expert, hold an in-depth exchange about key challenges in the relevant area and decide on follow-up action.

Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)04](#) – Study on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children
- [Link to the online presentation \(summary of the study\)](#)

7. Other tasks of the working group

- Supporting the review of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), and notably SDG Target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children;
- Supporting the implementation of CDENF activities in related areas, e.g. the rights of the child in the digital environment and child participation;
- Supporting the ongoing development of the “Clearinghouse on responses to violence against children”;
- Advising the CDENF on further priority actions to be developed to enhance the implementation of Council of Europe standards on the protection of children from violence;
- Supporting the organisation of a thematic exchange(s) on specific challenges of violence;
- Contributing to the preparation of proposals for elements to be included into a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027).

Presentation by the Secretariat, including a presentation of the “Clearinghouse” on responses to violence against children and its dedicated resource centre

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should examine and discuss the implementation of its tasks, and further develop the related workplan and activities. With regard to the Clearinghouse, the working group is invited to give substantive guidance to the development of this new tool which shall be enriched and finalised over the summer to be launched in September 2020.

Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01](#) – CDENF-GT-VAE work plan 2020/2021

8. The COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on children and their protection against violence, and possible actions to be considered by the working group

Presentation by the Secretariat

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should discuss the current situation and its implications for the protection against violence and consider substantive action that could be initiated and proposed to the CDENF

Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)05](#) – COVID-19 and children’s rights: Proposals for action to be supported by the VAE working group

9. Partnership and collaboration

Information by the Secretariat

Discussion

Required action: The CDENF-GT-VAE should consider any partners to be involved in its upcoming activities, both internally at Council of Europe level and externally amongst other international organisations, including those present as observers in the working group.

10. Dates envisaged for the next meetings of the working group in 2020

- 2nd meeting: 5-6 October 2020, Strasbourg (or virtual)
- 3rd meeting: 1-2 December 2020, Strasbourg (or virtual)

11. Any other business

DRAFT ORDER OF BUSINESS

Monday 23 June	10h-13h	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.1,
Tuesday 24 June	10h-13h	6.2 and 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Appendix II

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (CDENF-GT-VAE)

MEMBRES DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LES REPONSES A LA VIOLENCE A L'EGARD DES ENFANTS (CDENF-GT-VAE)

18/06/2020

Chairperson (Malta)	Mr Matthew Vella CDENF Bureau Member Chief Executive Officer Social Care Standards Authority	<i>President (Malte)</i>
Belgium	Mr Tim Stroobants Director Flemish Expertise Center on Child Abuse	<i>Belgique</i>
Croatia	Ms Tatjana Katrić Stanić Head of Sector Coordination of Policies and Improvement of Social Welfare Centres Expert Work	<i>Croatie</i>
Czech Republic	Ms Diana Šmidova Lawyer Human Rights Department, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic Children's Rights Committee's Secretary, representation of the Czech Republic before the UNCRC and preparation of periodic reports	<i>République tchèque</i>
Iceland	Ms Heiða Björg Pálmadóttir General Director Government Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Social Affairs of Iceland	<i>Islande</i>
Ireland	Ms Michèle Clarke Chief Social Worker Department of Children and Youth Affairs	<i>Irlande</i>
Italy	Ms Tiziana Zannini First-level Executive and Director General Office II on Family Policies of the Department for Family Policies	<i>Italie</i>
Portugal	Ms Rosário Farmhouse President National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People	<i>Portugal</i>
Russian Federation	Ms Olga Opanasenko Counsellor of the Human Rights Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Fédération de Russie</i>

OBSERVERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**(CDENF-GT-VAE)****OBSERVATEURS DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LES REPONSES A LA VIOLENCE A L'EGARD DES ENFANTS (CDENF-GT-VAE)**

United Nations	Mr Mánuş De Barra Child Protection Officer Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children	<i>Nations Unies</i>
Defence for Children International	Ms Emmanuelle Vacher Child Protection Officer	<i>Défence des enfants International</i>
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children	Ms Eloïse Di Gianni Legal Policy Manager	<i>Global initiative pour mettre fin aux châtements corporels à l'égard des enfants</i>
Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children	Ms Sabine Rakotomalala Program, Policy & Training Specialist	<i>Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children</i>
Missing Children Europe	Ms Aagje Ieven Secretary General	<i>Missing Children Europe</i>
Mexico Observer state to the Council of Europe	PHD. Cristopher Ballinas Valdés Director General of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico	<i>Mexique Etat observateur auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i>