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2 June 2023

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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Urgent questions to the Russian Federation

Replies due no later than 10 July 2023

Decided by the Lanzarote Committee during its 38th meeting
(30 May – 2 June 2023) in accordance with Rule 28 on special reports
and urgent situations of its [Rules of Procedure](#)

- a. Recalling that the Russian Federation remains a Party to the Council of Europe Convention for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention), which was ratified by the Russian Federation on 9 August 2013 and entered into force in the Russian Federation on 1 December 2013;
- b. Recalling the grave concern expressed by the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavik on 16 and 17 May 2023 regarding, *inter alia*, reports of “sexual abuse of children, unlawful transfers and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russian forces to the Russian Federation [...] or to the areas temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation and their forcible placement under custody or adoption by Russian citizens” and their commitment to support “the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the immediate return to Ukraine of children who have been unlawfully transferred and deported from Ukraine to the Russian Federation [...] or to the areas temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation”;
- c. Reiterating its [Statement on protecting children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse resulting from the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#) adopted on 10 March 2022;
- d. Reaffirming also its [Declaration on protecting children in out-of-home care from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#), adopted at its 25th meeting (15-18 October 2019);
- e. In accordance with Rule 28 on special reports and urgent situations of its [Rules of Procedure](#);

The Lanzarote Committee requests the Russian Federation to submit to it as soon as possible but no later than 10 July 2023 a special report containing responses to the following questions:

1. Since 24 February 2022 to date:
 - a. How many Ukrainian children have been transferred or deported to the Russian Federation or to the areas temporarily controlled or occupied by the Russian Federation? Do your authorities keep a register to record this data? If so, please provide details.
 - b. How many of these children have been placed in institutions, out of home care, under “custody” or “adoption” of Russian citizens, or any other situation? Do your authorities keep a register to record this data? If so, please provide details.
2. What are the specific measures taken in accordance with Article 4 of the Lanzarote Convention to prevent that these children fall victim to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse?

3. How are professionals and volunteers, and any other individuals to whom these children have been entrusted or who have regular contact with them, being screened to ensure that they do not have convictions for acts of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in accordance with Article 5 of the Lanzarote Convention? Please note that the professionals and volunteers and other individuals referred to in this question include both those who work directly with children and those who may have access to the facilities where the children are accommodated, study, play, access healthcare, cultural or other leisure activities, etc.
4. Do you provide information and advice concerning prevention of and protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse to these children in a manner adapted to their age and maturity, in a language they understand in accordance with Articles 6 and 31.6 of the Lanzarote Convention? Please provide details.
5. What measures have been taken to facilitate reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of these children in accordance with Article 12 of the Lanzarote Convention?
6. During the period from 24 February 2022 to date, how many of these children are or have been victims of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse (Art 10.2 (b) of the Lanzarote Convention):
 - a. What measures have been taken to provide support and assistance to them in accordance with Articles 11.1 and 14 of the Lanzarote Convention?
 - b. What steps have been taken to ensure that investigations and prosecutions are carried out in accordance with Chapter VII of the Lanzarote Convention?
7. What steps have been taken to co-operate with Parties to the Lanzarote Convention in accordance with Chapter IX of the Lanzarote Convention?