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|  | United Nations | Template-CRC-Concluding Observation | |
| _unlogo | **Convention on the Rights of the Child** | |  |

**Committee on the Rights of the Child**

Concluding observations on the initial report of Rwanda

Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Rwanda

Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Rwanda[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

I. Introduction

1.

The Committee considered the **initial report** of Rwanda (CRC/C/RWA/1) at its 2358th and 2359th meetings (see [CRC/C/SR.2358](https://conferences.unite.un.org/documentrepositoryindexer/MultiLanguageAlignment.bitext?Symbol=CRC/C/SR.2358&language1=English&language2=Chinese&location=Geneva) and 2359), held on 24 and 25 January 2020, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2370th meeting, held on 1 February 2020.

The Committee considered the **combined fifth and sixth periodic reports** of Rwanda (CRC/C/RWA/5-6) at its 2358th and 2359th meetings (see [CRC/C/SR.2358](https://conferences.unite.un.org/documentrepositoryindexer/MultiLanguageAlignment.bitext?Symbol=CRC/C/SR.2358&language1=English&language2=Chinese&location=Geneva) and 2359), held on 24 and 25 January 2020, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2370th meeting, held on 1 February 2020.

The Committee considered the **seventh periodic report** of Rwanda (CRC/C/RWA/7) at its 2358th and 2359th meetings (see [CRC/C/SR.2358](https://conferences.unite.un.org/documentrepositoryindexer/MultiLanguageAlignment.bitext?Symbol=CRC/C/SR.2358&language1=English&language2=Chinese&location=Geneva) and 2359), held on 24 and 25 January 2020, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2370th meeting, held on 1 February 2020.

2.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the **combined fifth and sixth periodic reports** of the State party and the written replies to the list of issues (CRC/C/RWA/Q/5-6/Add.1), which allowed for a better understanding of the situation of children’s rights in the State party.

3.

The Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the **multisectoral** delegation of the State party.

The Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the **high-level** delegation of the State party.

The Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the **high-level and multisectoral** delegation of the State party.

II. Follow-up measures taken and progress achieved by the State party

4.

The Committee welcomes the ratification of or accession to the following instruments:

III. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Convention

IV. Main areas of concern and recommendations

5.

The Committee reminds the State party of the indivisibility and interdependence of all the rights enshrined in the Convention and emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee would like to draw the State party’s attention to the recommendations concerning the following areas, in respect of which urgent measures must be taken:

**the definition of the child, especially in relation to child marriage (para. 5)**.

6.

The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the realization of children’s rights in accordance with the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7.

It urges the State party to ensure the meaningful participation of children in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, insofar as** they concern children.

It also urges the State party to ensure the meaningful participation of children in the design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals **as far as** they concern children.

A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44 (6))

**The Committee’s previous recommendations**

**Reservations**

**Legislation**

**Comprehensive policy and strategy**

**Coordination**

**Allocation of resources**

**Data collection**

**Independent monitoring**

**International cooperation**

**Children’s rights and the business sector**

**Dissemination, awareness-raising and training**

**Cooperation with civil society**

B. Definition of the child (art. 1)

C. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

**Non-discrimination**

**Best interests of the child**

**Right to life, survival and development**

**Respect for the views of the child**

D. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8 and 13-17)

**Right to identity**

**Nationality**

**Birth registration**

**Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

**Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly**

**Right to privacy**

**Access to appropriate information**

E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 37 (a) and 39)

**Corporal punishment and mental violence**

**Corporal punishment**

**Violence, abuse and neglect**

**Abuse and neglect**

**Sexual exploitation and abuse**

**Cyberbullying and grooming**

**Helplines**

**Harmful practices**

F. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18 (1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27 (4))

**Family environment**

**Children deprived of a family environment**

**Adoption**

**Children of incarcerated parents**

G. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 23, 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)

H. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

I. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18 (3), 24, 26, 27 (1)–(3) and 33)

**Health and health services**

**Mental health**

**Impact of climate change on the rights of the child**

**Adolescent health**

**Breastfeeding**

**Standard of living**

J. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28-31)

**Education, including vocational training and guidance**

**Human rights education**

**Rest, leisure, recreation and cultural and artistic activities**

K. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 (b)-(d) and 38-40)

**Children in situations of migration**

**Asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children**

**Asylum-seeking and refugee children**

**Children belonging to minority or indigenous groups**

**Economic exploitation, including child labour**

**Children in street situations**

**Sale, trafficking and abduction**

**Sale and trafficking**

**Administration of child justice**

**Child victims and witnesses of crime**

L. Follow up to the Committee’s previous concluding observations and recommendations concerning the implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention

**Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

**Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict**

M. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure

Ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention

8.

**The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children’s rights, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure.**

**The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children’s rights, ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on a communications procedure.**

N. Ratification of international human rights instruments

9.

**The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children’s rights, ratify the following core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party:**

**The Committee recommends that the State party, in order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children’s rights, consider ratifying the following core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party:**

O. Cooperation with regional bodies

Cooperation with international bodies

Cooperation with regional and international bodies

10.

**The Committee recommends that the State party cooperate with the Council of Europe.**

V. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

11.

**The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations are fully implemented.**

12.

**The Committee also recommends that the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports, the written replies to the list of issues and the present concluding observations be made widely available in the languages of the country.**

B. National mechanism for reporting and follow-up

13.

**The Committee recommends that the State party establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up as a standing government structure that is mandated with coordinating and preparing reports to and engaging with international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with coordinating and tracking national follow-up to and implementation of treaty obligations and the recommendations and decisions emanating from such mechanisms. The Committee emphasizes that such a structure should be adequately and continuously supported by dedicated staff and should have the capacity to consult systematically with the national human rights institution and civil society.**

C. Next report

14.

**The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of the State party in due course, in line with the envisaged predictable reporting calendar based on an eight-year review cycle and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State party.**

15.

**The Committee invites the State party to submit its seventh periodic report by 22 February 2025 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present concluding observations.**

16.

**The report should be in compliance with the Committee’s harmonized treaty-specific reporting guidelines adopted on 31 January 2014 (CRC/C/58/Rev.3) and should not exceed 21,200 words (see General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 16). In the event that a report exceeding the established word limit is submitted, the State party will be asked to shorten the report. If the State party is not in a position to review and resubmit the report, translation thereof for the purposes of consideration by the Committee cannot be guaranteed.**

17.

**The Committee also invites the State party to submit an updated core document, not exceeding 42,400 words, in accordance with the requirements for the common core document contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents (see HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I) and paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 68/268.**

1. \* Adopted by the Committee at its eighty-third session (20 January–7 February 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)