



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child Ninetieth session

### Summary record of the 2586th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 4 May 2022, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Otani

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*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Iceland*

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Consideration of reports of States parties** (*continued*)

*Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Iceland* ([CRC/C/ISL/5-6](#);  
[CRC/C/ISL/Q/5-6](#); [CRC/C/ISL/RQ/5-6](#))

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Iceland joined the meeting.*
2. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland), introducing his country's combined periodic reports ([CRC/C/ISL/5-6](#)), said that a series of structural changes had been made to bring together different policy areas affecting children's lives, including education, sports and child protection. Those changes had been made with a view to enhancing cooperation and coordination and lending greater weight to child-related matters. The recent establishment of a new ministry, the Ministry of Education and Children, illustrated the priority given to children's rights and well-being.
3. Despite many achievements, more needed to be done to meet the needs of children of diverse backgrounds, vulnerable groups of children in particular, and to rise to the challenges posed by changing societies. The Committee's observations provided valuable guidance in that regard.
4. Every effort had been made to ensure that the combined periodic reports painted an accurate picture of the country's implementation of the Convention. Extensive consultations had been held with children during the preparation of the reports; a summary of the outcome of those consultations was contained in the annex to the periodic reports.
5. In 2013, the Convention, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been incorporated directly into Icelandic legislation. In June 2021, a policy and action plan – Child-friendly Iceland – had been adopted to enable a more systematic approach to the implementation of the Convention. The Child-friendly Iceland Plan drew on broad consultations with children and other stakeholders and included time-bound, fully funded actions designed to increase the participation of children and young people in public-policy development, ensure the conduct of child rights impact assessments for all major policies and laws and familiarize all stakeholders with children's rights.
6. Child-friendly Municipalities, the name given to a project aimed at systematic implementation of the Convention in at least 80 per cent of the country's municipalities by 2024, was carried out in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the project was currently 55 per cent complete. A system of dashboards, which was being developed to address gaps in the availability of child-related data, would provide a broad overview of the status and well-being of children and would soon be operating in all child-friendly municipalities. The establishment of the Government Steering Committee on Human Rights, the Government Steering Committee on Children's Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee on Children's Affairs had helped pool knowledge and enhance cooperation and coordination.
7. Laws and other legal or other frameworks had undergone extensive revision in a bid to increase children's participation in matters affecting them. The aim of the Act on the Integration of Services in the Interest of Children's Prosperity (No. 86/2021), which had entered into force in 2022, was to strengthen child protection services and equip service providers with tools for early intervention and support. The Child Protection Act (No. 80/2002), which was undergoing a comprehensive revision, had been amended to strengthen children's right to have a say in child protection matters affecting them.
8. Efforts to make education more inclusive and grant equal rights and opportunities to all students had been intensified. In 2021, the parliament had adopted the Education Policy 2030, a policy document designed to strengthen the education system. Amendments to the Children's Act (No. 76/2003) had facilitated children's participation in decision-making on custody, residence or visiting arrangements.
9. Special measures had been taken to protect the rights of vulnerable children. The Act on Services for Persons with Disabilities with Long-term Support Needs (No. 38/2018)

provided for the full social participation of children with disabilities. A recently established steering committee would evaluate the long-term support needs of such children with a view to improving access to services and resources, while another steering committee would be tasked with tackling waiting lists and identifying ways to make child welfare services more efficient, including through increased funding.

10. Measures had also been taken to enhance the rights of children seeking international protection and immigrant children; a steering committee would be entrusted with the coordination of all matters relating to such children in order to streamline the provision of services by different ministries and government agencies.

11. Efforts to educate the public and raise awareness of the problem of violence against children had been stepped up. An action plan on preventing sexual and gender-based violence against children had been adopted in 2020; support services for victims and access to child-friendly assistance had greatly improved. During the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a specific awareness campaign on violence against children, which had included the dissemination of multilingual videos to reach out to children and families of different language backgrounds, had been conducted.

12. **Mr. Pedernera Reyna** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that the Committee was grateful for the opportunity to engage with the State party in person; the richness of face-to-face dialogue could never be replaced by even the most sophisticated technology.

13. While the decline in the number of underage marriages was encouraging, it would be useful to know whether the State party envisaged repealing article 7 of the Law in Respect of Marriage, which provided for exceptions to the ban on underage marriage. He asked how children learned about the protection from discrimination that they were afforded by the State party's new anti-discrimination legislation and, in view of the reported persistence of discrimination, whether any in-depth studies were being carried out or envisaged to explore the causes and extent of the problem. He also asked what measures had been taken to provide officials with the training and guidelines that they would need to ensure that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child were a primary consideration.

14. The Committee would be interested to learn about the biennial consultations of children the State party had held since its ratification of the Convention in 2009. He wondered what measures the State party had taken to remove obstacles to children's expressing their views, thus enabling full implementation of relevant legislation.

15. He would be grateful for additional information on the steps taken to address the reported decrease in the average age of victims of traffic accidents and suicide. He was curious to know what measures had been taken to ensure that children born to foreign parents and children whose birth had been registered abroad had equal access to free health care and other public services and were protected from involuntary return. It would be useful to know what had been done to ensure that registry staff were trained to apply the Gender Autonomy Act (No. 80/2019), which permitted gender-neutral birth registration. He would appreciate additional information on the situation of transgender and intersex children, including any findings from relevant studies.

16. He wondered whether the State party had any intention to amend the Act on Registered Religious Communities and Philosophical Organizations to incorporate an approach enabling children to decide for themselves which registered community or organization they wished to join. It would also be useful to find out why civil society organizations whose members were children under 18 years of age were sometimes refused the right to register and whether any steps had been taken to ensure that they could exercise that right.

17. The delegation might wish to elaborate on the reasons for the ongoing publication of court judgments that contained information such as children's names. He wished to know whether the State party had taken any measures to implement the 2017 ruling of the Data Protection Authority ordering that such information should be removed from judgments published on court websites. The Committee would welcome updated information on steps taken to strengthen digital education, prevent emerging risks associated with digital environments and harness the potential of digital environments to promote children's rights.

18. **Ms. Kiladze** (Country Task Force) said that she was curious to know why the State party had not developed a specific national action plan concerning the rights of children. She wondered whether the plans and policies concerning the rights and interests of children in specific areas encompassed all aspects of children's rights and were thus a suitable replacement for a national action plan.

19. She would welcome updated and detailed information on the status and functions of the Government Steering Committee on Children's Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee on Children's Affairs. She wished to know how the State party intended to address the reported disparities in services provided to children in different municipalities. She would be grateful for a more detailed update on the status of child rights impact assessments and any positive developments in that regard. The delegation might also describe the progress made in analysing the child rights impact of public spending and in implementing specific projects to meet the needs of vulnerable groups of children.

20. She wondered whether both quantitative and qualitative data were fed into the data dashboards and whether the data were disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, nationality and socioeconomic background. Did the State party envisage ratifying the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure?

21. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** (Country Task Force) said that he would be interested to learn of the progress made towards the collection of data concerning children following the agreement between the Ombudsman for Children and Statistics Iceland. He wished to know whether the objectives of that agreement had been fulfilled.

22. It would be useful to obtain updated information on the plans to introduce an evidence-based and systematic assessment technique in child protection work. The Committee would be grateful to learn more about the current status of those plans and, in particular, the State party's experiences with applying such an approach to a field – child protection – in which it was not always easy to obtain reliable information.

23. He would appreciate an update on the discussions regarding ratification of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions relating to Maintenance Obligations and the Convention on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations. He also wished to learn about any steps being taken to increase access to maintenance in cases where parents were separated.

24. He wished to know to what extent children were consulted on decisions that would affect them and whether those consultations had an effect on the subsequent decisions. He would be grateful for information on the impact of the Government's campaigns to combat physical punishment and domestic violence and the approach that had been taken to encourage parents to use non-violent child-rearing methods.

25. He also wished to learn how the Government planned to shorten waiting lists for psychosocial services, whether it had managed to increase the number of psychologists working in the country's health-care centres and what other measures it had taken to give greater effect to the right to health, including mental health, particularly during the pandemic.

26. He would appreciate an update on the State party's efforts to collect data on violence against children, to make such data more widely available to relevant users and to use the data to improve its violence prevention policies. He also wished to know what steps had been taken to train educators to help prevent or respond to violence in school settings.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.*

27. **Ms. Gísladóttir** (Iceland) said that, although the Ministry of Justice could by law grant exceptions allowing persons under 18 years of age to marry, it had not done so since 2016. The Ministry had submitted bills to the parliament in March and December 2021 to amend the relevant provision and remove the exception. Decisions as to whether to recognize marriages entered into abroad by persons between 16 and 18 years of age would be made on the basis of the best interests of the child.

28. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that a procedure had been established to measure the impact of immigration decisions on children. Further information on methods of

measuring the impact of government decisions on children's rights would be provided in writing.

29. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that, in addition to the 139 child participants, most Cabinet ministers and many of the country's lawmakers had taken part in the first session of the children's parliament, which had been held in 2019. Steps to follow up on the outcomes of the session would have to be taken by both the Government and municipalities, as many of the issues raised by the children related to municipal services. Although the initiative to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 had not yet received the backing of a parliamentary majority, there was increasing support for it across the political spectrum.

30. **Ms. Sveinsdóttir** (Iceland) said that two boys had committed suicide in 2018, one in 2019 and three in 2020; no girls had committed suicide in those years. The comprehensive suicide prevention plan of the Directorate of Health included actions specifically targeting young people, such as measures to improve children's family life and promote mental health in schools.

31. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that the participation of children in the work of both the Government and the municipalities was on the rise and that children would participate more systematically under the Child-friendly Iceland Policy and Action Plan. Children had been consulted during the drafting of certain bills. Systematic consultations would be introduced first in the Ministry of Education and Children; other ministries, too, had been called on to adopt the practice.

32. **Ms. Gísladóttir** (Iceland) said that amendments to the provisions of the Children's Act regarding children's right to participate in family law proceedings had taken effect in January 2022, bringing the provisions into line with article 12 of the Convention. The Act had formerly included a reference to the age and maturity of children, the interpretation of which had sometimes prevented younger children from participating in such proceedings.

33. The amendments had also introduced a provision allowing children to contact district-level officials and ask for their parents to be called in for a discussion if the children disagreed with decisions that their parents had made. The Ombudsman for Children was involved in efforts to ensure that such requests could in fact be made. The systematic child rights impact assessments provided for under the Child-friendly Iceland Policy and Action Plan would address the right to participation.

34. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that the Ministry of Education and Children was developing a dashboard containing anonymized data on children and their well-being in all municipalities other than those whose size would allow the children to be identified. The dashboard would be available to both governmental and non-governmental actors and was expected to be ready by the end of 2022. Plans had been made to develop a comparable national dashboard, which would be made available to the public.

35. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that the dashboard would be used to assess the effectiveness of services and inform decisions about funding and investment. The dashboard would include data obtained from sources such as schools, social services and the Ministry of Justice. It would be possible to compare data across municipalities and use them to investigate possible correlations between factors such as participation in sports and mental health. Thanks to the dashboard, future political discussions about children's issues would be based on concrete figures.

36. Both the Government Steering Committee and the Parliamentary Committee on Children's Affairs had been recognized by law and were addressed in the Act on the Integration of Services in the Interest of Children's Prosperity. The members of the Steering Committee, who represented municipalities and ministries, had already been appointed; the members of the Parliamentary Committee would be named by the parties in the parliament. Those two committees and children themselves had been the driving force behind the development of the Act and the Child-friendly Iceland Policy and Action Plan.

37. There was a significant difference in the services provided by large municipalities and those provided by small rural ones. Under the Act, municipalities that did not have the resources to provide certain services had to work in coordination with other municipalities in order to do so. The Act called for the use of evidence-based approaches to addressing

children's needs. If the need for a service was identified under the Act, municipalities and the Government had to secure the funding for it. The Act cost 2 billion Icelandic krónur annually to implement.

38. The Ministry of Education and Children would set up a department to focus on data, statistics and investment, calculate the returns, for both municipalities and the Government, on measures taken under the Act and assess the impact of budget allocations on children.

39. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that in 2020 the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour had begun to develop a systematic strategy, based on the Committee's previous concluding observations, for implementing the Convention. The aim was to ensure that all public activities and the attitudes and decisions of those who worked with and for children reflected the general principles of the Convention. In that context, the Ministry had held wide-ranging consultations with non-governmental organizations, other ministries, the Ombudsman for Children and children themselves, resulting in the adoption of the Child-friendly Iceland Policy and Action Plan. Measures envisaged under the Action Plan included making access to administrative procedures and official information more child-friendly, developing a comprehensive policy on matters concerning children, systematically collecting data regarding the rights and welfare of children and analysing the impact on children of decisions on public spending.

40. **Ms. Gísladóttir** (Iceland) said that the Government intended to ratify the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure by the end of 2023. The Child-friendly Iceland Plan made it easier for children to seek recourse for violations of their rights. For example, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children had been provided with additional funding to carry out a two-year trial project in which it would assist and advise children who wished to assert their rights.

41. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that the Government had set up a special steering committee to address concerns about unreported violence against children during the pandemic. The committee had overseen campaigns to raise awareness of the 112 emergency number and to encourage the public to help protect children. Some municipalities had developed applications that children could use to report violence. As a result of those initiatives, the reporting of domestic violence had increased. The mandate of the steering committee had been extended.

42. **Ms. Stefánsdóttir** (Iceland) said that one feature of such violence-prevention campaigns was that they sought to reach all groups in Icelandic society. Videos had been produced in English, Polish, Spanish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Russian, Farsi, Thai and Kurdish.

43. In 2020, the parliament had adopted a comprehensive plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence and harassment. The plan, the first such plan in Iceland, was fully financed. It was based on the country's international commitments, and its implementation was monitored by the Prime Minister's Office. It placed emphasis on strengthening teaching and prevention in preschools, primary schools and secondary schools and on involving health-care facilities, community centres and leisure centres in preventive action. An interactive online course on sexual and gender-based violence for people working with and for children would be made available by the end of 2022.

44. **Mr. Olgeirsson** (Iceland) said that, for several years, the Government had been implementing action plans on violence in schools, which covered bullying and digital violence. The Iceland Safer Internet Centre organized campaigns to help ensure that the Internet was an enjoyable and educational space for children. The Centre, which was funded by the Government and run by the National Parents' Association, also cooperated with the media and academia and visited schools to educate teachers, pupils and parents about Internet safety. The Government took a coordinated approach, involving relevant stakeholders, to combating all forms of violence.

45. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that the Government aimed to develop the format and structure of child rights impact assessments within the framework of the Child-friendly Iceland Policy and Action Plan. Regrettably, the development of a template had been delayed by the pandemic and the creation of new ministries. Child rights impact assessments would

ensure that children's rights were taken into account from the beginning of legislative processes.

46. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** said that he wished to know more about the national discussion regarding the bill on lowering the voting age, including why some parties had opposed it. He wondered whether children had been consulted on the bill and, if so, whether they had indicated that they felt sufficiently well informed to vote. While he welcomed the State party's plans to ratify the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, he wished to know how it would ensure that children had genuine access to domestic remedies.

47. He would appreciate information on the penalties that were imposed on parents who struck their children, together with an indication of the number of parents who had been prosecuted for acts of violence against children and the number of children who had reported such acts. He was interested to know whether children had misused complaints procedures.

48. Furthermore, he wished to know more about the specific objectives of the campaigns that had been conducted in respect of corporal punishment and violence against children. Had the Government sought to change mentalities, to raise awareness about legislation or to inform children that they could report violence? To what extent had the campaigns influenced social attitudes? What proportion of people still thought it acceptable to use violence to punish children?

49. **Ms. Kiladze** said that she would be interested to know whether the judicial authorities were involved in policy coordination mechanisms such as the steering committee that had been established to combat violence against children. She would welcome up-to-date information on the State party's progress in respect of child rights budgeting.

50. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** said that she wished to know whether the amendment to the Children's Act that had improved children's participation in decisions concerning, for example, the award of custody had been effective and how the new provisions were applied in practice. To what extent were children aware of procedures that allowed them to participate in matters concerning them? Were such procedures accessible to all children in urban and rural municipalities alike?

51. Noting that the ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure would require children to have access to effective remedies at the domestic level, she said that she wondered whether any progress had been made towards giving the Ombudsman for Children the competence to handle individual claims. Lastly, she would appreciate further information on the role of the Parliamentary Committee on Children's Affairs, notably in respect of child rights impact assessments.

52. **Mr. Pedernera Reyna** said that he wished to know why Iceland Revenue and Customs, which was responsible for the registration of organizations, refused to register organizations whose boards that included persons under the age of 18. He wondered whether the State party planned to change the system whereby parents decided the religious community to which their children belonged. He wished to know what was being done to ensure that courts did not include personally identifiable information about children in the judgments that they published online.

53. **The Chair** said that she was interested to know whether feedback, including from decision makers, was provided to children who expressed their views at the children's parliament. She was also curious to know whether the State party planned to introduce child rights budgeting – or children's participation in the budgeting process – at the national and municipal levels.

54. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that children who were not used to having their views taken into account were less likely to express interest in voting. However, children who were used to being consulted, such as the children who had participated in the children's parliament and municipal youth councils, were well prepared to participate in the democratic process and strongly favoured the lowering of the voting age. The proposal to lower the voting age to 16 years was a good one and should be accompanied by initiatives to promote children's participation in decision-making from an earlier age.

55. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that, some years ago, the municipalities had consulted children on their action plans for the implementation of the Convention. At the time, most children had expressed the view that they needed to be better informed in order to exercise the right to vote.

56. **Ms. Gísladóttir** (Iceland) said that the Ombudsman for Children did not receive individual complaints. The trial project currently under way was designed to make existing remedies more accessible by having the Ombudsman assist and advise children who felt that their rights had been violated.

57. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that as most people in Iceland knew that corporal punishment was not acceptable, the campaigns he had mentioned had focused on raising children's awareness of how to report violence. There was no evidence that children misused reporting mechanisms.

58. **Ms. Stefánsdóttir** (Iceland) said that corporal punishment was punishable under the Criminal Code and, as amended in 2009, the Child Protection Act. Article 98 of the Act provided that any person found guilty of mistreating, abusing or neglecting a child in his or her care, so that the child's life or health was at risk, was punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment. The Government would provide the Committee with data on cases and prosecutions.

59. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that, in view of warnings from international organizations that measures such as confinement at home might place children in serious danger, the Government had taken steps to make the child protection system more accessible and had reminded the public of the legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse. At the same time, it had used social media and other platforms to encourage children to report any concerns. The Government had also participated in an international initiative to disseminate guidance on positive parenting in stressful situations and had conducted an outreach campaign on social media for people who were afraid that they might commit abuse or wished to change their behaviour.

60. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that the Ministry of Justice, but not the courts, was represented on the committee that had been set up to address violence against children. However, the courts and the child protection system cooperated closely on the subject. The children's welfare dashboard was a flexible tool that allowed users to search for comparable information on a wide variety of indicators.

61. **Ms. Thórdardóttir** (Iceland) said that the dashboard provided access to data on children aged 10 to 18 years. The Government had intended it to cover younger age groups but had encountered difficulties in data collection. The data displayed were not personally identifiable.

62. Under the Child-friendly Iceland Plan, the Government had committed to developing a procedure for child rights budgeting, including special emphasis on the allocation of funds to services and projects for vulnerable groups of children, by 2024. The authorities hoped to use methods similar to those used in gender-based budgeting and were seeking the assistance of international organizations and other Governments in that regard.

63. **Ms. Kiladze** said that the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was an important step for the protection of children with disabilities. Nevertheless, the Committee had been informed that in 2018, some 340 children had been on a waiting list for diagnosis by the State Diagnostic and Counselling Centre – a national institution committed to helping children with developmental disabilities. She would be grateful if the delegation could explain the reason for the delay in diagnosing those children and indicate what plans had been made to shorten the waiting list. She wondered why children with physical disabilities reportedly faced obstacles to gaining access to public buildings.

64. Furthermore, she wished to know why the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour had announced major reforms of the child protection system but had failed to bring forward any specific proposals. She would appreciate up-to-date information on the progress made in establishing a cohesive child benefit system and on the results of the multisystemic therapy made available to children with serious behavioural problems. She wondered whether the



Government had made any changes to shorten times for the handling of visitation rights cases.

65. In the light of the entry into force of the Foreign Nationals Act (No. 80/2016), she would be interested to know what assistance and support the municipalities provided to reunited families. She would also be interested to know more about the impact of the State party's efforts to address the specific difficulties faced by children in foster care and about the objectives and status of the Ministry of Justice's review of adoption regulations, which would reportedly cover the age and health of prospective adoptive parents.

66. The Committee would be interested to know whether the complaints mechanisms available to children in treatment homes were effective. It also wished to understand the nature of the special measures that would be taken by prison authorities to ensure the welfare of children who were staying in prison with their parents. In that regard, she wondered whether the courts prioritized non-custodial measures when sentencing primary caregivers of young children.

67. She asked why levels of vaccination at the ages of 18 months and 4 years were so low and how the Government might address the problem. She also wondered how, if at all, the percentage of mothers who breastfed their nursing children exclusively had fluctuated in recent years.

68. She would be interested to know what was being done to improve mental health promotion and screening services and access to early and preventive intervention in all upper secondary schools. She also wished to know whether the State party's strategy of increasing funding to recruit new specialists had shortened the waiting list for children's psychiatric services at Landspítali, the national university hospital. She asked what the purpose of the review of the laws on counselling and education with regard to sex and pregnancy was and what the status of the review was. In addition, she asked what impact efforts to provide adolescents with accurate and objective information on the harmful effects of alcohol and drug abuse had had and how the State party enforced legislation prohibiting the marketing of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, to children.

69. The Committee would welcome information regarding the State party's efforts to address ecological issues with a view to upholding children's rights. It would be useful to know whether the Government planned to adopt a national climate adaptation plan and, if so, whether children would participate in the process. Likewise, it would be interesting to know how climate adaptation and mitigation issues were covered in the education curriculum.

70. Lastly, observing that almost 4 out of 10 children under the low-income threshold were children of single parents, she wished to know whether the Government planned to take any targeted measures to improve the living standards of poor families.

71. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** said that he was interested to know whether education in Iceland was free and to what extent the State covered school fees and the cost of participating in activities. He would be grateful if the delegation could explain what measures had been taken at the national and regional levels to combat truancy and school abandonment and why children dropped out of school. He would be interested to know whether children who decided to pursue vocational education – sometimes considered less rewarding – could return to general education and eventually pursue higher education. Furthermore, he wished to know whether human rights education was part of the curriculum and whether teachers themselves received human rights training. He wondered whether all children in Iceland had access to leisure activities without financial barriers.

72. He asked how the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman discharged its mandate as national preventive mechanism in respect of children deprived of their liberty. It would be useful to know whether the Ombudsman monitored the conditions of detention of children who had been arrested and made visits to institutions such as care facilities for children with disabilities.

73. As Iceland had participated actively in the development of the guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice, he asked whether the Government had drawn on those guidelines in order to evaluate the justice system and

improve outcomes for children. He would appreciate information on how the State party protected the rights of child asylum seekers and migrants.

74. **Mr. Pedernera Reyna**, noting that the State party had ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, said that he wished to know whether it had amended its legislation to establish extraterritorial jurisdiction for crimes under the Optional Protocol that were committed by or against a person who was a citizen of or had other ties to the State party. He would also be interested to know whether the authorities had established a mechanism to identify children who may have been involved in armed conflicts abroad and to support their physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society. He wondered what measures the State party had taken to prohibit the production and dissemination of material advertising the offences described in the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

75. **Mr. Dadason** (Iceland) said that his Government intended to address all the issues raised by the Committee. The task would be facilitated by placing the promotion and protection of children's rights at the forefront of the policy agenda.

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*