

Global status of engagement in the reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child



General Assembly, May 2019

Status of Ratifications and Reservations

May 2019

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child**
 - 196 States parties
 - 43 States have made at least one reservation
 - Non-ratification – 1 State - USA
- **Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**
 - 176 States parties
 - 6 States have made at least one reservation
 - Non-ratification – 21 States – 15 of which are small island developing countries
- **Optional Protocol on the children in armed conflict**
 - 168 States parties
 - 2 States have made at least one reservation
 - Non-ratification – 29 States – 17 of which are small island developing countries
- **Optional Protocol on individual communications**
 - 43 States parties
 - Ratification – 25 from Europe and Central Asia, 11 from Latin America, 5 from Asia-Pacific and 2 from Africa

Status of State Reporting

- **796 State party reports have been submitted to the Committee**
 - 565 initial and periodic
 - 119 initial under OPAC
 - 112 initial under OPSC
- **43 States have submitted at least 4 periodic reports and both Optional Protocol reports**
 - 17 from Europe and Central Asia, 12 from Asia-Pacific, 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 from Africa
- **52 State reports are currently overdue**
 - 19 from Africa, 10 from Asia-Pacific, 9 from Latin-America and the Caribbean
 - 8 reports overdue between 5 and 10 years – 5 from Africa
 - 8 reports overdue more than 10 years – 6 are small island developing countries
 - 92% of States are reporting within four years of their due date
- **42 initial reports are overdue for OPAC** - 23 from Africa with 12 by more than 10 years
- **57 initial reports are overdue for OPSC** – 26 from Africa with 13 by more than 10 years

Status of Civil Society Reporting

- 2200 reports have been submitted by civil society organizations
- Civil society reports are submitted on over 95% of all countries
- Numbers have grown exponentially with 4 reports submitted in 1993 and 219 in 2017
- 3 States with no information from civil society
 - Comoros, Monaco, St. Kitts and Nevis
- 22 States with no national civil society reports
 - 10 from Asia-Pacific, 6 from Africa, 2 from Europe and Central Asia, and 1 from the Caribbean
- Majority of the reports are submitted by national NGOs or national children's rights coalitions
- Reports from international NGOs are generally thematic rather than comprehensive
- Still to come: Analysis of reports from the last 5-10 years to identify where and to what extent Child Rights Connect members have been involved in leading, supporting or participating in reporting

Status of Child Participation in the Reporting Process

- Children have participated in the reporting process 195 times
- Children's perspectives included in reports starting in 1999, but first children's report was submitted in 2002
- Numbers have grown exponentially
 - 20 children's reports and 11 reports including children's perspectives from 1999 to 2008
 - 51 children's reports and 82 reports including children's perspectives from 2009-2018
- 31 informal meetings have been held with children since 2010
- 79 children from 13 countries met with the Committee in 2015
- In addition to written reports, children have used video reports, remote meetings, webcasts and other creative methods to make their views known to the Committee

Progress in Relation to CRC Engagement

- Establishment of strong national coalitions of NGOs
- Regular State and civil society reporting
- Evidence of positive impact of civil society engagement
- Increase in child participation
- Strong worldwide network of NGOs
- Provision of awareness raising, technical assistance and capacity building

Challenges in relation to CRC engagement

- Lack of updated and comprehensive information on the existence and functioning of national coalitions around the world
- Lack of stability and sustainability of national coalitions
- Lack or limited engagement in countries where civil society is weak and civil society space is restricted
- Competition and lack of coordination at national level
- Increase in the number and variety of reports (NGOs, national and regional coalitions, children, ombudspersons, national human rights institutions)
- Lack or limited participation of children, especially child-led initiatives
- Lack of ongoing engagement, particularly on follow-up
- Lack of internal capacity and institutional knowledge within Child Rights Connect

Preliminary Recommendations for Child Rights Connect

- Establish effective coordination between the Child Rights Connect Secretariat and members
 - Map Child Rights Connect's national outreach capacity
 - Map the work of children's rights defenders at national level

- Build/strengthen national coalitions by creating Child Rights Connect national and regional hubs
 - Build coalitions in countries without any
 - Strengthen coalitions which suffer from institutional and operational instability
 - Pilot children's participation or advance children's participation from consultative to child-led

Preliminary Recommendations for Child Rights Connect

- Develop and implement regional/country focused actions
 - Develop online tools
 - Carry out in-country capacity building activities through cooperation with other partners
 - Identify, document and share good practices, including on a regional basis
- Build Child Rights Connect members' technical knowledge and empowerment capacity
 - Share expertise through trainings and webinars organized jointly with the Child Rights Connect Secretariat and members/national hubs/regional hubs
 - Carry out thematic workshops in collaboration with Child Rights Connect working groups

Preliminary Recommendations for Child Rights Connect

- Use CRC reporting in connection with the broader work of the Committee and other UN mechanisms
 - Promote strategic engagement at the national level of other UN mechanisms
 - Develop resources, tools, advice and capacity building to identify opportunities and priorities for linking the different mechanisms to CRC reporting