ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

Distr.: General
9 February 2026

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child

List of issues prior to submission of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Denmark*

1. The State party is requested to submit in writing the information requested below (21,200 words maximum), if possible before 15 February 2027. The replies should take into consideration the Committee's previous recommendations contained in its concluding observations adopted in 2017. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto during the dialogue with the State party.

I. New developments

2. The Committee requests the State party to provide:

(a) Information on the adoption or reform of laws, policies and programmes, and any other type of measures taken, such as the creation or reform of institutions, for the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(b) Any other information that the State party considers relevant in this regard and that is not covered in the replies to the questions below, including information on obstacles and challenges faced.

3. The Committee also requests the State party to provide information on how a child rights-based approach is integrated into the planning, implementation and monitoring of measures for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including with regard to the participation of children and data collection, and how such measures promote the realization of children's rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto.

II. Rights under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto

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

Reservations

4. Please provide information on any steps to withdraw the reservations to article 40 (2) (b) of the Convention and on removing the territorial reservation on the Optional Protocol on a communication procedure regarding the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 30 January 2026.

Please recycle

Legal status of the Convention

5. Please update the Committee on:

(a) Measures taken to explicitly and fully incorporate all provisions of the Convention and its Optional Protocols into its national legislation;

(b) Measures to address the significant gap that persist between the rights enshrined in the Convention and its Optional Protocols and the national legislation and practices in administrative and judicial decision-making concerning children in Greenland.

Legislation

6. Please provide information to the Committee on measures taken to ensure that:

(a) The application of the Convention as a legal source is respected by courts and administrative bodies including systemic monitoring if applicable;

(b) Child rights impact assessments are an integral part of the preparation of all new legislation, regulations and policies affecting children;

(c) Avenues are open for child rights experts and the children themselves to impact the preparation, drafting and evaluation of domestic legislation.

Comprehensive policy and strategy

7. Please provide information on the measures taken to develop a comprehensive and cross-sectoral policy and strategy covering all areas of children's rights under the Convention, taking full account of the different levels of government (local, regional and central), as well as the territories of Greenland and Faroe Islands. Please also provide information on the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of such a policy and strategy, as well as its main findings.

Coordination

8. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to establish a single coordinating mechanism at high interministerial level to organize, coordinate and evaluate the implementation of the Convention in the State party at cross-sectoral, national, regional and local levels. Please provide information on the role, composition, mandate and resources of this coordination mechanism.

Allocation of resources

9. Please describe the measures taken:

(a) To allocate sufficient budgetary resources at different levels of government for the implementation of children's rights, based on a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs for children, in particular children in disadvantaged situations;

(b) To ensure transparency and participation of the public, including children, in the preparation of local and national budgets.

Data collection

10. Please inform the Committee about the efforts made to improve disaggregated data (including by age, sex, and ethnic background) collection to ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention, and in particular, the concrete measures taken to strengthen statistical systems and analysis on the implementation of the Convention in the Faroe Islands and Greenland; and to what extent data collected is used to inform policy and programmes on child poverty, violence and abuse.

Independent monitoring

11. Please provide information on:

(a) The effectiveness of monitoring the implementation of the Convention to ensure that children's rights are met and realised in practice;

(b) Whether the establishment of an independent children's rights institution with the mandate and resources to promote, protect, and advocate for children's rights under the Convention has been considered.

Access to justice and remedy

12. Please inform the Committee:

(a) If the State party, including Greenland and the Faroe Islands, provides for child friendly and independent complaint mechanisms in schools, foster care systems, alternative care settings and in detention places to report violations of children's rights;

(b) If children, including those in marginalized and vulnerable situations, are informed of such mechanisms and if they are provided with legal support;

(c) Of the measures taken to strengthen awareness on children's rights as embodied in the Convention, among children, parents and professionals alike.

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

Non-discrimination

13. Please provide information on:

(a) the measures taken to prohibit discrimination against children on all grounds and in all aspects of life, particularly on the grounds of ethnic origin, sex, disability, migration status and sexual orientation or gender identity;

(b) the outcomes of the 2025 action plan against racism and discrimination and awareness-raising measures to combat all forms of discrimination against children from ethnic minorities, asylum-seeking, refugee or Roma children, children with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex children.

Respect for the views of the child

14. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures taken to allocate sufficient human and financial resources and to strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels in order to ensure the involvement of children in the development of policies and decisions that concern them, including the establishment of youth councils in all municipalities;

(b) Legislation recognizing that the right of the child to be heard applies to decision-making at all levels of education, including private primary and lower secondary schools, and ensures these schools adhere to the Public Administration Act regarding consultation of parties;

(c) The views of the child being always and adequately taken into account in child custody agreements to better protect them from the adverse effects of their parents' divorce or separation;

(d) Provide information on the efforts made to consult with children and include their views on environmental policy (e.g., NDCs, pertinent legislation) and ensure diverse representation beyond already active youth organizations.

C. Civil and political rights (arts. 7, 8 and 13–17)

Nationality

15. Please provide information on concrete steps taken to automatically grant nationality to all children born in the State party who would otherwise be stateless.

Right to identity

16. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure that children who have been separated from their parents in their best interests or given up for adoption have the right to know, as far as possible, about their origins if they so wish. Please provide information on how the best interests of the child are considered in view of the new rule on placing children in adoption before they are born without their parents' consent after birth.

D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 35, 37 (a), and 39 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography)

Corporal punishment

17. Please provide information on the efforts taken to:

(a) Increase efforts to raise awareness about the unlawfulness of corporal punishment and the harmful impacts of this practice on children´s development and well-being;

(b) Promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline, in particular to families with known risk factors.

Abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation

18. In view of statistical data on the consistent prevalence of violence against children, please provide information on the measures taken to:

(a) Evaluate the National Action Plan against Child Abuse (Overgrepspakken) and the main challenges ahead, including the varied levels of implementation across regions, strengthening standards for professional practices and training to support child protection workers;

(b) Introduce the Children´s Act (Barnets lov 2024) and the budgetary priority reforms allocation for its implementation;

(c) Adopt new comprehensive national strategy for the prevention and elimination of violence against children with measurable goals and systematic participation of children;

(d) Strengthen awareness campaigns on the importance of early prevention and detection of child abuse through local social, health and maternity services, as well as effective interventions including treatment programs for perpetrators;

(e) Prevent and protect children from psychological violence across all settings, including schools, early childhood institutions, leisure settings, and family life;

(f) Strengthen the capacity of all professionals working with and for children to respond to disclosures of sexual abuse and exploitation and report to the relevant child protection services;

(g) Expedite court proceedings of sexual abuse cases involving child victims;

(h) Strengthen the services of Börnehus and ensure that all children (0 to 18 years) and children from all municipalities have equal access to the child-friendly and multiagency services provided;

19. Please provide information about specific actions taken in Greenland to:

(a) Ensure follow up of the strategy against child sexual abuse (2018-2022), the Action plan to combat violence in close relationships (2023) and the criminalization of psychological violence (2023);

(b) Take measures to ensure child-friendly and intersectoral intervention in cases of child abuse;

(c) Ensure the availability of trauma-informed psychological and social support for Indigenous children across all regions.

Harmful practices

20. Please provide information on what legislative and administrative measures are being taken by the government bodies to guarantee the respect for the physical integrity and autonomy of intersex persons, including individuals' full and free consent is provided in all cases where surgical interventions on an intersex child are considered.

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

21. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to implement its previous recommendations (CRC/C/DNK/CO/5, 2017), including the efforts to:

(a) Ensure the speedy implementation of the Optional Protocol in the Faroe Islands and Greenland and submit specific information on progress in its next periodic report;

(b) Strengthen coordination at central and local levels and establish monitoring mechanisms for the periodic evaluation;

(c) Increase resources allocated to awareness-raising campaigns and develop training materials and courses for relevant professionals;

(d) Increase its efforts in combating the exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism.

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

Family environment

22. Please provide information on:

(a) The VIVE evaluation (2025) of the reform of the family law system (2019) aimed at strengthening the rights of children in situation of parental conflict;

(b) How the application of the legal concept of "parental alienation" (2025) on the well-being of children will be monitored and evaluated.

Children deprived of a family environment

23. Please inform the Committee of concrete measures taken to ensure that:

(a) Residential care homes and institutions for children maintain a high-quality level despite the resources cut being made by the Danish Social Supervisory Authority;

(b) Caseworkers enjoy professional development pathway by completing the Child and Youth Advisor Education Program;

(c) Municipalities have sufficient human, technical, and financial resources to deliver high-quality case management, recruit sufficient number of foster families and ensure quality of foster care by capacity building and in service support;

(d) The use of coercion and restraint against children in social care institutions, secure institutions and psychiatric institutions is systematically regulated and monitored and that the child's perspective is heard after such incidents and that they are registered across the country;

(e) Children's right to maintain contact with both parents, including when a parent is incarcerated, is upheld, when in their best interests.

F. Children with disabilities (art.23)

Children with disabilities

24. Please provide information on the measures taken to:

(a) Develop and adopt an action plan for the inclusion of children with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that children with disabilities, including those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are not, under any circumstances, forcibly hospitalized, institutionalized, or subjected to excessive restraint, including in the Faroe Island;

(c) Ensure that in Greenland new housing policies and regulations are aligned with the rights of the child, particularly for children with disabilities;

(d) Further increase comprehensive measures to develop and prioritize inclusive education over the placement of children in specialized institutions and classes; and that the adequate human, material and technical resources are available;

(e) Protect children with disabilities in alternative care from abuse and ensure their safety;

(f) Ensure the right of all deaf children to have the possibility to learn and communicate in Danish sign language;

(g) Revise the Children's Act to ensure that children with disabilities whose parents receive disability compensation are granted party status at age 10.

G. Health (arts. 6, 24 and 33)

Mental health

25. Please provide information on measures taken to:

(a) Increase mental health treatment capacity and guarantee that children with mental health needs receive timely assessment and evidence-based treatment from specialized professionals without delays that are harmful to their condition;

(b) Deal with the challenges faced by the psychiatric field in Greenland, such as a lack of specialized competencies, inadequate physical settings and high rates of children attempting suicide;

(c) Increase public health efforts to address eating disorders and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, while ensuring conformity with children's rights, including non-coercive treatments, provision of information and consent.

Adolescent health

26. Please provide information on:

(a) Plans to amend legislation and measures taken to lift restrictions on access to abortion especially in cases regarding sexual assault and incest, where the girl is particularly vulnerable, such as due to disability or age and prohibit sterilization, contraception, and abortion without free and informed personal consent;

(b) Measures to align its legislation on abortion in the Faroe Islands with that in mainland Denmark, with a view to ensuring equal access of girls to safe and legal abortion;

(c) The provision of accurate and objective information, as well as life skills education, on preventing substance abuse (including tobacco and alcohol) to children and adolescents, particularly in Greenland; and the development of accessible and child-friendly drug dependence treatment services.

H. Standard of living (arts. 18 (3), 26 and 27 (1)–(3))

Standard of living

27. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures in the social assistance system reform, which took effect in July 2025, to ensure that all children enjoy their right to an adequate standard of living, regardless of their parents' employment status or background;

(b) Plans to introduce an official poverty line;

(c) Specific poverty reduction measures for children living in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands.

I. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)

Education: aims and coverage

28. Please provide information on measures taken to:

(a) Ensure that children placed in alternative care have regular and adequate access to education at the same level as their peers who are not in alternative care;

(b) Reduce the high levels of school absenteeism and address gender-based disparities affecting boys in the educational system ;

(c) Significantly increase the number of qualified teachers in small towns and settlements in Greenland;

(d) Provide specific training to teachers to increase the support provided to children with Danish as a second language;

(e) End the use of physical force in schools;

(f) Put an end to unwanted sexual advances in vocational schools.

Bullying

29. Please provide information on initiatives to address the increase in bullying in schools and how the State party ensures that, going forward, there will be an adequate complaint mechanism.

Rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts

30. Please provide information about the measures taken to increase the availability of sports activities for all children, ensure that existing activity centres are open during longer hours and that the training of staff therein is improved.

J. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d), and 38–40 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict)

Asylum-seeking and refugee children

31. Please inform the Committee on measures taken to:

(a) Review the "zero refugee" policy from the perspective of the best interests of the child;

(b) Refrain from placing asylum-seeking children and their families awaiting deportation in detention, ensure the well-being of children residing at deportation centres, and avoid children staying in deportation centres when it severely affects their mental health;

(c) Increase the age limit for children entitled to family reunification from 15 to 18 years and repeal the provision in the Alien Act;

(d) Ensure that asylum seekers do not effectively lose access to education after the age of 17 and that children from immigrant/refugee families receive additional assistance to integrate into the educational system and society;

(e) Monitor the situation of vulnerable children in receiving countries after their deportation, even in cases in which their return was voluntary, and act upon reports of torture and ill-treatment, including for the purpose of informing its asylum policies;

(f) Train law enforcement personnel, social workers and immigration personnel on the identification of victims or girls at risk of female genital mutilation;

(g) Ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all decisions and agreements in immigration cases;

(h) Introduce interviews for accompanied children in the context of the asylum procedure;

(i) Increase capacities and the number of personnel specialized in topics affecting asylum-seeking and refugee children with mental health issues;

(j) Provide full access to health care beyond emergency care for unregistered children and unregistered pregnant women;

(k) Ensure equal access to social protection by children whose asylum claims have been rejected.

Unaccompanied children

32. Please provide information on measures taken to:

(a) Ensure that children are not, under any circumstances, placed in detention, and endeavour to place children in child-friendly accommodation under the child protection authorities instead of asylum centres. In the meantime, ensure that all unaccompanied children are placed in specialized asylum centres for children and that siblings are not separated;

(b) Ensure that unaccompanied children do not go missing from asylum centres; increase efforts to search for children who have already gone missing from the asylum centres, provide them with adequate protection and ensure that the perpetrators are adequately prosecuted and punished;

(c) Ensure that the asylum claims of children are speedily assessed by placing the greater burden of proof in determining refugee status on the immigration authorities if the child is considered insufficiently mature;

(d) Avoid the negative effects of temporary residence permits on unaccompanied children living in the State party;

(e) Consider the proven uncertainties in the medical age assessment examinations and ensure that the least intrusive method is used.

Sale, trafficking and abduction

33. Please share information on measures taken to:

(a) Implement procedures and guidelines within the police in cases of trafficking where children have been involved;

(b) Continue its efforts to establish adequate and coordinated mechanisms for the identification and protection of child victims of trafficking, reduce bureaucracy and ensure systematic and timely information-sharing among relevant officials, and strengthen the capacity of police officers, border guards, labour inspectors and social workers to identify child victims of trafficking;

(c) Ensure that child victims are not, under any circumstances, treated as offenders, that they are provided with free legal aid and the support of child psychologists and social workers, and have access to child- and gender-sensitive complaints mechanisms and to adequate procedures for seeking, without discrimination, compensation and redress;

(d) Ensure that children who cannot be guaranteed witness protection upon repatriation be granted permission to reside in Denmark and receive protection, and ensure access to shelter and a temporary residence permit for foreign child victims of trafficking during the investigation period.

Administration of child justice

34. Please share information on measures taken to:

(a) Emphasise prevention policies that facilitate the successful socialization and integration of all children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law;

(b) Establish specialized juvenile courts and procedures with adequate human, technical and financial resources, and designate specialized judges for children;

(c) Ensure that sentences imposed on children are proportionate, non-discriminatory, and aimed at their rehabilitation and reintegration; make legislative reforms to reduce the maximum sentence applicable to children;

(d) Promote non-judicial measures in the case of children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed criminal law; ensure that detention, including pre-trial detention, is used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time, not exceeding six months;

(e) Support children placed in secured institutions – during and after their placement – to ensure a normal childhood and youth with proper access to see their family;

(f) Amend the provision of section 78 (2) of the Sentence Enforcement Act that allows for children being placed in prison together with adults;

(g) Ensure that the interventions of the Juvenile Delinquency Board (UKN) are rights and needs based, child-friendly and trauma informed;

(h) Reduce the maximum sentence applicable to children and ensure that sentences imposed on children are proportionate, non-discriminatory, and aimed at their rehabilitation and reintegration;

(i) Abolish all forms of solitary confinement of children and introduce alternative measures used that ensure safety or investigative needs.

Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict

35. Please inform the Committee about the measures taken to implement its previous recommendations (CRC/C/DNK/CO/5, 2017), including on progress made to:

(a) Provide assistance for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children who may have been involved in armed conflict abroad;

(b) Continue to develop ongoing and systematic education and training on the provisions of the Optional Protocol for all relevant professional groups, in particular military personnel and peacekeepers.

III. Statistical information and data

36. The statistical information and disaggregated data provided by the State party should cover the period since the consideration of its previous reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols

thereto. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, type of disability, geographic location and socioeconomic status, as well as by year or other relevant time frame.

37. The provision of tables presenting trends over the reporting period is recommended and explanations or comments on significant changes that have taken place over the reporting period should also be provided.

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

38. Please provide information on the budget lines regarding children and social sectors by indicating the amount and the proportion of each budget line in terms of the total national budget.

B. Definition of the child (art. 1)

39. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number and proportion of children under 18 years of age living in the State party.

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

40. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number of cases and prosecutions brought before the courts under Act C of 2012 on non-discrimination, and the sanctions issued to perpetrators.

41. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number of children who attempted or committed suicide.

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

42. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number of stateless children.

E. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24 (3), 28 (2), 34, 35, 37 (a), and 39 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography)

43. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) Number of cases of violence against children, including (online) sexual abuse, corporal punishment, reported to the authorities, investigated and prosecuted, and the sanctions issued to perpetrators, disaggregated by type of offence;

(b) Number and type of protective measures provided to child victims of violence;

(c) Number of cases of bullying.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

44. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) The number of reported cases of the sale of children and sexual exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography;

(b) The number of such cases that have been investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned;

(c) The number of child victims of such crimes who have been provided with recovery assistance or compensation.

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

45. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number and proportion of families and children receiving economic and other type of support services.

46. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) Number of children in institutional care and average days of stay;

(b) Number of children in family-and community-based care;

(c) Number of Greenlandic children placed in care, adopted, and reunited, disaggregated by year and reason for removal, including cases involving FKU tests.

G. Children with disabilities (art.23)

47. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, and by type of disability, on:

(a) Number of children with disabilities;

(b) Number of children with disabilities living with their families and living in family- and community-based care;

(c) Number of children with disabilities in inclusive education and in separate schools;

(d) Number of reported cases of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and neglect and sexual violence against children with disabilities placed in institutions, number of investigations and prosecutions carried out and sentences issued.

H. Health (arts. 6, 24 and 33)

48. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) Number and rate of children with health insurance; and

(b) Number of paediatric and mental health services and professionals specialized in young children and adolescents, disaggregated by region.

49. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) Number of adolescent mothers;

(b) Number of children with drug and alcohol abuse;

(c) Number of sexual and reproductive health services available to adolescents, disaggregated by region.

50. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on the number and proportion of children living under the poverty line and in extreme poverty.

I. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28–31)

51. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, in respect of:

(a) Number and proportion of children aged between 16 and 18 years not attending school;

(b) Number and proportion of children dropping out of school;

(c) Number of children in segregated schools and in segregated classes in regular schools;

(d) Number and proportion of children attending early childhood education and the average years of attendance;

(e) Number of children in public and private, including religious, schools.

J. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32–33, 35–36, 37 (b)–(d), and 38–40 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict)

52. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above as well as by country of origin, and accompanied or unaccompanied status, on:

(a) Number of asylum-seeking and refugee children;

(b) Number of children in situations of migration;

(c) Number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged between 14 and 18 years who are not covered by the Child Protection Act;

(d) Number of asylum-seeking and refugee children, and children in situations of migration detained;

(e) Number of children expelled from the territory of the State party

(f) Number of asylum-seeking and refugee children, and children in situations of migration attending school and with full access to health care.

53. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above and by types of violation reported, on:

(a) The number of reported cases and the number of children involved in trafficking;

(b) The number of such children who have been provided with access to rehabilitation programmes;

(c) The number and percentage of such cases that have resulted in sanctions, with information on the country of origin of the perpetrator and the nature of the penalties imposed.

54. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, and by type of crime, on:

(a) Number of children in detention facilities and the average stay, disaggregated by pre-trial detention, such as in police cells, and in prison; and

(b) Number of children referred to diversion and non-custodial sentencing options.

K. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

55. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 26 above, on:

(a) The number of asylum-seeking and refugee children entering the State party from areas where children may have been recruited or used in hostilities; and

(b) The number of children who benefit from physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration measures.