

# The KidsRights Index:

## Explanations for Selected Striking Results emerging from the Domain 'The Enabling Environment for Child Rights' and Presentation of CRC Committee Policy Recommendations: China, Guyana, Israel, Kuwait, Lithuania and Luxembourg in the KidsRights Index 2014

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### Explanation of the Domain 'The Enabling Environment for Child Rights'

The domain 'The Enabling Environment for Child Rights', or 'child rights environment' in short, in the KidsRights Index is composed on the basis of seven indicators, as presented in the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Concluding Observations finish off the state reporting procedure under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and represent the Committee's views on the level of realization of children's rights in a particular country. Together these seven indicators provide insight into:

- a. the extent to which the general principles of the CRC are operationalized (by the indicators non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation) and
- b. the extent to which there is a basic 'infrastructure' for child rights policy, in the form of: enabling national legislation; mobilization of the 'best available' budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights.

### Explanation of Update

In the KidsRights Index 2014, the 'child rights environment' domain has been updated with all Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2013. These related to the following fifteen countries: Armenia, China, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Israel, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovenia, Tuvalu and Uzbekistan.

### Explanation of Selection of 'Striking Results'

Except Singapore, all countries that scored a difference of more than 25 positions in the KRI 2014 as compared to the KRI 2013 were subject to the CRC state reporting procedure in 2013 and thus received a new score for the domain 'child rights environment'. This applied to six out of the fifteen countries on which new Concluding Observations became available in 2013 and therefore these were selected for presentation as 'striking results'. Three of these countries score higher and the other three score lower on the KRI 2014 as compared to the KRI 2013. The countries involved are: China, Guyana, Israel, Kuwait, Lithuania and Luxembourg. The comparative scores of these countries on the domain 'child rights environment' are presented in the table below. Then follows a short analysis of the KRI 2014 results for the selected countries, and an overview of the policy recommendations that the CRC Committee has made in the 2013 Concluding Observations on the countries concerned.

Country	Non-discrimination	Best interest of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
China 2013	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
China 2005	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Guyana 2013	2	2	2	2	2	2	NA
Guyana 2005	1	1	2	2	2	1	NA
Israel 2013	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Israel 2002	1	1	3	3	1	2	1
Kuwait 2013	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
Kuwait 1998	1	1	1	2	NA	1	NA
Lithuania 2013	1	1	2	2	1	1	NA
Lithuania 2006	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Luxembourg 2013	1	2	2	2	1	1	NA
Luxembourg 2005	2	1	1	NA	NA	1	NA

<b>Scoring system:</b>	Score 1 'bad'	= only negative remarks
	Score 2 'in between'	= negative and positive remarks
	Score 3 'good'	= only positive remarks
	NA	= not addressed

### **Selected States that Improved their Rank in the KidsRights Index: A Comparison of KRI Scores**

- Guyana: KRI 2013: 102; KRI 2014: 75 (= plus 27)
- Kuwait: KRI no. 2013: 110; KRI no. 2014: 62 (= plus 48)
- Luxembourg: KRI no. 2013: 100; KRI no. 2014: 61 (= plus 39)

### **Selected States that Obtained a Lower Rank in the KidsRights Index: A Comparison of KRI Scores**

- China: KRI no. 1: 57; KRI no. 2: 92 (= minus 35)
- Israel: KRI no. 1: 39; KRI no. 2: 73 (= minus 34)
- Lithuania: KRI no. 1: 54; KRI no. 2: 115 (= minus 60)

### **General Remarks on KRI 2014 Rankings**

1. **The Scope for Realizing the Full Spectrum of Children's Rights (as laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) is not only determined by income, or by level of economic or human development.**  
In line with the CRC, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child considers the implementation record of states parties to the Convention with a certain level of consideration for the development level and/or implementation capacity of those states parties. For example, according to article 4 of the CRC, states have to mobilize 'the maximum extent of their available resources'. This may have different actual implications for some states as compared to others. For example, a highly developed country can be expected to mobilize more resources than a least developed country. Accordingly, in situations in which relatively limited means are available to implement the CRC, political will to genuinely prioritize children's rights by allocating the maxim/best available budget can make a significant difference. Likewise, certain well-resourced countries might nevertheless have failed to adequately address discrimination of children or may not have been active on gathering disaggregated data on the situation of

(particular groups of) children in that country. This explains why in certain situations perhaps rather unexpected scores may be obtained on the KidsRights Index. None of the countries highlighted in this document managed to obtain the maximum score of 3 (indicating the presentation of positive remarks only in the CRC CO).

## 2. Availability of data

The (non-)availability of data remains a stark fact. Of the 6 states featured in this document, only one (Guyana) realized a middle score (indicating a combination of positive and negative remarks in the latest Concluding Observations (CO) on the indicator ‘collection and analysis of disaggregated data’. All five others realized the lowest possible score (indicating that the CO contains only negative remarks on this aspect). Half of the countries involved (which incidentally make up all of the countries who scored significantly lower on the KRI 2014 as compared to the KRI 2013 – China, Israel and Lithuania) obtained a lower score than previously was the case on the element of ‘collection and analysis of disaggregated data’.

## **Analysis of the Selected Country-Level Rankings in the KRI 2014 (For qualitative explanations of the scores on each indicator per country, please consult the KRI 2014 full scoretable)**

### 1. Countries that have Improved their Rank in the KRI 2014

#### • **Guyana (CO data from 2013, 1 score missing)**

Guyana’s overall record in terms of the enabling environment for children’s rights is reasonably strong. Compared to the scores derived from the 2005 Concluding Observations, the country managed to improve its score on three indicators: non-discrimination, best interests, and data. On no indicator was the score lower than before. Next to one missing score (for the indicator state-civil society cooperation which was not available in 2005 either), Guyana does not have the lowest score (of 1) on any of the indicators. Rather, Guyana consistently scores the middle score (of 2) on all other indicators.

#### **CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening Guyana’s Child Rights Record:**

- *On non-discrimination:* (CO 2013 para. 25): “ensure that its programmes address the situation of discrimination against Amerindian children, children with disabilities, and other children because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity”; “to include information in its next periodic report on measures and programmes relevant to the Convention and undertaken by the State party in follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as the outcome document adopted at the 2009 Durban Review Conference.”
- *On best interests:* (CO 2013 para. 27): “to strengthen its efforts to ensure that the right of the child to have his/her best interests taken into account as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings as well as in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children”; “to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance for determining the best interests of the child in every area, and to disseminate these to the public, including traditional and religious leaders, courts of law, administrative authorities and legislative bodies.”
- *On child participation:* (CO 2013 para. 29): “a) Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of legislation recognizing the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal proceedings, including by establishing systems and/or procedures for social workers and courts to comply with the principle; (b) Conduct research to identify the issues that are most important to children, to hear their views on those issues, how well their voices

are heard in family decisions affecting their lives, and the channels through which they have the most current and potential influence on national and local decision-making; (c) Develop toolkits for public consultations on national policy development to standardize these consultations at a high level of inclusiveness and participation; and (d) Undertake programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children, within the family, community, and schools, including within student council bodies - with particular attention to children in vulnerable situations.”

- *On legislation* (CO 2013 para. 9): “undertake a comprehensive review of its laws to ensure their full compatibility with the Convention. In so doing, (...) to expeditiously establish a Family Court and adopt a Juvenile Justice Law that is in full compliance with the Convention.”
- *On budget* (CO 2013 para. 15): “(a) Establish a budgeting process which specifies clear allocations to children in the relevant sectors and agencies, including specific indicators and a tracking system; (b) Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the adequacy, efficacy and equitability of the distribution of resources allocated to the implementation of the Convention; and (c) Enact legislation for regulating equitable funding and social benefits for children and their families throughout its territory and with particular attention to the hinterland and rural areas.”
- *On data* (CO 2013 para. 17): “further improve its system of data collection and consider establishing a central data collection unit. The data should cover all areas of the Convention and be disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity and socio-economic background to facilitate analysis on the situation of all children”; using “the data and indicators (...) for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention”; “strengthen its technical cooperation with, among others, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other regional mechanisms.”

- **Kuwait (CO data from 2013, all scores available)**

Compared to the scores derived from the previous (1998) Concluding Observations, Kuwait managed to improve its score on four indicators: non-discrimination, best interests, budget and state-civil society cooperation. On no indicator was the score lower than before. On two indicators on which previously no scores were available (budget and state-civil-society cooperation) scores could be compiled now. As a result there are no missing scores any longer and the information on Kuwait is complete.

**CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening Kuwait’s Child Rights Record:**

- *On discrimination* (CO 2013 paras. 28 and 30): “to shift from its humanitarian approach to a child rights-based response to the situation of bidoon children and to take immediate measures to ensure that all bidoon children enjoy all their rights enshrined in the Convention without discrimination”; “to report in detail about these measures and their outcome in its next periodic report”; “to proceed with the removal from the Personal Status Act of all provisions that discriminate against girls and women”; “take concrete actions to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes that negatively affect the development of girls’ personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential and amend school curricula that convey such attitudes and to ensure that boys and girls have equal opportunities in the school system.
- *On best interests* (CO 2013 para. 32): “strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children”; “urges the State party to assess and fully take into account the best interests of the child in judicial proceedings where parents are involved and when sentencing parents to death”; “to undertake a full assessment of the impact that its legislation and policies has on bidoon children.”

- *On child participation* (CO 2013 para. 34): “take all appropriate measures to encourage the participation of children in the family, in institutions, at school and in society”; establish clear mechanisms and guidelines for an effective implementation in practice of the right of the child to be heard, and ensure that the views of the child are taken into account by policymaking bodies and that children are provided with adequate responses to their proposals.”
  - *On budget* (CO 2013 para. 16): “(a) Utilize a child-rights approach in the development of the State budget by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and use of resources for children throughout the budget, thus providing visibility to the investment in children and allowing impact assessments on how investments in any sector may serve to fulfil children’s rights; (b) Ensure transparent and participatory budgeting through public dialogue, especially with children and for proper accountability by local authorities; and (c) Define strategic budgetary lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, in particular bidoon children, children with disabilities and children of migrant workers.”
  - *On data* (CO 2013 para. 18): “In the light of its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.96, para. 13), the Committee encourages the State party to set up a national and comprehensive system to collect data, disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, ethnicity, geographic location and socioeconomic background, on all areas of the Convention in order to facilitate the analysis of progress achieved in the realization of child rights and to help design policies and programmes to implement the Convention. The State party should ensure that the information collected contains up-to-date data on children in disadvantaged situations, particularly girls, bidoon children, children of migrant workers and children with disabilities. The Committee further urges the State party to develop and implement a policy to protect the privacy of all children who have been registered in the national databases.”
  - *On state-civil society cooperation* (CO 2013 para. 22): “to systematically involve communities and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and children’s organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to child rights.”
- **Luxembourg (CO data from 2013, 1 score missing)**  
Compared to the scores derived from the previous (2005) Concluding Observations, Luxembourg managed to improve its score on four indicators: best interests, child participation, legislation and budget. On one indicator (non-discrimination) the score is lower than before. On two indicators on which previously no scores were available (legislation and budget) scores could be compiled now. On one indicator (state-civil society cooperation) there is still no information and thus the score is missing.

#### **CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening Luxembourg’s Child Rights Record:**

- *On discrimination* (CO 2013 para. 23): “The Committee reiterates its recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.250, para. 23) and urges the State party to expeditiously undertake the necessary legislative reforms to eliminate discrimination against children born out of wedlock.”
- *On best interests* (CO 2013 para. 25): “strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings as well as in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to and with an impact on children”; “to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority for determining the best interests of the child in every area, and to disseminate these to the public, including public and private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities and legislative bodies.”
- *On child participation* (CO 2013 para. 27): “(a) Continue promoting and facilitating the principle of respect for

the views of the child notwithstanding his or her age within the family, schools, institutions and the community; (b) Ensure the right of the child to be heard in relevant legal and judicial proceedings, including by continuing to facilitate systems and/or procedures for social workers and courts to comply with the principle; (c) Continue to provide educational information to parents, teachers and headmasters, government administrative officials, the judiciary, children themselves and society at large, with a view to creating an encouraging atmosphere where children can freely express their views; and (d) Systematically consider the views of the child in formulating laws and policies that may affect them.”

- *On legislation* (CO 2013 para. 13): “to expeditiously undertake the necessary legislative reviews and reforms to ensure the full incorporation of the principles and provisions of the Convention into domestic legislation”; “to provide clear guidelines for the consistent application of this legislation.”
- *On budget* (CO 2013 paras. 15, 17, 37(b) and 51(c)): “allocate adequate (...) financial resources” for the implementation of the - yet to be prepared - “comprehensive policy on children (...) [and] comprehensive strategy for the overall realization of the principles and provisions of the Convention”; “ensure that the ONE [Office Nationale de L’Enfance] is provided with the necessary (...) financial resources for its effective operation”; “Strengthen the resources of mainstream schools so that they can include as many children with disabilities as possible”; “Provide sufficient resources for the new detention unit to be fully operational”.
- *On data* (CO 2013 para. 19): “In line with its previous recommendation of 2005, the Committee recommends that the State party continue and strengthen its efforts to develop a comprehensive system for the collection of comparative and disaggregated data on the implementation of the Convention (CRC/C/15/add.250, para. 17).”

## 2. Countries that Obtained a Lower Rank in the KRI 2014

### • **China (CO data from 2013, all scores available)**

Compared to the scores derived from the previous (2005) Concluding Observations, China obtained lower scores on no less than four indicators: non-discrimination, budget, data and state-civil society cooperation. On two indicators the score was higher than before (best interests and child participation). As before, scores were available for all indicators and the information on China thus remains complete.

#### CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening China’s Child Rights Record:

- *On discrimination* (CO 2013 paras. 26, 28 and 30): “to take immediate action in mainland China to eliminate policies, practices and security measures that disproportionately affect or discriminate against Tibetan and Uighur children and children of Falun Gong practitioners. It further recommends that the State party identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination, including in education, and health and social services, against children with disabilities, children of migrant workers, refugee and asylum-seeking children and children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS”; “to adopt a comprehensive approach to take effective and systematic action to combat social, cultural and economic discrimination against girls and women, including social and institutional norms and practices that are inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention and that perpetuate discrimination against girls. The Committee further recommends that the State party take immediate legal, policy and awareness-raising measures to prevent sex-selective abortions, female infanticide and abandonment of girls, including by addressing factors that reinforce cultural norms and practices that discriminate against girls”; “that Hong Kong, China intensify measures, including awareness-raising, identification of discriminatory policies and timely implementation of relevant programmes, to combat discrimination against children with

disabilities, undocumented children of migrant workers, and refugee and asylum-seeking children, and to ensure that these children have equal access to basic services, including health, education and other social services”; recommends that Macao, China, “actively seek information on discrimination, especially with respect to children who are vulnerable to discrimination, and pursue all legislative and policy measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children.”

- *On best interests* (CO 2013 para. 32): “that Hong Kong, China uphold its commitment to apply the best interests of the child and that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that the best interests of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that have an impact on children”
- *On child participation* (CO 2013 para. 38): “that the State party establish effective consultative mechanisms in mainland China, Hong Kong, China and Macao, China to ensure respect for the views of children and their participation in all matters affecting them, including in the development of policymaking, court decisions and programme implementation.”
- *On budget* (CO 2013 para. 14): that the State party “(a) (...) take special measures to reduce regional and urban-rural disparities in mainland China and establish a budgeting process with a child-rights perspective to adequately take into account child rights and areas of need and concern; (b) (...) effectively increase budgetary allocations from the central Government to provincial and local governments in mainland China, especially in rural areas and western provinces, for the implementation of policies, plans and structures concerning the implementation of children’s rights, particularly the NPCD and in the areas of health, education and other key social services. It should also establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and equitability of the distribution of resources across provinces, prefectures and counties in mainland China; (c) Strategic budgetary lines be defined in mainland China, Hong Kong, China and Macao, China for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations that may require affirmative social measures, for example children of ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and migrant children, and that those budgetary lines be ensured protection even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies.”
- *On data* (CO 2013 para. 16 and 18): “that the State party review the secrecy laws and regulations in mainland China in order to ensure that information concerning children, particularly regarding violence against children, infanticide, child labour, juvenile justice, children with disabilities and children affected by migration, is systematically collected, made publicly available and discussed and used for the development of policies and plans on children’s rights. In this regard, the Committee further recommends that the State party establish in mainland China an independent review mechanism for the classification of State secrets”; “that centralized data collection systems be established in Macao, China and Hong Kong, China to collect independently verifiable data on children, and to analyse the data collected as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights and for designing policies and programmes to implement the Convention. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity and socioeconomic background to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, with particular attention to children of ethnic minorities, documented or undocumented migrant children, refugee and asylum-seeking children and children with disabilities.”
- *On state-civil society cooperation* (CO 2013 para. 22): “that the State party: (a) Take immediate action to allow journalists, human rights defenders and all NGOs to monitor, investigate and report human rights violations and exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion without any kind of threats, harassment or repercussions; (b) Urgently end all forms of intimidation and retaliation against families seeking accountability for violations of children’s rights and against children of human rights defenders; (c) Ensure that reported instances of intimidation and harassment of families pursuing children rights and of human rights defenders and

their families are promptly and independently investigated, and that those responsible for such abuses are held accountable.”

- **Israel (CO data from 2013, 1 score missing)**

Compared to the scores derived from the previous (2002) Concluding Observations, Israel obtained lower scores on no less than three indicators: participation, legislation and data. On one indicator the score was higher than before (best interests). As before, scores were available for all indicators and the information on Israel thus remains complete.

**CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening Israel’s Child Rights Record:**

- *On discrimination* (CO 2013 para. 22): “urges the State party to include the prohibition of discrimination and the principle of equality in its Basic Laws and to undertake a comprehensive review of its legislation and policies to ensure that laws that discriminate against non-Jewish children be repealed without delay. (...) also urges the State party to take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate policies or practices which severely and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the OPT as already recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 24) and to ensure that all children living in the OPT enjoy their rights under the Convention without discrimination.”
- *On best interests* (CO 2013 para. 24): “strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings as well as in all policies, programmes and projects relevant to, and with an impact on children. (...) to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance for determining the best interests of the child in every area, and to disseminate this to the public, including traditional and religious leaders, and private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities and legislative bodies. (...) to undertake a full impact assessment of its policies on children living in the OPT and ensure that their best interests are fully taken into account in its military governance of the OPT and in the 2002 Anti-Infiltration Law.”
- *On child participation* (CO 2013 para. 28): “reconsider the limits it has posed on the right of the child to be heard in cases of conversion, admission to a psychiatric hospital or adoption and to take measures to effectively ensure the right of migrant and asylum-seeking children to be heard in proceedings that concern them. (...) establish clear mechanisms and guidelines for an effective implementation in practice of the right of the child to be heard and ensure that the views of the child are taken into account by policymaking bodies and that children are provided with adequate responses to their proposals.”
- *On legislation* (CO 2013 para. 12): “accelerate the integration process of the rights and principles and provisions of the Convention into its domestic legal system to ensure the justiciability of all children’s rights.”
- *On budget* (CO 2013 para. 14): “(a) Utilize a child-rights approach in the elaboration of the State budget by implementing a tracking system for the allocation and the use of resources for children throughout the budget, thus providing visibility to the investment on children and allowing impact assessments on how investments in any sector may serve to fulfil children’s rights; (b) Ensure transparent and participatory budgeting through public dialogue, especially with children and for proper accountability by local authorities; (c) Ensure that budgetary allocations, including budgetary allocation for the health sector, no longer discriminate against Arab Israeli families and their children, and define strategic budgetary lines for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, in particular Bedouin, Palestinian, Arab Israeli children, as well as children of migrant workers and asylum seekers.”
- *On data* (CO 2013 para. 9): “(b) Collect data on all persons under 18 years for all areas covered by the



Convention, including children in the most disadvantaged situations and use this data to assess progress and design policies to implement the Convention (para. 15 (a) and (b))”.

- *On state-civil society cooperation* (CO 2013 para.18): “to systematically involve communities as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and children’s organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes related to child rights. (...) to take concrete steps to build a climate of trust and cooperation with civil society and to engage in a constant dialogue with civil society actors, including those which monitor the child rights situation in the OPT with a view to formulating and implementing strategies for the protection and promotion of the rights of all children without discrimination. (...) ensure that non-governmental organizations can solicit, receive and utilize resources for the monitoring and promotion of children’s rights.”

#### • **Lithuania (CO data from 2013, 1 score missing)**

Compared to the scores derived from the previous (2006) Concluding Observations, Lithuania obtained lower scores on no less than three indicators: best interests, budget and data. On no indicator was the score higher than before. As before, scores were available for all indicators and the information on Israel thus remains complete. Contrary to what was the case in the KRI 2013, this time no score could be compiled for state-civil society cooperation. Thus one score is missing and the information on record for Lithuania is incomplete.

#### **CRC Committee Recommendations for Further Strengthening Lithuania’s Child Rights Record:**

- *On discrimination* (CO 2013 para. 17): “to enforce its anti-discrimination legislation and take urgent measures to prevent discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, including children with disabilities, Roma children, children living in poverty, children living in care institutions and children in conflict with the law. (...) include information in its next periodic report on measures and programmes of relevance to the Convention that the State party has undertaken in follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the outcome document adopted at the 2009 Durban Review Conference.”
- *On best interests* (CO 2013 para. 19): “to amend its legislation to include specific reference to the “best interests of the child” and better reflect the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, as required by the Convention. (...) strengthen its efforts to ensure that this right is appropriately integrated and consistently applied in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings as well as in all policies, programmes and projects that are relevant to and have an impact on children at central and local levels. (...) encouraged to develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant persons in authority on determining the best interests of the child in every area, and to disseminate these to the public, courts of law, administrative authorities and legislative bodies.”
- *On child participation* (CO 2013 para. 21): “take measures to strengthen (...) [the right of the child to be heard] in accordance with article 12 of the Convention. (...) take the necessary measures to implement its legislation and promote and facilitate respect for the views of children in all settings on all matters affecting them.”
- *On legislation* (CO 2013 para. 9): “revise its draft Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child in order to better reflect the principles and provisions of the Convention that establish children as rights holders. (...) expedite the adoption of the revised draft law and other legislative proposals in the area of children’s rights to bring its domestic legislation into full conformity with the Convention. (...) ensure that the laws are fully and effectively implemented and to establish enforcement mechanisms.”
- *On budget* (CO 2013 para. 15): “(a) Increase its budget allocations to the implementation of children’s rights;

- (b) Earmark specific budgetary resources for the implementation of the rights of children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations; and (c) Establish an effective system of tracking, monitoring and evaluating the allocation and use of resources for children by all relevant sectors throughout the budget, thus ensuring that investments in children's rights are transparent.
- *On data* (CO 2013 para. 7(a) and 46(a)): “Ensure, in the light of the extensive data provided, that all data are disaggregated, inter alia, by age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, urban and rural areas, and by groups of children in need of special protection, in order to allow for detailed analysis of the situation of all children”; “Establish a system of data collection on the dropout rate from schools for all children up to the age of 18 years”.