



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Summary record of the 2585th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 4 May 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Otani

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Greece (continued) ([CRC/C/GRC/4-6](#); [CRC/C/GRC/Q/4-6](#); [CRC/C/GRC/RQ/4-6](#))

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Greece joined the meeting via video link.*
2. **The Chair** invited the delegation to continue replying to the questions raised by Committee members at the previous meeting.
3. **Mr. Panagiotou** (Greece) said that his country had made determined efforts in recent years to address the challenges identified by the Committee through the gradual codification of legislation and the structured development and adoption, following broad consultation, of coherent horizontal policies. Cross-sectoral bodies or panels composed of representatives of competent public authorities and civil society organizations monitored the implementation of those policies and the associated national action plans in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Coordination of Governmental Work. The main national action plans were: the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child; the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance; the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the National Action Plan for Gender Equality; the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation; and the National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTQI+ Persons. The competent ministries reported on the implementation of their action plans on a regular basis. At the end of each year, a consolidated governmental policy plan, incorporating the action plans of all ministries, was presented to the Council of Ministers.
4. **Mr. Gioutikas** (Greece) said that, under article 323A of the Penal Code, on human trafficking, the commission of such offences against minors was classified as an aggravating circumstance. Article 348A of the Code criminalized child pornography, and Law 4855/2021 prescribed harsher penalties under various circumstances, such as when the person producing child pornography was the victim's guardian. The act of luring minors into participating in pornography and the sponsoring, coercion or facilitation of the involvement of minors in prostitution were also criminal offences.
5. Directive (EU) 2016/800, on procedural safeguards for children who were suspects or accused persons in criminal cases, had been incorporated into Law 4689/2020, and the Ministry of Justice was participating in a European Commission project that focused on its practical implementation. The Ministry of Justice was promoting child-friendly justice as part of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and was developing protocols and guidelines applying to juvenile offenders and victims, including those with disabilities. Protection and support were provided to minor victims and their families during criminal proceedings in order to avoid the risk of revictimization.
6. **Ms. Flevotomou** (Greece) said that her Government was fulfilling all its obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and under the directive on temporary protection of displaced persons that the European Union had recently enacted in an effort to cope with the situation created by the conflict in Ukraine. In conjunction with United Nations and European agencies, it had established a reception system that provided appropriate living conditions, improved infrastructure and medical and psychosocial support. The system currently comprised 6 reception and identification centres and 27 accommodation facilities on the mainland that were operating at 45 per cent of their capacity, since the needs of many persons requiring international protection were already being met under existing integration policies. Fewer than 4,000 persons currently resided in the reception and identification centres located on Greek islands, compared to approximately 17,000 in 2020. The construction of new centres on the Aegean islands with greater accommodation capacity was nonetheless under way. Such centres included designated areas for unaccompanied minors and for families with children. The amount of time spent by unaccompanied minors in reception centres at entry points had been reduced to the minimum required for their identification and quarantining in line with the applicable coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions.

7. Once the authorities had been notified of the possible lead contamination problem in the Mavrovouni migrant camp, they had taken appropriate action, including having an assessment of the area conducted by an international panel of experts. The geological and mineral analysis of the site had showed that there was no contamination.

8. **Ms. Gyftopoulou** (Greece) said that new legal provisions were being introduced to resolve procedural difficulties relating to guardianship arrangements for unaccompanied minors. Three interim guardianship schemes supported by the European Union and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been implemented in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Minors were represented, pursuant to Law 4636/2019, in all legal procedures. While public prosecutors served as temporary guardians for unaccompanied minors, such minors were also assisted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional social service authorities, subject to the relevant public prosecutor's authorization. The Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum had been the body responsible for dealing with issues pertaining to guardianship since September 2021. A bill based on international and European guidelines had been drafted with a view to establishing a solid and uniform national guardianship system. Under that new legal framework, the State would play a coordinating and supervisory role while public or private legal entities with child protection expertise would serve as guardians. It was hoped that the law would be promulgated within a few months.

9. The National Emergency Response Mechanism, which was funded by the European Union with support from UNHCR, provided immediate support and accommodation for minors who were homeless or living in substandard conditions. Minors who had no identification documents were promptly registered by the competent authorities and referred to emergency accommodations where they received medical, legal and psychosocial support. A needs and best-interest assessment was undertaken to guide their referral to long-term accommodations. The records pointed to a decline in reports of minors living in substandard conditions.

10. **Mr. Kozaris** (Greece) said that article 323A of the Penal Code, as amended, on trafficking in human beings, included special provisions regarding minors. It covered, for example, sexual acts with or in the presence of minors, child abuse, child pornography, procurement of children for sexual purposes and payment for sexual acts with a minor. A crucial step in the fight against human trafficking had been the establishment of the National Referral Mechanism for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking, which was managed by the National Centre for Social Solidarity under the supervision of the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. The National Referral Mechanism applied special procedures for migrant children who were victims of human trafficking in temporary reception and hosting facilities for third-country nationals or stateless persons. Extensive training was provided for the personnel of reception and identification centres to ensure that they complied with the standard operating procedures applicable to unaccompanied minors who were presumed to be trafficking victims.

11. **Mr. Karageorgos** (Greece) said that all unaccompanied minors found at the border were provided with proper accommodation while steps were taken to determine their age and to try to locate family members or relatives. Members of the Hellenic Police Force were trained to identify minors who fell into special categories, such as victims of trafficking or minors who had been involved in armed conflict, and used continuously updated risk indicators issued by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) for that purpose. Pursuant to domestic and European legislation and international treaties, the principle of non-refoulement was fully respected. The Hellenic Police cooperated closely with the Ombudsman and the National Transparency Authority in order to uphold the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees. Precise and effective measures were taken to prevent so-called pushbacks at the border.

12. **Ms. Avraam** (Greece) said that the Hellenic Coast Guard had saved thousands of lives during the recent migration and refugee crisis. According to a recent report, only 95 persons had been registered as missing or dead in the eastern Mediterranean in 2021, compared with more than 2,000 in the Mediterranean as a whole. Priority in search and rescue operations during the management of migration flows was given to minors. The Hellenic Coast Guard has rescued nearly 2,000 children during the period from January 2021 to April

2022. The staff received continuous training on human rights protection issues and were known for their high operational standards. Allegations by NGOs of so-called pushbacks had not been verified by the Ombudsman, the National Transparency Authority or the competent prosecutorial authorities. A recent report issued by the Transparency Authority had concluded that such allegations were not supported by evidence.

13. **Ms. Nterou** (Greece) said that the provisions of Law 4368/2016 protected the right of free access for uninsured children to medical, pharmaceutical and hospital care under the public health-care system. Special measures on behalf of children included the development of protocols for preventive care and health management measures in the nation's schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. A flexible system for increasing the availability of beds in paediatric intensive care units was being planned.

14. The use of individual student health cards helped schools, parents and health-care facilities to keep systematic health-care records for children and ensure that appropriate interventions were carried out. Children's vaccinations were a priority, and Law 4917/22 provided for the establishment of a digitized child vaccination register to support the implementation of the national vaccination programme. Primary health-care mobile paediatric units provided care for children in remote areas and lowered access barriers.

15. Efforts to support breastfeeding included the establishment of baby-friendly hospitals, the creation of breastfeeding areas in stores and in other types of public and private organizations and the institutionalization of human milk banks. Nutritional protocols and guidelines for children and lactating mothers had been established, along with food health regulations in school canteens, kindergartens and childcare institutions. A National Childhood Obesity Prevention Programme was being planned.

16. Action was being taken to promote students' sexual and reproductive health and to support the mental health of children and adolescents. The Ministry of Health funded and supervised 55 mental health facilities for children and adolescents. It also planned to establish 36 new community centres during the next two years.

A nationwide network of 75 centres for the prevention of addiction and the promotion of psychosocial health was run by the Organization Against Drugs in collaboration with local authorities.

17. **Ms. Chatzigiannoglou** (Greece) said that the Ministry of the Interior provided sufficient funding to the municipalities to meet the transportation needs of all students. Under the experimental minority education programme, there were currently 103 minority primary schools with 3,811 students and 658 primary school teachers and 12 minority secondary schools with 1,571 students and 69 secondary school teachers. Minority students could choose to attend a minority or a regular public school.

18. Sex education was addressed through the compulsory Skills Lab course, not as a separate subject in the curriculum. Teacher training programmes did, however, include sex education as a separate module. With respect to the questions asked regarding Roma students, she could assure the Committee that the Hellenic Ministry of Education safeguarded the right of Roma children to education. Roma children had to be enrolled in local schools regardless of whether or not they were formally registered with the corresponding municipality. Special policy tools designed to curb inequality and support the integration of Roma and other vulnerable students were being implemented in socioeconomically challenged areas and other areas with vulnerable student populations. Teachers in priority education zones employed flexible, differentiated teaching methodologies based on a two-tiered reception class structure depending on the students' level of Greek language mastery, and students were offered intensive language courses. A number of pilot projects for promoting the integration into the education system of Roma children and children in other vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, were under way.

19. Refugee education coordinators had been appointed and trained in schools where refugee children were enrolled, and best practices and educational tools to help migrant and refugee children learn Greek as a second language had been shared with teaching staff through the Institute for Educational Policy digital platform.

20. **Ms. Zerva** (Greece) said that the National Deinstitutionalization Strategy and Action Plan had been finalized and presented to stakeholders in July 2021. The Strategy, which was part of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities, provided for reforms in various areas with a view to the development of a holistic institutional and financial framework that allowed for the provision of individualized services to vulnerable children in order to promote their independence and inclusion in the community.

21. The Welfare Centre of Western Greece in Lechaina had been granted just over €9 million in funding for its deinstitutionalization programme. Six supported housing units were under construction. Twenty-four persons currently residing in the Centre were due to move into the new units; their transition would be gradual, based on individualized action plans and supported by specialized personnel. A further 18 persons currently living in the Centre would be transferred to supportive housing in Athens.

22. The opening of the new units had been delayed by public sector recruitment restrictions. However, the Welfare Centre had recently received authorization from the Ministry of the Interior to hire staff for the units, and the recruitment process would be completed within the coming weeks. Two of the four new units were to be operational by late 2022. The Welfare Centre itself would eventually be shut down.

23. A variety of public and private agencies provided social services to vulnerable children under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity, which was also partly responsible for their funding. Some of the agencies operated day-care centres that offered individualized services, as well as vocational training, in accordance with operational standards established by the General Secretariat.

24. **Ms. Diakoumakou** (Greece) said that the proportion of children living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion had fallen by 8 per cent since 2018. The initiatives in place to address extreme and relative income poverty included a minimum guaranteed income benefit, specific benefits for families living in deprived rural areas and a housing benefit. Over €1 billion in child benefits was disbursed every year. Food and basic necessities were distributed to needy families with the support of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, which also facilitated access to basic services. According to a recent survey on income and living conditions conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 29.4 per cent of households comprising two adults and at least one child were at risk of poverty before social transfers, as compared to 20.4 per cent of such households after social transfers.

25. The housing benefit had been established in 2019 and was available to needy tenants. An average of €400 million in such benefits was disbursed every year. Under the Housing and Work for the Homeless Programme, homeless persons and needy families could apply for a rental subsidy and social and employment support services. In conjunction with local authorities, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had designed an innovative social housing programme as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan aimed at establishing a network for the promotion of affordable housing. The programme would be piloted in the country's two largest municipalities.

26. To address the low rate of enrolment in nurseries, the State subsidized the costs associated with sending children to pre-primary schools, had provided local authorities with funding to establish new nurseries and, with the financial support of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, was taking steps to improve the quality of the services provided in nurseries through a new national programme that set out comprehensive pedagogical guidelines for all preschool centres. In addition, around 50,000 new places would be created in existing nurseries throughout Greece.

27. **Ms. Agoritsa** (Greece) said that, in order to address the issue of unpaid childcare and promote a healthier work-life balance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had launched the "Nannies of the Neighbourhood" programme, under which parents and guardians could apply for a financial voucher to pay for certified childcare services. The project had a budget of €3 million and would be piloted in 32 municipalities until December 2022. The Ministry was also taking steps to ensure the availability of childcare facilities on the premises of large companies, for which it had secured €16 million in funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The General Secretariat for Demography, Family Policy

and Gender Equality had taken a number of measures to support women and girls with disabilities in cooperation with the National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities.

28. **Ms. Mitsea** (Greece) said that the State had taken measures to ensure compliance with article 38 of the Convention. Greece abided by the Geneva Conventions and all other sources of international humanitarian law, which it treated as an integral part of its national legislation. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court had also been incorporated into national legislation in order to make it easier for the Greek judicial authorities to prosecute, in accordance with the principle of complementarity, the war crimes referred to in article 8 (2) (a) (v) of that instrument, the scope of which extended to minors under 15 years of age.

29. National legislation governed both the protection of minors and the prevention of their participation in war and other armed conflicts. The recruitment of children under 15 years of age by armed forces or groups or their coercion into participating in international or national armed conflict constituted war crimes and were punishable by a sentence of not less than 10 years' imprisonment under article 9 of Act No. 3948/2011. All men between the ages of 18 and 45 who had performed military service could be called upon to fight in the event of an armed conflict if a state of emergency was declared by presidential decree. If further reserve forces were needed, adults up to the age of 50 years could be called upon to fight. Minors were not recruited to participate in hostilities.

30. **Ms. Chatzipanagiotou** (Greece) said that the Office of the Minister of State was the coordinating mechanism for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In December 2020, the Government had adopted the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities after a full year of intense consultations with civil society and a comprehensive analysis of the way in which disability-related issues were handled by the public administration. Goals 9 and 10 of the Action Plan focused on the rights of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

31. As part of the Action Plan, the National Accessibility Authority, an independent body that consulted with the Prime Minister, had been established in early 2021. During its first year of operation, the National Accessibility Authority had focused on accessibility in the area of education, including early childhood education. The work of the Authority had resulted in an increase in the average number of days devoted to public consultations on accessibility-related issues; schoolchildren and university students with disabilities were invited to consultation sessions to ensure that their voices were heard in decision-making processes that concerned them.

32. In 2021, primary and secondary legislation related to the rights of persons with disabilities had been codified and made available on an accessible digital platform. The codified text contained a distinct category for legislation related to children with disabilities and the provision of support to their families. The codification process had largely resolved the issue of the fragmentation of disability-related legislation. A large-scale horizontal data collection and fast-track intervention initiative for improving the accessibility of the built environment was under way. Priority would be given to buildings used for education, health care and social services. More than 300 focal points at the various levels of government had been tasked with monitoring compliance with the obligations established under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

33. **Ms. Todorova** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that the delegation appeared to be reading from prepared statements, rather than answering the Committee's questions. She encouraged the delegation to take an interactive approach to the dialogue. She was not convinced that the State party's efforts to harmonize its legislation would ever be truly effective without an independent central coordination mechanism.

34. She would welcome further clarification concerning the law applicable to child marriage, in particular with regard to the power of the courts to authorize the marriage of persons under the age of 18 years. It would be interesting to learn, for example, whether the courts could authorize the marriage of two persons under the age of 18 years if the families of both children had agreed to their union in accordance with sharia law.

35. Further information on the alternative care system, including data on the numbers of alternative care facilities, foster families and children in alternative care arrangements, would be welcome. It was contrary to the Convention to allow a child's parents to decide whether to place the child in alternative care. Such decisions should be founded on a determination of the best interests of the child. In that regard, she would welcome further information on the body responsible for maintaining the national register of children awaiting adoption or placement in foster care.

36. She appreciated the information provided on the legal framework that governed access to health care. However, it had been reported that access to medical services was often undermined in practice by the need to present a valid social security number. It would be useful to learn more about the success of the measures taken to remove such obstacles. She would also be grateful if the delegation could clarify which body was responsible for assessing the needs of families with children with disabilities.

37. **Mr. Madi** (Country Task Force) said that he was concerned that the specific offences referred to in articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were not explicitly covered in the State party's legislation in the terms used in those articles. Moreover, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict in fact built on the obligations established in article 38 of the Convention. He would therefore be grateful if the State party could provide clear information on its compliance with the specific obligations established under the Optional Protocol, in particular with regard to the criminalization of the recruitment of children under 18 years of age in government armed forces and by non-State armed groups.

38. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** (Country Task Force) said that it would be useful to receive specific information on the amendments made to the State party's legislation in connection with the transposition of Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 into national law. How was that directive applied in practice by the juvenile courts? In that connection, he would be interested to know how the State party ensured that children in conflict with the law were informed of their rights in a manner that was appropriate to their age and whether there were any exceptions to the prohibition of the detention of children under the age of 15 years.

39. He would welcome further information on the body responsible for addressing domestic violence against children. In that regard, he wished to know whether any measures other than the withdrawal of parental authority, in particular softer measures, were envisaged in respect of parents who used violence against their children. He also wished to know more about the Children's House established in Athens in 2017, in particular with regard to its budget and staff. Lastly, he would be interested to learn more about the State party's approach to addressing the issue of forced begging.

40. **Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** said that he would appreciate further information on the scope of the protection of children from corporal punishment. Was corporal punishment prohibited in schools, alternative care facilities and preschool centres?

41. **Ms. Aho** said that she would be interested to hear the State party's rationale for requiring people to show proof of legal residence in Greece in order to benefit from civil registration services. She would welcome further information on the State party's anti-racism initiatives. In addition, it would be useful to learn more about the measures taken to prevent the vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child.

42. **Ms. Skelton** asked what measures the State party had adopted to enable children to lodge complaints of rights violations with Greek courts, thereby obviating the need for them to do so at the international level.

43. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** said that she would welcome information on the equivalency of the curricula used in minority and mainstream schools and the resulting qualifications, including whether the separate sex education module was provided in minority schools.

44. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that clarification of the role of the special offices known as children's houses would be useful; the Committee had received information that child victims and witnesses were repeatedly interviewed in different locations by different agencies and

that the services offered by the State party's only operational Children's House, located in Athens, were limited to assistance with giving statements to the court.

45. **The Chair** (Country Task Force) said that she would be interested to hear the delegation's position on ensuring that children from all minority groups, including those not officially recognized as such, could access social services, particularly education in their mother tongue.

46. **Ms. Chatzipanagiotou** (Greece) said that the matter of children's rights cut across all areas of legislation. The promotion of those rights depended on the administrative codification of fragmented legal provisions and the coordination of government efforts.

47. **Mr. Panagiotou** (Greece) said that the National Mechanism for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Action Plans for the Rights of the Child was authorized to take decisions regarding the activities undertaken in that connection, such as its recent decision to have children participate in the consultation process for the development of the next such plan. The Mechanism enjoyed a close partnership with UNICEF, with which a programmatic agreement would soon be concluded. Coordination at the government level was conducted under a consolidated policy plan that was submitted annually to Cabinet Ministers and subject to monthly reviews. The Children's House in Athens conducted forensic interviews and assisted the judicial, prosecution and investigative authorities, as well as providing services to victims and their families. It was anticipated that another Children's House would be operational by late 2022. All of the crimes set out in the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were offences under the Penal Code.

48. **Mr. Mathioudakis** (Greece) said that all citizens had access to the civil registry. Marriage between two persons under the age of 18 could be permitted by a court after it had heard the petitions of the intended spouses and their parents or guardians if the court was satisfied that there was a sufficient justification for such an exception.

49. Local authorities received annual funding totalling €280 million to cover schools' operating and maintenance costs and pupils' transport expenses. Funding in the amount of €380 million was also available to municipalities for the construction and improvement of school infrastructure, including facilities for students with disabilities.

50. **Ms. Chatzigiannoglou** (Greece) said that sex education was provided as part of a compulsory life skills course. Educators could use material provided via a digital platform to develop sex education programmes. Minority schools, which were bilingual and adhered to the same timetable as mainstream schools, devoted 55 per cent of their instructional time to the minority school programme and, as in the case of mainstream schools, their staff was appointed by the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. Marriage between persons under the age of 18 was not legally valid.

51. **Ms. Diakoumakou** (Greece) said that recent reforms of the foster care and adoption system included the establishment of a digital platform on which all children entering a care institution must be registered within 24 hours of arrival. A record of each child's individualized rehabilitation plan was also stored there. There were 95 care institutions in the country: 29 were operated by public bodies, 63 by private organizations (including 7 for unaccompanied migrant children) and 3 by the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. In the first six months of 2022, 470 children had been adopted and 464 placed in foster care. Care institutions were subject to checks and monitoring, and social workers had access to their records so that they could ensure that all children had been properly registered.

52. **Mr. Chacharalampous** (Greece) said that work was under way to develop a new procedure to assist child migrants who did not have access to health insurance. Primary health care was offered to all children, and medicines and hospital care were provided free of charge.

53. **Mr. Kastanas** (Greece), recalling that there was no generally accepted definition of "minority" in international law, said that the Greek Government drew on a number of subjective criteria in its decisions concerning the recognition of minority groups. The only officially recognized minority group was the Muslim minority in Thrace, and Greek citizens belonging to that community benefited from a number of measures in relation to education and in other fields. Groups that did not fulfil the criteria for official recognition nonetheless

enjoyed all the rights enshrined in human rights treaties, including the right to non-discrimination.

54. **Mr. Polyzos** (Greece) said that cases of domestic violence were handled by specialized offices that also disseminated information on crime prevention and on how to go about reporting domestic violence crimes. The premises of those offices had been designed to provide victims with a sense of security; they were equipped with toys, books and art materials for children and were staffed by specially trained police officers.

55. **Mr. Thrapsaniotis** (Greece) said that to assist the staff of correctional facilities in fulfilling their obligation to inform detained minors of their rights and obligations while in detention, a guide had been produced and translated into English, Albanian and Arabic. It was available to juvenile detainees at all times. Children under 15 were not imprisoned, and juvenile detainees over that age were always held separately from adult prisoners. The detention facility in Kórinthos had been converted into a detention centre for male juvenile detainees, while the only three girls currently in detention were being held in a separate wing in a women's detention facility in Eleónas.

56. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** (Country Task Force) said that he wished to know whether the State party planned to launch new, independent and full inquiries into the serious allegations of migrant pushbacks that had prompted the resignation of the Executive Director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

57. **Mr. Karageorgos** (Greece) said that police officers at land borders complied with all relevant national and European Union legislation when dealing with third-country nationals, including minors. Existing transparency mechanisms, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, were considered sufficient to ensure such compliance and to take any corrective measures that were necessary.

58. **Ms. Todorova** said that the Committee's efforts to provide useful recommendations to the State party would be hindered by the lack of specific information in the delegation's responses.

59. **Mr. Alexandris** (Greece) said that the Committee's concluding observations would guide his country's already strenuous efforts in the area of children's rights, including the evaluation of the current National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and the drafting of future plans.

60. **The Chair** said that she wished to convey the Committee's best wishes to the children of Greece, particularly given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their education and health.

The meeting rose at noon.