



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Concluding observations on the report submitted by Panama under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the report of Panama¹ at its 2796 meeting,² held on 10 May 2024, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2816th meeting,³ held on 24 May 2024.
2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the report of the State party and the written replies to the list of issues.⁴ The Committee expresses its appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the high-level and multisectoral delegation of the State party.
3. The Committee reminds the State party that the present concluding observations should be read in conjunction with the concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth reports submitted by the State party under the Convention,⁵ adopted on 2 February 2018, and on the report of the State party submitted under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict,⁶ adopted on 27 September 2019.

II. General observations

Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the State party's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 16 February 2017.
5. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Act No. 285 of 2022, which created the System of Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and Act No. 21 of 20 March 2018, increasing penalties prescribed by the Criminal Code for offences against sexual integrity and freedom, specifically when the victim is a minor.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 24 June 2024.

** Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-sixth session (6–24 May 2024).

¹ [CRC/C/OPSC/PAN/1](#).

² See [CRC/C/SR.2796](#).

³ See [CRC/C/SR.2816](#).

⁴ [CRC/C/OPSC/PAN/RQ/1](#).

⁵ [CRC/C/PAN/CO/5-6](#).

⁶ [CRC/C/OPAC/PAN/CO/1](#).



6. The Committee notes with appreciation the progress achieved through:
 - (a) The adoption of the national plan for the prevention and elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, 2008–2010, and its extension and revision for the period 2024–2028;
 - (b) The creation of the Observatory against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents of the University of Panama by Executive Decree No. 16 of 23 April 2019;
 - (c) The creation of the National Council for Children and Adolescents by Executive Decree No. 16 of 23 April 2019.

III. Data

Data collection

7. The Committee appreciates the data provided concerning offences under the Optional Protocol. However, the low numbers strongly indicate that there are deficiencies in detecting and responding to offences identified in the Optional Protocol and/or the registration of cases. The Committee is concerned that the data provided:

- (a) Are not sufficiently disaggregated by age, sex, nationality, ethnic origin, socioeconomic background and urban or rural residence;
- (b) Are limited in scope and do not cover the different forms of the sale of children, including in the context of child marriage, the trafficking of children, the engagement of children in forced labour, the illegal adoption of children, the transfer of organs for profit and sexual exploitation, including by sexually abusive images and the prostitution of children;
- (c) Do not cover the number of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol who have received trauma counselling or who have been provided with reintegration assistance or other support, including compensation.

8. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Establish a centralized data collection system and agency, including measures to improve the recording of cases of all the offences covered by the Optional Protocol and data compilation in all agencies in the State party, at the central, regional and local levels, involved in protecting children pursuant to the Optional Protocol;**
- (b) **Disaggregate data, inter alia, by sex, age, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, migration status, socioeconomic background, geographical location whether the child is in a vulnerable situation, with particular attention paid to children who are at risk of becoming victims of crimes under the Optional Protocol;**
- (c) **Collect data on how children access and use digital and social media, the impact of digital and social media on children's lives and safety and factors that affect children's resilience to online risks as they access and use information and communications technology;**
- (d) **Collect data on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions, disaggregated by the nature of the offence, the profile of offenders, the place of offence, including online offences, the prosecution of perpetrators and the sanctions imposed on them;**
- (e) **Collect data on the number of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol who have received support by different agencies, such as trauma counselling or reintegration assistance, or who have received compensation;**
- (f) **Actively engage with the Observatory against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in promoting research and the analysis, dissemination, advice concerning and use of data and information collected for policy decisions, impact assessments and the monitoring of progress on the implementation of the Optional Protocol.**

IV. General measures of implementation

A. Legislation

9. The Committee welcomes the adoption of many recent pieces of legislation with the aim of strengthening the protection of children. However, the Committee is concerned that the current criminal law does not address effectively all offences covered by the Optional Protocol, especially with regard to the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (grooming) and the production, possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material, in particular online. Moreover, many of the recent pieces of legislation are not fully operational, due to a lack of resources, operational structures and guidelines for implementation.

10. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Introduce robust legislation on preventing and addressing online child sexual exploitation, criminalize and prosecute offences related to the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (grooming) of children, the viewing of the sexual abuse of children live-streamed over the Internet and participation therein, the distribution of child sexual abuse material, including self-generated content produced from coerced sexting, and the sexual extortion of children, without criminalizing consensual sexting between peers;**

(b) **Take measures to ensure that Internet service providers provide fast and effective procedures for blocking and removing harmful material involving children, such as child sexual abuse material, in order to prevent such material from continuing to be accessed and shared;**

(c) **Continue the important efforts to improve its legal framework to criminalize the crimes of the harassment of children on social networks, including grooming, and online sexual violence, among other efforts, encourage its prompt and due implementation and ensure the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers to address these criminal modalities;**

(d) **Take measures to introduce guidelines and procedures for a best interests determination, as stipulated in recent legislation, such as Act No. 171 of 2020 on early childhood and Act No. 285 of 2022 on child rights protection, with a view to facilitating an implementation mechanism and procedures of executive and judicial bodies and thereby strengthening the investigative and judicial criminal proceedings related to the crimes concerning child sexual abuse material and the sale and sexual exploitation of children;**

(e) **Take measures to strengthen the implementation of Act No. 230 of 2021, introducing the Amber Alert System, by operationalizing the National Amber Alert Commission for responding to reports of missing children.**

B. Comprehensive policy and strategy

11. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a holistic policy and strategy for the implementation of the State party's obligations under the Optional Protocol. This relates especially to inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, delays in procedures of investigation, prosecution and sentencing, the protection of victims and the allocation of institutional resources for the prosecution and punishment of these crimes. Moreover, the Committee is concerned that the provincial and local authorities do not have a clear role to play and do not receive State support for the implementation of the Optional Protocol.

12. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Develop a comprehensive policy and strategy aimed at addressing all issues covered under the Convention and include the issues under the Optional Protocols in its general action plan, with clear goals, timelines, sufficient resources and measurable outcomes to address the sale of children and the exploitation of children for prostitution and child sexual abuse material;**

(b) Complete the drafting of and enact the updated national plan for the prevention and elimination of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents for the period 2024–2028;

(c) Formulate comprehensive, integrated action plans that outline specific roles and responsibilities for the provincial, Indigenous and local authorities in the national plan of action;

(d) Develop regulations and guidelines to elaborate the responsibilities assigned to the provincial, Indigenous and local authorities, including through the new comprehensive child protection system, with regard to the implementation of the Optional Protocol, in particular concerning the reporting and referral of cases and the reintegration of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol;

(e) Develop effective mechanisms to evaluate the real impact of policies and programmes in improving the safety and well-being of children;

(f) Increase community participation and transparency in the policy formulation and evaluation processes.

C. Coordination and evaluation

13. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Offences, the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons, the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family and the National Intersectoral Committee for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents. However, it is concerned about the lack of effective coordination of these bodies with regard to the implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

14. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Take measures to ensure the overall coordination of actions to prevent, protect and restore the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material or the sale of children;

(b) Activate the National Intersectoral Committee for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents as a coordination forum and update and implement the national multisectoral strategy for the prevention of violence against children, 2018–2022, ensuring integrated actions to prevent offences against children under the Optional Protocol and the Convention;

(c) Ensure clear competencies of the National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Offences, the National Council for Children and Adolescents and the Commission against Trafficking, as well strong cooperation between them;

(d) Allocate sufficient resources to each institution that is legally mandated to address the acts and activities that are covered under the Optional Protocol, whether such offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis, and ensure adequate monitoring systems and reporting on their implementation and evaluation;

(e) Adopt necessary and priority measures to ensure the presence of the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family and other competent institutions in decision-making to facilitate the adoption of measures based on the best interests of the child;

(f) Strengthen the multidisciplinary Unit for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses, Experts and other Interveners in Criminal Proceedings within the Office of the Public Prosecutor by providing sufficient personnel to ensure adequate treatment and follow-up for the restitution of the rights and health of the victims;

(g) Include the provincial, Indigenous and local authorities in the dialogue and actions for the protection of children, among other things, to register, monitor and

address complaints and engage local authorities in responding to the offences defined in the Optional Protocol, including support to children who are victims thereof.

D. Dissemination and awareness-raising

15. The Committee welcomes the national campaigns to raise awareness about sexual exploitation. However, it is concerned that similar campaigns on the sale of children and the exploitation of children for prostitution and child sexual abuse online are not being conducted. It is also concerned that information on the provisions of the Optional Protocol are not being disseminated to children.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Make all the provisions of the Optional Protocol widely known to professionals and the public alike, in particular to children and their families, inter alia, by developing and implementing specific long-term awareness-raising programmes with specific emphasis on reducing stigma;**

(b) **Take further measures to ensure that the media exercises due respect for children's right to privacy and respects the principles of ethical and informed reporting of offences under the Optional Protocol, especially for the protection of victims known to the media sector;**

(c) **Increase the resources allocated to awareness-raising campaigns and develop, in close cooperation with civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, social networks, the media, the private sector, communities and children, awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns on issues covered by the Optional Protocol;**

(d) **Educate children about the harmful consequences of practices prohibited by the Optional Protocol, including through comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education that is age-appropriate and gender sensitive, and how to protect themselves online;**

(e) **Set up assistance or support measures, including through dissemination of accessible child-friendly information materials on sexual and reproductive health and rights, with the aim of preventing children from falling victim to these practices;**

(f) **Implement targeted measures to adapt all recommendations to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of minority groups, such as Indigenous communities and communities of people of African descent.**

E. Training

17. The Committee appreciates the training courses for staff members of the public prosecution service, teachers, staff of the Social Security Fund and civil servants who have duties related to the fight against trafficking in persons and other training courses provided by various institutions working for children. The Committee notes, however, the limited information available on training on the provisions of the Optional Protocol for all other professionals working with or for children.

18. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen its training activities by ensuring that such activities are mandatory, systematic and multidisciplinary, cover all areas under the Optional Protocol and are provided to all relevant professionals working with and for children at the local, regional and central levels, including judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, journalists, psychologists, social workers, investigators and immigration officials, and to employees of the travel and tourism industry, including the staff of hotels and clients or customers in business chains.**

F. Allocation of resources

19. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party concerning the budget allocations for various activities aimed at preventing and doing research on sexual exploitation. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the financing of some areas covered by the Optional Protocol, including to care for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol.

20. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the allocation of resources that are:**

(a) **Adequate for combating, prosecuting and punishing offences under the Optional Protocol, preventing such offences and providing appropriate care for children who are victims thereof;**

(b) **Sufficient for the proper functioning of the Observatory against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents to fulfil its advisory role and its role as a proponent of public policies on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents in the country.**

G. Civil society

21. The Committee notes the State party's cooperation with civil society organizations to facilitate the implementation of the Optional Protocol, including for dissemination and training activities and studies about the provisions of the Optional Protocol.

22. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Support the capacity of civil society for action and advocacy;**

(b) **Strengthen civil society through investment programmes and projects for the transfer and enhancing of capacity;**

(c) **Strengthen and develop spaces for sectoral dialogue, sharing good practices, partnerships and collaboration;**

(d) **Channel new information, training and education programmes for civil society personnel.**

V. Prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ((art. 9 (1) and (2))

A. Measures adopted to prevent offences prohibited under the Optional Protocol

23. The Committee notes the initiatives taken by the State party to raise awareness about the offences under the Optional Protocol. However, the Committee is seriously concerned about the disproportionate number of vulnerable children facing prohibited offences under the Optional Protocol, especially Indigenous children, children living in poverty and migrant children, including migrant children living or transiting through the Darien jungle.

24. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) **To strengthen its efforts to identify, detect and take preventive measures to protect children at risk of falling victim to offences under the Optional Protocol, especially girls who are victims of domestic violence, migrants, asylum-seeking and refugee children, especially in the Darien jungle, Indigenous children, children from rural areas, children in street situation, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children, children living in poverty, children with disabilities and children in residential or foster care;**

(b) **To take comprehensive measures to address the root causes of children's risk of becoming victims to offences under the Optional Protocol and strengthen its social protection measures and mechanisms targeting children at risk of falling victim to such offences;**

(c) **To develop action plans for early responses to the protection needs of children and adolescents at borders, with an emphasis on special protection for unaccompanied children and adolescents;**

(d) **To adopt urgent measures to prevent all forms of violence, abuse and risk of exploitation against migrant children and adolescents in the Darien jungle on the border between Panama and Costa Rica;**

(e) **To take measures to overcome language barriers for non-Spanish-speaking children who are victims of sexual violence to elicit their testimonies;**

(f) **To train its law enforcement officials and adopt standard operating procedures to always regard victims or children at risk of becoming victims of offences under the Optional Protocol as victims or potential victims and not as offenders.**

B. Adoption

25. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to prevent and protect children from unlawful adoption domestically and transnationally.

26. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen the role of the National Adoptions Directorate in providing training programmes focused on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents, with a view to preventing illegal adoption;**

(b) **Take further measures to combat the sale of children through improper inducement of consent for adoption and prevent the falsification of birth certificates in the Civil Registry.**

C. Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism

27. The Committee welcomes the legal measures taken by the State party to criminalize acts and activities related to the sexual exploitation of children and the national campaigns to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The Committee also notes the engagement of the State party with the travel and tourism sector to address the sexual exploitation of children. However, the Committee is concerned about insufficient measures to identify children who are especially at risk of becoming victims of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and the low reporting of cases.

28. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Continue engaging with the tourism industry to address the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and disseminate the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism of the World Trade Organization with a view to protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism among travel agents and tourism agencies;**

(b) **Invite travel agents and tourism agencies to become signatories to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism;**

(c) **Take measures to identify children who are especially at risk of becoming victims of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, such as children affected by poverty, implement time-bound child protection programmes and poverty reduction strategies with alternatives for sustainable livelihoods and undertake awareness-raising activities;**

(d) **Take measures to combat the high rates sexual exploitation in the tourism sectors in the border areas and in the province of Colon;**

(e) Regulate and engage with the private sector, in particular the tourism industry, in the prevention, detection, monitoring and reporting of cases of sexual exploitation of children. This includes regular monitoring of the compliance of tourist accommodations, travel and tour agencies and operators with child protection policies in relation to the prohibition of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;

(f) Encourage the reporting of cases of sexual exploitation of children, prosecute effectively the perpetrators and impose penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences;

(g) Strengthen its knowledge, screening and monitoring of the flow of foreign nationals and its surveillance of unregistered tourist accommodations.

D. Measures to prevent and address online child sexual exploitation and abuse

29. The Committee is concerned about the reported increase in cases of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

30. With reference to its Guidelines regarding the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,⁷ the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national response for preventing and addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse, in close collaboration with relevant industries and organizations, consisting at a minimum of:

(a) A national policy to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation and abuse, through an appropriate legal framework, based on a detailed analysis of children's direct access to and use of digital media and how these specifically influence their safety, including a designated coordination and oversight entity and specific analysis, research and monitoring capabilities;

(b) A strategy for preventing online child sexual exploitation and abuse, including a public education programme to raise awareness, mandatory school education on online behaviour and safety and knowledge and reporting of online child sexual exploitation and abuse offences, the participation of children in the development of policies and practices, industry engagement to block and remove online child sexual exploitation and abuse content, to report incidents to law enforcement authorities and to develop innovative solutions, close cooperation with organizations working to end child sexual exploitation online and ethical and informed media reporting;

(c) Appropriate support services for children, including integrated services during investigation, prosecution and aftercare, trained professionals working with and for children catering to their health and psychological needs and accessible procedures for complaints, compensation, remedies and rehabilitation;

(d) A dedicated, proactive, responsive and victim-focused criminal justice system with a trained police force, prosecution and judiciary, the management of offenders to prevent reoffending, nationally and internationally, and a national database linked to the database of the International Criminal Police Organization.

⁷ CRC/C/156.

VI. Prohibition of the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution and related matters (arts. 3, 4 (2) and (3) and 5–7)

A. Criminal or penal laws and regulations in force

31. While valuing the effort of the State party in amending the Criminal Code, the Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The sanctions for perpetrators of the crime of the sale of children are not commensurate with the gravity of the crime;
- (b) Grooming is limited to cases of trafficking of children.

32. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adjust the sanctions for perpetrators of the crime of the sale of children so that they are commensurate with the gravity of the crime;**
- (b) **Criminalize grooming specifically so that it is not limited to cases of trafficking in children.**

B. Impunity

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information regarding the number of cases that are duly investigated and the number of perpetrators who are prosecuted and sentenced, which suggest a degree of impunity and lack of adequate legal response, in particular on the sale of children, given that no data was provided in this regard.

34. **The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to ensure that all cases of the offences covered by the Optional Protocol are investigated effectively and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished with appropriate sanctions commensurate with the gravity of their crimes. This includes:**

- (a) **The establishment of specialized units within the police, the prosecution service and the judiciary that are well-trained in handling such sensitive cases and ensuring that these units have sufficient resources and authority to function effectively across the country;**
- (b) **The establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that ensure the effectiveness of the legal actions against perpetrators and the effectiveness of victim support resources;**
- (c) **The improvement of coordination among the various law enforcement agencies.**

C. Liability of legal persons

35. The Committee welcomes the legal disposition that establishes the liability of legal persons that are used to commit an offence covered by the Optional Protocol.

D. Extraterritorial jurisdiction

36. **The Committee recommends that the State party take all the steps necessary to ensure that the Criminal Code explicitly establishes and exercises extraterritorial jurisdiction over all offences under the Optional Protocol committed abroad in the following cases:**

- (a) **When the alleged offender is a national of the State party or has habitual residence in the State party;**

- (b) When the victim is a national of the State party;
- (c) When the alleged offender is present in the territory of the State party and the State party does not extradite him or her to another State party.

E. Extradition

37. The Committee recommends that the Code of Criminal Procedure explicitly provide that the offences under the Optional Protocol are deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between the State party and other States parties to the Optional Protocol.

VII. Protection of the rights of child victims (arts. 8 and 9 (3) and (4))

A. Measures adopted to protect the rights and interests of children who are victims of offences prohibited under the Optional Protocol

38. The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party but remains concerned that the measures in place do not protect the rights and interests of children who are victims of and witnesses to the offences covered by the Optional Protocol at all stages of criminal proceedings.

39. In the light of article 9 (3) of the Optional Protocol, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide sufficient resources and technical capacities to allow for the Office of the Ombudsman to discharge its mandate effectively at the national and local levels;
- (b) Strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman to carry out a clear mandate regarding the Optional Protocol and take measures to allow its office to independently discharge its mandate in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);
- (c) Strengthen the judicial system with sufficient resources and technical capacities in order to make it accessible to victims of the offences under the Optional Protocol, addressing the judicial delay, ensuring adequate priority of cases concerning children and guaranteeing the priority of victims, to make justice accessible for them;
- (d) Reinforce child protection infrastructure, including the strengthening of the national child protection authority and its offices at the provincial level, in particular those located in Indigenous regions with the status of a province;
- (e) Develop holistic and victim-centred methods for the early identification of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol and ensure that those responsible for their identification, including law enforcement officers, border and immigration authorities, judges, prosecutors, social workers and medical staff, are trained in children's rights, child protection, child-friendly interviewing skills child-sensitive approaches and trauma-informed care;
- (f) Establish measures to guarantee that a best interests assessment is conducted as part of all decisions taken in respect of unaccompanied children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol, throughout immigration-related procedures, to protect the identity of such children and to establish a guardianship system for them;
- (g) Ensure that children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol are not subject to treatment or sanctions for offences related to their situation and are given appropriate support;

(h) **Develop and enforce strict guidelines to protect the identity and privacy of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol in the digital environment and the media;**

(i) **Promote public awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of victims and educate the community on the rights and needs of children who are victims of offences under the Optional Protocol.**

B. Recovery and reintegration of victims

40. The Committee notes the remedies and compensation measures that are in place. However, the Committee is concerned that the measures in place do not prevent the revictimization and do not ensure that the children who are victims of and witnesses to the offences covered by the Optional Protocol are not stigmatized and that they have access to efficient, appropriate and long-term support programmes and systems to facilitate their reintegration and their physical and mental recovery.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Conduct research and collect evidence to ensure that remedies and compensation measures cover all offences referred to in the Optional Protocol;**

(b) **Establish measures to prevent the revictimization and to ensure that victims of and witnesses to the offences covered by the Optional Protocol are not stigmatized and that they have access to efficient, appropriate and long-term support programmes and systems to facilitate their reintegration and their physical and mental recovery;**

(c) **Ensure that victims and witnesses have access to child- and gender-sensitive complaint mechanisms and appropriate procedures for seeking, without discrimination, compensation and redress.**

VIII. International assistance and cooperation (art. 10)

Multilateral, bilateral and regional agreements

42. **In the light of article 10 (1) of the Optional Protocol, the Committee encourages the State party to continue to strengthen international cooperation through multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements, especially with neighbouring countries, including by strengthening procedures and mechanisms for coordinating the implementation of such arrangements, with a view to making progress in respect of the prevention of offences covered under the Optional Protocol and the detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for any such offences.**

IX. Implementation and reporting

A. Follow-up and dissemination

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations are fully implemented, including by transmitting them to the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, the National Commission against Trafficking in Persons, the National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Offences, the National Front against Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents and the National Intersectoral Committee for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents for appropriate consideration and further action.**

44. The Committee recommends that the report and the written replies to the list of issues submitted by the State party and the present concluding observations be made widely available, including through the Internet, to the public at large, civil society organizations, youth groups, professional groups and children, in order to generate debate on and awareness of the Optional Protocol and the implementation and monitoring thereof.

B. Next periodic report

45. In accordance with article 12 (2) of the Optional Protocol, the Committee requests the State party to include further information on the implementation of the Optional Protocol and the present concluding observations in its next periodic report to be submitted in accordance with article 44 of the Convention.
