



Comit  Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le Bien- tre de l'Enfant
Comit  Africano dos Direitos e Bem-Estar da Crian as
لجنة الخبراء الإفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه



**REPORT OF THE ACERWC ON THE FOLLOW-UP MISSION CONDUCTED TO
MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

20-22 April 2022

June 2022

- 1. Purpose of the Mission:** The purpose of the Mission was to monitor the level of implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations issued by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) to the Government of Ghana. This followed the consideration of the latter's initial report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/the Charter) in 2016. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the Government of the Republic of Ghana for welcoming its Delegation to conduct the follow-up mission.
- 2. Objectives of the ACERWC in this Mission:** The Mission aimed at undertaking a constructive dialogue with representatives of various sectors from the Government of Ghana to learn about the progress achieved, challenges faced, and opportunities present in the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations. The Committee also intended to bring stakeholders together to boost collaboration between the Government, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Committee sought to enhance and accelerate the implementation of its recommendations and to ensure that the reporting cycle is maintained.
- 3. Output of the Mission:** The Mission provided an opportunity for the Government of Ghana to appreciate its progress in implementing the recommendations and thereby learn best practices that can be used by the Committee in its further engagement with other State Parties. Moreover, the Mission created an opportunity for the Government to identify and address its challenges in implementing the recommendations of the Committee. Additionally, the Mission created an opportunity to sensitize various organs of the Government as well as other stakeholders about the Charter, the Committee and Agenda 2040. Finally, the Mission also enhanced the continued commitment from the Government of Ghana to implement the recommendations and the provisions of the Charter as well as to submit its periodic report in a foreseeable future.
- 4. Delegation:** The Delegation of the ACERWC was composed of Hon. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing, head of Delegation, country rapporteur for the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Aver Gavar, Member of the ACERWC, Mr Ayalew Getachew Assefa, Senior Child Protection Officer; Mr Solomon Onsase, Senior Finance Officer, Ms Adiam Zemenfes Tsighe, Technical Expert, Mr Kameni Ngankam, Communication Officer, and Ms Amy Tuchten, Legal Researcher at the Secretariat of the Committee.
- 5. Methodology:** The Mission engaged in constructive discussions and bilateral meetings with representatives of the Government, UN Agencies, Office of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, CSOs, and the children's parliament. The Delegation also participated in a consultative meeting with the National Child Protection Committee made up of various stakeholders including Government, UN Agencies, CSOs, and faith-based organisations.
- 6. Mission activities**

6.1. Consultation with Various Ministries and other stakeholders

On 01 and 02 December 2021, the Committee had meetings with representatives of various Ministries and partners organizations, including:

- i. Chief Director of the Ministry for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, and technical staff within the Ministry
- ii. UNICEF Ghana
- iii. National Children's Parliament
- iv. National Child Protection Committee
- v. The Minister of Foreign Affairs
- vi. Deputy Director at the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and technical staff within the Commission
- vii. Plan International Ghana
- viii. The Ghanaian National Child Rights Coalition

6.2. Consultative meeting with the National Child Protection Committee

One of the activities of the Mission was a consultative meeting on the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee and the situation of children's rights in Ghana organized by the Ministry for Gender, Children, and Social Protection in collaboration with UNICEF Ghana. The Workshop brought together representatives from a wide range of Government Ministries, and other stakeholders, including CSOs, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations and identify gaps that can be improved through coordinated efforts. During the opening of the workshop, keynote speeches were delivered by the Ministry for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the UNICEF Country Representative, and the Head of the Delegation of the ACERWC. The Workshop was officially opened by the Chief Director of Ministry for Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The Workshop included presentations from the Secretariat about the Charter and the mandate of the Committee as well as the main aspects of the recommendations of the Committee to the Republic of Ghana on its initial report, as well as to highlight the 2022 theme for the Day of the African Child, *'Eliminating harmful practices affecting children: Progress in policy and practice since 2013.'* Moreover, presentations were made by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the Ghanaian National Child Rights Coalition and Plan International about the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee and the Charter.

7. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE MISSION

Based on the above-mentioned activities carried out during the Mission, the Delegation of the ACERWC identifies the following main findings on the status of the implementation of its recommendations, and the implementation of the Charter in general:

7.1. On General Measures of Implementation

- i. **Reporting on the implementation of the African Children Charter (Submission of Periodic Report)**- The Delegation was informed that the State Party plans to prepare and submit its first periodic report as soon as possible, while indicating that

the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection faces resource constraints. It is also noted that UNICEF and Plan International Ghana are also willing to assist the Ministry, while the Ghanaian Child Rights Coalition has pledged to continue capacitating the preparation of complementary reports.

- ii. Legislative Measures:** The Delegation noted the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection's commitment to ensuring that all recently promulgated laws are in line with the Charter, such as the Cybersecurity Act of 2020, which includes a section on child online protection. The Delegation observed that amendment of the Children's Act, as well as the Juvenile Justice Act, are still underway and that child participation in these legislative processes are facilitated. The Delegation further noted that the Domestic Violence law and policy which entered into force in 2007, and the National Gender Policy of 2015 are currently under review, and the five-year Strategic Plan on Teenage Pregnancy is set for renewal. The Delegation also observed that the parliamentary approval of the ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography is in the process of being submitted to Cabinet. The Delegation observed that one of the major challenges hindering the swift reform and adoption of laws was the absence of a substantive Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection.
- iii. Domestication and dissemination of the Charter-** The Delegation noted, with appreciation, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection's efforts to ensure that stakeholders have access to the Charter and the Committee's Concluding Observations and recommendations.
- iv. Institutional measures and coordination:** The Delegation was pleased to learn that efforts have been made to further decentralize the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection at the district and regional levels through the establishment of Regional Offices with district oversight capacities. However, the Delegation noted that the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection has a very broad mandate which it endeavours to fulfil under serious resource constraints. The Delegation noted with concern that the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection receives the lowest budgets of all ministries in Ghana. The Delegation also noted the lack of cross-sectorial coordination mechanisms required for comprehensively addressing children's rights issues. The Delegation noted some specific examples of this obstacle: for instance, there is a shortage of social workers operating in the Republic of Ghana, and the social workers deployed report only to the Ministry of Local Government, under the Department of Community Development which breaks their link with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The Delegation noted further that the absence of a substantive Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection has exacerbated the institutional challenges in the State Party in the implementation of children's rights.

The Delegation noted with appreciation the mandate and undertaking of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and that its establishment act is under review. The Delegation however noted that the Commission does not

have the mandate to investigate matters of human rights without having a complaint on the same.

- v. **Child Friendly Budgeting:** The Delegation noted the financial constraints being experienced by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Department of Children in particular. The Delegation observed that the sporadic nature of donor-funding is an issue hindering the sustainability of government initiatives to enhance the rights of children in the State Party. Furthermore, the Delegation observed that donor funding is becoming less available as Ghana's economy continues to grow.
- vi. **Collaboration with CSOs:** The Delegation observed that the Government of Ghana has a good working relationship with CSOs and that CSOs are part of the coordinating mechanisms. The National Child Protection Committee, comprised of government and CSO representatives, is one of the developments in the realm of improving the collaborative efforts of government and CSOs for the best interests of the child facilitated through quarterly meetings.
- vii. **Data:** The Delegation was encouraged to learn that the Department of Children compiles periodic statistics and reports on children's rights-related issues. The research department of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice also plays an important role in this regard.

7.2. On the Definition of the child and other age-related requirements

The Government of the Republic of Ghana has received the recommendations of the Committee on harmonization of laws and is in the process of amending the Juvenile Justice Act so that it complies with the requirements of the Charter.

The Delegation did note that there appears to be a lack of clarity on the differences between age of marriage and age of sexual consent, and that Government should work to ensure that each set of laws governing these issues is clear and drafted with the best interests of the child being the primary consideration.

7.3. General Principles

- i. **Non-discrimination:** The Delegation noted that there are parts of Ghana which are considered as 'no-go areas' by teachers and medical professionals, and that the Government of Ghana is taking steps to address this disparity by providing incentives for child-care workers to work in those areas. The Government's social assistance initiatives, such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme (LEAP), school-feeding programmes, and bursary packages, have been rolled out in a manner that ensures girl children are the main beneficiaries of these programmes. The Committee further noted that a Girls' Re-entry Policy Guideline has been introduced to ensure that girls have equal access to education. While the Delegation also noted that the Government has increased its efforts to ensure children with disabilities can access education, it noted with concern the various discrimination faced by children with disabilities in accessing services as well as being integrated in the communities they are living in.

- ii. **Right to life, survival, and development:** The Delegation noted that there is high prevalence of under-five mortality and malnutrition of children despite the economic gains the Country has achieved in the past years. The Delegation was informed that the Government of the Republic of Ghana has taken substantial notice of the Committee's previous recommendation to ensure girls have access to safe abortion services. This has been addressed by the introduction of a well-integrated, comprehensive abortion care service within the existing wider sexual and reproductive health at all levels of the healthcare system, capacitated under the institutionalization of Comprehensive Abortion Care services. Societal awareness on the issue has been addressed through the launch of a campaign for 'zero tolerance for abortion-related morbidity and death,' advocating for the inclusion of abortion services in the national health insurance scheme.
- iii. **Best interest of the child:** The Delegation was pleased to observe that the Government of the Republic of Ghana considers the best interests of the child in the regulation of matters affecting them in administrative and judicial proceedings. The same can be said for civil disputes where children are involved, which are preferred to be ventilated extra-judicially. Case management is tailored to the best interests of the child involved.
- iv. **Participation of the child:** The Delegation noted that child participation is facilitated by the Government in its recent legislative processes, such as in the development of the Child and Family Welfare Policy. The Delegation noted with appreciation the existence of child parliament in the State Party, however, from its interaction with the members of the Child Parliament, it noted that the Child Parliament is not funded by the Government, Lack of funding of the Child Parliament by the Government poses a challenge on the long-term feasibility of child participation in the State Party.

7.4. Civil Rights and Freedoms

- i. **Birth registration:** The Delegation was informed that the rate of birth registration had decreased by 10% since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and was beginning to slowly recover. It was considered that child immunization is at 98% in the Republic of Ghana, and lobbying is taking place within the State Party to synergise the birth registration and immunization services to ensure that all children who are immunized have birth certificates.
- ii. **Protection from abuse and torture:** The Delegation was informed by various stakeholders in the child protection system, and by child representatives, that corporal punishment in schools remains high despite the issuance of circulars prohibiting corporal punishment in schools and distribution of information documents on positive alternatives on disciplining in schools.

7.5. Family environment and alternative care

The Delegation noted that this is a matter of priority for the Ghanaian Government with the policy direction being said to be towards the realm of alternative family care. As a result, the number of children's homes have reduced from 148 to 128 in the State Party, and there are further plans to reduce the number of homes to 50. There were estimated to be 3600 children placed in children's homes at the time of this mission, and the goal was set for that number to be reduced to 2000 children. The Committee learned that new adoption and foster regulations were issued in 2018, and 1137 new foster parents had undergone training, with 286 children being placed in foster care. The Delegation further observed that the moratorium on inter-country adoption has been lifted and currently both domestic and international adoptions are provided. There is an authority dealing with adoption and any decision of adoption by courts will be made after the assessment and recommendations provide by an Adoption Committee withing the Authority.

In terms of strengthening families and providing support, the Delegation noted that cash transfer pragmas are provided. It is commendable that the Government is working to de-emphasise the care of children in institutions, capacitated by the Children's Amendment Act, and the strategic roadmap for reducing children's homes which includes renewed adoption regulations and the investment of resources into training more foster parents.

7.6. Health and welfare

The Delegation noted a wide range of measures being implemented to ensure that children's health and welfare are supported. The National Health Insurance Scheme is free for children and pregnant women, and has recently lifted the requirement of parental consent for children to register for the scheme. It is alleged that issues of non-payment of medical expenses by the scheme have led to beneficiaries being refused healthcare without additional payment. Moreover, the Delegation noted that the Insurance Scheme only covers consultation fee and minor procedures.

It was also observed that there is a disparity between the provision of services in urban and rural areas and an alarming proportion of schools still not equipped with water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. The Delegation noted that measures are being undertaken to address this disparity including the use of drones to deliver essential medicines to remote locations.

The Delegation also observed that a National Disaster Response Plan is in development to mitigate the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Ghana.

The Delegation noted that access to water is a challenge as 7 out of 10 persons have access to contaminated water. Moreover, the Delegation noted that 5.5 million population practice open defecation. The Delegation observed that the Government only spends 0.08% of its GDP on WASH while the commitment was to spend at least 0.5% of its GDP on WASH.

7.7. Education and leisure

The Delegation noted with appreciation that the Government provides free primary and secondary education, and that enrollment rate has significantly increased. However, the Delegation learned that there are several hidden costs in relation to education. Moreover,

the Delegation noted that there is high dropout as only 60% progress to secondary education and only 40% qualify for the passing point. The Delegation noted that child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child labor, household work, and lack of support to children with disabilities are among the reasons for high dropout rates.

In terms of budget allocation, the Delegation noted that 85% of the budget allocated for the education sector goes to teachers' salaries while only 15% is invested in infrastructure which has an implication about increasing access to education for all.

The Delegation notes that efforts have been made to increase the number of teachers in the country, and this has been a success thus far. A Gender and Education Policy is also in the process of being finalized.

The Delegation also observed that there has been confusion among students and members of the child rights sector in the Republic of Ghana since the government began implementing changes to the school curriculum, including the removal of termly exams and the extension of the school term. The overall aim of the curriculum changes is said to be to establish a framework for the continuous and individualized assessment of children with an emphasis on identifying hidden disabilities through conducting screenings and referrals. While the changes being made are important, such as the implementation of standardized testing nationally, the Committee noted that children are not supported in this transition.

The Delegation noted that the Government has adopted the Inclusive Education Policy, however, only 25,000 children with disabilities are mainstreamed while 7000 are catered for in special schools. The Delegation was informed that the policy needs to be further implemented to provide inclusive education for all children with disabilities whose numbers are estimated to be over one million.

The Committee further noted that lack of the provision of sanitary pads in schools and the costs related to purchasing sanitary pads are infringing on girls' right to education and causing them to miss school.

The implementation of a school feeding programme has seen a rise in school registrations and is widely considered a huge success whereby the Government provides for school feeding for 3.2 million children from kindergarten to grade 6 in public schools. However, the Committee notes that problems in the system remain including the outsourcing of caterers who are not paid on time, and a lack of uniformity in the standard of food being served in schools. It was also observed that problems with access to water and sanitation are a further impediment to the success of the programme. The Delegation was pleased to learn that the Government is in the process of developing an Act for the strengthened regulation of the programme.

The Delegation was also informed that the shift to online and distance learning under COVID-19 did not happen equitably due to many children, particularly those living in rural areas, being unable to access the internet.

7.8. Special measures of protection

i. Refugee/asylum-seeking children:

The Delegation observed that many children are migrating to Ghana from the surrounding countries, particularly from areas experiencing instability due to conflict and climate change. The Committee observed that many of these children are living in street situations, unable to access necessary services and forced into child labour to sustain themselves and their families. The Delegation noted that the Government and Stakeholders have also observed their situation and that the Government established a focal unit to provide care for these children.

ii. Access to justice:

The Delegation observed that the Government of the Republic of Ghana places an emphasis on case-by-case management for determining and respecting the best interests of the child and that child-friendly courts are being established across the country. The majority of civil cases being heard which affect children regard the determination of child maintenance, custody, and paternity. There is a preference for the handling of cases involving children to be done extra-judicially and in a manner that is as peaceful as possible. Where extra-judicial measures fail, civil cases involving children are elevated to the Family Tribunals. It was noted that 23 000 maintenance cases were heard in the Republic of Ghana between 2017 and 2020 with reportedly high success rates.

The Delegation further noted that very few reported cases of sexual violence against children go to Courts in the State Party, and that while an emphasis is placed on prosecuting the perpetrator, the provision of victim-centered support services is overlooked. Moreover, the compensation for medical professionals to testify before courts is not provided, even though such compensation is established through the Domestic Violence Support Fund under Section 29 of the Domestic Violence Act of 2007.

It is nonetheless encouraging to note that the State Party is taking steps to capacitate victim-centered support services through measures such as the provision of counsellors at the Domestic Violence Secretariat. A pilot project has been launched to assign certain courts specifically for the ventilation of matters concerning gender-based violence and provides for the separation of victims from perpetrators in the courtroom by having two-way CCTV systems in place. This is taking place in tandem with efforts to improve Court infrastructure in more remote areas.

Furthermore, the Delegation noted that efforts are underway to train and sensitize judges on children's issues, particularly in circuit courts which tend to be many children's first point of contact with the Ghanaian justice system. However, affordability and resource constraints continue to hinder the full implementation of these initiatives.

iii. Children in conflict with the law:

The Delegation noted the ongoing amendment of the Juvenile Justice Act which can improve the situation of children in conflict with the law including the establishment of the Child Justice Remand Centres. However, the Delegation noted that the adoption of this

Act is delayed. The Delegation also heard concerns regarding the rise of crimes committed by and against children, resulting in situations where children are the victims and perpetrators in some instances. The Delegation learned that there are correctional services and centers that cater for children and provide rehabilitation services.

iv. Children of incarcerated mothers/primary caregivers:

The Delegation noted the due regard given to the Committee's prior recommendations pertaining to the situations of children of incarcerated caregivers had been taken by the State Party. The Delegation was further informed that all seven female prisons in the country have baby-friendly units, where postnatal services are provided to mothers and children, and that children will be allowed to reside in prison with their mothers until that child is weaned whereafter the child is placed under the care of family members or the foster care system.

v. Sexual abuse and exploitation:

The Delegation was informed that a National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation is in development, and that more resources are being invested to capacitate the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for receiving reports on and investigating reports of sexual exploitation. The Delegation also observed that the use of children in sex tourism remains a matter of concern, and that this includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children at funerals and other large events.

Moreover, the Delegation observed that cases of sexual abuse are high, and the current legislative framework does not provide for victim's protection. The Delegation noted that victims mostly cover for their expenses of medical services, transportation to the courts and other expenses. Furthermore, the Delegation learned that the rate of prosecution of perpetrators is very low compared to the prevalence of sexual abuse due to lack of proper investigation and lack of resource to gather medical evidence. The Committee was informed that the ongoing amendment of the Domestic Violence Act aims to rectify such gaps.

The Delegation was also informed that there is a unit in the police to respond to reports of domestic violence against children and that such children will be provided in care facilities. The Delegation noted that there are only two one stop hospitals in Ghana and the shelters for victims are only available in Accra which makes it inaccessible to those living outside of the Capital. The Delegation further noted that the Government is putting efforts to place such children in foster homes and provides them with psychosocial support.

vi. Drug abuse:

The Delegation noted that a National Alcohol Policy entered into force in 2017 which regulates the production, distribution sale, advertisement and consumption of alcohol, with the aim of minimising the negative impact of its consumption on the individual, society, family, children and youth growing up in families with alcohol problems. The Narcotics Control Commission also carries out sensitization and investigation campaigns to ensure the issue is adequately addressed.

vii. Child labour and trafficking:

The Delegation noted that child labour remains a matter of concern in the Republic of Ghana. Regarding child labour in the copper and chocolate industry, it was observed that measures are in place to remove children from the industry, but that a failure to address the root causes of children entering the workforce was leading to children going back to work thereafter. Moreover, the Delegation noted that illegal mining is increasing which is also affecting children are children are recruited in such sectors. The measures are mostly scattered and mainly supported by non-government actors. This measure was referred to as a 'scattered approach' that will require strong monitoring and systems strengthening for its successful implementation. The Delegation also noted that the lack of human resources throughout Ghana makes it difficult to undertake continuous inspection and provide rehabilitation for children withdrawn from child labor. In agricultural areas, it has been observed that many children tend to drop out of school to earn an income during harvesting season and return to school thereafter with significant challenges.

It was further noted that children from other countries living in Ghana are recruited for begging, and will require collaborative and multisectoral responses.

The Delegation did note that many measures are being undertaken to address the prevalence of child labour in the Republic of Ghana. Interventions in place to fight child labour and exploitation include:

- On-going community sensitization programmes through fora, workshops, media programmes, posters and adverts.
- Projects for the withdrawal and rehabilitation of child victims of economic exploitation.
- Observance of World Day Against Child Labour and Child Trafficking, and
- The implementation of the National Plan of Action Phase II towards the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour (2017-2021).

viii. Harmful practices:

The Delegation was informed that the most prevalent harmful practices affecting children in Ghana include:

- Child marriage;
- Child labour, trafficking, and children in street situations;
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM);
- Corporal punishment;
- Puberty rites;
- Servitude including *trokosi*, witch camps, and the practice of keeping children with disabilities in positions of servitude within the home;
- 'Honour' killing of infants and children with perceived disabilities;
- Breast massaging and flattening; and
- Witchcraft accusations.

The Committee noted that the Government in collaboration with various stakeholders is undertaking policy formulations, community sensitization, media campaigns, increased research and documentation, and investigation of such cases.

ix. Children on the street:

The Delegation noted that the situation of children in the street situation is growing and becoming a concerning trend. However, there is low budget from the Government for vulnerable groups such as children on the street which makes it difficult to provide comprehensive services for children on the street. The situation of children on the street was also cited as a major issue which affects children on the move and has been further described in the section on refugee/asylum-seeking children.

7.9. Current issues

The Delegation noted that the State Party has put in place various emergency support mechanisms to support children during the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, the Delegation observed that the pandemic has resulted in regression on some indicators in relation to children's rights such as birth registration and education.

8. Action points

Based on the abovementioned findings, the Committee recommends for the State Party to undertake the following measures to implement the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee as well as the provisions of the Charter:

- Address the lack of a substantive Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection as a matter of urgency;
- Allocate sufficient funds for the effective functioning of the Department of Children in the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection as well as adopt child friendly budgeting in resource allocation to all sectors;
- Submit its first periodic report to the Committee;
- Strategise for multisectoral collaboration and accountability in child protection and empowerment programmes;
- Fast-track the finalisation of the amendment of the Children's Act, Juvenile Justice Act and other laws under review as well as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- Ensure that the revision of the Act establishing the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice strives towards increasing the capacity of the Commission to monitor children's rights issues including according the mandate of investigation of children's rights without complaints;
- Implement measures to better capacitate human resources in the child protection space such as social development workers, teachers, and healthcare workers through further boosting incentivization and subsidized training;
- Ensure that there is sufficient budget allocation for the Children's Parliament to enable the parliament to execute its mandate and ensure effective and meaningful participation of children;

- Strategise to upscale and streamline the implementation of the school-feeding programme including providing context based service;
- Ensure that payments made within the National Health Insurance and LEAP schemes are done quickly; and increase the budget allocated for WASH with a view to increase access to clean drinking water as well as other hygiene facilities;
- Identify the main causes for the very high rate of violence against children in the State Party and devise informed measures to address the issue of corporal punishment, in particular, by crafting cross sectorial measures going beyond the introduction of legislation to ensure children are not subjected to violence in any setting;
- Formulate specific and targeted measures for systems strengthening to address the prevalence of child labour as it has been observed in multiple sectors that will address the root causes of children entering the labour market such as generational poverty and a lack of access to basic services;
- Develop strategies to assist children in fast-tracking the education following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on this right and to inform all key stakeholders on the way forward envisioned for the implementation of curriculum changes throughout the State Party;
- Develop frameworks to ensure public sector monitoring reaches into private schools;
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services to children to prevent teenage pregnancy;
- Develop programs to address the causes of school dropouts such as accessibility of schools, lack of infrastructures, lack of hygiene facilities including water and sanitary pads, harmful practices, and devise programs to increase the quality of education thereby increasing learning outcomes;
- Undertake measures to sensitise communities for the elimination of harmful practices affecting children in the Republic of Ghana.
- Ensure that birth registration services are linked with health facilities to achieve the best outcome;
- Undertake measures to scale-up services for children who have been affected in accessing basic services due to the covid-19 pandemic;
- Capacitate the birth registration system to allow for the registration of children aged from 0-12 months with a view to enabling broader access to birth registration services and remove the penalty fee imposed on late registration;
- Improve the system of reporting of cases of sexual violence against children by engaging traditional and community leaders, providing child friendly reporting services, providing funds to cover expenses in relation to reporting and evidence gathering, and establishing more one-stop reporting and referral centers for survivors. The State Party is also encouraged to undertake a thorough investigation and prosecution of cases reported and provide holistic support to survivors;
- Allocate resources for the empowerment of children with disabilities so that they may access education and healthcare and participate fully in society and in governmental processes affecting them; and

- Undertake coordinated actions in the realm of data collection on child protection issues.