



STATE PARTY EXAMINATION OF UKRAINE'S THIRD AND FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT

56TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

17 JANUARY – 04 FEBRUARY 2011

Contents

Opening Comments.....	1
General Measures of Implementation.....	3
Definition of the Child	5
General Principles	6
Civil Rights and Freedoms.....	7
Family Environment and Alternative Care.....	7
Basic Health and Welfare	8
Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities Education	9
Special Protection Measures	9
Concluding Remarks	10

Ukraine ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 28 August 1991. On 28 January 2011, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) examined the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Ukraine. It was last examined on 26 September 2002. The State party has no reservations.

Opening Comments

The delegation of Ukraine was led by Mr. Ravil Safiullin, Minister of the State Service of Youth and Sport. He was supported by a large, high-level delegation consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Maternity, Childhood and Health Resorts of the Ministry of Health, the Juvenile Criminal Militia Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Department of Adoption and Protection of the Rights of the Child, the Department of Social Protection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Legal Department of the Ministry of Defence and the Permanent Mission in Geneva.¹

Mr. Ravil Safiullin, the Head of Delegation, noted that in 2011 Ukraine celebrated the 20th anniversary of the ratification of the CRC. In order to answer the recommendations issued in 2002, Ukraine incorporated the CRC in the national law, created the State Department of Adoption and Protection of the Rights of the Child and reformed the system for child guardianship. He also said the protection of the rights of the child was a policy priority for Ukraine and the Ombudsperson had been appointed with a special adviser on the rights of the child. In December 2010, the Special Report “State of respect and protection of children’s rights in Ukraine” was presented in Parliament by the Human Rights Commissioner.

¹More information about delegation members can be found on the OHCHR website, under CRC sessions. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs56.htm>

The head of delegation informed that eight thematic reports were prepared concerning the protection of the rights of children with special needs; those living in rural areas; street children; children who are orphaned or without parental care; and children in conditions of poverty. He further informed that a nationwide programme “National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the CRC for the period up to 2016” (NPA) was adopted. Mr. Safiullin highlighted that due to the difficult macroeconomic situation; only two per cent of the financing related to the NPA that had been allocated was actually provided in 2010; however an increase was noted in 2011. Concerning the statistical data, Mr. Safiullin explained two statistical yearbooks were issued: “Protection of the Children in Need of Special Attention from the Society” once a year and “Children, Women and Family in Ukraine” once each two years. Moreover, a Unified Electronic Information-Analytical System (EIAS “Deti”) was established in 2010.

Mr. Safiullin presented the progress observed, such as the increase by 36 per cent in birth rate since 2002; the decrease in infant and child mortality rates due to the modern medical technologies introduced and the integrated strategies for monitoring with the support of WHO and UNICEF and the number of street children had considerably decreased since 2006. However, the proportion of children with disabilities was still high at 2 per cent of all children, and even if an integrative system for inclusive education for children with disabilities was implemented, the equal access to quality education was still an issue for Ukraine and as such was defined among the priorities of social policy.

Aiming at the satisfaction of the needs of children and families, different forms of preschool education were introduced: short time groups and groups for the preparation of children for primary school. Computers were introduced in schools, primarily in the rural regions, which had led to the development of innovative technologies and educational programs. More than 87 per cent of the mainstream schools were equipped with computers: 97 per cent in the cities and 83 per cent in the rural regions. During the period under review, Ukraine had also increased assistance for families with many children, as well as the lump sum payments.

Mr. Dainius Puras, the Country Rapporteur, addressed a warm welcome to the delegation and said he was expecting a constructive dialogue. He was aware that Ukraine had a prolonged and heavy transition process as a post-Soviet country, and it had inherited a social infrastructure that was no longer adequate and had to be updated. He acknowledged that in order to move forward, Ukraine needed a vibrant civil society, human resources, good child initiatives and good financial resources. Mr. Puras underlined the importance of the public debate in Ukraine on many issues such as juvenile justice, children in disadvantaged families and on the temptations to regress to simple solutions that result in punitive and repressive approaches that had negative consequences for a society. Mr. Puras invited the government to take responsibility for the way to move ahead with a comprehensive approach, with leadership and ownership in an exciting environment of democracy.

Mr. Puras noted several issues that needed to be considered. Ukraine had to recognize the existing problems in the implementation of the CRC and be more self-critical, instead of continuing past practices of hiding problems, which tended to exacerbate the issues.

Mr. Puras addressed a number of questions to the delegation, asking for more information about the body currently coordinating the implementation of the CRC. He was concerned about the Inter-agency Commission on Protection of Childhood, which seemed to be too limited in its role and capacity and was not a permanent body and about the administrative reform in recent months, which, despite the positive intentions expressed, could threaten the sustainability of the child protection system: a loss of experienced staff, of institutional memory, of databases, etc.

Mr. Puras asked about the current status of the NPA . He was concerned about discrimination towards children in difficult situations such as those with HIV/AIDS, disabilities and those of Roma origin and requested clarification about the measures taken to resolve the disparities and diminish the escalating intolerance towards some groups. Mr. Puras suggested that education was a tool to address intolerance and that as such the patriotic-style education as a priority, was an issue. He asked for the position of the government on the violence of the Ukrainian militia in the cases of pre-trial detention in Vinnitsa and one other city, which had had tragic outcomes and whether the lessons were learned from this. Finally, Mr. Puras raised a question about the general situation of corporal punishment and whether it was still in practice, especially in families, although the law prohibited it in all settings.

General Measures of Implementation

Reforms

In response to the concerns raised by the Country Rapporteur concerning the modalities of the administrative reform, the delegation first said that the reform was initiated by the Presidential Decree from 9 December 2010. The delegation explained that this reform related to the transformation of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport into the State Service of Youth and Sport under the Ministry of Science and Education and was aimed at restructuring the government institutions inherited from the USSR. The delegation assured that despite the name change, there would be no change in the working methods as all previous functions were transferred to the Ministry of Science and Education.

It further commented that the drop of the Ukrainian population from 52 to 46 million during the last 15 years signified a 400'000 average drop in the population per year. The reasons for this were, among others, the low birth rate and the high mortality rate. The delegation said that the new President and new parliament were appointed one year ago and the president had declared that Ukraine needed to increase its population to 50 million by 2015. The delegation declared that the trends concerning morbidity and mortality among young children were improving and that all matters related to youth and children would be addressed effectively under the new administrative structure.

The Committee asked about the decentralization of the child protection services to the local levels, their subordination to the central authority and the effects that this restructuring had had on the implementation of the CRC. The delegation explained that there were social centres for families, children and young persons and social services agencies under the Ministry for the Family, Youth and Sport. Furthermore, a clear separation of responsibilities between the local and the central levels was established. The services were divided in *Oblast* (province) and the State Department for Adoption and for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, created in 2006 as a government body within the Ministry for the Family, Youth and Sport, conducted comprehensive annual inspections of the basic services proposed.

Resources

The Committee asked about the distribution of financial resources and noted it had difficulty finding information on investments in children from the information available in the State Report and other sources. A substantial amount seemed to be allocated to education and 25 per cent of the expenditure was allocated to social protection and social benefits; however once these figures were broken down, specific allocations for children did not appear and the largest allotment was for the pension system. The Committee asked about the government's plan to ensure the implementation of the NPA and how it would monitor the impact of the specific use of resources for children. The delegation answered that the allocation of the financial resources was done according to statistical measures, mainly for the education,

health and protection programmes. It informed the compendia of the results were published in a gazette and assured that there was no problem concerning the data collection.

Corruption

The Committee raised the issue of the high level of corruption as international bodies had ranked Ukraine 134th out of 188 countries and asked about the plans to reduce corruption, particularly in the social sector. The delegation said that in order to reduce the corruption, a revised bill, which improved the mechanism for preventing corruption, was adopted at its first reading in the parliament. The Committee noted that a number of judges were involved in corruption in 2007 according to information coming from the Bar Association of Ukraine. The delegation said there was a judicial reform underway, part of which addressed the appointment and qualification of judges. The delegation recognised that the parliament had considered more than 30 cases of judges accused of corruption or violations of official duties.

Coordination

The Committee asked for more information about the Inter-agency Commission on Protection of Childhood. As a non-permanent body, its role and capacity seemed too limited. The delegation explained that it was a public body under the Ministry of Family and Youth Affairs that was established by Presidential decree in 2000 to coordinate cross-cutting issues on child-related policies that needed to be discussed in roundtable format, involving all relevant ministries. It was composed of 17 members, including representatives from UNICEF, and each year an annual report on the status of children was adopted. As an example of its work, the delegation mentioned an immunisation programme that addressed the refusal by some parents to vaccinate their children.

The 2010 NPA was adopted in March 2009 and the measures for its implementation in October 2009. The delegation further explained that previous failure to implement the NPA resulted from problems with the State budget. It stated that 90 per cent of the financial resources allocated were to be spent in child health and social protection. The delegation informed the Committee that the NPA for 2011, and the subsequent implementation measures, were developed and agreed to by all governmental bodies in Ukraine in December 2010 and the delegation expressed their expectation for the NPA implementation measures to be adopted in February 2011.

Children's ombudsperson

The Committee asked about the structure, status and resources of the Ombudsman's Office and of the special department for children within that office. It wondered whether the office could receive complaints and if they were handled in a confidential manner. The delegation explained the structure and the functioning of the Ombudsman's Office, saying that after the 2002 recommendation from the Committee, the State developed an independent monitoring mechanism and the Ombudsman had been attributed A-status in the international accreditation system, which meant it was in line with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (the Paris Principles). The delegation further explained that in the Secretariat of the Ombudsman, there was a special sub-section on children, and the ombudsman had a special advisor on children's rights. As such, the State considered that the work of one ombudsman was sufficient; furthermore, the State Service of Youth and Sport worked in close relationship with the Human Rights Commissioner. The latter presented the Special Report "State of Observance and Protection of the Rights of the Child in Ukraine" in Parliament in December 2010.

Monitoring

The Committee asked the delegation for disaggregated data on gender, territories, ethnic

groups, age, etc. Concerning children in situations of vulnerability, it commended the delegation on the effective functioning of the State's statistical unit and asked whether there was a plan to coordinate and take into account the need for a national, transparent system of data collection for all children in the country. The delegation was proud to announce that on the initiative of – and in cooperation with – UNICEF, a uniform data collection system, EIAS “Deti” was developed and it included data for orphans and children in other difficult situations. This information was disaggregated by region, age, family background and arrangements taken for the protection of the child. The delegation informed that the system was used for the monitoring of the NPA.

Dissemination and training

The Committee noted many activities cited in the State Report were raising awareness about the CRC among children, families and professionals. Although many had heard about the CRC, they had a negative impression of it, because they considered that if children knew their rights they would be rude and rebellious. According to the Committee, that meant that the civil society did not fully understand the intention of the provisions of the CRC and it asked if teaching materials for professionals working with children were available and whether there was a specific parental programme, as the involvement of parents in the realisation of children's rights was crucial. The Committee observed that there were child-friendly materials, but not enough. The delegation said that in general, a human rights curriculum was studied during the ninth year of school, thanks to international organisations that had worked with the government and provided technical assistance.

Cooperation with civil society

The Committee noted that international organisations were very well represented in Ukraine, and asked for clarifications about the local and national NGOs working in the country. The delegation clarified that the State worked with more than 250 NGOs, particularly for the purposes of implementing the NPA. The delegation said that the government had consulted with NGOs in the drafting of the NPA. The delegation assured that the State was extremely open to working with members of civil society and that as such, 26 NGOs were involved in the discussions concerning the budget.

Definition of the Child

The Committee was concerned about the discrepancy in the minimum age of marriage for girls (17 years) and boys (18 years). The Committee had recommended that the legal age for marriage be the same for girls and boys and asked about the measures taken in this respect. The delegation noted that the issue had been raised by the Committee in 2002 and explained that modifications repeatedly proposed by the Ministry of Justice, had been rejected by the Parliament. It explained that according the Article 2 of the Civil Code, the age of 17 for girls and 18 for boys were based on the traditional concept of marriage in Ukraine and it was not contrary to the CRC. Moreover, the European Convention on Human Rights did not set specific age for marriage.

The Committee asked about the situation whereby adolescents between 14 and 18 years were awarded “full civil capacity” upon registration of their marriage. The Committee asked whether these adolescents, despite their new legal status upon registration of their marriage, were still covered by the provisions of the CRC, given that they were still under the age of 18. According to the legislation, a child could marry from 16 years with the consent obtained through a Court decision and in respect of the principle of the best interest of the child, for instance in the case of teenage pregnancy. Even though the child obtained full civil capacity

upon registration of his or her marriage, he or she would still be covered by the provisions of the CRC and subject to parental protection and legal representation.

The Committee noted that there was no definition attached to the provisions in legislation for measures to be taken with respect to a “socially dangerous child”. It seemed to the Committee that children as young as 11 year could receive the same treatment before the law as someone over the age of criminal responsibility. The Committee noted that this was a broad term that needed to be more clearly defined in the law.

General Principles

Non-discrimination

The Committee considered that there was discrimination on the basis of gender. According to the Family Code, the minimum age of marriage was different for girls and boys. (See the section Definition of the child).

Best interest of the child

The delegation stated that, in relation to the age of marriage, when the Court granted permission for marriage at the age of 16 the best interest of the child was taken into account.

The Committee was concerned whether the principle of the best interest of the child was respected in relation to unaccompanied minors seeking asylum.

The right to life, survival and development

The Committee raised the issue of the high mortality rate among children under five and the increasing mortality rate of children under the age of one. It asked about measures taken by the government to reduce the external causes of child mortality such as accidents. The delegation informed that there were a number of programmes to address infant and child maternal mortality, including the promotion and the support for breastfeeding; child-friendly hospitals; educational facilities for future parents; clinics for future mothers on pregnancy and infant care; and education on caring for children until the age of three. The delegation said that systematic steps had been taken to support hard-to-reach families during pregnancy and after childbirth.

In relation to accidents and violence against children in the family, as well as situations that threatened the life and health of the child, the child protection services could decide whether the child had to be removed from the family settings. It was up to the court to decide whether the child should be placed in an alternative care setting and whether parental rights should be withdrawn in cases where maltreatment of children by parents still existed after one year.

Respect for the views of the child

The Committee cited Article 9 of the Child Protection Act, which facilitates the right of every child to express its views and be heard in legal proceedings. It noted that it did not see much information about child’s participation in the State Report. The Committee remarked that the views of the child had to be given more weight, particularly in family decision-making, and asked whether children’s views and participation were adequately included in public events, judicial proceedings, schools, classrooms, medical treatment decisions, playground planning, etc. The delegation assured that Ukraine was respectful of the views of children but noted that it did not have statistical data on cases of the violation of this right. The delegation said that out of 17 million families, 6’300’000 were with children, and 25,000 were considered poor families with children. The delegation assumed that in the poor families, the views of children were not respected. The Committee highlighted the importance of not drawing a causal link between poverty and respect for the views of the child. The delegation clarified

when they talked about poor families, they did not only mean families with financial problems, but mainly families that were receiving any other kind of support from the social services such as parental support for instance. The Committee commented that the role of the children in the family was changing due to the involvement of many organisations in promoting the rights of the child and explaining to children and parents that children have their own contribution to make, in accordance with their evolving capacities.

Civil Rights and Freedoms

Freedom of expression

The Committee was concerned about the lack of information on the freedom of expression and the legal provisions for its application and asked about the mechanisms in place to ensure that this right was legally provided for. The delegation answered that according to Article 34 of the Constitution, every citizen in Ukraine had the right to freedom of thought and of speech and to express their views, including the children. It further explained that the freedom of speech of children was covered in the general legislation and every child could freely express his or her thoughts. Also, studies were carried out on how this worked in practice and forums were organized where children met with members of the Parliament and expressed their views.

Birth Registration

The Committee noted that the amended Family Code made birth registration obligatory during the first 30 days after birth and that failure to do so could result in the imposition of a fine equal to one to three tax-exempt minimum incomes. The Committee wondered whether this was the right approach or if a more informative manner should be adopted. The delegation explained that Family Code did set out this provision of birth registration, but that at the administrative level, decisions taken to impose the fine were done so on a case-by-case basis; that is, the fine would not be imposed if a valid reason was given. The delegation noted that no case of an unregistered child had been encountered in the last two years. The Committee also noted that up to 1'000 Roma children had reportedly not been registered and wondered why this trend was particular to Roma children, who would thus be denied access to basic services such as social protection, health and education. The Committee asked about the measures taken by the State in this respect. The delegation assured that it was not an issue in Ukraine and that failure to register a child, regardless of ethnic background, occurred in very rare and unusual cases. Furthermore, information campaigns were organised and local birth registration offices worked directly with parents and showed flexibility where needed.

Family Environment and Alternative Care

Orphans and children without parental care

The Committee was concerned about the high number of children that were institutionalised and asked about the alternative care approach taken by the State. The delegation recognised that the number of children in institutions was high, although it had declined from 104,000 in 2006 to 98,500 in 2010. It said that the current intention was to reduce the number of institutions and to reintegrate these children into family settings in order to reduce their number per institution. The delegation recognised that there was much work to be done and assured the Committee that the State was taking appropriate measure for the development of children living in institutions and to prepare them for family life.

The Committee noted confusion between the definition of an orphan and of a child deprived of parental care. The delegation clarified that according to Ukrainian legislation, an orphan was a child whose parents were dead as well as a child deprived of parental care for different

reasons, but only under a court decision. It further explained that there were 11 categories of children deprived of parental care. The child alternative care agencies were working in order to restore parental care and new methods were being developed in this respect. The delegation declared that in 2010, 500 children had been returned to their parents.

Parental responsibilities

The Committee asked about the measures taken to ensure that parents were provided with information, and whether working parents received assistance, for example through community-based initiatives. The delegation responded that both parents could participate in the care of the child through maternity or paternal leave. Mothers also received information related to their new born child, and for children up to three years, there was special preparation about best practices in feeding the child and monitoring his or her mental development.

Basic Health and Welfare

Primary health care

The Committee asked for more information about the health care reform and its rationalisation in order to reduce contain the unprecedented morbidity crisis, caused in part by the lack of skilled professionals as a result of structural changes and new challenges. The delegation said that the health sector reform was directly monitored by the President, through a special provision for high quality life that was aimed at parental centres and comprehensive assistance to parents. The funding of the health system was increased and a range of legislative documents drafted to ensure the rights of patients in the medical system, were in the Parliament (Varhovnaya Rada). The delegation also said that the reform included payments for health services, centres for special medical needs and also university hospitals. Assistance was provided to families from the early months of the pregnancy by social workers and medical personnel.

Access to child care assistance

The Committee was concerned about access to early childhood care, especially by vulnerable groups, particularly Roma children. It asked whether the government had a plan to ensure access for these children. The delegation noted positive steps had been taken in this respect and said that these children were being integrated into the educational structures through combined projects involving the State, local authorities and civil society. As such, Roma children were realising their right to education and teachers were constantly working to ensure that they have equal access to pre-school education. The delegation stated that there were no complaints regarding children from ethnic groups in this regard.

The delegation explained that preschool education was regulated by a special law adopted 10 years ago that was directly applied, and referred to the entire educational system. The delegation explained that children were separated in different groups according to their age starting from two months. The direct pre-school groups included children up to the age of six, which could be extended to seven-year-old children. Consequently, this system covered 61 per cent of all children. Many other children were either cared for by their parents or their grandparents, or were enrolled in temporary groups. The delegation recognised that there remained a challenge to address the enrolment of all children, and that as such it had prepared a plan to develop alternative forms of preschool education.

Health care for vulnerable groups

The Committee underlined three important issues for child health: children in street situations; children suffering from HIV/AIDS; and children involved in drug abuse. The

Committee was aware of effective child-friendly programmes to address drug abuse and the good HIV/AIDS prevention programmes; however it asked whether medical personnel were involved in disseminating information about drug use and was concerned that the punitive approach might only improve statistics, but would not address root causes and thus provide sustainable solutions.

The delegation explained that systematic work had been carried out and clinics were set up with the help of UNICEF to provide, among other services, psychological help and parental assistance. It added HIV/AIDS prevention programmes were included in the educational system. However, there was a shortage in the funding for the HIV/AIDS programmes and for technology for an early diagnosis of HIV-positive children what kept the families concerned extremely anxious as newborn children were considered HIV-infected up to the age of 18 months. The delegation informed that all children, who needed Antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, were provided with aid to the fullest extent financed by the funds of the state budget.

Abortion

The Committee raised the issue of teenage abortions in Ukraine and wanted to know the minimum legal age for adolescents to seek medical help and consultations without parental consent. The delegation stated that teenage abortions were seen as a medical intervention and that the decision was taken by the parents until the child reached the age of 14. Between the ages of 14 and 16 years the child and the parents shared the responsibility for the decision. The delegation said that services were provided to ensure that the girl had talked with the parents as their approval is mandatory.

Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities Education

Integrative Education

The Committee asked about the State policy and practice on children with disabilities and about their response to the WHO European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families. The delegation indicated that there were 380 special school institutions working with 47,000 disabled children and children with special developmental needs and informed that their number had decreased. The delegation stated that one of the State's policies was to create conditions for these children in mainstream schools. The concept of inclusive education was taken into consideration and the State planned the establishment of new vocational education programmes for children with special developmental needs and new training programmes for teachers. The Committee commented that the institutional care system was needed to be reviewed, as out-dated policies were resulting in children being unnecessarily institutionalised and medicated. It invited the State to adopt more community-based approaches and services.

Special Protection Measures

Juvenile Justice

The Committee recalled that since 2006, the concept of juvenile justice in Ukraine was protection- and restoration-oriented, and expressed concern that 2010 had marked a regression to a more punitive approach. It asked for more information about the special courts and the specialised collegiums for consideration of juvenile cases, already created in trial chambers for criminal cases of the general appeal courts and about the rejected in 2010 draft concept. The delegation confirmed that the draft concept on juvenile justice was rejected in 2010 and explained that various religious organisations insisted on the change of terminology. Subsequently, the working group created to prepare the reform had proposed new terminology and approaches; however, the idea of crime prevention and rehabilitation, as

well as the improvement of the educational methods and of the social factor, were maintained. The delegation informed that the draft had been public and it was expected to be submitted by the end of the year, so that a plan of action could be designed.

Children in conflict with the law

The Committee asked about the criminal responsibility of minors, underlining that there seemed to be criminal responsibility attributed to children of 11 years, in cases of “socially dangerous actions”. Minors, defined as young people between 16 and 18 years, were treated as adults and were detained in the same facilities as adults. The delegation said that according to current legislation the age criminal responsibility was 14 years and that those offenders between the ages of 11 and 14 years who had committed “socially dangerous action” were placed under the responsibility of a judge. The judge could decide if the child should be placed in an institution, but this could only be done for up to five years-.The Committee asked whether legal assistance was provided to children and minors in the legal processes and whether visits by parents were accepted. The delegation answered that free legal assistance was available and that children also had the right to see their parents, although the rehabilitation centres were few and the transportation might be too costly for the family.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

The Committee called for more information on the overall situation of these children: whether they had access to health services; education; and legal representation in order to claim asylum and in the age assessment procedure. The delegation stated that around 500 persons were seeking asylum in Ukraine and 150 of them were children, including 24 unaccompanied children. These children were in Odessa, where the Trans-Carpathian Centre was. The delegation added that all children seeking asylum could access legal representation, education and health care services; however, the language barrier was observed to be an issue. Concerning the age assessment procedure, the delegation recognised that there was no official medical procedure to establish the age of the child.

Child labour

The Committee raised the issue of child labour in dangerous conditions, such as workers in illegal mines and as a result of child trafficking. According to information available to the Committee, there were 400'000 children under the age of 15 that were working in Ukraine. The delegation validated the information but said that the figures were a result of a survey the State had conducted in 1996. The number of children under the age of 15 who were working had fallen considerably since then. It added that a sociological study on child labour was under preparation on this issue.

Concluding Remarks

Mr Dainius Puras, the Country Rapporteur, thanked the delegation for the frank dialogue and highlighted the need of better coordination on all levels, such as data collection and monitoring. Ukraine was a democratic society and had to open up and reflect on many issues, such as juvenile justice and children with disabilities, and move ahead with the planned reforms.

Mr. Ravil Safiullin, the head of delegation, Minister in charge of the State Service of Youth and Sport of Ukraine, thanked the Committee for the constructive dialogue and the care that the Members had demonstrated for the wellbeing of the children of Ukraine. He said that the delegation would take into account the Committee’s concluding observations, once issued.