

Appendix 3: UNCRC recommendation is appropriately addressed by existing operational practices

NB: The combined appendices contain all recommendations made by the Committee. Although the numbering does not run consecutively, this reflects the fact that some paragraphs included only general comments and did not contain specific recommendations. Please note these are actions provided by agencies as at the 25 June 2026.

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Overarching Categories	Recommendation		Leadership	Response
Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	5	Ensure the realisation of children's rights in accordance with the Convention, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee urges the State party to ensure meaningful participation of children in design and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and further recommends dissemination of information about the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure to children and persons working with and for them, and to actively promote access to justice for children.	MSD	No action proposed Comment: There are mechanisms in place to ensure policy development takes into account the impact on children as a population group. This includes the Child Impact Assessment tool and prompting questions in both Cabinet paper and Regulatory Analysis Summaries templates about the impact of the proposal on population groups including children. Good practice includes engaging affected groups, including children, when developing, implementing and evaluating programmes and services that affect them. The current approach is guidance-based. Examples of guidelines to support meaningful participation of and engagement with young people include: - Ministry of Youth Development's guidance on youth engagement, including recognition that this is a right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) available here: https://www.myd.govt.nz/working-with-young-people/youth-participation - The Office of the Children's Commissioner and Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children developed guidance for engaging children and young people about the child and youth strategy available here: https://www.manamokopuna.org.nz/documents/514/OT54-CYP-Toolkit-Fillable-3.pdf - Child-friendly and accessible versions of the Child and Youth Strategy 2024-2027 available here: The Child and Youth Strategy 2024-27 - Ministry of Social Development
Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	7 b)	Finalise development of the Children's Rights and Wellbeing Hub to strengthen training on the Convention and ensure its consistent application throughout the State party.	MSD	No action proposed Comment: The Child Impact Assessment tool gives effect to this recommendation.
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application	8 a)	Review the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (2019) to ensure it provides a comprehensive implementation framework including priorities, target, and respective responsibilities for the overall realisation of the Convention and Optional Protocols, in line with its commitments made under the State party's third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.	MSD	Link to UPR-2024-A024: Refresh and implement the Child and Youth Strategy.
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application	8 b)	In line with its obligations under the Children's Act 2014, continue to involve children in the planned triennial reviews of the strategy.	MSD	Link to UPR-2024-A024: Refresh and implement the Child and Youth Strategy.
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application	8 c)	Make compulsory the application of the Child Impact Assessment tool in policy and legislation development affecting children. Ensure adequate training on its use.	MSD	No action proposed Comment: There are already mechanisms in place to ensure policy development considers impacts on children and complements the Child Impact Assessment tool (CIA). Both the Cabinet paper template and the Regulatory Analysis Summaries template include prompting questions about how proposals affect different population groups, including children. The questions in the CIA tool reflect standard policy considerations that practitioners are expected to work through when developing advice. Department of Prime Minister and Cabinets Policy Project guidance also reinforces this approach. The Guide to Inclusive Community Engagement highlights children as one of the diverse population groups that policy makers should consider when designing and assessing policy.

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Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	9	Ensure the Children's Convention Monitoring Group – Deputy Chief Executives group have the authority and resources needed to fulfil its obligations to coordinate and lead the whole of government implementation of the Convention, including by building the capacity of officials to integrate a child rights approach into policymaking and legislative development.	MSD No action proposed Comment: The Child Impact Assessment tool is a mechanism to build officials' capacity in integrating a child-rights approach into policymaking and legislative development. The Children's Convention Monitoring Group (CMG) and Government agencies meet three times a year to discuss progress of work and issues relating to child's rights. The Ministry of Social Development is working with CMG to update the Terms of Engagement for this forum.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	13 a)	Ensure the legal accountability of NZ companies and their subsidiaries for violations of children's rights, including in relation to the environment and health and establish mechanisms for the investigation and redress of such abuses.	MBIE No action proposed Comment: New Zealand's employment and health and safety laws protect children from business-related abuses.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	13 b)	Develop and implement a national action plan on business and human rights, in addition to the responsible business conduct strategy, through a multisectoral consultation with a focus on children's rights.	
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	13 c)	Require companies to undertake assessments, consultations and make full public disclosure of the environmental, health-related and children's rights impacts and their plans to address them.	
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	16	Taking note of target 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, address structural discrimination against vulnerable children by leveraging its mandate under the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to prioritise action against racism and discrimination, including by collection and analysing data on the disparities experience by these children and developing a strategy to confront the barriers to and measure the progress achieve in respect of improving outcomes for them. Take measures to ensure that children aged less than 16 who are excluded from the Bill of Rights Act and Human Rights Act 1993 are protected from aged-based discrimination.	MSD MoJ No action proposed Comment: The previous Child and Youth Strategy had a specific priority on addressing racism, discrimination and stigma. The recommendation does not reflect the current version of the Strategy. The Child and Youth Strategy 2024-2027 has three priorities- supporting children and their whānau in the first 2,000 days, reducing child material hardship, and preventing child harm. Where possible, disaggregated data for identified populations, including Māori children, is included in the Child and Youth Strategy annual report, to support identification of disparities. Comment: New Zealand legislative and policy frameworks make provision for children and young people to be treated according to their age and capacity to protect against unjustifiable age discrimination. All other prohibited grounds of discrimination apply equally to young people under the age of 16 as they do to all New Zealanders. There are no proposed future actions at this stage.
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application	19 b)	Assess the implementation of legislative amendments mandating consultation with children in all matters affecting them, including under the Oranga Tamariki Action (section 5(1)(a)), the Children's Act 2014 (section 6D), the Care of Children Act 2004 (section 6) and the Education and Training Act 2020.	MSD MYD Oranga Tamariki MoJ No action proposed Comment: There are sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure policy development takes into account the impact on children as a population group. This includes the Child Impact Assessment tool and prompting questions in both Cabinet paper and Regulatory Analysis Summaries templates about the impact of the proposal on population groups including children. Good practice includes engaging affected groups, including children, when developing, implementing and evaluating programmes and services that affect them. The current approach is guidance-based. Examples of guidelines to support meaningful participation of and engagement with young people include: - Ministry of Youth Development's guidance on youth engagement, including recognition that this is a right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) available here: https://www.myd.govt.nz/working-with-young-people/youth-participation - The Office of the Children's Commissioner and Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children developed guidance for

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			engaging children and young people about the child and youth strategy available here: https://www.manamokopuna.org.nz/documents/514/OT54-CYP-Toolkit-Fillable-3.pdf Child-friendly and accessible versions of the Child and Youth Strategy 2024-2027 available here: The Child and Youth Strategy 2024-27 - Ministry of Social Development
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application	19 c)	Require independent children's lawyers to have direct contact with the children they represent in the family courts.	MoJ No action proposed Comment: Independent Children's Lawyers (or Lawyer for Child) are already required under section 9B of the Family Court Act 1980 to meet with the child they are representing, unless the Judge agrees there are exceptional circumstances, and it is not appropriate. This reflects their responsibilities under both the Care of Children Act 2004 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	44 a)	To establish a comprehensive data-collection system covering all areas of the Optional Protocol and disaggregated by form of exploitation and the age and gender of victims.	DIA, NZ Police, Customs No action proposed Comment: All three responsible agencies (The Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Police and Customs) have a joint agency referral system which provides transparency regarding the collective child sexual exploitation risk to New Zealand and enables better intelligence to focus on prioritised threats. There is also a national child sexual abuse image database in place that is constantly contributed to by The Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Police and Customs and used for investigative and victim identification purposes.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	44 b)	To adopt a national action plan addressing all crimes as defined in the Optional Protocol, ensuring it is responsive to the nature and root causes of the sexual exploitation of children;	DIA, NZ Police, Customs No action proposed Comment: A national action plan has not been developed. The three primary law enforcement agencies responsible for preventing the sexual exploitation of children (The Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Police and Customs) use a set of Working Protocols to ensure an effective, efficient and coordinated response to these crimes.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	44 c)	To strengthen the coordination and cooperation between child protection stakeholders to improve the early detection and identification of children who are victims of all offences prohibited under the Optional Protocol, taking into account acts that are perpetrated both online and offline, and ensure that they have immediate access to victim support services, including shelters.	DIA, NZ Police, Customs No action proposed Comment: The three law enforcement agencies and Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children collaborate effectively. DIA is now a designated Child Welfare and Protection Agency. Customs does not operate under Working Protocols but under a signed MoU between Customs, Police and DIA "Regarding co-operation on combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Material"
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	44 d)	To ensure that all crimes under articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol are investigated and that perpetrators, including legal persons such as corporations, are prosecuted and sanctioned for offences under the Optional Protocol.	DIA Customs Police No action proposed Comment: Law enforcement agencies review each report of online child exploitation received, however due to the high volume, the most high-risk cases are prioritised. These are determined through a robust risk and prioritisation process which focuses on protecting children and young people from real-world harm.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	45 a)	Review the strategic defence policy statement (2018) to explicitly integrate the obligations under the Optional Protocol and the Convention and ensure their provisions are included in the curriculum of Defence Force training academies and as part of the continuing education requirements for personnel in active service.	NZDF No action proposed Comment: There's no action because the minimal age for voluntary recruitment into the armed services is 17 years and there are safeguards to ensure this is voluntary.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	45 b)	Decrease the operation of service academy programmes in secondary schools that are run in conjunction with the national Defence Force with a view to demilitarising schools, ensuring that they are free from firearms.	MoE NZDF No action proposed Comment: None of the Youth Development programs delivered by Defence for All of Government/Non-Government Organisations partners (i.e. Limited Service Volunteer course, Svc Academy, & Blue Light) include any weapons/firearms training. Further information about the programme can be found here: Services Academies – Youth Guarantee
Governance, Accountability	47	Continue to cooperate with regional organisations such as the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum.	MPP No action proposed

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and System Stewardship			Comment: The Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) continues to cooperate with Pacific regional organisations where required. The Ministry has no formal relationship with the Pacific Community organisation. The Ministry has supported the Minister for Pacific Peoples’ attendance at the Pacific Islands Forum providing necessary information required for his participation.