

Pledge by Slovenia

Succeeded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 6 July 1992

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 23 September 2004

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 23 September 2004

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 25 May 2018



Pledges

1. A new Programme for children for the next five-year period (hereinafter: Programme) will be adopted. In the new Programme for children for the next five years special emphasis will be put on preventing prevention of violence against children, their participation in procedures that concern them, security in digital environment, child-friendly justice, and equal opportunities for all children.
2. In autumn (most likely in October 2019) another anniversary event is planned to take place, in which all relevant ministries and other state/governmental organisations as well as civil society actors will participate.

1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- **What?**

*A new **Programme for children for the next five-year period** (hereinafter: Programme) will be adopted. The first Programme in Slovenia was the Programme for Children and the Youth 2006–2016, which comprehensively dealt with the issue of the status of children and youth. In 2013, the Programme was updated for the 2013–2016 period. This was an independent programme document setting out in detail the objectives and measures to improve the status of children and youth and the ways in which children can participate (promotion of active citizenship). In the new Programme for children for the next five years special emphasis will be put on preventing prevention of violence against children, their participation in procedures that concern them, security in digital environment, child-friendly justice, and equal opportunities for all children. The programme will be an independent document that will also set out in detail the objectives and measures to improve the status of children and the ways in which children can participate (promotion of active citizenship). The document will be based on the*

recommendations contained in the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016–2021 and will take into account the needs and quality of the lives of children in Slovenia.

- **Why?**

The Slovenian family policy devotes special attention to the care and protection of children and pursues the best interests of children. The state ensures to the greatest extent possible that child's rights are exercised, and carefully monitors children's status. It is important that the issue of children's status is understood broadly and considered comprehensively within the family policy, and that it is made an integral part of other important areas. In order to ensure a good quality, healthy and safe childhood and good opportunities for successful development in all areas, the Government provides a functioning and effective system of family assistance, and adopts suitable education, health and other programmes and measures ensuring the well-being of children.

- **How?**

For the preparation of the Programme a working group was established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. The purpose of this working group is to set out fundamental family policy objectives and measures for this period that will improve the quality of family life. The working group, led by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, consists of representatives of the Slovenian Government, non-governmental organisations in the area of children and families, and professional institutions. In the preparation process so far also consultations with children were carried out, under auspices of some NGOs dealing with participation of children.

The aim of the document is to define the basic objectives, measures and activities for the regulation of the area of child's rights, which should also be primarily considered in the implementing documents (two-year action plans).

- **When?**

- **Who?**

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has the lead in preparing the Programme, and will be responsible also in its implementation and monitoring. The Programme will be prepared in the framework of the working group, established by the Government, and in consultation with children. As the area of family policy is so wide, this task can only be performed well through close intersectoral and interdisciplinary integration and cooperation with experts. Therefore, as said, government established a permanent professional consultative body, the Council of the Republic of Slovenia for Children and Families (Council), pursuant to the 2017 Family Code. The members of the Council are appointed by the Government on the proposal of the minister responsible for the family. The Council performs professional and consultative tasks for the Slovenian Government, provides support thereto in the drafting of regulations and monitoring of the situation with regard to children and families, and reports to the Government on the situation regarding children's rights in Slovenia.

2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

In the framework of the 30th anniversary of the Convention the following activities were carried out:

- 17 April 2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia: a public roundtable discussion 'The Convention on the Rights of the Child: 30th anniversary' was organised by the Embassy of Italy in Ljubljana and the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, in which participated Slovene and Italian governmental representatives and representatives of Slovenian civil society. The opening address was delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.
- 27 May 2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia: the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Unicef Slovenia organised an expert event entitled 'Slovenia: friendly to every child?' aimed to highlight the state of children in Slovenia in this anniversary year.
- 6 June 2019, Geneva: Permanent Missions of Slovenia and Germany and the NGO Child Rights Connect co-organised an event dedicated to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Communication Procedures

In autumn (most likely in October 2019) another anniversary event is planned to take place, in which all relevant ministries and other state/governmental organisations as well as civil society actors will participate.

In addition, we would like to inform that the Ministry of Interior and the Police will point out the anniversary during their activities within the framework of the International Days of Activism Against Violence against Women and Girls (25 November - 10 December 2019).