

Pledge by Albania

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 27 February 1992

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 9 December 2008

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 5 February 2008

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 29 May 2013



Pledges

1. Deinstitutionalization of children by transforming all current residential centres into family support centres and strengthening of family and community-based care models and prioritizing the deinstitutionalization of 0-6-year-old children.
2. A big event will be organized in Korca, a model city towards child-friendly policies. The event will be child-led, with the participation of more than 300 children, including children from vulnerable groups. The key message will be: every child has the right to childhood.

30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Template for States parties' commitments and initiatives

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? (Please provide one specific and measurable action that will be taken to implement the Convention, e.g. birth registration for all children; increased access of children with disabilities to inclusive education; deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of XX.)

- Deinstitutionalization of children by transforming all current residential centres into family support centres and strengthening of family and community-based care models and prioritizing the deinstitutionalization of 0-6-year-old children.

Why? (Please provide the rationale behind the action to be taken, e.g. XX of children are not registered at birth; the majority of children with disabilities do not attend mainstream schools; XX of children currently live in alternative care institutions.)

- The Government of Albania recognizes that residential institutional care provision does not offer children the best opportunity to grow and develop. A renewed policy is being prepared with the aim of advancing gradual and full De-Institutionalization of children from all residential care facilities, through re-enforcement of family support and alternative care options.

How? (Please provide information on the steps envisaged, and resources allocated, to complete this action, such as through a national policy, strategy, programme or activities, e.g. implement a national birth registration programme; adopt a national policy on inclusive education; establish a family-based foster care system for children who can not stay with their families. This could also include information on how the impact of this action will be assessed.)

- Recognizing De-Institutionalization as a priority, the government has prepared a multi-year draft DI Action Plan, which is in line with country's broader development plans and strategies, in particular the Social Inclusion Policy 2016-2020, the national Strategy for Social Protection 2015-2020 and the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2017-2020. The deinstitutionalisation strategy aims to establish an integrated, functional and inclusive system focusing on the family and, on the best interests of the child, creating functional inter-institutional mechanisms and establishing efficient financial instruments.
- A multi-disciplinary assessment of over 240 children residing in nine public residential care institutions. As a result, each assessed child now has a development and reintegration plan. The next step will consist in implementing all individual plans, transforming public residential care institutions into family support centres and strengthening foster care alternatives for children.

Who? (Please provide the name of the Government ministry or agency who will take the lead in implementing and monitoring this action, as well as implementing partners including civil society and children's organizations, e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs or Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with XX civil society organizations.)

- Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- Key partners include UNICEF, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, World Vision and other civil society organisations.

2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention: (Please provide information, including dates and venues, on any events or activities planned by the State party to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention.)

A big event will be organized in Korca, a model city towards child-friendly policies. The event will be child-led, with the participation of more than 300 children from the regions around and suburbs as well, including children from vulnerable groups such as children from Roma/Egyptian communities, children with disabilities and children in street situations. The event will be organized in cooperation with partners and civil society organisations working for children's rights. The key message will be: every child has the right to childhood. Children will be at the centre of the event, and we will avoid speeches from authority, but rather invite decision-makers and adults to listen to children's voices.