

# Pledge by Belgium

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 16 December 1991

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 6 May 2002

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 17 March 2006

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure on 30 May 2014



## Pledges

1. Developing one common, national child-friendly version of the Concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Belgium.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention:**

- **What?**

Developing one common, national child-friendly version of the Concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Belgium.<sup>1</sup>

- **Why?**

Foster the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Concluding Observations by:

- “Translating” the Concluding Observations as a tool for child rights education, information and dissemination towards: (i) children, (ii) professionals, (iii) the general public.
- Developing an instrument that can be used towards child participation in: (i) impacting public policies and (ii) monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the Concluding Observations.

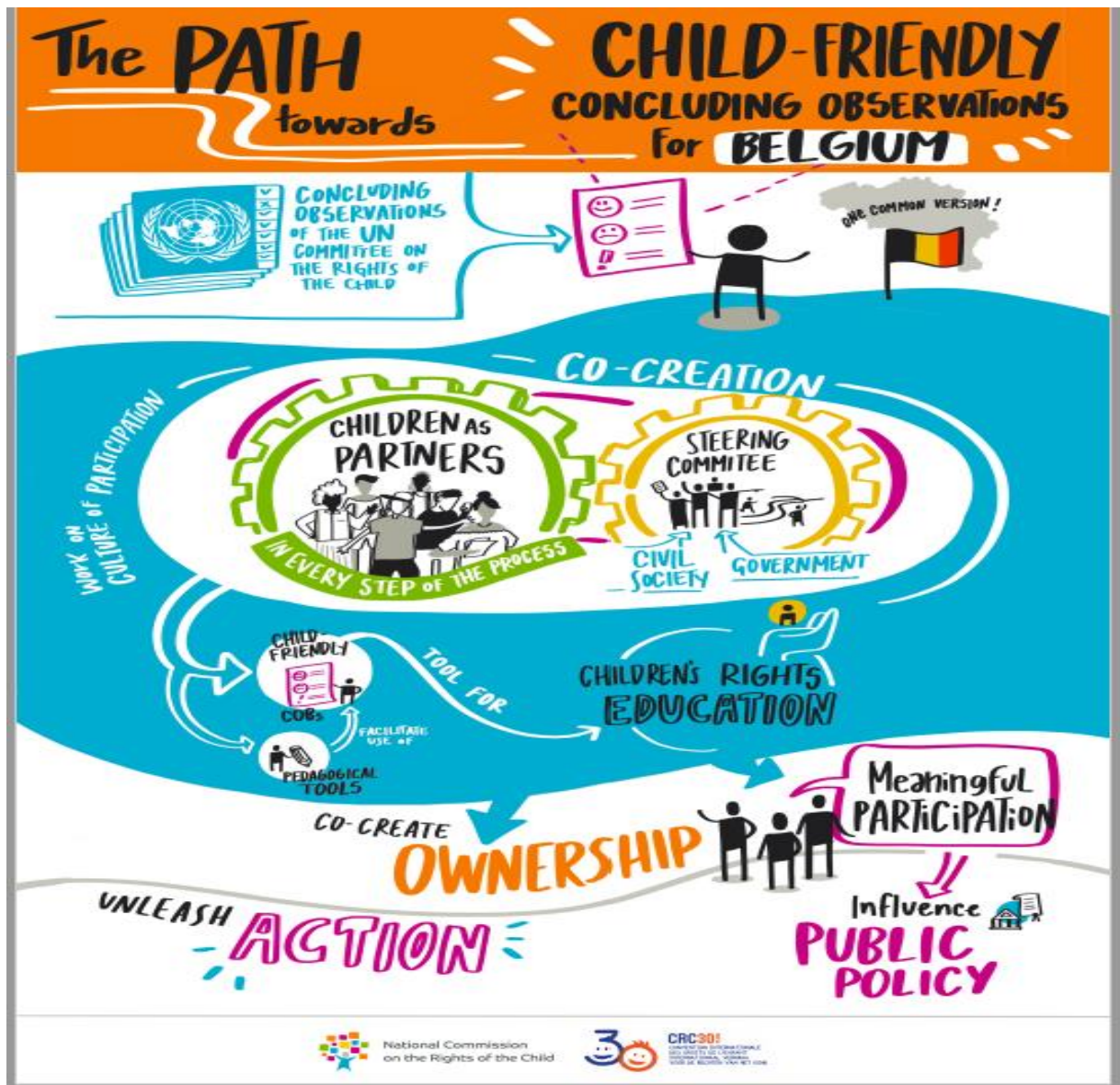
- **How?**

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<sup>1</sup> UN Doc. CRC/C/BEL/CO/5-6 (2019).

Please see graphic recording below. Main features are:

- ✓ **Involve children as partners in every step of the process** (with the support of a professional organization it is the children themselves who will develop the child-friendly version of the Concluding Observations, translated through a medium of expression of their choice);
- ✓ **Creating synergies and partnerships** between children, governments and civil society;
- ✓ **Attention for vulnerable groups of children;**
- ✓ **A multi-phased, flexible approach** that can be readjusted along the way.



This project does not end at the “publication” of the child-friendly version of the Concluding Observations, its **communication, diffusion and practical use** will be key attention points. Towards this end, the child-friendly version of the Concluding Observations will not be a stand-alone instrument, it will be accompanied by a **pedagogical tool** to guide its use.

- **When?** (Please provide a deadline within the next 5 years for completing this action, e.g. by 2022.)

The project has started in June 2019. Whilst the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important momentum which will contribute to raising awareness about this project and activities organized around it, it is important to note that this project has not been conceived for this celebration specifically, but marks a general commitment to implementing children’s rights. Our aim is to finalize a first “translated” version of the Concluding Observations (addressed at children age 15 to 18) at the end of June 2020. At a later stage, age-adaptations and specific versions could be foreseen.

## Who?

An important strength of this project is that it is carried by **governmental and non-governmental actors across the entire Belgian territory.**

The project is coordinated by the National Commission on the Rights of the Child – Belgium, which works as a coordination platform gathering 90 governmental and non-governmental actors in the children’s rights realm in Belgium and was created in 2007 by a cooperation agreement between:



Currently, this project’s steering committee is composed of representatives of:

- Defence for Children International - Belgium (DCI-Belgium - <http://www.dei-belgique.be/>) ;
- Department for Culture, Youth and Media – Vlaanderen (<https://cjsm.be/>) ;
- Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en>) ;
- Kenniscentrum Kinderrechten (KeKi - <https://www.keki.be/>) ;
- Kinderrechtencoalitie Vlaanderen (KiReCo - <https://www.kinderrechtencoalitie.be/>) ;
- Kinderrechtencommissariaat (KRC - <https://www.kinderrechtencommissariaat.be/>) ;
- La Commission nationale pour les droits de l’enfant – de Nationale Commissie voor de Rechten van het Kind (CNDE-NCRK, <https://ncrk-cnde.be>) ;
- La Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l’enfant (la CODE - <http://www.lacode.be/>) ;
- Le Délégué général aux droits de l’enfant de la Communauté française (DGDE <http://www.dgde.cfwb.be/>) ;
- Observatoire de l'Enfance, de la Jeunesse et de l'Aide à la Jeunesse – Communauté française (OEJAJ - <http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/>) ;
- Ordre des barreaux francophones et germanophones ;
- Plan International – Belgique (<https://www.planinternational.be>) ;
- TZitemzo (<https://www.tzitemzo.be/>) ;
- UNICEF Belgique (<https://www.unicef.be>).