



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of reports of States parties

### List of issues in relation to the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Republic of Korea

Addendum

### Replies of the Republic of Korea to the list of issues\*, \*\*

[Date received: 9 August 2019]

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

\*\* The annexes to the present report are on file with the secretariat and are available for consultation. They may also be accessed from the web page of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

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## **Part I**

### **Reply to paragraph 1 (a) of the list of issues**

#### **Comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation**

1. The Korean government established the 3rd National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2018–2022) in 2018 and included the revision of anti-discrimination acts as one of its policy tasks. However, legislative procedures still face difficulties to proceed further, as bills proposed at the National Assembly are pending due to the continued social controversies related to the prohibited grounds of discrimination in the comprehensive anti-discrimination law. The government will continue to carry out its study on international legislative cases and regulations to find a reasonable legal framework to balance social benefits of promoting the non-discrimination principles which could bring public consensus.

### **Reply to paragraph 1 (b) of the list of issues**

#### **Single adolescent mothers**

2. As the Constitutional Court ruled in April 2019 that a ban on abortion pursuant to the Criminal Act is unconstitutional, the Korean government and National Assembly plan to amend relevant laws and statutes by December 2020. The said amendment is expected to resolve various issues, such as helping socially and economically vulnerable minors avoid health risks caused by illegal, unsafe abortions and reducing the number of newborns abandoned or forced to be adopted. The Korean government and National Assembly are in the process of reviewing and discussing the legislative measures required to ensure access to safe abortions and ways to provide relevant information, counseling, and education (See Paragraph 38).

### **Reply to paragraph 1 (c) of the list of issues**

#### **Age of majority**

3. The Child Welfare Act defines a child as a person under 18 years of age. However, the Civil Act sets forth the ceiling age for a minor as 19. Korea has already lowered the age criteria for a minor from 20 to 19 through the amendment of the Civil Act in 2011 and currently has no plan to make an additional adjustment.

### **Reply to paragraph 2 of the list of issues**

#### **National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK)**

4. NHRCK's Committee on Child Rights was established in April 2016 and is responsible for deliberating and deciding matters concerning child and youth victims, visiting investigations at detention and protection facilities, and ex officio investigations. The acceptance rate for recommendations on children's rights policies (2013–2017) stands at 83.3%, while the cumulative acceptance rate for recommendations for all petitions filed (2002–2017) stands at 90.6%. The amendment of the NHRCK Act in February 2019 served to reinforce the independence of individual NHRCK members by mandating that the government place the highest priority on the independence of NHRCK when making any decisions concerning its organizational structure and exempting NHRCK members from civil and criminal liability for statements and decisions made in relation to their duties. As the human rights improvement indicators were included in the assessment of central government ministries in 2017, the acceptance rate for NHRCK's recommendations is anticipated to further increase (See Tables 1–3).

### **Collection and analysis of data related to the Conventions**

5. The Korean government plans to develop a centralized system that integrates and connects the nation's individually managed child welfare systems to efficiently control data and ensure effective childcare and children's rights protection. To this end, we established the National Center for the Rights of the Child in July 2019 through the amendment of the Child Welfare Act as part of our step-by-step measures to form an integrated information management system. We also developed the framework for social indicators concerning children and youth in 2018 as a comprehensive child and youth data collection system and plan to establish a database of indicators regarding their quality of life (See Paragraphs 19–20 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

### **Reply to paragraph 3 (a) of the list of issues**

#### **Budget allocations for children**

6. Korea's public social expenditure on families accounted for 1.2% of its GDP in 2015, which is lower than the OECD average (2.0%). The ratio of public social expenditure to GDP reached 11.1% in 2018. Although it is still lower than the OECD average (19.0%), it increased notably from 2.7% in 1990 to 10.2% in 2015. The increase rate during the period 2005–2015 stands at 11.0%, which is twice as high as the OECD average (5.3%). We are fully aware of the need to expand budget allocation for children and are working hard to achieve this in diverse ways. As the government continues to push the boundaries of child welfare, including the implementation of free infant care service (2013), the introduction of the child subsidy system (2018) and its expansion for universal provision (2019), and the provision of self-reliance subsidies for children discharged from child-rearing facilities, etc. (2019), budget allocations for children are expected to grow continuously (See Tables 17–18).

### **Reply to paragraph 3 (b) of the list of issues**

#### **Budget disparities between local government bodies**

7. In 2019, the budget for the central government and the total budgets for local governments stand at KRW 361 trillion (54.5%) and KRW 231 trillion (34.8%), respectively, with the educational budgets of local governments set at KRW 70 trillion (10.7%). To resolve budget disparities between local government bodies, the Korean government is operating the local financial equalization system for local subsidies, central government subsidies, local education finance subsidies, etc. We are also encouraging local governments to focus on eliminating the welfare blind spots, improving social value, and allocating funds to diverse areas in a balanced manner when compiling their budgets.

8. The rates of local governments' investment in the education field were 5.9% for special and metropolitan cities and 3.1% for provinces in 2017, but the gap between the two slightly narrowed in 2019 at 5.4% for special and metropolitan cities and 3.2% for provinces. As for subsidies for childcare budgets, a differential subsidy rate is applied pursuant to the Subsidy Management Act to narrow any budget disparities between different regions. To ensure rational childcare budget allocations to different regions, we initiated the study on the calculation of local governments' social welfare expenditures in 2019.

### **Reply to paragraph 3 (c and d) of the list of issues**

#### **Budgets for socially vulnerable children and child and youth participatory budgeting**

9. The Korean government established the 1st Master Plan for Child Policy (2015–2019) aimed at implementing comprehensive measures for children requiring social protection and support, such as children suffering from poverty, children with disabilities, child offenders, runaway children, children of multicultural families, and migrant children. We are currently preparing to release the 2nd Master Plan for Child Policy in 2019, which

will include mid-to-long-term plans for children suffering from poverty and other measures to support related vulnerable groups. In order to promote Child and Youth Participatory Budgeting, which ensures the reflection of the opinions of children and youth in local governments' budget allocations in association with pertinent organizations, we distributed the operating manual and included relevant details in the 6th Master Plan for Youth Policy (2018–2022) in 2018 (See Paragraph 17 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

#### **Child impact assessment**

10. The Korean government amended the Child Welfare Act in 2016 to adopt the child impact assessment system and enacted the Enforcement Decree of the same Act specifying the targets, methods, and procedures for its implementation in March 2019. We aim to conduct a pilot assessment in 2019 to review the legitimacy and efficiency of the system in advance, minimize potential errors, develop relevant manuals and indicators, and thereby ensure the successful operation of the system.

### **Reply to paragraph 4 (a) of the list of issues**

#### **Child suicide**

11. The Korean government has strived to reduce the nation's suicide rate as evidenced by the establishment of the National Action Plan for Suicide Prevention in January 2018. Based on this plan, the number of emergency rooms responsible for the follow-up management of attempted suicides rose from 52 in 2018 to 63 in 2019; complete enumeration surveys of suicides and tailored suicide prevention programs have been conducted; and the one-stop service for bereaved families will be implemented in the second half of 2019.

12. Through the amendment of the Act on the Prevention of Suicide and the Creation of a Culture of Respect for Life (2018–2019), we reinforced the grounds for the media's compliance with the recommended suicide coverage standards, the establishment of the information connection system between institutions such as the Suicide Prevention Centers, the foundation of the Suicide Prevention Policy Committee, and the provision of location information to the police for rescuing those at risk of suicide. We plan to enhance the rate of teachers specializing in suicide counseling at schools to more effectively manage students' mental health (See Table 23 and Paragraphs 40 and 119 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

### **Reply to paragraph 4 (b) of the list of issues**

#### **Overdependence on Smartphone**

13. Through the amendment of the Framework Act on National Informatization in February 2018, the Korean government reinforced education for Internet addiction prevention (the expansion of targets subject to mandatory education to childcare centers, requirement to submit the results of education, etc.), while also planning to develop and distribute guidelines on the exposure of infants to smartphones based on international standards and to provide coaching and education for parents. We established the Comprehensive Plan for Smartphone and Internet Overdependence Prevention and Resolution (2019–2021), provided education and counseling, staged public-private promotions and campaigns, and conducted a nationwide survey on smartphone overdependence. We also opened the Internet Addiction Prevention Center at 18 locations to provide counseling on smartphone overdependence (See Table 25 and Paragraph 134 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

### **Reply to paragraph 4 (c) of the list of issues**

#### **Baby boxes**

14. Although the baby box system is not institutionalized as it is a form of child abandonment, the Korean government is monitoring and instantly taking protective

measures for children abandoned at baby boxes operated on the private level. We are reviewing the introduction of a universal birth registration system to fundamentally ensure the public registration and protection of all children. The number of children abandoned at baby boxes and taken over by local governments in the last three years slightly declined from 197 in 2016 to 171 in 2018 (See Table 35).

#### **Reply to paragraph 4 (d) of the list of issues**

##### **Measures against fine dust and asbestos pollution**

15. The Special Act on Fine Dust Reduction and Management (enforced in February 2019) defines children as a group vulnerable to fine dust pollution and mandates special protection. The Ministry of Health and Welfare revised the Manual for High-Concentration Fine Dust Pollution Control at Childcare Centers in 2019 to alert childcare centers to refrain from taking children outside when the level of fine dust pollution is bad or very bad and allow parents and caretakers to choose whether to send their children to childcare centers when the recommendation by a mayor or governor to stay at home is issued. In 2018, 53,500 air purifiers were installed at 15,000 childcare centers, and we plan to continuously focus on managing the indoor air quality of childcare centers by educating childcare personnel and conducting on-site inspections (See Paragraph 91).

16. The Ministry of Education established the policy for high-concentration fine dust pollution control at schools in 2018, which deals with the installation of air purifiers in classrooms, expansion of indoor gyms, and protection of highly sensitive students with respiratory diseases, etc. As of February 2019, the installation rate of air purifiers at preschools, elementary schools, and special education schools stands at 80%. We aim to bring this rate to 100% within 2019.

17. The Ministry of Environment amended the Enforcement Decree of the Asbestos Safety Management Act in May 2018 to include all childcare centers installed within buildings constructed prior to 2009 in the targets subject to mandatory asbestos inspections and thereby eliminated the blind spot in the asbestos control of childcare centers. As of 2018, 10,765 schools (equivalent to 51.3%) among 20,981 across the nation were found to have asbestos. The Ministry of Education is planning to invest approximately KRW 300 billion each year to achieve asbestos-free schools. The Korean government is inspecting preschool and school buildings for asbestos control pursuant to the Asbestos Safety Management Act and amended the school asbestos control manual in January 2019 to reinforce the requirements for city and provincial Offices of Education and schools to control asbestos and publicize the results of asbestos inspections (See Paragraph 92).

#### **Reply to paragraph 4 (e) of the list of issues**

##### **Measures for victims of toxic humidifier disinfectants**

18. In order to provide support for the deceased and surviving victims of toxic humidifier disinfectants and their families in a timely manner, the Korean government enacted the Special Act on Remedy for Damage Caused by Humidifier Disinfectants in February 2017. The government has provided financial aid for healthcare and living expenses to help resolve economic difficulties of the victims since August 2013 and decided to expand the scope of diseases recognized as damages inflicted (See Paragraph 93).

19. The Comprehensive Support Center for Humidifier Disinfectant Damages and the Humidifier Disinfectant Healthcare Center have been operated to provide necessary services such as the submission of damages, subsidy payment, and health management. Tailored physical and mental health monitoring services are also offered on a regular basis at the request of the victims in collaboration with local healthcare providers. The government enacted the Act on Consumer Chemical Products and Biocides Safety in January 2019, which allows the sale of biocides and products containing biocides only when their safety is fully proven, to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

## **Reply to paragraph 5 of the list of issues**

### **Right to be heard**

20. To guarantee children's right to be heard, the bill on the comprehensive amendment of the Family Litigation Act was tabled in March 2018 at the National Assembly. It includes provisions requiring listening to all children's opinions regardless of their age throughout trial procedures that may directly affect their welfare.

## **Reply to paragraph 5 (a) of the list of issues**

### **Sexual orientation**

21. The Korean government ensures suitable treatments to be provided to juvenile inmates in juvenile reformatories, if informed of their sexual orientation or sexual identity based on healthcare officers' opinions. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Framework Act on Youth ("no youth shall be subject to any form of discrimination on the basis of his/her race, religion, gender, age, academic background, physical conditions, etc."), we will focus on preventing all youth from being discriminated against in using youth shelters.

## **Reply to paragraph 5 (b) of the list of issues**

### **Kid-free zones**

22. In September 2017, NHRCK ruled that it was an age-based irrational discriminatory act to uniformly ban children 13 years of age or younger from entering a restaurant and recommended lifting the ban. The Korean government is concerned that the practice of designating a place of business as a kid-free zone is based on a biased tendency to perceive children as bothersome and inconvenient and that it may eventually exclude children from society. As such, we established the Policies for Children toward Building an Inclusive Society in May 2019 to bring about positive changes to this practice and improve children's quality of life.

## **Reply to paragraph 6 of the list of issues**

### **Birth registration**

23. Births of children eligible to obtain citizenship of the Republic of Korea can be declared (or registered) pursuant to the Act on the Registration, Etc., of Family Relationships, etc. However, the birth registration system for foreign children, etc., has yet to be established. The Korean government is fully aware of the need for a birth registration system that guarantees the human rights of foreign children in the country, and is reviewing its implementation and operational methods. The Government plan to take concrete steps once legislative bills for the system take shape and the competent government ministries is determined.

24. We amended the Act on the Registration, Etc., of Family Relationships in 2015 to allow the biological father to register his child's birth with the confirmation of a family court when the biological mother's personal information is unknown. The amendment enabled single-fathers to receive free legal assistance from the Korea Legal Aid Corporation regarding birth registration from 2016 onwards.

### **Online birth registration system**

25. The Korean government initiated the online birth registration service in 2018. However, due to the lack of a legal device that mandates the notification of a child's birth to a national institution by a healthcare provider, online birth registration still relies on hospitals' voluntary participation and the consent of mothers on the use of their personal information and thus remains relatively unused.

26. In May 2019, we adopted the birth notification system designed to mandate that all healthcare providers notify births to a national institution to guarantee children's right to be registered and protected and identify and protect children at risk. We are thoroughly reviewing the introduction of the protected (anonymous) birth system that allows the confidentiality of child births under unavoidable circumstances and the protection of the relevant information of both parents and children.

### **Students' rights**

27. The Ministry of Education established the Citizenship Education Division dedicated to students' rights in January 2018 to oversee the improvement of students' rights protection systems such as the amendment of pertinent laws (e.g. the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), human rights education, and the publicity of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children and youth can request remedies for human rights violations through civil request submission windows and human rights defense officers of Offices of Education and the petition system of NHRCK. NHRCK urged the Ministry of Education and 17 city and provincial superintendents of education to develop manuals to reflect students' opinions on the establishment and revision of school regulations, amend pertinent laws such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, reinforce school regulation monitoring and human rights education, and install a unit (personnel) dedicated to remedying human rights violations of students through its written recommendation concerning the promotion of students' rights in December 2017. The Ministry of Education and Offices of Education are striving to improve students' rights by formulating relevant implementation plans.

## **Reply to paragraph 7 of the list of issues**

### **Corporal punishment and violence**

28. The Korean government legally prohibited corporal punishment through the amendment of the Enforcement Decree of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 2011 and the Child Welfare Act (Article 5) in 2015. Pursuant to Article 912 of the Civil Act, the exercise of parental authority the highest priority is given to the welfare of the child. Thus, this is not considered as providing the grounds for corporal punishment, child abuse, and violence against children. We implemented the Policies for Children toward Building an Inclusive Society in May 2019 and plan to collect public opinions on refining the terminology "right to take disciplinary action" under Article 915 of the Civil Act and setting its limit as an extension of our efforts to raise awareness on the need to ban all forms of corporal punishment.

29. We notably upgraded our responses for individual stages (from prevention to early detection, prompt action, and follow-up management) by establishing the child abuse prevention measures in 2016 to reinforce the participation of child abuse perpetrators in education and psychological therapy and setting 27 tasks for the child abuse prevention supportive measures in 2018. Through such efforts, the child abuse detection rate rose from 2.15‰ in 2016 to 2.95‰ in 2018 (See Table 4). For the status of child abuse, see Tables 19–22 and Paragraphs 70–72 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6.

### **Sexual abuse**

30. The Korean government revised the Enforcement Rule of Disciplinary Action against Educational Officials, Etc., in March 2019 to effectively counter violence and sexual abuse committed by national and public school teachers and reinforced disciplinary action standards concerning illegal recording using cameras, etc.; the distribution of illegal recordings; secondary damage inflicted on victims of sexual harassment and violence; and violence, blackmail, and disadvantageous treatment toward informants.

31. As for personnel at private schools, we amended the Private School Act in April 2019 and institutionalized disciplinary action standards nearly equivalent to those pertaining to personnel at national and public schools. In order to respond to reports on sexual harassment and violence committed at school, we have been operating National

Online Report Center for Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Ministry of Education and 17 city and provincial Offices of Education since 2018 and improved its system to enable anonymous reporting from May 2019 onwards to better protect informants.

### **#School Me Too Movement**

32. To more aggressively respond to the #SchoolMeToo movement, the Korean government announced measures to root out sexual harassment and violence in the field of education in association with pertinent government institutions such as the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and the Korean National Police Agency in December 2018. In 2019, we increased teachers specializing in counseling at elementary and middle schools by over 20% from the previous year (2,715 as of 2019) to help victimized students, while also revising relevant regulations to allow victimized students to promptly transfer to another school designated by the respective superintendent of education at their request.

33. We set up an organizational unit dedicated to sexual harassment and violence at each Office of Education to respond in a more systematic manner across the entire process from the occurrence of the incident to follow-up and recurrence prevention measures. We are working to reinforce sexual harassment and violence prevention education for incumbent and prospective teachers to improve their gender sensitivity and prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (a) of the list of issues**

### **Foster care at private homes**

34. The Korean government adopted the special foster care at private homes initiative in May 2019 as an extension of its efforts to promote foster care at private homes and announced its plan to reinforce support for foster parents. We pushed ahead with the institutionalization of the special foster care at private homes initiative for infants of two years of age or younger, child victims of abuse, and other children with special needs and exempted children placed under foster care at private homes and group homes from the investigations of obligatory providers responsible for supporting recipients of benefits under the National Basic Living Security Act from October 2019 onwards to ease the economic burden of foster parents.

35. The amount of foster care subsidies was adjusted from KRW 200,000 to KRW 300,000 for general foster care and to KRW 400,000 for special foster care. We also plan to provide subsidies for the initial-stage settlement of children newly placed under foster care and launch a program ensuring break hours for foster care homes. Since 2016, we have joined forces with Korea Legal Aid Center for Family Relations to provide legal aid for granting guardianship status to foster parents to enable the exercise of legal representation rights. For the status of children deprived of a home environment, see Tables 36–40.

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (b) of the list of issues**

### **Complaint mechanisms for child victims in alternative childcare settings**

36. Heads of child welfare facilities are required to provide five types of mandatory education, including sexual violence and child abuse prevention education, for resident children pursuant to the Enforcement Decree of the Child Welfare Act so that they can obtain information on ways to seek necessary remedies for human rights violations. Human rights violations can be reported to local children's rights advocate officers or through the e-People portal of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission as well as petitioned to NHRCK. As the government came up with the system to regularly monitor, manage, and support children placed into alternative childcare settings by individual local governments and announced its plan to station dedicated staff for counseling and case management in May 2019, complaint and petitioning mechanisms are expected to become more accessible.

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (c) of the list of issues**

### **Dissolution of adoption**

37. The Civil Act amended in February 2012 substantially reduced the extent of the application of the dissolution of adoption through consultation and made it possible only for cases in which the adopted children are adults. Should underage adopted children have been abused or abandoned, adoptive relationships can be dissolved only through trial. We also amended the Family Litigation Rules in December 2016 to enable the commissioning of psychological tests to physicians and experts when deemed necessary for hearings of adoption-related incidents and prepare the legal grounds for pre-adoption education for parents to minimize the possibility of dissolution of adoption and ensure the rights and welfare of children to be adopted (see Table 41).

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (d) of the list of issues**

### **Consent of single adolescent mothers to adoption**

38. When adopting a child, it is required to gain the consent of his/her biological parents pursuant to Article 12 of the Act on Special Cases Concerning Adoption. The same applies to biological parents who are underage, and they are also guaranteed the right to withdraw their consent to adoption. The Supreme Court of Korea's Rules on Implementation of the same Act also mandate listening to the opinions of the child's biological parents prior to the trial for claiming permission for adoption at a family court. The Civil Act allows single adolescent mothers to exercise the right to give consent to adoption as the biological parent of a child subject to adoption (Article 870) as well as to the full adoption of their children (Article 908-2). See Paragraphs 108–109 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6.

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (e) of the list of issues**

### **Children's right to be heard prior to adoption**

39. The Family Litigation Act currently prescribes that, if the person subject to adoption or full adoption is 13 years of age or older, his/her opinions must be considered. The bill on the comprehensive amendment of the Family Litigation Act submitted to the National Assembly by the government in March 2018 deleted the age requirement and made it mandatory to listen to the opinions of all children regardless of age.

40. As most children adopted pursuant to the Act on Special Cases Concerning Adoption are 0–3 years of age, we are working to complement the public child protection system to help guardians and adoption-related people make decisions focused on the child's welfare on behalf of the child and are reviewing the amendment of the aforementioned Act to ensure the reflection of the opinions of children under 13.

## **Reply to paragraph 8 (f) of the list of issues**

### **Children of imprisoned parents**

41. The Korean government guarantees children's right to meet their imprisoned parents in a facility that does not block direct contact between inmates and their children. The Government began to construct child-friendly family meeting rooms similar to childcare centers at correctional facilities in 2017 and plan to install them at all correctional institutions across the nation by 2021. Pursuant to the Administration and Treatment of Correctional Institution Inmates Act, the Government provides protective measures for the underage children of imprisoned parents at the inmates' request in association with correctional facilities, local governments, and local communities (child-rearing facilities, youth counseling and welfare centers, etc.). Children born within detention facilities can be raised on the premises for up to 18 months. (See Table 34 and Paragraphs 114–115 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

## **Reply to paragraph 9 (a) of the list of issues**

### **Access to social protection and healthcare of migrant children**

42. The Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea specifies the measures to prevent discrimination against and protect the human rights of foreigners residing in Korea and their children through education, promotional activities, etc. The 3rd Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners (2018–2022) established under the same Act designated “formulating measures to promote the human rights of foreign children residing in Korea” and “supporting the competence-building and growth of children with migrant backgrounds” as policy tasks. As children of foreign nationalities cannot be designated as recipients of benefits under the National Basic Living Security Act, the Korean government revised the 2019 Guidelines on the Projects in the Field of Children to enable resident children of foreign nationalities at child welfare facilities to receive aid for living expenses from local governments.

## **Reply to paragraph 9 (b) of the list of issues**

### **Access to Quality healthcare services**

43. Although the accessibility of Korea’s healthcare providers is satisfactory on the whole, regional disparities exist concerning specialized treatment such as rehabilitation (see Table 5). The Korean government plans to increase specialized public medical centers for children from seven in 2018 to eight or more in 2019 and open more public rehabilitation hospitals for children with disabilities to resolve such regional disparities concerning the treatment of children. We aim to expand the number of rehabilitation hospitals to three and clinic-level healthcare centers to six by 2022 to enable children with disabilities to lead their school lives and receive treatment at the same time without difficulties.

44. Pursuant to the amended Enforcement Rules of the Medical Care Assistance Act enforced in July 2019, children permitted to use secondary healthcare institutions (hospitals) without the need to submit the Request for Medical Care Assistance issued by primary healthcare institutions (clinics) were expanded from those under 8 to those 15 years of age or younger, and the hours for the acceptance of such children, which was previously restricted to night time and holidays, were also expanded to improve children’s access to medical care assistance.

## **Reply to paragraph 9 (c) of the list of issues**

### **Child housing poverty and working and runaway children**

45. The Korean government is in the process of constructing and renovating public rental houses in areas densely populated with those affected by housing poverty based on the Framework Act on Residence, while also providing housing benefits for those suffering from housing poverty pursuant to the Housing Benefits Act and National Basic Living Security Act. We provide rent fees to lessees residing in rented houses, etc., and financial aid for housing renovation to homeowners residing in their own homes based on an assessment of their deterioration. We also offer public rental houses and the initial two years of rent for free to children discharged from child-rearing facilities (See Table 33).

46. The Korean government focuses on counseling and education in relation to the improvement of working conditions for youth and their labor rights and on support for necessary remedies. The Ministry of Employment and Labor operates the Youth Work Protection Center offering free counseling for unfair treatment and remedies for the infringement of labor rights. The Ministry also conducts education on labor rights at middle and high schools, shares information via SNS, and provides a service for visiting individual places of business and promoting the working conditions for youth (See Table 6).

47. In 2018, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family expanded the Youth Work Protection Center to the metropolitan region, the Gyeongsang region, and the Jeolla region. The Center is equipped with workplace assistants for youth workers, offers counseling and

mediation services for unfairly treated part-time youth workers, and provides on-site education on labor rights. The Youth Work Protection Center will be further expanded step-by-step to provide the above services on a national level. (See Tables 28–29.)

48. We have strived to expand the Youth Shelters serving as protection facilities for runaway children and youth, while also categorizing them in accordance with the permitted lengths of stay to provide tailored services. We apply operating standards differentiated for individual shelter types and operate personalized programs to improve the expertise and competence of staff members at such shelters.

49. As of 2018, a total of 130 Youth Shelters across the nation are serving to protect runaway children and youth, providing living expense support, counseling, and educational and cultural services to help them better adapt to society and return home. We are reviewing ways to realign and integrate these shelters based on their function from 2019 onwards (See Table 32).

## **Reply to paragraph 9 (d) of the list of issues**

### **Climate change**

50. The Korean government established the 2nd National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2016–2020) in 2015 and has focused on improving the environment by establishing a database of those groups particularly vulnerable to climate change (e.g. children, seniors, and outdoor workers) and diagnosing harmful factors for their living conditions. Children suffering from atopy, asthma, allergic coryza, etc., can seek free consultations at the 18 Environmental Health Centers across the nation. The Environmental Health Centers also offer environmental health-themed concerts and a mobile school for environmental health, serving as the hub of climate change-related services. In June 2019, we set up the Special Commission on Environmental Change and Disease Prevention consisting of related experts to respond to fine dust pollution based on medical grounds and protect the health of vulnerable groups such as children and seniors.

## **Reply to paragraph 10 of the list of issues**

### **Reformation of the education system**

51. We launched Presidential Council on Education, a public-private consultative body directly responsible to the President of the Republic of Korea, in December 2017 to discuss the direction of mid-to-long-term education policy and other pending issues. The Council serves to establish the direction for educational innovation aimed at easing excessive college entrance competition, reducing private education costs, narrowing educational disparities, and preparing children for the demands of the future society and to propose the necessary related tasks. In August 2018, it released a proposal for the reformation of the overall college entrance system based on the findings of deliberations and public discussions. The Council engages in projects to study and collect opinions on diverse pending issues and is working in association with the Ministry of Education to launch the National Education Commission as an institution charged with formulating education policies based on public consensus. It will continue to promote discussions on future education systems and the long-term vision of the nation's education.

## **Reply to paragraph 10 (a) of the list of issues**

### **Academic stress and lack of play and leisure**

52. We recognize that stress from excessive competition over college entrance is an obstacle to the realization of children's rights and aim to improve the nation's education system led by the National Education Commission. We launched a wide range of policies to normalize public education and promote the creativity-building of children. (See Paragraphs 153–155 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6.) We are also striving to ease excessive competition in high school, eliminate the ranking of high schools, and ultimately build a

society centered on capabilities instead of academic background through improving the high school entrance system, expanding employment opportunities for high school graduates, and realigning curriculum based on the National Competency Standards (NCS).

53. Discrimination based on academic background is a form of discrimination specified under the NHRCK Act, and NHRCK receives petitions concerning such discrimination and engages in remedying these situations. We are working to reinforce the nation's mental healthcare system targeting school-age children by collaborating with the Wee Center (student counseling center), Mental Health Welfare Center (former Mental Health Promotion Center), Youth Counseling and Welfare Center, healthcare institutions, and counseling teachers and counselors at schools.

54. In May 2019, the Korean government announced the plan to create an environment for children to freely play at home, at school, and in their local communities and thereby develop their creativity and social skills. The Play Innovation Committee under the Child Policy Coordination Commission will be launched in the second half of 2019 to play an instrumental role in expanding the spaces, hours, and programs for play. We plan to select "leading areas of play innovation", prioritize them in providing the resources required to build a child-friendly urban environment, and disseminate best practices. We also plan to implement policies to raise awareness on the importance of play and expand spaces dedicated to children and youth in local communities (See Paragraphs 159–160 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

55. We will invest a total of KRW 500 billion over the next five years from 2019 to renovate approximately 1,250 schools into places of learning, relaxation, and creative play. We are unearthing and acknowledging best practices for the promotion of play and relaxation during school hours mainly at elementary schools. The revised 2019 Nuri Curriculum centered on play was released in July 2019, helping foster the creativity of children at childcare centers and preschools through ensuring a sufficient amount of play.

## **Reply to paragraph 10 (b) of the list of issues**

### **Inclusive education and accessibility of special education schools**

56. The Korean government is expanding special education classes within non-special education schools based on the 5th Five-Year Plan for Special Education Development (2018–2022). The number of special education classes within non-special education schools rose by 611 from 10,065 in 2016 to 10,676 in 2018, while the ratio of students with disabilities attending non-special education schools increased from 70.5% in 2016 to 71% in 2018 (an increase of 2,454 students). (See Tables 7 and 8.) Students with disabilities attending non-special education schools receive education alongside non-disabled students in integrated classes as well as individualized education from special education teachers or teachers dispatched from the Special Education Support Centers (See Paragraph 118 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

57. Jeongdaun School (centered on inclusive education) was pilot-operated at 40 locations in 2018 to promote collaboration among special education teachers and non-special education teachers, and it was expanded to 74 locations in 2019. The hub support centers, designed to provide support tailored for the needs of different disabilities, will also be expanded from 46 in 2018 to 50 by 2022 (For the status of children with disabilities, see Tables 42–45).

58. As of 2018, the number of special education schools stands at 175, an increase of 25 from 2010. Among them, approximately 77% (134) are concentrated in urban areas with 42% in the metropolitan area. The commuting hours of special education recipients are decreasing on the back of the continued establishment of special education schools and classes. The percentage of those spending one hour or longer to commute to school decreased from 9.9% in 2016 to 7.4% in 2018 (a drop of 2.5%p). To ensure the commuting convenience of students with disabilities, we are expanding aid for the transportation of students with disabilities such as the incurred expenses of students and parents as well as the provision of the school bus service so that recipients are increasing. (See Tables 9–11.)

We aim to establish 26 more special education schools and over 1,250 special education classes by 2022 to resolve the overcrowding of classes, reduce commuting hours, and widen the choice of schools for students with disabilities.

## **Reply to paragraph 10 (c) of the list of issues**

### **Access to education for migrant children**

59. To facilitate access to education for migrant children, the Korean government is operating multicultural preliminary schools for international students and the children of multicultural families spent most of their time at overseas (197 locations as of 2018). The multicultural alternative schools (five locations) provide tailored programs such as Korean language learning, specialty and aptitude development, multilingual education, and vocational training. The Government utilizes the information on children of multicultural families who were mostly raised overseas and child refugees provided by the Ministry of Justice and distribute guidelines on school entrance to them in 13 different languages.

60. Migrant children can be transferred into or enter school regardless of their residential status by having their domestic residence confirmed. As for child refugees and students without any family or acquaintances who are unable to submit all of the required documents, the Government operate the Academic Ability Deliberation Committee to help them join the national public education system. Underage refugees are guaranteed the right to receive the same elementary and secondary education as Korean citizens pursuant to Article 33 of the Refugee Act and are issued with a written recommendation for financial support for education if necessary (See Tables 26–27).

61. The Korean government strives to help out-of-school migrant children and youth (North Korean refugees, children of multicultural families, children of multicultural families who were mostly raised overseas, etc.) join the national public education system through the Support Center for Youth with Migrant Backgrounds. The Rainbow Schools (operated by 16 cities and provinces at 26 locations as of 2019) for the youth of multicultural families who were mostly raised overseas provide programs such as Korean language learning, hands-on social and cultural experiences, specialty and aptitude development, and daily living information (transfer and entry into schools) to assist them in adapting to Korean society and joining its public education system. They also operate career and job programs for youth aged 19–24 who wish to become employed and cross-cultural experience programs for adolescent North Korean refugees to help them better settle in their local communities in the initial stages, as well as offer counseling and case management services.

## **Reply to paragraph 11 (a) of the list of issues**

### **Age of criminal responsibility**

62. The Korean government is seeking to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 14 to 13 bearing in mind the facts of emotional, mental, and intellectual maturity due to the educational, social, and cultural environment and as juvenile delinquencies surge from the age of 13 when they enter middle school. The Government announced the 1st Basic Plan for Preventing Juvenile Delinquencies (2019–2023) in December 2018 and plan to consider the amendment of pertinent acts to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the age limit for a juvenile offender subject to protective dispositions instead of punishment from 14 to 13. Multiple bills on the amendment concerning the minimum age of criminal responsibility are currently pending at the National Assembly.

## **Reply to paragraph 11 (b) of the list of issues**

### **Legal remedies**

63. The Korean government provides legal assistance for child victims of sexual violence and child abuse by having court-appointed public lawyers take part in investigations and trials and helping them communicate through testimony assistants. The total number of testimony assistants trained from 2013 through 2018 reached 107, and 12 have been stationed at Sunflower Centers, etc., on a permanent basis over the same period. The number of court-appointed public lawyers registered at prosecutors' offices across the nation in 2018 stood at 670, and the number of lawyers dedicated to providing free legal assistance to impoverished victims reached 17 as of 2018. (See Attached Table 12.). The Government plans to further expand the number of court-appointed public lawyers for victims and testimony assistants and offer continuing education to reinforce their expertise.

## **Reply to paragraph 11 (c) of the list of issues**

### **Deprivation of liberty**

64. The Korean government does not punish the acts of those under 14 years of age pursuant to Article 9 of the Criminal Act and takes special measures regarding criminal dispositions of those under 19 years of age pursuant to the Juvenile Act. The Government prioritize the flexible execution of punishment and corrective dispositions in multiple forms considering the circumstances of juvenile offenders based on Articles 55 (Restrictions on Warrant of Detention), 59 (Mitigation of the Death Penalty and Life Sentences), and 60 (Indeterminate Sentences) of the same Act.

65. Placing juvenile offenders in solitary confinement through disciplinary action or separate detention is stringently controlled and carried out based on relevant acts (the Act on the Treatment of Protected Juveniles, Etc., and the Enforcement Decree of the same Act). Prior to issuing dispositions to correct behavior, one or more external members of the Treatment Deliberation Committee have to be present on site to listen to the opinion of the juvenile offender subject to such dispositions, and thorough investigations must be conducted on him/her. Then, if the Treatment Deliberation Committee decides to issue dispositions to correct behavior in a separate space for up to 20 days, he/she can be placed in a separate room. If protected juveniles, etc., who require investigations for disciplinary action are likely to destroy evidence, inflict harm on other protected juveniles, or be harmed by other protected juveniles, they may be accommodated in a separate room to correct behavior for investigations as a protective measure (See Table 13). For the status of child offenders, see Tables 46–51.

## **Reply to paragraph 12 of the list of issues**

### **Children detained together with adults**

66. Child offenders must be detained separately from adults (See Paragraph 186 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

## **Reply to paragraph 13 of the list of issues**

### **Detaining migrant children**

67. Migrant children under 14 years of age may be placed under detention to the minimal extent possible only when deemed unavoidable to ensure the safety of such children, etc. The bill on the amendment of the Immigration Act concerning relevant provisions has been proposed at the National Assembly in June 2017.

### **Hate speech against migrants**

68. The Korean government will thoroughly examine whether cases of hate speech against migrants are subject to criminal penalties and, if they constitute defamation or contempt, will deal with them in strict fairness based on laws and principles. The Government plans to review the ways to enact a framework act aimed at countering discriminatory acts against migrants and provide necessary remedies to victims by reviewing international human rights standards and domestic and international legislation and institutions.

69. NHRCK established the Special Committee on Hatred and Discrimination consisting of experts from civic groups and religious circles in February 2019 to more effectively combat the spread of hate speech against migrants, refugees, women, people with disabilities, sexual minorities, and other social minorities. NHRCK also distributed leaflets and card news to help eradicate hate against migrants and prevent racism.

### **Reply to paragraph 14 of the list of issues**

#### **Implementation status of the Concluding Observations under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict**

70. The military service requirements of Korea align perfectly with the provisions of the Optional Protocol. For example, pursuant to relevant acts such as the Military Service Act, male Korean citizens are first included in preliminary military service at the age of 18. The Korean government grants additional points to child applicants or adult applicants with children when screening for the recipients of living expense subsidies among those who applied for refugee status so that they have preference in receiving living expense subsidies. The system to check whether a child refugee was conscribed or used for hostile acts has yet to be established.

### **Reply to paragraph 15 of the list of issues**

#### **Implementation status of the Concluding Observations under the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography**

71. The Korean government revised the punishment standards for sexual intercourse and sexual harassment through the hierarchical abuse of power and illegal recording of others using cameras and distributing such recordings in 2018 to handle sexual violence based on the hierarchical status, illegal recording of others using cameras, etc., and distribution of child pornography, etc., in strict fairness (See Table 14).

72. We also amended the Act on the Protection of Children and Youth against Sex Offenses in 2018 to come up with procedures to enable all to request the correction of misinformation regarding sex offenders, such as their actual places of residence, and to have a court include the order to restrict employment of sex offenders for up to ten years in its verdicts for sex crimes. We continue to expand the list of institutions that ban the employment of sex offenders through amendments, and universities, student counseling support facilities, special education service institutions, children's centers, and student training institutes were added to the list in 2018 (See Paragraphs 175–176 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

73. With respect to the protection and support of child victims of sex crimes, we amended the Enforcement Decree of the Crime Victim Protection Act in December 2017 and eased the payment criteria for subsidies for remedies of inflicted damage provided to victims for their death, disability, and severe bodily harm.

74. We opened the Support Centers for Children and Youth Victimized for Prostitution at seven locations in 2018 and additionally designated two Counseling Centers for Victims of Prostitution in areas densely populated with youth to provide psychological, emotional, legal, and medical support for youth victimized for prostitution (See Table 15).

**Ceiling age for minor victims of statutory rape**

75. The bill on the amendment of the Criminal Act to raise the ceiling age for minor victims of statutory rape and harassment from 13 to 16 and to punish those who engage in sexual intercourse with children and youth under 16 under preset conditions was tabled and has been pending at the National Assembly. In January 2019, the Act on the Protection of Children and Youth against Sex Offenses was amended to enable the imposition of criminal punishment on those who engage in sexual intercourse with children and youth under 16 by taking advantage of their destitute conditions. Accordingly, we are comprehensively reviewing ways to realign punishment provisions for sex crimes, including the ceiling age for minor victims of statutory rape.

**Online prostitution and sexual grooming**

76. We inspect online postings about prostitution and apps for chatting with strangers at random and perform crackdowns. We also seek policy measures to root out prostitution through research and seminars. (See Table 16.) We conducted a factual survey on online prostitution in 2016 and plan to conduct a more in-depth factual survey on prostitution-related websites, chatting apps, and SNS in 2019. We will seek better ways to minimize the negative impact of apps for chatting with strangers at random, such as the introduction of a registration system, with pan-ministerial cooperation.

**Part II****Reply to paragraph 16 (a to c) of the list of issues**

77. (Introduction of child benefits, 2018) The Korean government adopted the child benefit system in September 2018 to expand the nation's responsibility for childcare. In its early stages, KRW 100,000 was provided on a monthly basis to 2,254,000 recipients, equivalent to 90% of all children aged 0–6 in the lower 90% of all households based on investigations of income and assets. Such criteria were eliminated in 2019, and all children under 6 years of age now receive child benefits. The age criteria will be revised in September 2019 to allow all children under 7 years of age to receive KRW 100,000 every month.

78. (Establishment of the National Center for the Rights of the Child, 2019) To provide integrated and systematic services to children requiring protection, we established the National Center for the Rights of the Child in July 2019. It is the product of our efforts to integrate individually operated private-level child welfare systems into a unified management system and offer optimized services in the best interests of children. The Center became the pivotal support organization for eight projects (child abuse, adoption, foster care at private homes, missing children, etc.) that had been operated by seven different institutions and is now able to pursue child welfare from children's perspectives across the entire process from initial-stage counseling to protection, the completion of protection, and follow-up management.

79. (Expansion of the foundation for the participation of children and youth, 2017–2019) The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family mandated the operation of the Participation Committee Involving Youth by the central government and local governments through the amendment of the Framework Act on Youth in 2017 (230 as of 2018) and stipulated the requirement to strive to reflect the proposals of the Youth Participation Committee in youth-related policies. Through the amendment of the Framework Act on Youth in 2018 (enforced in June 2019), it was prescribed that at least 20% of the members of the Youth Policy Committee in charge of deliberating and coordinating youth policies should be adolescents to fully reflect the opinions of youth – the objects of youth policies. The Ministry of Health and Welfare plans to substantively guarantee children's right to participate by adopting the mechanism of reporting the results of the children's general assembly to and having them deliberated on by the Child Policy Coordination Committee in 2019 and directly explaining the outcomes of their reflection in policies at the children's general assembly (See Paragraphs 53–55 of CRC/C/KOR/5-6).

80. (Reinforcement of the foundation to counter child abuse, 2017) The Korean government amended the Child Welfare Act in 2017 to mandate education on child abuse prevention and education for those obligated to report child abuse and come up with provisions to strengthen the protection of child victims and enable legal support through counseling and proxy litigation and medical support through a designated healthcare institution. We also revised the Enforcement Rules on the Organization of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and Its Affiliated Institutions and established the Child Abuse Division in charge of related measures. Heads of national institutions, local governments, public institutions, and public organizations are now required to conduct child abuse prevention education at least once a year from 2019 onwards.

81. (e-Child Happiness Support, 2018) The Korean government is operating the e-Child Happiness Support program designed to project and detect children at risk using social security Big Data. We sort about 20,000 children suspected to be at risk every quarter and share the list with over 3,500 towns (*eup*), townships (*myeon*), and neighbourhoods (*dong*). The respective public officials in charge of child welfare then visit them at their homes and inspect the childcare conditions. In 2018, we drew up a list of 55,364 children suspected to be at risk. Among them, necessary welfare services were provided to 2,333, and detailed child abuse investigations were conducted on 44 cases.

82. (Public protection system for children at risk, 2019) The Korean government reformed the public protection system to enable the respective local governments to take the lead in making decisions for all children requiring protection due to abuse, poverty, and abandonment (regarding protection, management, return to their original homes, etc.). From the second half of 2020 onwards, counseling, home investigations, decision-making on protection, and case management will be handled by local governments with reinforced staff in charge. The Case Determination Committee under the Child Welfare Deliberation Committee is to decide on the protection method most suited for individual children when it is deemed unavoidable to separate children from their original homes. For children in alternative childcare settings, support for skills acquisition and academic learning has been enhanced to help them develop self-reliance. In June 2019, we began to provide self-reliance support services tailored for borderline-intelligence children at child welfare facilities. After such children are discharged from the facilities, we provide financial aid (self-reliance benefits of KRW 300,000 per month), housing aid (240 units as of June 2019), and employment aid.

83. (Reinforcement of public access to childcare services, 2018) In order to help local governments resolve the issue of childcare service blind spots, we launched the Community-Based Childcare Program in 2018. In accordance with this program, the Community-Based Childcare Centers were installed at easily accessible and safe locations such as neighbourhood (*dong*) community service centers, libraries, and community centers within apartment complexes. The Center provides temporary emergency care, after-school education, drop-off and pick-up services, and meals and snacks for children aged 6–12 requiring childcare. As of 2019, the Center is being operated at 55 locations and will be expanded to 1,800 locations over the next five years. It is expected to complete the lineup of all-day childcare services led by local communities in combination with community child centers (Ministry of Health and Welfare), elementary school child care classes (Ministry of Education), and after-school programs (Ministry of Gender Equality and Family).

84. (Improvement of infant care quality and public access to infant education, 2018) The Korean government included all childcare centers in the targets of the childcare center assessment, made it mandatory to publicize the results of the childcare center assessment, and prepared the grounds for the establishment and operation of Korea Childcare Promotion Institute, which is responsible for the childcare center assessment and related quality control, through the amendment of the Child Care Act in December. We are striving to expand national and public kindergartens as evidenced by the measures to reinforce public access to kindergartens (October 2018) and the plan to expand national and public kindergartens and improve relevant services (December 2018). We are also working to enhance the fiscal transparency of private kindergartens through the phased introduction of Edefine (standardized education finance system), which is scheduled to be applied to all

private kindergartens by 2020, to protect all infants right to learn and ensure that these education providers better serve the public.

85. (Amendment of the Act on the Support for Out-of-School Youth, 2017–2018) The Korean government amended the Act on the Support for Out-of-School Youth in 2017 and 2018 to connect youth outside of school to the Out-of-School Youth Support Centers (206 locations in 2018) and provide tailored programs in a timely manner. In addition, we ensured the protection of the right to health of youth outside of school by providing healthcare expenses incurred by tests for definitive diagnosis following the regular physical examination. We also amended the Enforcement Rules of the same Act to provide training allowances to youth outside of school who take part in vocational training (See Tables 30–31).

86. (Expansion of Support for Youth Requiring Medical Rehabilitation Treatment, 2018) Since 2018, the Korean government has made it mandatory for five legally designated hospitals (national mental healthcare institutions) to provide free consultations for those requiring medical rehabilitation treatment (subject to No. 7 dispositions) such as those with mental disabilities discharged from juvenile reformatories and placed in the blind spots of healthcare support and for teachers and nurses in charge to monitor their treatment and administration of medication for up to 6–12 months.

### **Reply to paragraph 16 (d) of the list of issues**

87. No human rights conventions were ratified in the last three years. The Government withdrew its reservation to Art. 21 para. (a) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in August 2017.

## **Part III**

### **Data and statistics**

#### **Reply to paragraph 17 of the list of issues**

##### **Budget**

88. Please refer to Tables 17–18.

#### **Reply to paragraph 18 (a) of the list of issues**

##### **Abuse and violence**

89. Please refer to Tables 19–22.

#### **Reply to paragraph 18 (b) of the list of issues**

##### **Suicides, single parents, and Smartphones**

90. Please refer to Tables 23–25.

#### **Reply to paragraph 18 (c) of the list of issues**

##### **Fine dust pollution, asbestos pollution, and humidifier disinfectants**

91. Statistics concerning bodily harm inflicted on and deaths of children due to exposure to fine dust pollution have yet to be created. It was confirmed through a study on the correlations between fine dust pollution and health that fine dust pollution does not directly trigger diseases but adversely affects health by aggravating existing diseases. The Korean government is operating the forecast and warning system for fine dust pollution to

minimize the exposure of vulnerable children to fine dust pollution and distributing instructions for responding to different fine dust concentration levels to childcare centers, elementary schools, etc.

92. The number of those recognized as victims of asbestos pollution increased from 459 in 2011 to 569 in 2018. However, the number of cases of child victims submitted remains almost zero. The Korean government is providing education for healthcare professionals to promote the aforementioned system and improve public understanding of asbestos-induced diseases. No case of application for remedies for asbestos-induced diseases by child victims has been reported yet.

93. The Korean government is providing financial aid for the healthcare and living expenses of the 2,810 patients suffering from interstitial lung disease accompanying centrilobular fibrosis and asthma due to exposure to humidifier disinfectants. Those children under 18 years of age victimized by the use of humidifier disinfectants from 1994 to 2011 are calculated to total 729 (149 among whom have passed away).

### **Reply to paragraph 18 (d) of the list of issues**

#### **Refugee and migrant children**

94. Please refer to Tables 26–27.

### **Reply to paragraph 18 (e) of the list of issues**

#### **Working juveniles, juveniles outside of school, and runaway children**

95. Please refer to Tables 28–32.

### **Reply to paragraph 18 (f) of the list of issues**

#### **Children in housing poverty**

96. Please refer to Table 33.

### **Reply to paragraph 18 (g) of the list of issues**

#### **Children of imprisoned parents**

97. Please refer to Table 34.

### **Reply to paragraph 18 (h) of the list of issues**

#### **Abandoned children**

98. Please refer to Table 35.

### **Reply to paragraph 19 (a) of the list of issues**

#### **Children separated from their parents**

99. Please refer to Table 36.

### **Reply to paragraph 19 (b) of the list of issues**

#### **Children at child welfare facilities**

100. Please refer to Table 37.

**Reply to paragraph 19 (c) of the list of issues**

**Children under protection at home**

101. Please refer to Table 38.

**Reply to paragraph 19 (d) of the list of issues**

**Adopted children**

102. Please refer to Tables 39–40.

**Reply to paragraph 19 (e) of the list of issues**

**Dissolution of adoption**

103. Please refer to Table 41.

**Reply to paragraph 20 (a) of the list of issues**

**Children with disabilities living at home**

104. Please refer to Table 42.

**Reply to paragraph 20 (b) of the list of issues**

**Children with disabilities at child welfare facilities**

105. Please refer to Table 43.

**Reply to paragraph 20 (c and d) of the list of issues**

**Children with disabilities attending elementary and middle school**

106. Please refer to Table 44.

**Reply to paragraph 20 (e) of the list of issues**

**Children with disabilities attending special education schools**

107. Please refer to Table 45.

**Reply to paragraph 20 (f) of the list of issues**

**Out-of-school children with disabilities: no statistics are available**

**Reply to paragraph 20 (g) of the list of issues**

**Children with disabilities abandoned by their families: no statistics are available**

**Reply to paragraph 21 (a) of the list of issues**

**Children placed under arrest**

108. Please refer to Table 46.

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**Reply to paragraph 21 (b) of the list of issues****Children placed under pre-trial detention**

109. Please refer to Table 47.

**Reply to paragraph 21 (c) of the list of issues****Children serving sentences**

110. Please refer to Table 48.

**Reply to paragraph 21 (d) of the list of issues****Children placed under foster care based on treatment programs**

111. Please refer to Tables 49–51.

**Reply to paragraph 22 of the list of issues****Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

112. All pertinent ministries have jointly worked to plan, implement, and monitor efforts to achieve the SDGs under the leadership of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In the wake of the adoption of the SDGs by the UN, the Korean government established the Korean SDGs (K-SDGs) in December 2018, and Korean government plans to implement and monitor the national sustainable development based on the K-SDGs. Statistics Korea is currently striving to identify the nation's data status and engaging in research for improving and developing relevant statistics to contribute to the international monitoring of SDG progress. In particular, as the SDGs require the segmentation of data by gender, age, race and ethnicity, income, migration status, disability, region, etc., the Korean government will review the status of multi-segmented indicators including children and study ways to compile statistics in the mid-to-long term.

**Reply to paragraph 24 of the list of issues****Efforts to implement the Convention**

113. In May 2019, the Korean government announced the Policies for Children toward Building an Inclusive Society centered on the four key themes of protection, human rights and participation, health, and play to expand the scope of its responsibility for children requiring the nation's protection and create a social climate that promotes the perception of children as independent rights holders instead of targets of discipline and rearing. The Korean government aims to ensure the happiness of children both at present and throughout the future through such measures as reinforcing the nation's responsibility for children requiring protection, establishing a system that guarantees children's rights and safe childcare, managing their health from early in life, and coming up with innovative forms and means of play designed to develop their creativity and social skills.

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