

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

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Committee on the Rights of the Child**List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Seychelles under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict***

1. The State Party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information, of 10,700 words maximum, by 15 October 2026. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State Party. In the present document, the Committee uses the term "child" to refer to a person who is under 18 years of age.

2. Please provide information on:

(a) All relevant laws and policies, including criminal legislation, decrees, military codes, manuals or regulations, adopted in order to give effect to the Optional Protocol, including information on the revision of the Defence Act 1980;¹

(b) The governmental departments or bodies having primary responsibility for the implementation of the Optional Protocol;

(c) Dissemination of and awareness-raising on the provisions of the Optional Protocol among relevant professionals, in particular the armed and police forces, civil society, parents, caregivers and legal guardians, children and the general public;

(d) Training provided on the Optional Protocol and children's rights to all relevant professional groups, in particular the armed and police forces, and members of international peacekeeping forces;

(e) Collection of data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location, and socioeconomic status, on the number of persons under the age of 18 voluntarily recruited into the national armed forces with parental consent;

(f) Updated information on the number of cases of recruitment or use of persons under 18 years of age into the armed forces, in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

3. Please provide information on:

(a) Any legislation providing for compulsory military service in any circumstances, including during periods of national emergency, and the age at which such service begins;

(b) Minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the national armed forces, as no minimum age for recruitment with parental consent is specified under the Defence Act 1980, Section 23;

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 21 April 2026.

¹ CRC/C/OPAC/SYC/1, para. 15.

(c) Any plans to raise this age to a minimum of 18 years, including for recruitment with parental consent and for situations when the parents or guardian are dead or unknown, and the timetable for doing so;

(d) The documents required to verify the age of potential recruits and, in cases where such documents are not available, alternative measures employed.

4. For the cases of enrolment of persons under 18 years of age into the national armed forces with parental consent, as specified under Defence Act 1980, Section 23, please provide information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to ensure that the recruitment is genuinely voluntary and the procedures used for such recruitment;

(b) Whether information is made available to potential recruits aged under 18 years in a child friendly manner and to their parents, caregivers or legal guardians, allowing them to formulate their own opinion and to make them aware of the risks, duties and legal obligations involved in military service, particularly the risks, duties and legal obligations involved in military service;

(c) Measures taken to ensure that all persons with parental responsibility and children jointly or separately give their informed consent (a copy of any materials used for this purpose should be annexed to the report);

(d) The procedure by which, in the absence of a parent or legal guardian, the President of Seychelles assume their role to provide informed consent, and how the specific vulnerabilities of the child concerned are taken into account;

(e) The incentives or measures used by the national armed forces for encouraging voluntary recruitment (financial incentives, scholarships, career prospects, advertising, meetings at schools, access to personal data of students, games, etc.);

(f) The conditions and procedures under which persons under 18 years of age may be released from military service;

(g) Measures taken to ensure that members of armed forces under 18 years of age do not take a direct part in hostilities.

5. Please provide information on:

(a) In addition to the information in paragraph 20 of the State Party's report, please provide information on any military schools in the State Party and specify the name of such schools and under the authority of which ministry they operate;²

(b) The minimum age for entry into military schools, the type of education provided, in particular, whether school curricula include human rights education, military training and handling of firearms, whether confidential, independent and child-friendly complaint mechanisms are available for students, whether students are classified as members of the armed forces, and whether they are free to leave the school at any time and not pursue a military career, particularly in the Seychelles Defence Academy;

(c) Data on the number of children enrolled in military schools disaggregated by age, sex, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, geographical location of origin, and socioeconomic status;

(d) Whether military training of any kind is provided to children in military training camps or other settings such as mainstream schools, youth organisations, or community programmes.

6. Please provide updated information on:

(a) Legislation that criminalises the recruitment or use in hostilities of persons under 18 years of age by non-State armed groups;

² CRC/C/OPAC/SYC/1, para. 20.

(b) Measures taken to ensure that children are not recruited or used in hostilities by non-State armed groups;

(c) Any non-State armed groups present in the State Party and the number of cases of persons under 18 years of age who were recruited or used by such groups, in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

7. Please provide information on:

(a) Extraterritorial jurisdiction over offences covered under the Optional Protocol in the State party and, if so, under which specific legislation;

(b) The extradition of persons accused of having committed offences of recruitment or use of children by armed forces or non-State armed groups in contravention of the Optional Protocol.

8. Please provide information on:

(a) The measures taken to identify children who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad, including refugee, asylum seekers or migrant children, in contravention of the Optional Protocol, and assistance provided for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration;

(b) Measures taken to repatriate children who are nationals of the State Party, who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad in contravention of the Optional Protocol, and who remain abroad.

9. Please provide information on the following:

(a) Prohibition of exporting arms, including small arms and light weapons, to countries where children are known to be, or may potentially be, recruited or used in hostilities;

(b) The measures taken to cooperate internationally in the implementation of the Optional Protocol, including in the prevention of activities in contravention of the Optional Protocol and in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children who are victims of acts contrary to the Optional Protocol, including through technical cooperation and financial assistance.
