Committee on the Rights of the Child
Eighty-second session

Summary record of the 2405th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 11 September 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Pedernera Reyna

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (continued)

Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina
(CRC/C/BIH/5-6; CRC/C/BIH/Q/5-6 and CRC/C/BIH/Q/5-6/Add.1) (continued)

1. At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina took places at the Committee table.

2. Mr. Rodríguez Reyes (Country Task Force) said that he would appreciate further information on the State party’s plans for legislation to control the sale of alcohol, tobacco and drugs to teenagers, the expansion of its abuse prevention programmes, the scope of policies on teenagers’ sexual and reproductive health, and the availability of training on the prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and on respect for diversity. He also wished to know more about measures taken to prevent teenage suicides, to assess the impact of air pollution and uranium contamination on children and to reduce poverty.

3. Ms. Djuderija (Bosnia and Herzegovina), responding to questions raised during the previous meeting, said that the law on the protection of personal data had been in force for many years and had been mostly brought into line with the European Union acquis. Under that law, personal data protection agencies could punish acts of unauthorized use of personal data, especially data about children. Associations working with children were also subject to specific rules regarding data collection and processing. Data about children were collected by social work centres and health facilities, in accordance with the law, and access thereto was strictly controlled, even for authorized persons. Requests for access to such data should be fully reasoned and should comply with relevant legislation. The use of children’s data by the judiciary, particularly in criminal cases, was also strictly regulated.

4. Violations of the regulations governing use of children’s data, especially by the media, were punished. The body responsible for issuing sanctions in cases of unauthorized disclosure of children’s data by the media was the Communications Regulatory Agency. There was usually very little that could be done in cases where guardians agreed to the disclosure of data on children in their care, although there had been occasions where a ban on such disclosure had been handed down. While she did not have specific details of the sanctions imposed in cases of unauthorized disclosure, the Communications Regulatory Agency published related statistics on a regular basis.

5. The Association of Journalists of Bosnia and Herzegovina had a press code that provided for action to be taken against journalists who breached children’s right to privacy.

6. The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees was currently overseeing a comprehensive human rights data compilation process that encompassed all human rights conventions to which Bosnia and Herzegovina was a party. A special unit on children’s human rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the optional protocols thereto, and other international child-related instruments had been created for that purpose. Efforts had been made to develop regulations and methodologies to facilitate the process, and there were plans to refine the corresponding software further in order to improve the quality of data compilation and incorporate indicators developed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child for children’s health, education and various categories of marginalization. The first phase of the data compilation process, expected to be completed in 2020 or 2021, would result in improved coordination of data sharing between the Ministry and ministries and institutions at the entity and canton level.

7. Ms. Novakvic Manojlovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that, in 2013, in order to improve the implementation of article 19 of the Convention in Republika Srpska, a protocol for dealing with cases of violence, abuse and neglect affecting children had been established that defined clear procedures for the relevant educational, health and social institutions and facilities to follow. Under the protocol, any person or organization that came to know of acts of violence being committed against a child was required to notify the guardianship authority, which would then provide immediate support to the child, including via mobile teams of social workers. The priority was to contact the child immediately and get a clear picture of the situation, involving the relevant educational, health and social departments where
necessary. Once the guardianship authority had contacted the child’s parents to inform them of their responsibilities, an extensive psychological and physical assessment was carried out and an individual child protection plan was drawn up. A report was also filed with the police. Depending on the level of risk to which the child was exposed, other protection measures might subsequently be adopted, and might include placing the child in appropriate out-of-home care. If the violence was found to have been committed by the child’s parent, the child had the right to alternative care arrangements such as placement in foster care or a children’s home. All the bodies involved in children’s care were required to collect annual data and submit them to the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports for compilation. Data were disaggregated by type of violence and the age of the child and were available on the Ministry’s website. Efforts were being made to improve the coordination and standardization of data collection and compilation at the State, entity and canton levels.

8. Mr. Juresic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said it was true that the methodologies for data collection and processing used by the social work centres in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska were not standardized. Not only did they all use different methods, but their methods were also inconsistent with the methodology and disaggregation categories used by the official statistics institutes. Nevertheless, the social work centres did keep statistics on all the work they did, and knew exactly where children without parental care were placed. Most centres in the Federation used a high-quality database on social protection benefits, which had been constantly upgraded since 2014. Since 2016, when the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy had signed agreements on data entry and database maintenance with all 10 cantonal ministries, there had been significant improvements in data compilation. The scope of the database had been expanded to incorporate data on non-pecuniary benefits and services into the system, including statistics on foster families disaggregated by municipality, level of training, and whether they already had children in their care. Staff at the social work centres were given training in how to use the database and followed individual cases through from start to finish, during which process statistics were automatically generated.

9. Ms. Novakvic Manojlovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that a plan to transform social protection institutions for children without parental care had been adopted by the Government in 2017, covering aspects such as the development of child protection services and the establishment of resource centres and day-care services. Space was being renovated for the use of children with disabilities, an education plan for children was being drawn up and neighbouring countries were being consulted with a view to sharing experience. The main challenge concerned the programme’s funding.

10. Adoption legislation in Republika Srpska had not been amended. Children could be adopted until they reached the age of 5 years old and adoption could be either full (“complete”) or partial (“incomplete”), which lent flexibility to the process. While Bosnia and Herzegovina had not ratified the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, the best interests of the child were protected in adoption procedures in both the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. In cases where the child’s nationality was different to that of the adopter, the laws of both countries were applied cumulatively, thereby upholding the principle of the best interests of the child and ensuring that adoptions that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina were registered abroad.

11. Mr. Juresic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the 2014–2020 Strategy for the Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection Institutions, which was currently being implemented, provided for the overhaul of social protection institutions for various categories of children, including, for example, children with disabilities or special needs as well as children without parental care. The strategy had initially met with resistance, since it embodied a completely new concept of social service provision, but it had gradually become accepted following a number of awareness-raising activities. The deinstitutionalization process entailed not only transforming existing institutions and services but also preventing situations in which children had to be placed in institutions in the first place. Another focus was the development of alternative models of care for vulnerable categories of children.

12. New legislation had been drawn up to support the strategy’s implementation, including a bill on social services, designed, inter alia, to prevent the placement of children...
in institutions and expected to come before parliament by the end of 2019, and a law on foster care, already adopted and having a positive impact. Although that law had been adopted in 2017, its provisions stipulated that the changes envisaged should be implemented in 2018 so as to ensure that the requisite preparations had been made, training had been provided, legislation had been adapted and a central register for foster families had been established. One of the new care options introduced under the law enabled families who had children with special needs and were in need of respite to place them temporarily in a foster home. Significant funds had been invested in raising public awareness of foster care and efforts were being made to attract more foster families, and those efforts were already bearing fruit; in 2018 it had been possible to place more than half of all children requiring out-of-home care with families rather than in institutions. All legislation relating to child rights, including laws with budgetary implications, was developed in consultation with the cantonal authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

13. Mr. Husic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the education authorities were aware of the fragmentation of the education syllabus and the need to strengthen coordination among relevant bodies. The Conference of Ministers of Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the most senior advisory body working in that area, responsible for setting strategic priorities for education, drafting recommendations for harmonizing legislation in line with European Union standards, and monitoring the implementation of recommendations by cantonal educational authorities. State bodies with education-related responsibilities were entitled to attend meetings of the Conference as observers and to discuss and propose recommendations.

14. Regulations concerning education passed by lower levels of government had to comply with the four framework laws established at the central level, namely the Framework Law on Preschool Care and Education, the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education, the Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training, and the Framework Law on Higher Education, the enforcement of which was the responsibility of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Other supporting framework documents set out standards and guidelines for teachers at all levels of education that the lower-level education authorities were required to incorporate into their by-laws. A forum for the reform of the education system met once a year and was composed of representatives of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and international organizations such as UNICEF and the World Bank.

15. A study of preschool education, involving some 2,000 children, had recently been conducted by the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education to gather empirical data for policymaking and identify areas for improvement. Another study would be conducted in 2021. Surveys had also been carried out among primary school students, teachers and parents to gather information about different subjects and different student learning environments. The findings of those surveys would likewise inform future programming and policymaking.

16. The common core curriculum was in place in all primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the framework laws, and was based on the Council of the European Union recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning. Two further competencies had been added to the eight recommended by the Council, namely creative education and physical education, as well as content designed to enhance civic education and understanding of the past. The education authorities in the Republika Srpska and the 10 cantons were required to harmonize their syllabuses with the common core curriculum. To that end, a meeting would be organized with the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education and cantonal authorities to develop joint activities and discuss the alignment of curricula. The “national group of subjects” for returnee children, which comprised language and literature, geography, history, music and the arts, had been introduced to improve those children’s final learning outcomes.

17. The Platform for the Development of Preschool Education for 2017–2022, which was a framework strategy for developing education-related action plans and competencies and harmonizing preschool education policies with international standards, had been designed to increase enrolment, ensure quality preschool education, secure regular funding and raise public awareness of the importance of preschool education. Preschool enrolment rates had risen since its adoption, and further increases were expected. Briefing papers and a
comprehensive report on implementation of the framework strategy would be presented to the Council of Ministers by 2022.

18. **Ms. Aldoseri** said that she would like to learn about opportunities for children to enjoy the right to play, leisure and cultural activities and the extent to which the Committee’s general comment No. 17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts had been used for guidance by the relevant authorities. She was interested to know whether there were safe, outdoor public places where children could play freely and whether radio or television programmes aimed specifically at younger people, particularly children, existed. She invited the delegation to comment on reports that, if there were too few children with special needs to form a class at the local school, children with disabilities were transferred to other schools some distance from their home and, as a result, tired from the travel, often ended up dropping out. Were those reports accurate and, if so, what action was being taken in response? The delegation should also detail the efforts being made to eliminate the stigma and prejudice that children with disabilities faced at school and to ensure that any child with a disability who had been placed in an institution had access to an inclusive education nonetheless.

19. **Ms. Todorova** (Country Task Force) said that she would like more information about the adoption process in the Republika Srpska. She would also like to know what policies were in place to address the school dropout rate and whether it was considered a serious issue. She was concerned about the use of the “national group of subjects” and segregated education in certain cantons, which were more likely to perpetuate rather than heal divisions. In that connection, she wondered whether Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian children were taught different versions of history and geography even though they shared a common past. While the closure of “two schools under one roof” institutions might pose a challenge for the State, the Committee’s purpose was to help address such challenges, especially if they constituted infringements of the rights of children.

20. **Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** asked whether any cases had been brought against media companies for violations of children’s right to privacy and, if so, what sentences had been imposed. He also wondered whether the Government had addressed the problem of hate speech in the media and whether measures taken to increase the number of civil registries in rural and remote areas had yielded measurable results.

21. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he would like to know whether the absence of a national law expressly banning corporal punishment against children, specifically in family and alternative care settings, was a matter of concern for the State party, as it was for the Committee. Despite improvements in both institutions and foster homes, the quality of care in the former also remained a concern. He would like to know in that connection whether children living in institutions were separated by age and gender or housed in mixed environments, as conditions of that kind had a bearing on the risk of exposure to violence. Further details about the intervention and response strategies used by the various bodies working with child victims of sexual abuse would also be appreciated, including details of the strategies used to prevent secondary traumatization through repeated interviewing by police, prosecutors and courts.

22. **Ms. Otani** (Country Task Force) said that she would appreciate clarification as to whether the protocol for dealing with violence, abuse and neglect involving children was in force in all 10 cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and whether a children’s helpline had been established in the Federation as well as in the Republika Srpska. She asked whether the Government was aware of, and intended to address, the indirect discrimination resulting from the fact that children were provided with different levels of service, treatment and benefits based on where they lived.

23. **Ms. Djuderija** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that under legislation enacted in 2014 citizens who participated in foreign conflicts were liable to sanction. Although no minors had left the country to travel to war-affected countries between 2014 and 2017, approximately 170 men and 60 women had gone abroad to participate in conflicts during that period. Children born outside the territory to those persons had been awarded citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina. To date, 60 of the adults concerned had been killed, 50 had returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina and 20 had been prosecuted, including for the offence of inciting
others to fight in foreign conflicts. The Council of Ministers had established a rehabilitation programme for people returning from war-affected countries.

24. Electronic civil registers were used to record births in urban, suburban, rural and remote communities. However, as Roma children were not always born in hospitals, extra support was provided to Roma parents, who were exempted from registration fees.

25. Hate speech was prohibited by law and media providers were required to state clearly that penalties would be imposed on any persons who engaged in speech of that kind. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Justice had put forward two bills to the Council of Ministers that were designed to refine the definition of hate speech set down in the Criminal Code.

26. Ms. Fusko (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that cultural and sport activities were provided for all children both during and outside of school hours. Special programmes were run during the school holidays in cooperation with public and private cultural institutions, the aim being to create a quality space for learning through play. In Travnik, for example, the authorities ran a summer programme that encouraged children to explore their emotions and develop their creative-thinking capacities.

27. Ms. Rikovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that a special law on the treatment of juveniles in criminal proceedings that conformed to international standards had been adopted by the entities and the Brcko District. Under the law, child victims of abuse could give evidence by audiovisual means and with assistance from psychologists and other professionals, and could be questioned no more than twice during the proceedings. Juvenile court judges were required to have extensive knowledge of children’s rights and could apply special measures to protect minors who took part in criminal proceedings. Most courts and prosecutors’ offices had dedicated rooms and facilities for child participants.

28. Ms. Winter asked whether corporal punishment, including punishment administered in domestic and family settings, was prohibited in all parts of the country.

29. Ms. Djuderija (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the abuse and neglect of children, including emotional abuse, was prohibited under both the Family Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Social Protection of Republika Srpska. Adults who physically abused children were held criminally liable regardless of whether they were related to the child. In recent years, the physical punishment of children had been expressly prohibited in by-laws as well as in the internal statutes of educational authorities and institutions.

30. Ms. Khazova said that, although the State party had a general norm establishing that parents should refrain from abusing, humiliating or insulting their children, the absence of the words “corporal punishment” in its legislation could be taken by some parents as tacit permission to hit their children. The fact that parents slapped their children did not mean that they should go to prison; the issue was not one that pertained to criminal law but the Committee would nonetheless like to see a clear prohibition of corporal punishment in all contexts in the State party’s family law.

31. Mr. Jaffé said it was vital that all adults understood that corporal punishment was highly detrimental to the health and development of children. Families should choose different pathways for educating their children. However, such a shift would require a revolution in the public understanding of how family practices were regulated. It was important to think about corporal punishment from the child’s perspective. He hoped that the Government would continue to foster debate on corporal punishment in the home and to steer the arguments as the discussions unfolded. He also urged the State party to look at how other European countries had managed to overcome resistance and institute a new culture.

32. Mr. Gudbrandsson said that he appreciated that child victims of abuse could be interviewed only twice in the context of judicial proceedings. However, because sexual abuse also had social and health implications, victims often had to give evidence before other bodies in addition to the courts. The Committee was concerned that, in such cases, child victims might be subjected to numerous interviews and experience ill effects as a result, unless there was systematic cooperation and coordination between the different sectors. The secondary traumatization of children was a particular risk when interviewers had not received specialized training or did not follow a specific protocol.
The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

33. **Ms. Djuderija** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the sale of alcohol or tobacco to minors was prohibited by law. Retailers were subject to inspections, and violations of the law were sanctioned. Children were taught about the detrimental effects of alcohol, drugs and tobacco in school, and those who abused opiates and other drugs received specialized support in dedicated facilities. In urban areas, where children were at higher risk of being exposed to illegal drugs, educational establishments were equipped with audiovisual surveillance devices to ensure that unauthorized persons could not access the premises to sell prohibited substances, and the police and social services worked with them to ensure that pupils were properly informed about the detrimental effects of illegal drugs. In addition, counselling services provided help and advice to parents. NGOs were also heavily involved in preventive and awareness-raising activities related to alcohol and illegal drugs and received funding from a number of local authorities.

34. Many schools had ecology clubs through which both children and parents could become involved in environmental and health campaigns.

35. **Mr. Juresic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the risk of children experiencing secondary traumatization had been drastically reduced by the implementation, in both entities, of specific cooperation protocols that defined the role of each institution involved in tackling violence against children. One of the main goals of the protocols was to avoid the unnecessary duplication of investigative proceedings.

36. All facilities that accommodated children, including religious facilities, were subject to oversight. During a recent visit to a facility in Međugorje run by the Catholic Church, a cantonal inspection service had exposed shortcomings in the form of inadequate documentation and a lack of individual care plans, and had highlighted those deficiencies in the corresponding report.

37. In conjunction with UNICEF, other international organizations and NGOs, the Government was working to make all relevant parties aware that children should not be removed from their biological families and placed in foster families or institutions purely on account of poverty. The Government would always take steps to ensure that families had sufficient financial resources to care for their children in the home. However, when accompanied by problems such as gambling addiction or alcoholism, poverty could be a factor in decisions to provide children with alternative care.

38. **Ms. Novakvic Manojlovic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the Republika Srpska provided significant resources for child victims of violence, particularly through the support centre established at Foča University Hospital, which provided help and reintegration assistance and had already assisted 96 children. Similar resource centres would be established in other locations. The two helplines available to children in the Republika Srpska were anonymous and free of charge. The helpline for children who were victims of violence or who had other queries operated from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., while the domestic violence helpline was open 24 hours a day. Information on the calls received was forwarded to the relevant social work centre.

39. In the Republika Srpska, if there were no relatives able to step in, a 7-year-old child in need of parental care would be placed in a foster family and would then become eligible for partial adoption. If the child had no living parents, there was no obstacle to full adoption, but if the parents were alive and had retained their parental rights their consent was required. An assessment of the adoption placement was also required.

40. The compensation paid to women on maternity leave was regulated by labour law. After delivery, a mother was entitled to 12 months’ leave, or 18 months’ leave in the event of a multiple birth, paid at 100 per cent of her average salary over the preceding 12 months. The employer was responsible for payment of the first month of leave, and the remaining months were reimbursed by the Public Fund for Child Protection. The resources of the Fund had recently been increased by an additional 6.5 million marka.

41. **Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** said that it would be useful to know what mechanisms were in place to ensure that maternity payments were made and that women were not dismissed from employment due to pregnancy.
Ms. Novakvic Manojlovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that employers could be penalized under labour law for not meeting the requirements set out therein, including those related to maternity leave and pay. Labour law prohibited the dismissal of pregnant women and discrimination against pregnant women when hiring. In addition, the law was being redrafted to ensure that employers were reimbursed the gross salary of women on maternity leave and therefore had no reason to dismiss pregnant women. Adherence to labour law was supervised by the labour inspectorate in the Republika Srpska, and at the canton level in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Complaints could be filed with the labour inspectorate or the courts, which adjudicated on the damages due in the event of a violation of labour law by an employer. In some cantons, unemployed mothers also received a maternity allowance, and efforts were being made to standardize provisions across cantons.

Mr. Husic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that migration was the main reason behind school dropout rates. Condensed curricula had been developed to help children who had not been attending school to catch up with their peers. The dropout rate in secondary schools was 5 per cent, which was below the average and the set target for countries of the European Union. In some cantons, legislation provided for two years of mandatory higher secondary education for children under the age of 18 years old, with a view to ensuring that all children achieved school qualifications.

Ms. Fusko (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the education of children with disabilities and special developmental needs was regulated by law, and in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the responsibility of the cantons. In the canton of Central Bosnia, children with special educational needs were enrolled in school and monitored over the first year to assess whether they should be placed in a special or regular class, or in a special department if the child had severe difficulties. The decision on where to place the child was made by a committee or physician, and specialized professionals helped to develop an individual plan for each child with special educational needs. The Ministry of Education trained and hired teaching assistants to work with children, including children with special educational needs. The development of a strategy for inclusive education and inclusive education centres had provided coverage for the education of children with special needs, including in rural areas, and each school was required to draft inclusive development programmes. Funds had been allocated to train classroom assistants and provide for the education of children with severe disabilities in another area, since the canton of Central Bosnia provided only special classes, rather than special schools.

Legislation on preschool education stipulated that all children must attend preschool in the year prior to starting primary education. The education ministry of Central Bosnia had taken steps to include as many children as possible in preschool education by training preschool teachers and providing teaching material for classrooms, particularly in rural areas. Three early development centres had entered into operation in 2019 and teachers had been trained to work in those centres. All preschool institutions, whether public or privately funded, implemented continuous professional development programmes.

Ms. Tanic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that, under the law on asylum, an asylum claim could be made by a person of any age. Article 3 of the relevant law stipulated that claims by vulnerable persons such as children, unaccompanied minors, persons who had been subjected to torture or violence, persons with disabilities and pregnant women should be prioritized. Asylum procedures provided for asylum seekers to be placed in an asylum centre, to access health care, education, psychological assistance, work and legal aid, and to be able to participate in legal proceedings in a language that they understood. Unaccompanied minors or persons who lacked legal capacity were assigned a guardian to act in their best interests.

Begging was governed by the law on public peace and order, rather than the Criminal Code, and was treated as a petty offence. Any person found begging, including a child, was liable to pay a fine of up to 500 marka, as was any person who forced another to beg. In 2015, the Ministry of Security had launched a public awareness-raising campaign about the effects of forced begging, trafficking in persons, forced marriage, sexual and labour exploitation and the trade in human organs. The campaign had also targeted the authorities responsible for investigating such crimes. Information on forced child begging had been distributed to the public in 10 cities on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons in 2017.
48. **Mr. Borovina** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that, while day-care centres for children at risk had originally been dependent on international donors for funding, the centres were starting to receive funding either from local budgets or from the social work centres. The day-care centre in Bijeljina was unique in also providing residential services.

49. **Ms. Taraba** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the law on the prohibition of discrimination had been commended by international organizations and its impact had been significant. The adoption of the law had led to the establishment of a central database on cases of discrimination that would be fed by data from other institutions in order to provide a central source of information and storage. A manual on identifying cases of discrimination had been issued to civil servants. Awareness-raising activities were aimed at highlighting the fact that many phenomena that were considered normal in society were essentially acts of discrimination.

50. **Ms. Otani** said that, while it was clear that Bosnia and Herzegovina was confronted by a number of issues, progress had been made. It took time for international norms to be translated into practice at the national and municipal levels, and she looked forward to learning more about the further advances achieved in the State party’s following periodic report.

51. **Ms. Djuderija** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that every effort was being made to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee were incorporated into law and policy. Progress was being made and local communities were starting to consider the best interests of children. She welcomed the constructive observations of Committee members and looked forward to reporting on the further progress achieved during the next reporting cycle.

52. **The Chair**, thanking the delegation for their participation in the dialogue, said that the State party should not only disseminate the Committee’s concluding observations on the dialogue, but should also ensure that its policies were phrased in such a way that they could be understood by the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*