

7. December 2021

**Thank you very much for convening this meeting.**

I would like to encourage the recommending states to call for a clear and ambitious implementation of the CRC in Iceland and to have the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure ratified without delay. Also that the anticipated system changes revolving coordinated services for children that have been legalized and accepted in the last parliament need to be implemented strategically and without delay.

Children and their families that seek asylum in Iceland should have their cases evaluated on the status and best interests of the child but not only on their parents status. All decisions regarding children should be made in accordance with their best interests.

We celebrate the fact that the new government in Iceland has decided to continue having a special ministry for children and intends to continue the development started in the last term of parliament. We encourage them to honour their goals in a broad communication with all stakeholders.

Thank you.

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