

ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE REGION

**REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS
ON THE MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER
STATES TO COMBAT THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS**

2024



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INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) is a Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) in policies related to childhood and adolescence. Its mission is to contribute to the regulatory, programmatic, institutional and political development of the promotion, guarantee, protection and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents in OAS Member States, with the participation of children and adolescents.

In view of the interest and concern expressed by OAS Member States in relation to the problem of sexual exploitation of children (SEC), as from 1998, the IIN began working actively on these issues. In 2007, its Directing Council adopted resolution CD/RES.10 (82-R/07), creating the *Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children and Adolescents* (later renamed in resolution CD/RES 04 [87- R/12]).

The programme is organized in three areas of work: (a) Collecting, systematizing and making available meaningful information on the sexual exploitation, smuggling of and trafficking in children and adolescents, with a special focus on what occurs within the region; (b) Knowledge-

building and producing tools to address sexual exploitation, trafficking in and smuggling of children and adolescents; (c) Technical assistance and human resources training.

As mandated by the General Assembly of the OAS, Resolution AG/RES.1667 (XXIX-O/99) of 7 June 1999, the IIN must submit annually a Report to the Secretary General of the organization on action undertaken by Member States to combat the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas.¹

The preparation of these reports has varied over the years in terms of objectives, content and frequency, in keeping with the evolution of the issues and the responses of the States. Quantitative reports, mainly focusing on the existence of National Action Plans (as a commitment made by States at the First World Congress) and on bringing national regulatory frameworks into line with international commitments, led to the preparation of qualitative thematic reports, which addressed a specific form or dimension of the phenomenon, highlighted by its significance at the time and/or as demanded by the States.

Considering the time that has elapsed since the last general report and taking into account the changes in the region in recent years (social, economic, political and cultural, including those derived from the COVID-19 pandemic), on this occasion it has been decided to carry out a comprehensive report that describes **the current state of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and how it is addressed, from a comprehensive perspective** (considering diagnostic and planning actions, prevention, prosecution of the crime and care for victims).

Two sources of information were used in preparing the report (see Annex 1 – Sources of information used, by country):

- ✓ **An enquiry form sent to the States.** A Concept Note and Enquiry Form containing 28 questions (organized in 6 blocks, matching the Stockholm Categories) referring to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in a broad sense, including all forms and scenarios, was sent to the Representatives of the Member States before the Directing Council of the IIN² (see Appendix 2 – Concept Note and

¹ Resolution AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99), paragraph 3: “To instruct the Inter-American Children’s Institute to prepare an annual report, to be submitted to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, describing the steps taken by the member states to combat the commercial and other sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.” Available at: <https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/ga-res99/eres1667.htm>

² As a guideline for the position of the IIN-OAS on the subject (concepts, forms and scenarios), a brief explanation was included in the Concept Note and it was suggested that the following paper be read: IIN-OAS (2021).Terminología asociada a la Explotación Sexual de niñas, niños y adolescentes (ESNNA), desde la perspectiva de derechos. Posicionamiento institucional (Terminology associated with the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (SEC), from a rights-based perspective. Institutional Positioning) recently updated: IIN-OAS (2024).Terminología asociada a

Enquiry Form for States). It was suggested that when responding they should consult with other institutions in their countries involved in public policy on the subject. The enquiry was followed up by the Programme's technical liaison network.

- ✓ **State reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child** on the measures taken to give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 44 CRC) and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

The report contains information from the **eight States** that responded to the enquiry: **Canada, Chile,³ Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico and Peru**, thus achieving representation from all sub-regions of the Americas.


The report consists of two parts. The first is a synthesis of the information collected, organized according to the categories defined at the First World Congress in Stockholm. The systematization and wide dissemination of information from each of the States constitutes a contribution in itself, insofar as it can serve as a source of inspiration for other States and stakeholders, who might identify good practices, appropriate and replicate them. In the second part, by way of conclusions and recommendations, there is an analysis of the information, highlighting those aspects common among the States, as well as matters that have shown **progress and encountered challenges over the last five years**.

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It is hoped that the Report will serve as a general diagnosis of the current state of play of the approach to SEC in the countries of the region, which will make it possible to identify successes and challenges that persist. As a result, specific actions may be implemented or investigations into a particular manifestation of the issue and/or a specific action element can be strengthened.

la Explotación Sexual de niñas, niños y adolescentes (ESNNA), desde la perspectiva de derechos. Posicionamiento institucional (Terminology associated with the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (SEC), from a rights-based perspective. Institutional Positioning).

³ The information on Chile was provided by the Office of the Ombudsman for Children's Rights as an Independent Alternative Report.



**INFORMATION
FROM STATES PARTY
TO THE REPORT**

1. DIAGNOSIS

This section seeks to discover the scope and characteristics of SEC in the country: availability of data, forms in which it occurs, scenarios in which it takes place, actors involved.

In **CANADA**, Statistics Canada monitors the nature and prevalence of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children using a variety of complementary information sources, including:⁴

- 1) **Data reported by the Police** Annual crime statistics provided by the Police. Data is collected through the *Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey*, which includes almost all police services (reaching 99% of the population). These reports contain data on different sexual victimizations affecting children and adolescents, including details on the age and sex of victims and accused, the relationship between the two, the characteristics of the incidents and the state of clearance. Sexual victimizations include: sexual interference; invitation to sexual touching; sexual exploitation; parents or guardians promoting sexual activity; heads of household allowing prohibited sexual activity; seduction of a child; bestiality (in the presence of a child or by inciting children); displaying sexually explicit material to children; child sexual abuse material.
- 2) **Data reported by the Criminal Courts.** The *Integrated Criminal Courts Survey (ICCS)* collects annual statistics on cases involving sexual offences against children, including indictments, conviction rates and sentences.
- 3) **Self-reported victimization surveys that are applied every five years.**⁵ The *General Social Survey (GSS)* contains questions involving experience with eight types of crime, including sexual offences. It includes retrospective questions about experiences of physical and sexual abuse during childhood and the association between these experiences and victimization in adulthood. The *Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces (SSPPS)* collects information on gender-based violence, asking about experiences of violent victimization and other unwanted behaviour, occurring in public, online, or at work. Both surveys apply to people over the age of 15.

The aforementioned statistics bureau produces analytical reports and publishes tables of data on victimization annually.⁶ Since 2022, it has published several analytical reports on the **sexual exploitation of children online**,⁷ which shows the priority of this particular issue for the State.

⁴ The State of Canada's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁵ Latest victimization survey reports available at: [Profile of Canadians who experienced victimization during childhood, 2018](#) and [Criminal victimization in Canada, 2019](#)

⁶ Latest data tables available at:

Online (cyber-related) child sexual exploitation: [Police-reported cybercrime, by cyber-related violation, Canada \(selected police services\)](#)

Child sexual exploitation not limited to cyber-related incidents: [Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

⁷ Reports available at:

[Online child sexual exploitation: A statistical profile of police-reported incidents in Canada, 2014 to 2022;](#)

[Online child sexual exploitation and abuse: Criminal justice pathways of police-reported incidents in Canada, 2014 to 2020;](#)

[Online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Canada: A statistical profile of police-reported incidents and court charges, 2014 to 2020;](#)

[Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories and Census Metropolitan Areas \(statcan.gc.ca\);](#)

[Clearance status of police-reported online sexual offences against children, by type of offence, Canada, 2014 to 2022](#)

These reports show an upward trend of cases since 2018. In 2022, the rate of online child sexual exploitation reached 160 events per 100,000 children and adolescents; 75% of these crimes were linked to **exploitation through pornography** (the most common type of crime among online child sexual exploitation crimes). Between 2014 and 2022, **84% of online sex crime victims were between the ages of 12 and 17, with girls considerably more vulnerable than boys** to being victims of most types of online sexual exploitation.⁸

In **CHILE** there are several data sources, lodged in different institutions. For example, the *Statistical System* of the Public Prosecutor's Office: <http://www.fiscaliadechile.cl/Fiscalia/estadisticas/index.do>; the *Integrated electronic Information, Follow-Up and Monitoring System* (SIS for its acronym in Spanish) of the National Specialized Protection Service: <https://www.sis.mejorninez.cl/>; the *DSD System* of the Ministry of Health: <https://portalsaluddigital.minsal.cl/estrategias-digitales/integraciones-y-standardizations/>. However, there is no uniform and interconnected system that enables the comprehensive compilation of information. To this, we should add that not all institutions provide information in the same way, owing to their varying conceptions of the phenomenon.⁹

The Public Prosecutor's Office, through its periodic statistical bulletins, disseminates information on the complaints filed and investigations carried out at the national level regarding crimes of sexual exploitation, including data disaggregated by type of victim, accused and causes of finalization. Based on these data, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, through its Observatory on Rights, carried out a **characterization of the phenomenon for the period 2022-2023**, distinguishing between non-digital sexual exploitation (including the categories of facilitating and/or promoting sexual exploitation and obtaining an action of sexual significance from children and adolescents - articles 367 and 367 ter respectively of the Criminal Code) and online sexual exploitation (selling, disseminating, producing, storing and obtaining abusive material - article 367 quater of the Criminal Code). The following are some of the main findings:¹⁰

- ✓ The number of incidents with identified SEC victims in in-person modalities is practically equal to that of SEC in digital environments (47% and 53% respectively). In the in-person modality, the prevailing offence is the **promotion and/or facilitation of sexual exploitation** (75%), while in the virtual modality it is the **acquisition of abusive material** (58%).

⁸ The State of Canada's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁹ Response of Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

¹⁰ Response of Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, based on its Technical Note N° 5. See full analysis at: Office of the Ombudsman for Children. 2024 Technical Note N°5 Sexual Exploitation against Children and Adolescents: Factors and Characterization in Recent Years. Rights Observatory of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children. <https://observatorio.defensorianinez.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Nota-Tecnica-N5-Desafios-ante-la-explotacion-sexual-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes.pdf>

- ✓ A total of 2,184 victims were counted, which means a rate of 49 cases per 100,000 people between the ages of 0 and 17. In situations involving in-person sexual exploitation, **86% of victims are women, with the age range most affected being 14 to 17 years (64%)**. In digital sexual exploitation, the age range most affected (51%) is between 0 and 13 years old.
- ✓ A total of **1,884 complaints were recorded with criminal investigations carried out** (805 in 2022 and 1,079 in 2023), of which 1,086 involved crimes of sexual exploitation in digital environments. Of the investigations initiated in 2022, 71% were concluded by 2023; **only 6% involved judicial proceedings¹¹ and there was a definite conviction in 3%**, which is evidence of the gap between the process and the effectiveness of sanctions. Online SEC crimes show a higher rate of clearance and convictions than those of non-digital SEC crimes.
- ✓ As for **defendants who are known**, in in-person sexual exploitation, **70% are male**; while, in digital sexual exploitation, percentages are equal, with women accounting for 46%.

In addition, the Ombudsman’s Office highlights the prevalence of the crime in residential alternative care settings run by the Specialized Protection Service, especially in those dedicated to female children and adolescents. In 2023, 32% of residential care centres filed complaints for acts constituting sexual exploitation, reaching a total of 308 complaints, involving a total of 296 children and adolescents.¹² Among the predominant criminal behaviours in this context, the promotion or facilitation of sexual exploitation and the contact and dissemination of images through social networks stand out.

In **COLOMBIA**, there are various institutions that collect data related to the sexual exploitation of children.

The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare has a *Mission Information System* – SIM (for its acronym in Spanish), in which alleged situations that threaten or infringe the rights of children and adolescents and the care provided are recorded. In cases where Administrative Procedures for the Restoration of Rights (PARD, for its acronym in Spanish) are initiated, the system allows viewing the care history, the actions carried out, the restoration measures adopted, the officials who intervened and the terms of duration of the process.¹³

¹¹ Judicial proceedings correspond to the set of terms that involve the intervention of a Court, such as the authority not to initiate an investigation, alternative measures, the power not to persevere, dismissal and final ruling. Non-judicial measures include decisions that do not go through the courts, such as provisional filing, no jurisdiction or the grouping of investigations (Response of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child of Chile to the Enquiry Form, presented as an Alternative Report, 2024).

¹² Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, based on its Technical Note N° 5.

¹³ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

According to data from this System, in the **period 2020 – April 2024**, 1,441 Administrative Procedures for the Restoration of Right were opened on the grounds of: “victim of sexual violence - commercial sexual exploitation”. **Of these cases, 86% (1,239 cases) are girls and female adolescents**, and 14% (202 cases) are boys and male adolescents. As to the age range, **86% of the victims are between the ages of 12 and 17**. The regions with the highest number of cases are regional Bogotá, with 249 reports (17.3%); regional Antioquia, with 206 reports (14.2%); regional Valle del Cauca, with 140 admissions (10%); and regional Bolivar, with 126 reported cases (9%).¹⁴

In addition, according to data provided by the Prosecutor’s Office, in 2023, 1219 children and adolescents were victims of sex-related crimes – including those linked to sexual exploitation – of whom **75.4% were female children and adolescents**. The criminal categories with the highest incidence were **“pornography with minors”** (Art. 218 of the Criminal Code) (51% of victims), followed by **“demand for commercial sexual exploitation with persons under the age of 18”** (Art. 217a of the Criminal Code) and aggravating circumstances (24% of the victims).¹⁵

In the same vein, the National Police reports for the year 2023, 20,731 sex-related crimes against children and adolescents, of which 1493 (7%) involve crimes related to SEC. Among them, the predominant criminal categories coincide with those recorded by the Prosecutor’s Office.¹⁶

SEC occurs predominantly at the **community level**, in urban areas with high population density and in contexts of adult prostitution, and **associated with travel and tourism**. The regions with the highest incidence of sexual exploitation dynamics – mentioned above – are the territories with the highest population rates and a high presence of national and international tourists and travellers. **Virtual environments** are also included, which “(...) constitute 86% of cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents recorded by the National Police”.¹⁷

In Colombia, the **armed conflict context**, in which armed groups recruit and use children and adolescents for sexual purposes, whether they are involved in the hostilities or not, also stands out particularly as a scenario for SEC. “In this context, it is found that children and adolescents are forced, through manipulation, coercion, abuse of power or violence, to have sexual contact (sexual abuse, touching, groping, servitude or sex

¹⁴ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 8.

trafficking) with adults from the military units of the group that has recruited them, opposing groups or external actors. In the case of the latter, the purposes usually refer to the exchange of favours, business agreements, access to goods or information, which benefit the armed group.”¹⁸

In **ECUADOR** there are various institutions that compile data related to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, each according to its jurisdiction.

According to data from the *Integrated System of Prosecutorial Actions* (SIAF for its acronym in Spanish) of the Prosecutor’s Office, between **January 2019 and April 2024**, there were 1,443 reports of crimes committed against children and adolescents, of which **950 involved the crime of “sexual contact with children under 18 years of age by electronic means”** (Art. 173 of the COIP), with a peak in 2021; **130 to “human trafficking”** (Art. 91 of the COIP); and **125 to “commercialization of pornography using children and adolescents”** (Art. 104 of the COIP). The provinces that recorded the highest number of complaints were Pichincha and Guayas. A total of 980 victims identified, of whom **86% were female** and **93% were between 11 and 17 years old**. As for the procedural status of the cases, 56% are under preliminary investigation, followed by those under requested or accepted filing.¹⁹

In the same sense, data from the *Ecuadorian Automatic System of Judicial Procedures* (SATJE, in Spanish) of the Council of the Judiciary for the same period account for **356 cases prosecuted in the Judicial Units for cases of sexual exploitation against children and adolescents**, including the criminal categories of “Trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation” (Art. 91 par. 2), “Sexual exploitation of persons” (Art. 100 par. 2), “Enforced prostitution” (Art. 101 par. 1), “Sex tourism” (Art. 102 par. 1), “Pornography with the use of children and adolescents” (Art. 103) and “Commercialization of pornography” (Art. 104). Among these crimes, **the largest number of cases involve “Commercialization of pornography”**, with 93 cases, and **“Pornography with the use of children and adolescents”**, with 87 cases. The provinces that record the highest number of prosecuted cases are Pichincha and Guayas (coinciding with the highest number of complaints). In the aforementioned period, 100 rulings were handed down, with 70% being convictions and 30% ratifying rulings of innocence.²⁰

¹⁸ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 11, based on the document: *Lineamiento técnico para la atención a niños, niñas y adolescentes, con derechos amenazados o vulnerados, víctimas de violencia sexual*.

https://www.icbf.gov.co/sites/default/files/procesos/lm18.p_lineamiento_tecnico_programa_especializado_de_atencion_victimas_de_violencia_sexual_v2.pdf

¹⁹ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²⁰ Ibid.

For its part, the Ministry of Education has a *Computerized System for the Recording of Violence* (REDEVI, in Spanish) that records all cases of sexual violence detected or committed in the education system, although without specifying their types or forms. From 2019 to April 2024, 3,141 cases of sexual violence were recorded, 85% of which were committed by an alleged offender external to the school and 15% by an alleged offender within the school. Of these, 90% of victims are female and 98% of alleged aggressors are male.²¹

The State underscores border areas, tourism, the extractive industries and/or with the presence of organized crime groups as geographical areas of special vulnerability; as well as virtual environments, especially social networks and online games.

In **GUATEMALA**, the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET for its acronym in Spanish) compiles statistical data from the various government institutions with jurisdiction in the field of SEC.

According to data from the Public Prosecutor's Office, over the **period 2023 – first quarter of 2024**, there were 119 reports related to SEC crimes, with the departments of Guatemala and Chimaltenango recording the highest incidence. The most prevalent crimes, according to the classification made by Guatemalan legislation, were **“paid sexual activities with underage persons”** (40% of the reports), followed by **“possession of pornographic material using underage persons”** (15% of the cases) and **“production of pornography with underage persons”** (14% of the cases). In **60% of the cases the victims were female** and in **64% they were between 13 and 17 years old.**²²

In addition, 149 complaints were reported involving the crime of **“seduction of children or adolescents through the use of information technologies”** (*grooming*), with 150 victims identified, and 37 complaints involving the crime of **“blackmail of children or adolescents through the use of information technologies”** (*sextortion*), with 39 victims identified. In both cases, most of the victims were female and between the ages of 13 and 17. Guatemala was the department with the highest number of reports.²³

From the data submitted, it emerges that the digital environment is a scenario of particular vulnerability for SEC in Guatemala, especially after the pandemic.

²¹ The State of Ecuador's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²² The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²³ Ibid.

In **GUYANA**, the State compiles quantitative and qualitative data on cases of sexual abuse of children, disaggregated by gender, age, location and type. In the period 2019-2023, 5,460 cases were recorded, with girls being most of the victims. The main forms of crime are sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape. “(...) there have been no reports of cases of paid sex; use in/for pornography, including child sexual abuse material and participation in erotic or sexual performances; international or internal trafficking for sexual purposes or forced marriages”²⁴.

The geographical areas with the highest number of reports are Administrative Region #4, followed by Administrative Regions #3, #6 and #5; the regions with the largest populations. It is presumed that there are cases in communities in the interior of the country, including indigenous communities, in which, however, there is probably a high level of underreporting, owing to prevailing cultural and religious norms and their own governance structures.²⁵

MEXICO addresses the issue of the sexual exploitation of children as “a crime related to human trafficking”;²⁶ in this sense, it compiles and disseminates general information on the issue. “Within the framework of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Crimes related to Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance to Victims of these Crimes, there is a National Information System on Trafficking in Persons (SINTRA for its acronym in Spanish), which collects information on trafficking in persons from the bodies that make up said commission and compiles, with the support of the National Public Security System and the National Conference of Prosecutors and other relevant institutions and bodies, statistical data relating to the incidence of crime in relation to the crimes provided for in the LGPSEDMTP.”²⁷

According to data compiled by the National Human Rights Commission through requests for information from prosecutors’ offices and general prosecutors’ offices, in the period **August 2017 – July 2021**, 1,550 children and adolescents²⁸ were identified as victims of crimes related to human trafficking in all its forms, **67% of whom were female**.²⁹ The most prevalent crimes, according to data available for the period June 2012 – July 2017, were the “exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation” (Articles 13 to 10 of the Act) (37% of the

²⁴ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p.3.

²⁵ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²⁶ General Act to prevent, penalize and eradicate crimes related to human trafficking and for the protection of and assistance to the victims of these crimes. Published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on 14 June 2012. Last amended on 5 April 2023. Available at: <https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGPSEDMTP.pdf>

²⁷ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 5.

²⁸ Of the total number of victims of human trafficking recorded in the period (3,896), there are 164 unidentified persons, so there is no information regarding their age and sex.

²⁹ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, based on the paper: CNDH. (2021). *Diagnóstico sobre la situación de la trata de personas 2021: procuración e impartición de justicia*.

victims) and “trafficking in persons under the terms of Article 10 and the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation” (17% of the victims).³⁰

In addition, according to data provided by the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, 1,739 children or adolescents were victims of trafficking in persons between 2015 and May 2022. In 2021, a total of 371 situations were recorded, with the federal entities of Mexico (117), Nuevo León (69), Baja California (42) and Mexico City (17) having the highest number of cases, representing 66% of the total cases in the country.³¹

Finally, the State reports that in the period 2019 – April 2024, 13,917 complaints were recorded related to the crime of “corruption of minors”, which includes among its forms the incitement to “perform acts of bodily or sexual exhibitionism, simulated or not, with a lewd or sexual purpose” (Article 201 of the Criminal Code).³²

PERU reports data on the subject from the Public Ministry and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP, for its acronym in Spanish).

The Public Prosecutor’s Office, through the Criminal and Mixed Prosecutors’ Offices at the national level, registered 404 complaints for crimes of sexual exploitation in the period 2022-2023, with 434 identified underage victims. **Of these victims, 86% were girls and female adolescents.**³³

In 2023, the most prevalent crimes, according to the classification provided by the Criminal Code, were “**child pornography**” (Art. 129-M), with 54 complaints, “**sexual exploitation of children and adolescents**” (Art. 129-H), with 48 complaints, and “**benefiting from the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents**” (Art. 129-K), with 23 complaints. The department with the highest number of cases was Lima (39), followed by Loreto (16), Lambayeque (13), Madre de Dios and San Martín (10).³⁴

³⁰ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, based on the paper: CNDH. (2019). *Diagnóstico sobre la Situación de la Trata de Personas en México 2019*, p. 29. Available at: <https://www.cndh.org.mx/documento/diagnostico-sobre-la-situacion-de-la-trata-de-personas-en-mexico-2019>.

³¹ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

³² Ibid.

³³ The State of Peru’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

³⁴ Ibid.

For its part, the MIMP reports 40 cases of SEC addressed by the Women’s Emergency Centres (CEM, in Spanish) between 2019 and 2021; and 72 children or adolescents affected by the crime of sexual exploitation under parental care, addressed by the Special Protection Units (UPE) at the national level from January 2023 to March 2024.³⁵

As prevailing contexts, the State highlights the intrafamily area and the community (public thoroughfares or clandestine places), with situations where the parents or adults responsible for care are aware of, promote and/or consent to sexual exploitation – being part of the circuit of exploitation or as a result of their own history of violation.

In addition, most of the States party to the report have recent studies or research available on the subject, carried out by public, private and academic actors. Although the difficulty of the lack of regularity and longitudinal application of these studies persists, they are valued as sources of information that enable us to be aware of the phenomenon at a given time (see Appendix 4 - Research, publications and other resources shared by the States in response to the Enquiry Form).

³⁵ The State of Peru’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

2.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

This section seeks to discover institutional responsibilities, interagency arrangements and paths along which SEC situations are routed.

2.1. Interagency Coordination Areas

CANADA has interagency working groups that carry out national strategies related to the sexual exploitation of children.

The *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet* includes two Governance Committees:³⁶

- The **Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children (IWG CSE)**, led by *Public Safety Canada* and with representatives from 14 federal agencies and departments. This group shares information in relation to the progress, challenges and strengths in the implementation of the Strategy.
- The **Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors**, composed of federal departments and agencies, oversees the operational and technical implementation of the Strategy, monitoring and assessing the level of implementation, challenges, links with other Strategies, among others.

In both areas, the role of *Public Safety Canada*, the *RCMP* (Royal Mounted Police), the *Canadian Centre for Child Protection* and the *Department of Justice Canada* is emphasized.

For its part, the **Working Group on Trafficking in Persons** was created in 2016, and is “responsible for overseeing the implementation of anti-trafficking measures and coordinating them at the federal level. The Working Group has a committee composed of federal, provincial and territorial representatives to ensure a better exchange of information”.³⁷

CHILE has recently developed a *System of Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents*, under the guidance and supervision of the Undersecretariat for Children of the Ministry of Social Development and Family. Coordinated work is promoted within its framework, with a complementary approach between the different State institutions, in relation to the promotion and comprehensive protection

³⁶ The State of Canada’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

³⁷ Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports from Canada due in 2018 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 28 January 2019]. Para. 170.

of the rights of children and adolescents, including the “right of every child and adolescent to protection against economic exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and child labour” (Art. 37 of the Guarantees Act).³⁸

In this context, and as part of the process of building the Fourth Framework for Action against Sexual Exploitation, the Specialized Protection Service has promoted an **Interagency Coordination Panel**, which includes the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, in order to discover the status of the approach to the issue in the different regions, with emphasis on protection and criminal prosecution. The results obtained will serve as input to establish actions for the Fourth Framework on these lines.³⁹

In addition, the State has an **Intersectoral Panel on Trafficking in Persons**, a “permanent and intersectoral advisory committee, which coordinates actions in prevention, protection of victims, and punishment”.⁴⁰ The Executive Secretariat of the panel answers to the Undersecretariat of the Interior.

In **COLOMBIA**, there are various interagency coordination bodies that focus on the issue, namely:⁴¹

- **National Interagency Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**,⁴² “through which monitoring is effected of the implementation of Act 1336 of 2009 and prevention and care actions in the field of CSEC”.⁴³ It is made up of public institutions, civil society and international organizations and is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- **The Interagency Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons**.⁴⁴ The “consultative body of the National Government and the coordinating body for actions carried out by the Colombian State through the National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons”

³⁸ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p.9.

³⁹ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

⁴⁰ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Chile due in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 4 March 2021]. Par. 82.

⁴¹ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁴² Created via Act No. 1336 of 2009, supplementing and reinforcing the provisions of Act No. 679 of 2001, on combating exploitation, pornography and sex tourism involving children and young persons. 21 July 2009. [Act 1336 of 2009](#)

⁴³ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 49.

⁴⁴ Created by Act No. 985 of 2005, which provides for measures against trafficking in persons and establishes rules for assisting and protecting the victims of that practice. 26 August 2005. [Act 985 of 2005](#)

(Act 985 of 2005, Art. 13). It is led by the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and is composed of representatives of the different State organizations. It seeks to decentralize the approach to the issue, creating departmental, district and municipal committees.

- **The Interagency Advisory Committee on Prevention of Sexual Violence and Comprehensive Support for Child and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse.**⁴⁵ Although it does not deal exclusively with the issue of SEC, it includes it. In operation since 2007, it is made up of public and civil society organizations, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Protection and the technical secretariat in charge of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF, in Spanish).

ECUADOR has two interagency coordination areas:⁴⁶

- **Interagency Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants and Protection of their Victims.**⁴⁷ It is made up of various State agencies, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior. It conducts public policy against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. It is organized, at the technical and operational level, through central *Technical Working Groups* and local *Decentralized Committees*, as interagency coordination bodies for the execution of strategies and actions at the territorial level. The Technical Working Groups are formed with reference to three focal points: Prevention and Promotion of Rights; Assistance and Protection; and Investigation and Prosecution. The first two panels are led by the Ministry for Women and Human Rights, while the last is led by the Ministry of the Interior.
- **Interagency CSEC Collective**, led by the National Council for Intergenerational Equality (CNII, in Spanish) and composed of public institutions, civil society and international organizations. This collective is the first public-private working group in Ecuador to address the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Since 2018, it has been working on advocacy, guidance and implementation of public policy actions in the field.

GUATEMALA has two interagency bodies specifically dedicated to addressing sexual exploitation in two particular contexts – travel and tourism and digital environments:⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Established by Act No. 1146 (2007), it promulgates rules for the prevention of sexual violence and the provision of comprehensive support to sexually abused children and adolescents. 10 July 2007. [Act 1146 of 2007](#)

⁴⁶ The State of Ecuador's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁴⁷ Further information available at: <http://www.trataytrafico.gob.ec/comite>

⁴⁸ The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

- **National Panel for Prevention and the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Sexual Exploitation in Activities Related to Travel and Tourism (MENACESNNA, in Spanish).** Created in 2013 with the purpose of promoting actions aimed at prevention and the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. It is made up of representatives of public and private institutions, civil society and international organizations.
- **Intersectoral Committee on Information and Communication Technology (CITIC, in Spanish),** created by Secretarial Agreement No. 66-2019⁴⁹ to promote intersectoral action for prevention, comprehensive care and the fight against sexual violence – and, in particular, the sexual exploitation of children – through information and communication technologies. It is chaired by the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons and is made up of institutions from the public, private, international and civil society sectors.

In **GUYANA**, there is no interagency coordination body on SEC and/or human trafficking. The State refers to the **network of government agencies** that work in a coordinated manner to protect the rights of children and adolescents.⁵⁰

In **MEXICO**, there are two interagency bodies dedicated to the issues of SEC, human trafficking and smuggling:⁵¹

- **Intersectoral Commission to Prevent, Combat and Punish Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes.**⁵² It is chaired by the Ministry of the Interior and some of its objectives are to determine and coordinate the implementation of State Policy on Trafficking in Persons, through actions and strategies involving the three levels of government, civil society, the private sector and international organizations.
- **Working Group for the Protection of Children against SEC,** established within the scope of the **Commission to End All Forms of Violence against Children (COMPREVNNA, in Spanish)**⁵³ as an interagency body in charge of monitoring and following up on Action Line 2.6

⁴⁹ SVET. Secretarial Agreement Number 66-2019. <https://ogdi.org/ogdi/uploads/2021/05/Acuerdo-Secretarial-66-2019-CITIC.pdf>

⁵⁰ The State of Guyana's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁵¹ The State of Mexico's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁵² Further information is available on: <http://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/>

⁵³ COMPREVNNA was created by Agreement 06/2016 of SIPINNA and aims to “coordinate the main initiatives and processes in terms of prevention and response to violence against children, as well as reparation measures, and to meet the obligations and commitments assumed by the Mexican State at the national and international level”. Coordinated by the Secretariat of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC, in Spanish) and with the Executive Secretariat of SIPINNA in the role of Technical Secretariat, “it is composed of 34 federal institutions – among which are dependencies of the Executive Branch, Autonomous Public Organizations, representatives of the Legislative and Judicial Branch; the National Conference of Governors; 17 Civil Society Organizations; and the United Nations Children’s Fund as a permanent guest” (The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 10).

“Protection of Children against Commercial Sexual Exploitation” of the 2019-2024 Action Plan of Mexico in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. The Group is formed by representatives of federal and State public agencies and specialized civil society organizations.

In **PERU**, there is a **Sub-Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**, formed in 2022 within the framework of the **Multisectoral Commission for Children and Adolescents towards 2030**, to follow up on Priority Objective 3 of the *National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents towards 2030*. It is made up of various sectors of the State, civil society and international organizations.

Likewise, there is a **Permanent Multisectoral Commission against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants**, created by Supreme Decree No. 001-2016-IN in order to carry out actions in the field of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants. Its composition was amended by Supreme Decree No.010-2022-IN.

Below is a summary table of the interagency coordination bodies related or linked to the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents existing in the States party to the Report, detailing their composition and creation regulations.

STATE	COORDINATION AREA	COMPOSITION ⁵⁴	REGULATIONS
CANADA	Interdepartmental Working Group on Child Sexual Exploitation on the Internet	14 federal agencies and departments	No data
	Select Committee on Child Sexual Exploitation on the Internet	Federal agencies and departments	No data
	Working Group on Trafficking in Persons	Federal, Provincial and Territorial Representatives	No data
CHILE	Interagency Coordination Panel	Specialized Protection Service; Public Prosecutor's Office; Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and Ombudsman for Children	-
	Intersectoral Panel on Trafficking in Persons	Undersecretariat of the Interior; Undersecretariat of Crime Prevention; Undersecretariat of Foreign Affairs; General Directorate of Maritime Territory and Merchant Navy; General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics; Undersecretariat for Women and Gender Equity; Undersecretariat for Public Health; Undersecretariat for Assistance Networks; Undersecretariat for Education; Undersecretariat for Human Rights; Undersecretariat for Children; Undersecretariat for Labour; Carabineros de Chile (Police); Chilean Investigation Police; National Institute of Human Rights; Ombudsman for Children's Rights; International Organization for Migration; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; NGO Corporation Raíces, Humanas Corporation; Chilean Catholic Institute of Migration; Libera Foundation; Honra Foundation; Madre Josefa Foundation.	Exempt Decree No. 2821 of 2008 of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security (creation) Exempt Decree No.1817 of 2021 (updating of members and organization)

⁵⁴ Information on the composition of the bodies is based on the provisions of the creation instrument and what was reported by the States, to the extent that there are sometimes factual additions, which may or may not have been eventually concluded.

COLOMBIA	National Interagency Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents	<p>a) State entities: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, as chair; Ministry of the Interior and Justice (now separate, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Justice and Law); Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies; Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Colombian Family Welfare Institute; Administrative Department of Security; National Police (Child and Adolescent Police, Tourism Police, Dijín); Public Prosecutor’s Office; National Department of Statistics, Presidential Programme for the National Youth System “Colombia Joven”.</p> <p>b) Permanent guests: Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Nation; Ombudsman’s Office; NGOs working on the issue; Representatives of private companies; Representative of youth organizations; Representatives of international cooperation agencies that promote and support the Plan.</p>	Act 1336 of 2009
	Interagency Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons	The highest authorities or delegates of the following institutions: Ministry of the Interior and Justice, as chair; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Ministry of Education; the Administrative Department of Security; National Police; Office of the Public Prosecutor; Office of the Attorney General; Office of the Ombudsman; Interpol Office in Colombia; Colombian Family Welfare Institute; Ministry of Equality and Equity; Fondelibertad, the Special Administrative Unit for Information and Financial Analysis.	Act 985 of 2005
	Interagency Advisory Committee on Prevention of Sexual Violence and Comprehensive Care for Child and Youth Victims of Sexual Abuse	The highest authorities or delegates of the following institutions: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, as chair; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies; Colombian Family Welfare Institute, in the role of Technical Secretariat; Attorney General’s Office; Public Prosecutor’s Office; Ombudsman’s Office; National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences; National Police; Council of Justice; a representative of the Colombian Associations of Psychiatry, Psychology, Paediatrics, Sexology, one chosen from among these; a representative of the non-governmental organizations whose purpose is the provision of protection services for children and adolescents, one chosen from among these.	Act 1146 of 2007

ECUADOR	CSEC Interagency Collective	Public institutions: National Cross-generational Equality Council, as chair; Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society; Ministry for Women and Human Rights; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Criminal Policy and Human Rights; Prosecutor General's Office; Council of Justice; Ombudsman's Office. Civil society organizations: Quitu Raymi Foundation; Plan International Ecuador; ChildFund Ecuador	-
	Interagency Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants and Protection of their Victims	Ministry of the Interior-National Police, as chair and with a casting vote; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; Ministry for Women and Human Rights; Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Tourism; Council of Justice; Public Prosecutor's Office; Ombudsman's Office.	Executive Decree No. 111 of 2017
GUATEMALA	National Panel for the Prevention and Protection of Children and Adolescents against Sexual Exploitation in Activities Related to Travel and Tourism (MENACESNNA)	Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons; Guatemalan Institute of Tourism; Association of Small Hoteliers of Guatemala; Chamber of Tourism; ECPAT Guatemala; Foundation of Hoteliers of Guatemala; Guatemala Conventions Bureau; Division of Tourism Security; UNICEF; Human Rights Ombudsman; Public Prosecutor's Office; Attorney General's Office; Division of Tourism Security; Guatemalan Airline Association; Guatemalan Institute of Migration; Institute of Education for Sustainable Development; International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC); Crime Stoppers; World Vision.	Interagency Framework Agreement of 2013
	Intersectoral Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CITIC)	Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, as chair; Ministry of the Interior, through the Fourth Vice-Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies; Ministry of Education; Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Presidency; Social Communication Secretariat of the Presidency; Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency; National Science and Technology Secretariat; General Directorate of the National Civil Police; National Youth Council; Office of the Prosecutor General; Human Rights Ombudsman; Congress of the Republic of Guatemala; Public Prosecutor's Office; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Embassy of Guatemala.	Secretarial Agreement No. 66/2019

MEXICO	<p>Intersectoral Commission to Prevent, Combat and Punish Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, as chair, Ministry of Communications and Transport; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Public Security; Ministry of Labour and Social Security; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Public Education; Ministry of Tourism; National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family; Social Ombudsman’s Office to Care for Victims of Crime; National Women’s Institute; National Migration Institute; Prosecutor General’s Office.</p> <p>The following may participate with voice, but without vote: Chambers of the Congress of the Union; Federal Judiciary; Governors, appointed by the National Conference of Governors; Municipal Organizations; National Human Rights Commission; National Population Council; Organization of Official Bodies for the Defence of Human Rights; National Conference of Public Prosecutors of Justice; National Public Security Council; Civil Society Organizations.</p>	<p>General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes (14 June 2012)</p>
	<p>Working Group for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against SEC, within COMPREVNNA</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, through its Undersecretariat for Citizen Participation and Social Prevention; National Security Commission; Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System; National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women; National Council to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination; National Institute of Migration; National Institute of Women; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Education; Ministry of Public Health; Ministry of Labour and Social Prevention, Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development; National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family; Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic; National Commission on Human Rights; Federal Telecommunications Institute; Executive Commission on Victim Care; National Conference of Governors, among others.</p>	-

PERU	<p>Sub-Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, within the Multisectoral Commission for Children and Adolescents to 2030</p>	<p>Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS); Ministry of Health (MINSA); Ministry of Culture (MINCUL); Ministry of Education (MINEDU); Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUSDH); Ministry of the Interior (MININTER); Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR); Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC); Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MTPE); National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI); Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP); Alternative Human and Social Capital (CHS-Alternative); Weaving Smiles (CESVI); United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); Metropolitan Municipality of Lima.</p>	-
	<p>Permanent Multisectoral Commission against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling</p>	<p>Ministry of the Interior, as chair; Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism; Ministry of Transport and Communications; Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Defence; National Superintendence of Migration; National Institute of Statistics and Informatics.</p> <p>Likewise, also participating are the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary, the Ombudsman's Office, the National Assembly of Regional Governments, civil society and other guests.</p>	<p>Supreme Decree No. 001-2016-IN (creation) Supreme Decree No. 010-2022-IN (amends its composition).</p>

2.2. Interagency public policies to address SEC

CANADA has a **National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2019-2024**, which is led by *Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada*, and the **National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet**, launched in 2004 and coordinated by *Public Safety*. This last strategy addresses four main focal points: a) Prevention and awareness, b) Persecution, Interruption and Prosecution; c) Protection and d) Partnerships, Investigation and Strategic Support.⁵⁵

In **CHILE**, the **National Policy on Children and Adolescents 2024-2032**,⁵⁶ soon to be published, together with its Action Plan, establish the strategic lines of the State in terms of guaranteeing, promoting and protecting the rights of children and adolescents, and includes provisions relating to SEC (objective number 9 refers to the Framework for Action against SEC).⁵⁷ Similarly, the *2018-2025 Action Plan for Children and Adolescents*, corresponding to the previous National Policy, remains in force.⁵⁸

The specific approach to SEC has traditionally been defined through *Action Frameworks against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents*, designed as strategic interagency agreements in which the involvement of different agencies in various lines of action is sought. So far, three frameworks have been implemented, led by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and the fourth is in the development stage, with the challenge of fitting in seamlessly within the aforementioned National Policy. The Ministry of Social Development and Family is responsible for coordinating the Fourth Framework, together with an Executive Secretariat, also composed of UNICEF, the National Service for Specialized Protection of Children and Adolescents and the Office of the Ombudsman for Children.⁵⁹

In **COLOMBIA**, the **Public Policy Line for the prevention and eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents 2018-2028**,⁶⁰ is being implemented, led by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF). The general aim of this Policy is to prevent and eradicate

⁵⁵ The State of Canada's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁵⁶ National Policy on Children and Adolescents 2024-2032 https://chilecrecemas.cl/storage/documentos/Resumen_ejecutivo.pdf

⁵⁷ Response of Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Public Policy Line for the prevention and eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents 2018-2028. https://www.icbf.gov.co/sites/default/files/linea_pp_escnna_20180620.pdf

the sexual exploitation of children, addressing the problem from different angles and with a long-term vision.⁶¹ To this end, four specific objectives are promoted: a) Strengthen the coordination of public entities; b) Empower citizens (civil society and community) in the field of prevention and protection of rights; c) Strengthen judicial mechanisms; d) Form international cooperation partnerships.

Likewise, there is a **National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons 2020-2024**,⁶² promoted by the Interagency Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and adopted by Decree 1818 of 2020.

ECUADOR implements an **Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons in Ecuador 2019-2030**,⁶³ led by the Ministry of the Interior, which has a cross-generational approach and includes actions to address trafficking in children and adolescents.

In addition, “the proposal for the *Comprehensive Protection Plan for Children and Adolescents for 2030* was developed, which seeks to implement intersectoral public policies with the aim of closing inequality gaps, with a special focus on the consequences of the pandemic”⁶⁴ and which includes the SEC issue.

GUATEMALA reports that it is working on the development of a comprehensive national strategy on SEC.⁶⁵ It currently has a **National Plan for the Prevention of Crimes of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, 2020**, implemented by SVET, with the aim of preventing these crimes and thus reducing the number of victims. It promotes awareness-raising, information, training, support for Departmental Networks against crimes involving sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons (VET), as well as prevention strategies⁶⁶.

⁶¹ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁶² Available at: <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=154426>

⁶³ Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons in Ecuador 2019-2030. <https://www.ministeriodegobierno.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/12/PLAN-DE-ACCIO%CC%81N-CONTRA-LA-TRATA-DE-PERSONAS-1.pdf>

⁶⁴ Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023]. Par. 36.

⁶⁵ The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁶⁶ Source:

<https://news.svet.gob.gt/noticias/plan-nacional-para-la-prevenci%C3%B3n-de-los-delitos-de-violencia-sexual-explotaci%C3%B3n-y-trata-de#:~:text=La%20SVET%20implementa%20el%20E2%80%9C%20Plan%20Nacional%20para,y%20por%20ende%20la%20reducci%C3%B3n%20de%20las%20v%C3%ADctimas.>

GUYANA lacks a National Action Plan for Children or similar comprehensive policy that includes all aspects of the Convention, nor does it have a specific policy regarding the sexual exploitation, trafficking and/or smuggling of children and adolescents.⁶⁷

In **MEXICO**, there are various public policy tools that include the issue of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. On the one hand, the **2019-2024 Action Plan of Mexico in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children**⁶⁸ addresses, in Action Line 2.6, the issue of “Protection of Children and Adolescents against Commercial Sexual Exploitation”. The **2019-2024 National Development Plan**,⁶⁹ promoted by the Federal Executive, promotes various programmes to address sexual exploitation and trafficking. Likewise, the **National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents 2021-2024 (PRONAPINNA, in Spanish)**,⁷⁰ incorporates, in its Line of Action 3.5.2, the prevention and care of situations involving SEC and trafficking.⁷¹

On the other hand, there is a **National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes 2020- 2024**.⁷²

PERU is developing a **National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents to 2030**,⁷³ adopted by Supreme Decree No. 008- 2021-MIMP and mandatory for the three levels of government, which contains guidelines and services to guarantee the comprehensive protection of rights, including provisions on sexual exploitation and trafficking.

In addition, since 2021 there is a **National Policy against Trafficking in Persons and its Forms of Exploitation towards 2030 (PNLTP, in Spanish)**,⁷⁴

⁶⁷ IIN-OAS. 2018. *Addressing Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking in and Smuggling of Children in CARICOM Member States, 20 years after Stockholm*. Fifteenth Report to the OAS Secretary General, 2018. <https://www.annaobserva.org/es/xv-informe-al-secretario-general-de-la-oea-2018/>

⁶⁸ Mexico's 2019-2024 Action Plan in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/643741/PLAN_DE_ACCION_2019-2024.V2021.pdf

⁶⁹ National Development Plan 2019-2024. https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5565599&fecha=12/07/2019#gsc.tab=0

⁷⁰ National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents 2021-2024. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/691437/PRONAPINNA_2021-2024.pdf

⁷¹ The State of Mexico's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁷² National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes 2022- 2024. https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5675759&fecha=27/12/2022#gsc.tab=0

⁷³ National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents to 2030. https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/4719479/4340399-politica_nacional_multisectorial_para_las_ninas_ninos_y_adolescentes_al_2030.pdf?v=1726064689

⁷⁴ National Policy against Trafficking in Persons and its Forms of Exploitation towards 2030. <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/mininter/informes-publicaciones/2775045-politica-nacional-frente-a-la-trata-de-personas-y-sus-formas-de-explotacion-al-2030-version-amigable>

which incorporates prevention, protection and assistance actions for victims of trafficking in persons, from an interagency perspective.⁷⁵

Below is a summary table of the interagency policies/plans related to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in force in the States party to the Report.

STATE	POLICIES/ PLANS	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
CANADA	National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation on the Internet	2004	-
	National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons	2019	2019 - 2024
CHILE	National Childhood Policy	2024	2024 - 2032
	National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents 2018-2025	2017	2018 - 2025
COLOMBIA	Public Policy Line for the prevention and eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents 2018-2028	2018	2018 - 2028
	National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons	2020	2020 - 2024
ECUADOR	Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons 2019-2030	November 2019	2019 - 2030
MEXICO	National Development Plan 2019-2024	2019	2019 - 2024
	Mexico's 2019-2024 Action Plan in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children	2018	2019 - 2024
	National Programme for the Protection of Children and Adolescents 2021-2024	2021	2021 - 2024
	National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes 2020-2024	2020	2020 - 2024
PERU	National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents to 2030	2021	2030
	National Policy against Trafficking in Persons and its forms of exploitation to 2030 (PNLTP, in Spanish)	2021	2030

⁷⁵ Combined sixth and seventh regular reports that Peru was due to submit in 2023, under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 21 March 2024]

2.3. Interagency protocols or routes of action to address SEC situations

CHILE has an **Interagency Investigative Protocol on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, 2023**,⁷⁶ focusing on SEC detection and reporting procedures. It was designed jointly by the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Undersecretariat for Children, the Specialized Protection Service, Legal Representation Programmes for children and adolescents and the Office of the Ombudsman for Child Rights as a technical observer. There is also an **Intersectoral Protocol for Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons**, which establishes an action route to address these situations.⁷⁷

In **COLOMBIA**, “the ICBF has technical guidelines for the care of children and adolescents who are victims of human trafficking and (...) Technical Guidelines for the care of children and adolescents with threatened or violated rights who are victims of sexual violence”.⁷⁸

ECUADOR has two operating protocols for interagency action on matters involving human trafficking and smuggling: **Interagency Operating Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons**,⁷⁹ and **Interagency Operating Protocol for Cases of Migrant Smuggling**,⁸⁰ which aim to ensure coordinated response in the comprehensive care of victims of trafficking and smuggling, within the scope of the jurisdictions of each institution member of the Interagency Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and Protection of their Victims.⁸¹

In 2017, **GUATEMALA** adopted an **Interagency Detection and Operating Protocol for immediate response to cases of Sexual Exploitation against Children and Adolescents in Travel and Tourism**,⁸² promoted by MENACESNNA. The Protocol aims to “establish procedures, rules and

⁷⁶ Interagency Investigative Protocol on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, 2023. https://www.mejorninez.cl/noticias/protocolo-investigativointerinstucional-ESCNNA_16-11-2023.html

⁷⁷ Undersecretariat for Crime Prevention. 2017. Intersectoral protocol to care for victims of human trafficking. <http://tratadepersonas.subinterior.gov.cl/media/2015/07/MITP-Protocolo-Intersectorial-de-Atenci%C3%B3n-de-V%C3%ADctimas-de-Trata-de-Personas.pdf>

⁷⁸ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p 19.

⁷⁹ Interagency Operating Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons. [Interagency protocol for trafficking in persons](#)

⁸⁰ Protocol for Interagency Action in Cases of Migrant Smuggling. [Interagency protocol on migrant smuggling](#)

⁸¹ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁸² Interagency Detection and Operating Protocol for immediate response to cases of Sexual Exploitation against Children and Adolescents in Travel and Tourism. [SECTT SVET Protocol](#)

institutional provisions for the detection and interagency coordination of possible criminal acts of sexual exploitation against children in travel and tourism”.⁸³

Since 2021, **MEXICO** has had a **National Interagency Coordination Protocol for the Protection of Child and Adolescent Victims of Violence (PNCI, in Spanish)**,⁸⁴ adopted by SIPINNA, which, although not exclusively about, or specific to SEC, includes these situations.

To address trafficking in children and adolescents, eleven Mexican states have comprehensive **Protocols for the Detection, Identification and Care of Migrant Victims and/or Potential Victims of Trafficking in Persons**.⁸⁵

Finally, there are Operating Protocols agreed by the Prosecutor General’s Office, Prosecutors’ Offices of the 32 federal entities, and the National Guard, on the criminal investigation of cases where children are used in pornography; this is called *Operation Salvation. Combat child pornography in Mexico*.⁸⁶

PERU has its 2005 **Procedure for Intervention in Centres of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**, which synchronizes and coordinates the actions of agencies for protection and the administration of justice in addressing sexual exploitation situations: National Police, Public Ministry, the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Women and Social Development (currently Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations) and Local Governments. The State reports that it is working on the development of a *standardized Protocol for the comprehensive care of children and adolescents affected by the crime of sexual exploitation*; which involves additional actors and not only those associated with the administration of justice.⁸⁷ There is also an **Intersectoral Protocol for the Prevention and Prosecution of Crime and the Protection, Care and Reintegration of Victims of Trafficking in Persons**.

⁸³ The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 14.

⁸⁴ National Interagency Coordination Protocol for the Protection of Child and Adolescent Victims of Violence. <https://www.gob.mx/sipinna/documentos/protocolo-nacional-de-coordinacion-interinstitucional-para-la-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia>

⁸⁵ Combined sixth and seventh regular reports that Mexico was due to submit in 2020, under article 44 of the Convention [Date received: 18 December 2020]. Par. 243.

⁸⁶ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁸⁷ The State of Peru’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

2.4. Multilateral agreements and/or international cooperation in the field of SEC

CANADA has entered into cooperation agreements with the member States of *Five Country Ministerial*⁸⁸ on prevention and the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation on the Internet. It also has cooperation agreements with the United States for assistance to victims of trafficking.⁸⁹

CHILE and **MEXICO** underscore their agreements as members of the Regional Action Group of the Americas (GARA, in Spanish) for the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.⁹⁰

COLOMBIA refers to an *Interstate cooperation agreement with the Government of the United States for the Protection of Children (CPC)* for the period 2022-2027, within the framework of which economic and material resources are allocated for the prevention of trafficking in children and adolescents in Colombia, the fight against crime in a collaborative manner and the promotion of comprehensive care actions.

In addition, a *Memorandum of Understanding for the Prevention and Investigation of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and Assistance and Protection of Victims* has been in force between **COLOMBIA** and **ECUADOR** since 2012.

ECUADOR, too, has entered into *binational cooperation agreements* with **PERU** for prevention, care and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases, through coordination between the Permanent Multisectoral Commission against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants of Peru and the Interagency Committee for the Prevention, Protection and Investigation of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of Ecuador. Likewise, *Binational Immediate Response Teams* (ERI, in Spanish) have been implemented between both States since 2021, guaranteeing care for victims of the crime of human trafficking along binational routes, providing a first response of protection and comprehensive and coordinated care.

⁸⁸ Strategic Partnership for Coordination and Cooperation between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

⁸⁹ Report of the State of Canada to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, within the framework of its regular reports, V-VI cycle, January 2019.

⁹⁰ GARA is a body for regional interagency coordination that aims to promote the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the context of travel and tourism. It is composed of the National Tourism Administrations of 16 States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay; together with the Inter-American Children's Institute and ECPAT International as Observers.

GUATEMALA points to its multilateral agreements with EL SALVADOR and HONDURAS in relation to human trafficking. In this framework, an awareness campaign “*I will walk safely*” is being carried out for the prevention of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons in the context of human mobility.

2.5. Role of the private sector in addressing SEC in the country

This is the item in this line of action that received the fewest responses in the enquiry.

Some agreements are highlighted in relation to the prevention of SEC in travel and tourism. **CHILE, COLOMBIA, GUATEMALA, MEXICO and PERU** have a *Code of Conduct for the prevention of SEC in the context of travel and tourism*, which involves the private sector in tackling the issue.

For its part, **CANADA** reports agreements with technology companies and the digital industry on the prevention of sexual exploitation on the Internet. *Public Safety* enters into agreements with companies to adhere to *Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*.

3. PREVENTION

This section seeks to discover the main actions or measures implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

In **CANADA**, various prevention initiatives are being developed, implemented within the framework of comprehensive public policies related or linked to the issue of SEC:⁹¹

- As part of the *National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, investments are made in initiatives such as *Protecting our Sacred Fire*, which aims to develop a culturally adapted prevention, training and empowerment programme for indigenous youth on the risks of trafficking in persons, so that they become facilitators and advocates for prevention at the community level.
- Under the *National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*, the Ministry of Public Security collaborates with key industry players, especially online gaming groups and companies, to raise awareness and find new ways to combat and protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation on these platforms. Likewise, in agreement with academia, it seeks to raise awareness of this reality among those who will be in charge of the design, development and implementation of online games in the future.
- Under the “Prevention” pillar of the *National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*, projects such as *White Ribbon*⁹² are implemented that promote gender equity, healthy relationships and new concepts of masculinity. Online sexual exploitation education initiatives are also implemented, with culturally relevant resources for indigenous and black communities.

In particular, the State highlights the implementation of public education campaigns to raise awareness about online child sexual exploitation, aimed at young people, parents and educators.

In **CHILE**, prevention is designed based on the rationale of awareness/training, mainly aimed at government officials, with some shortcomings, according to the Office of the Ombudsman for Children (to which we shall return in the conclusions). Some examples of these activities, currently carried out, are:⁹³

- *Awareness-raising day in the Magallanes Region*. Authorities in charge: Provincial Presidential Delegation from *Última Esperanza* and NGO *Raíces* from Punta Arenas. Content: explanation of the phenomenon and risk indicators. Targeting: government officials. Impact assessment: no information.

⁹¹ The State of Canada’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁹² Further information about the Project is available at: <https://www.whiteribbon.ca/?lng=en>

⁹³ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

- *Awareness-raising day against Sexual Exploitation* Municipality of Recoleta. Authorities in charge: Recoleta Children and Youth Network and Recoleta Human Security Directorate (DISEHU, in Spanish). Objective: To raise awareness among students so that they recognize, prevent and report the sexual exploitation of children. Targeting: community - socio-community area. Impact assessment: no information.
- *Tourism awareness day* in the Region of Coquimbo (cities of La Serena and Coquimbo). Authorities in charge: National Tourism Service, Specialized Protection Service and *Ciudad del Niño* Foundation. Objective: prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism. Targeting: citizens, tourists and tourism service providers. Impact assessment: no information.

The Office of the Ombudsman for Children highlights as a good practice in preventing SEC, the promulgation of the *Code of Conduct for the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the context of travel and tourism (SECTT)*, adopted by the National Tourism Service through Exempt Resolution No. 263 of 16 June 2020, which seeks to influence the commitment of tourism service providers in relation to this issue, also including the role of the private sector in prevention.

In **COLOMBIA**, one of the goals of the *Public Policy Line for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents 2018-2028* is to mobilize civil society to participate in the prevention and eradication of SEC. To this end, actions are promoted that seek to educate and raise awareness among the population about the seriousness of this issue, as well as community initiatives that allow citizens to take a leading role in the protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

Examples of these initiatives, promoted by the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, are:⁹⁴

- *Social Mobilization Days*, which aim to raise awareness of SEC, especially in tourism, through information campaigns, community mobilizations and participatory activities, with the active participation of children and adolescents.
- *“Voices” workshops for the prevention of the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*, whose objective is to create opportunities for dialogue with children, mothers/fathers and caregivers and community leaders, to identify the concerns, interests and proposals of children and adolescents and to create content that reflects their perspectives and proposals for prevention.

⁹⁴ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

Other actions mentioned in the field of promotion and prevention are the initiatives “*My Family*” (previously called “Families with Well-being for Peace”) and “*Ethnic Territories with Well-being*”, both carried out from 2019 to 2023. The *My Family* initiative is a form of family and psychosocial support aimed at strengthening parental, relational and resilience capacities, promoting the comprehensive protection of children, and preventing the effects of violence, abuse or neglect against them, through home visits and family and community meetings. For its part, the *Ethnic Territories with Well-being* modality aims to strengthen the capacities of “families and ethnic communities to be protective systems and promoters of the development of children and adolescents, from their own worldview and particular ways of understanding the world, through the use of participatory methodologies (...), welcoming and weighing, on the one hand, the principle of the best interests of the child and on the other, the right to alternative cultural existence of their peoples as collective subjects”.⁹⁵

For its part, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism has been leading, since 2015, the # OjosEnTodasPartes National Prevention Campaign [“EyesEverywhere”], which aims to raise awareness and inform society about the importance of protecting and safeguarding the rights of children and preventing all forms of sexual exploitation and trafficking. This campaign includes the placement of billboards at airports, terminals and public transport stops in the country’s main cities. Likewise, awareness-raising and training actions are implemented for entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the sector, such as the online course “All united against CSEC in travel and tourism”.⁹⁶

Finally, the ICT Ministry implements the “In ICT I Trust” programme,⁹⁷ which aims to help citizens to handle ICTs responsibly, promoting the development of digital skills and offering tools to prevent and face the risks associated with their use, such as *grooming*, *sexting*, and sexual abuse material. It is aimed at the general public, but especially at children and adolescents over the age of 12, mothers/fathers and caregivers.⁹⁸

In **ECUADOR**, various prevention actions are being implemented (some specifically addressing SEC, others related to associated phenomena), promoted by different public institutions:⁹⁹

- The Ministry of Tourism promulgated, by Ministerial Agreement No. 2022 – 014, the “*Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourist Accommodation Establishments*”¹⁰⁰ (published through the Official Registry. No. 69,

⁹⁵ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

⁹⁶ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021].

⁹⁷ Further information about the Programme is available at: <https://www.mintic.gov.co/portal/inicio/Atencion-y-Servicio-a-la-Ciudadania/Preguntas-frecuentes/15261:En-TIC-Confio>

⁹⁸ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021].

⁹⁹ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁰⁰ Available at: <https://www.turismo.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ACUERDO-MINISTERIAL-No.-2022-014-Expedir-el-Codigo-para-la-conducta-de-la-Explotacion-sexual.pdf>

dated 25 May 2022). This Code stipulates a set of commitments for establishments providing accommodation, which are aimed at the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children, as well as guidelines for the design of an operating protocol to channel any suspicion to the relevant authorities.

- The Ministry of Education, through Ministerial Agreement No. MINEDUC-MINEDUC-2023-00022-A, of 1 June 2023, issued a “*National Plan for the Prevention of Psychosocial Risk in the Education System*”, which aims to “contribute to the generation of safe educational environments through comprehensive human development education and the prevention, care of and protection from psychosocial risks”, including sexual violence and disappearance. It also adopted Operating Protocols to address situations involving Disappearance, Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants detected in the National Education System,¹⁰¹ which aim to inform the educational community about the phenomena of disappearance, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and their risks, in order to generate adequate prevention, detection and protection procedures.
- The Ministry of Public Health carries out several activities and provides tools aimed at preventing gender-based violence against children and adolescents, targeting both health practitioners and the general public. Of particular note is the *Sexuality without Mysteries* website <https://sexualidadsinmisterios.com/>: a virtual tool which, through interactive activities and audiovisual resources, seeks to inform and educate adolescents and young people on issues related to sexuality (including gender-based violence), from a rights-based approach.
- The Ministry for Women and Human Rights implements “processes involving training, education, awareness-raising and cultural transformation for the prevention and eradication of violence”, which have as one of their objectives, “to sensitize children and adolescents and caregivers in the exercise of human rights, with special emphasis on sexual rights and reproductive rights, the right to personal integrity and the right to a life free of violence (...)”.¹⁰²
- The National Directorate of Public Data Registration (DINARP, in Spanish) developed an informative web space, with fun tools (videos, articles, games), related to the opportunities and risks of the network and how to act in the face of warning signs, aimed at children and adolescents, families and teachers: <https://internetsegura.gob.ec/>¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ Available at: <https://educacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/11/situaciones-de-desaparicion.pdf>

¹⁰² Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023]. Par. 47.

¹⁰³ Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023].

In **GUATEMALA**, the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, through the Directorate against Exploitation, implements at the national level the *Institutional Strategic Plan for the prevention of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents* in any of its forms, which includes different information, awareness and awareness-raising activities aimed at public entities, private entities, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the general population, including children and adolescents.

Among the awareness-raising campaigns carried out in the country are:¹⁰⁴

- *Protecting Our Greatest Treasure*,¹⁰⁵ which aims to strengthen and encourage the population to prevent crimes of sexual exploitation of children in tourism-related activities.
- *Beware of Grooming*, which seeks to inform children and adolescents about the crime of seduction through the use of information technologies and the risks of providing personal information to people who contact them through any social network, instant messaging applications or online games.
- *I Connect with no Hassle*, which seeks to protect children and adolescents from the risks that exist on the Internet. This campaign includes three virtual tools: 1) *I Connect with no Hassle* (“Me conecto sin Clavos”) website: by means of a variety of resources, such as guides, videos, comics and video games, information is provided on the topics of *grooming*, *sexting*, *sextortion* and other types of crime committed via digital media. Aimed at the general population, especially those who interact with children. 2) *App for “Me conecto sin Clavos”*, a tool aimed at children and adolescents, to strengthen in an entertaining way knowledge about cybercrime and the risks of surfing the Internet. 3) *Consultancy page, Tu Amig@SVET*, a tool aimed at informing and advising children and adolescents about the crimes of sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking, with professionals who answer their queries on WhatsApp, Facebook or Instagram, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

In addition, the strategy involving *Mobile Units for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons* (UNIVET, in Spanish) stands out as a mechanism that seeks to strengthen local communities for the prevention of these crimes, in territories that are far from urban areas, with the presence of migrants, returnees, asylum seekers and refugees and people with other international protection needs, or other

¹⁰⁴ The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024. Learn about other awareness-raising and prevention actions on sexual violence in general at: Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Guatemala in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 15 June 2023].

¹⁰⁵ Available at: <https://svet.gob.gt/campana-protendiendo-a-nuestro-mayor-tesoro/>

populations at risk, through awareness-raising, training and interagency coordination of stakeholders present in the community (institutions, civil society, local authorities and the media, among others).¹⁰⁶

For training and awareness-raising activities, the SVET's Directorate against Exploitation has the following information material, digital and printed, available:¹⁰⁷

- ✓ *Mini Information Guide* for the prevention of crimes of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons, which contains general information on these crimes, as well as some recommendations on preventing them.
- ✓ *Mini Guide to Internet Safety*, developed by SVET in coordination with the Ministry of Education and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It is a training tool for children, adolescents, mothers/fathers and workers in the education system, which disseminates the techniques used by criminal individuals or groups against children and adolescents through the use of the Internet. This guide is translated into the four main Mayan languages: Mam, Cakchiquel, Q'eqchi, k 'iche'.
- ✓ *Educa-VET Guide*; a pedagogical guide for facilitators of information processes on the prevention of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons for adolescents.
- ✓ *Jóvenes Nueva Generación magazine*, [Youth New Generation] which contains information aimed at adolescents on preventing cybercrime.

Finally, the country is implementing a *Code of Conduct for the Prevention and Protection of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the context of travel and tourism*, which aims to get private sector enterprises and individuals to join in the prevention of the phenomenon, generating specific commitments.¹⁰⁸

GUYANA reports on various initiatives aimed at promoting and increasing public awareness of the protection of children and adolescents, preventing abuse and maltreatment, and increasing case reporting.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁶ The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ The State of Guyana's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

- Since 2021, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSS) has been implementing the “*Every Child Safe*” campaign, which aims to raise awareness in the community of child abuse in all its forms and to identify signs of risk.
- The *Multi-Media Awareness Programme* aims to change people’s attitudes about how children are seen and treated and to encourage everyone to be part of protection, through radio and television advertisements.
- Through the MHSS’s *Parenting Training Programme*, mothers and fathers are trained to recognize and prevent all forms of abuse.

Regarding the role of the private sector in prevention, the State considers that it must ensure that its policies and practices are not exploitative of children and other vulnerable groups and reports that the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security has been collaborating with the Gold and Diamond Miners Association of Guyana to ensure that children and adolescents are protected in mining districts.¹¹⁰

In **MEXICO**, the Executive Secretariat of SIPINNA, in collaboration with the European Union Programme for Cohesion in Latin America - EUROSOCIAL+, prepared a *Strategy for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Mexico, 2022*.¹¹¹ This strategy aims to prevent the “commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents” by strengthening protective factors and reducing risk factors. It proposes 103 actions in 7 areas of implementation and 20 areas of impact, incorporating the gender and intercultural perspective.¹¹²

For its part, the Inter-ministerial Commission to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes in the Field of Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of these Crimes has prepared various materials¹¹³ to provide information and report trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, among others. In addition, through its Prevention Campaigns and Dissemination Strategies Group, it prepared and adopted a paper on “*Criteria for reviewing prevention campaigns and dissemination strategies*”, which specifies the characteristics and principles that all materials developed for use in campaigns, projects and training should consider, including: having a gender perspective, human rights, intersectionality and inclusive language; avoiding the revictimization of people and stereotypes; adapting images and language to the country or region; using simple and colloquial language so that the message is clear and comprehensible.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹¹¹ Available from:

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/744638/Estrategia_para_Prevenir_ESC_NNA.pdf

¹¹² The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹¹³ Available at:

http://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/es/Comision_Intersecretarial/Materiales_de_Difusion

¹¹⁴ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

In addition, through the Ministry of the Interior, “since 2014, classified ads that are published in any media, whose content encourages or promotes the commission of any crime in the field of human trafficking, have been monitored within the framework of the Guidelines for the Surveillance and Monitoring of Classified Ads (...). By 2020, 1,606 classified ads had been detected in newspapers and 13 on radio and television, reported to the Special Prosecutor’s Office for Crimes of Violence against Women and Trafficking in Persons (FEVIMTRA, in Spanish) or state prosecutors’ offices, for the possible commission of a related crime”.¹¹⁵

The State also reports that there are a number of awareness-raising and training activities, aimed at both public servants and the population in general.

The actions reported show solid coordination with the private sector of travel and tourism for the prevention of SEC in this context. Some initiatives that give evidence of this partnership are:

- The Ministry of Tourism implements the *Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in the Travel and Tourism Sector*,¹¹⁶ which aims to raise awareness among stakeholders in the sector and the general population about the importance of the problem and its repercussions. The strategy involves awareness-raising, training and dissemination actions, including the “*Awareness-raising session on the prevention of trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation in travel and tourism*”, aimed at tourism service providers of establishments committed to the *National Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Adolescents in the Travel and Tourism Sector* and the general public.
- The Inter-Ministerial Commission to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Trafficking in Persons Crimes and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of these Crimes, in partnership with Aeromexico Aviation and within the framework of the Blue Heart campaign of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, has promoted the design of a “*Card for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons*”,¹¹⁷ which is found on all of the airline’s aircraft, both on domestic and international routes, with the aim of raising awareness among the airline’s collaborators and users about warning signs in the transfer phase.

¹¹⁵ Combined sixth and seventh regular reports that Mexico was due to submit in 2020, under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 18 December 2020]. Par. 241.

¹¹⁶ Further information available at: <https://sistemas.sectur.gob.mx/dgtic-app-114/web/prointe.cfm>

¹¹⁷ Available from:

http://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/work/models/Comision_Intersecretarial/Documentos/imagenes/multimedia/TRIPTICO_CORAZON_AZUL.pdf

- The Inter-Ministerial Commission, in coordination with the Executive Commission for Victim Assistance and with the support of the hotel sector, implemented a “National Strategy for Identifying and Reporting Cases of Trafficking in Persons in conjunction with the Hotel Sector”, which aims to shed light on and prevent the problem of trafficking in persons in the hotel industry, through the training and awareness-raising of users and staff working in hotels.¹¹⁸
- The *Volaris* company and ECPAT Mexico developed an “Eyes in the Sky” Campaign,¹¹⁹ which aims to prevent the trafficking of children and adolescents for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism sector, offering information on how to detect signs and notify the airline’s personnel.

In **PERU**, a number of campaigns are also being implemented, aimed at the prevention of sexual exploitation and related issues, promoted by various public institutions:¹²⁰

- “Let’s Act Now” campaign¹²¹ of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations, which promotes timely action by citizens to prevent sexual violence against girls and adolescent women.
- “Blue Heart” campaign, led by the Ministry of the Interior, whose actions seek to prevent trafficking in persons.
- “Connect without risk” communication strategy,¹²² promoted by the MIMP in coordination with the Joining Forces Platform, whose objective is to inform adolescents, mothers, fathers, guardians, caregivers and teachers on topics such as *cyberbullying*, *grooming*, *sextortion*, *sexting*, online sexual exploitation, human trafficking, risks associated with online games and viral social media challenges, so that they are able to identify the dangers that exist in virtual environments and acquire skills to prevent them. This strategy contains 4 videos of interest: the first aimed at informing and raising awareness among adult caregivers about the risks that children and adolescents may encounter online. In a second video, the protagonist is a teenager who speaks to her peers and gives them

¹¹⁸ Material used within the framework of the Strategy available at:

http://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/work/models/Comision_Intersecretariahttp://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/work/models/Comision_Intersecretarial/Documentos/imagenes/multimedia/TRIPTICO.pdf

http://www.comisioncontralatrata.segob.gob.mx/work/models/Comision_Intersecretarial/Documentos/imagenes/multimedia/TRIPTICO_Espacios_hoteleros3.pdf

¹¹⁹ Available at: <https://cms.volaris.com/es/informacion-util/ojos-en-el-cielo/>

¹²⁰ The State of Peru’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹²¹ Further information about the campaign:

<https://www.gob.pe/institucion/aurora/campa%C3%B1as/44098-campana-actuemos-ya-salvemos-a-las-ninas-de-la-violencia-sexual>

¹²² Further information related to the campaign available at:

<https://www.gob.pe/institucion/mimp/campa%C3%B1as/5585-conectate-sin-riesgos>

recommendations on protecting themselves against online dangers. The third video raises awareness among children and adolescents about the dangers they might encounter in video games. The fourth highlights the importance of prioritizing their well-being in the face of viral social media challenges.

- “*Educational Programmes to Prevent Sexual Violence against Girls and Boys in Primary Education*” Service, implemented by the Ministry of Education, whose objective is to strengthen the skills of students to prevent sexual violence.¹²³

¹²³ Combined sixth and seventh regular reports that Peru was due to submit in 2023, under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 21 March 2024].

4. PROTECTION

This section seeks to discover legislative and legal progress made in the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.

4.1. Regulatory Framework

4.1.1 International Legislation

The following chart shows the ratification or accession (a) status in States party to this report, of various international treaties related to sexual exploitation, trafficking in and smuggling of children, adolescents and women.

	Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 November 1989	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 25 May 2000	Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors 18 March 1994	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 18 December 1979	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 6 October 1999	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Belem do Pará Convention") 9 June 1994	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 15 November 2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children "Palermo Protocol" 15 November 2000	Rome Statute 17 July 1998
CANADA	13 Dec. 1991	14 Sep. 2005	-	10 Dec. 1981	18 Oct. 2002	-	13 May 2002	13 May 2002	7 July 2000
CHILE	13 Aug. 1990	6 Feb. 2003		7 Dec. 1989	12 Mar. 2020	24 Oct. 1996	29 Nov. 2004	29 Nov. 2004	29 June 2009
COLOMBIA	28 Jan. 1991	11 Nov. 2003	12 June 2000	19 Jan. 1982	23 Jan. 2007	3 Oct. 1996	4 Aug. 2004	4 Aug. 2004	5 Aug. 2002
ECUADOR	23 Mar. 1990	30 Jan. 2004	20 May 2002	9 Nov. 1981	5 Feb. 2002	30 June 1995	17 Sep. 2002	17 Sep. 2002	5 Feb. 2002
GUATEMALA	6 June 1990	9 May 2002		12 Aug. 1982	9 Mar. 2002	4 Jan. 1995	25 Sep. 2003	1 Apr. 2004 a	2 Apr. 2012
GUYANA	14 Jan. 1991	30 July 2010 a	-	17 July 1980	-	8 Jan. 1996	14 Sep. 2004 a	14 Sep. 2004 a	24 Sep. 2004
MEXICO	21 Sep. 1990	15 Mar. 2002	-	23 Mar. 1981	15 Mar. 2002	19 June 1998	4 Mar. 2003	4 Mar. 2003	28 Oct. 2005
PERU	4 Sep. 1990	8 May 2002	20 Apr. 2004	13 Sep. 1982	9 Apr. 2001	2 Apr. 1996	23 Jan. 2002	23 Jan. 2002	10 Nov. 2001

4.1.2. National Legislation

Below are lists of the main laws in force in the States in relation to the sexual exploitation, trafficking in and smuggling of children, indicated in response to the consultation carried out or in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

CANADA

Criminal Code (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46)

- ✓ Prohibits all forms of sexual contact between adults and children under the age of 16 (Arts. 151 and 152).
- ✓ Classifies as “sexual exploitation” proposals, invitations, touching or insinuations of sexual practice, towards oneself or third parties, when the victims are 16 or 17 years old and there is a relationship of trust, authority or dependence with their aggressor (Art. 153).
- ✓ Defines other types of sexual offences that, although not specific to children and adolescents, include them (Arts. 271, 272 and 273).
- ✓ Prohibits trafficking in persons under the age of 18 for the purpose of exploitation (Arts. 279.01 and 279.011) and the obtaining of benefits from trafficking in persons and the retention of documents (Arts. 279.02 and 279.03), with maximum sentences of life imprisonment.
- ✓ Criminalizes “child pornography”, in its different actions and performing roles (Art. 163.1), with varying penalties according to the role played, with a maximum of 14 years.
- ✓ Prohibits the marriage of persons under the age of 16 (Art. 293.2).
- ✓ Allows for the prosecution of Canadian citizens or permanent residents who commit sexual offences against children abroad (Art. 7.4.1).
- ✓ Recognizes a number of means of protection for victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings, such as: taking statements from witnesses without the public or through screens; allowing support persons for children and adolescents and people with disabilities while giving statements; ordering the appointment of lawyers for cross-examination of victims in cases where the accused defend themselves; protection of the identity of witnesses and in certain cases, express prohibition of the identification of children under 18 years of age; among others (Arts. 486 and 715).

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (S.C. 2001, c. 27).

Addresses the organization of illegal entry into Canada, including child trafficking (Art. 118).

Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (S.C. 2015, c. 13, s. 2)

- ✓ Indicates a series of victims' rights in criminal proceedings, in particular, the following: Right to information, participation, protection and restitution.
- ✓ Ensures measures to protect victims from intimidation and reprisals.
- ✓ Provides a complaint mechanism for victims if their rights are infringed or denied by federal entities.

CHILE

Act 21430 - On Guarantees and Protection of Child Rights (2022)

- ✓ Creates a *System of Guarantees and Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents*, which positions children as holders of rights.
- ✓ Enshrines the right of every child and adolescent to protection against economic exploitation, "commercial sexual exploitation" and child labour (Art. 37) and mandates the State to adopt measures in the areas of prevention, protection and punishment.
- ✓ Recognizes the "right to due process, effective judicial protection and specialization, noting that in all administrative and judicial proceedings, their right to rational and fair process must be safeguarded, as well as their rights to be heard and informed about the applicable procedure and the rights that support it, as well as the right to legal and judicial representation, the right to appeal, and to submit appropriate and independent evidence"¹²⁴ (Art. 150)

Criminal Code¹²⁵

- ✓ Classifies and criminalizes conduct related to sexual exploitation and "child pornography material", including:
 - a) "promoting and facilitating the sexual exploitation of persons under the age of 18 (art. 367);
 - b) obtaining sexual performance from a person under the age of 18 in return for any remuneration (art. 367 ter);
 - c) marketing, importing, exporting, distributing, disseminating or exhibiting pornography or sexual exploitation material, whatever its medium, as well as prohibiting the production, acquisition and storage of such material;
 - d) transmitting, by means of technical devices, images or sounds relating to a situation or interaction that enables witnessing, observing or hearing

¹²⁴ Response of Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 20.

¹²⁵ Amendments introduced through Act No. 21522, which introduces a new paragraph in title VII of Book II of the Criminal Code, relating to "commercial sexual exploitation" and "pornographic material" affecting children and adolescents (2022).

the performance of a sexual action or an action of sexual meaning, by a person under the age of eighteen”.¹²⁶

- ✓ “Establishes special aggravating circumstances (arts. 368 and 368 bis (...)) and special rules regarding jurisdiction in conduct relating to material abuse of children and adolescents (article 367 quinquies (...)), such as the special punishment of definitive closure of establishments or premises in which these crimes are committed, with awareness of their owner or manager, or when the latter cannot fail to know about them (article 368 ter (...))”.¹²⁷
- ✓ “Regulates the possibility of requesting special investigative procedures from the relevant criminal court, such as the interception and recording of telecommunications and the capture, recording and surreptitious recording of images or sounds in closed places or that are not freely accessible to the public in the face of the commission of this type of crime”¹²⁸ (Art. 369).
- ✓ Criminalizes the offence of trafficking in persons (Art. 411 quater); the fact that the victim is a child or adolescent being an aggravating factor.
- ✓ Establishes the non-applicability of the statute of limitations to sexual crimes committed against children and adolescents (Art. 94 bis).¹²⁹

Act 19696 – Establishes a Code of Criminal Procedure (2000)

Regulates the “rights of victims in criminal proceedings, in particular those of victims of sexual exploitation (article 109); special protection measures for victims of sexual exploitation and sexual violence (article 109 bis); the duty of secondary prevention (article 109 ter); and taking early statements from child victims of sexual exploitation and/or sexual violence in order to avoid secondary victimization (article 191 ter)”.¹³⁰

Act 21523 – Modifies various legal bodies to improve procedural guarantees, protect the rights of victims of sexual crimes and prevent their revictimization (2022)

Introduces reforms to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, incorporating a series of rights for victims of sexual crimes and sexual exploitation, including: “a) have access to judicial assistance and representation; b) not be prosecuted, stigmatized, discriminated against or questioned regarding their account, conduct or lifestyle; c) obtain a timely, effective and justified response; d) right to an investigation conducted with due diligence, from an intersectoral approach, with a gender and human rights perspective; e) receive protection, when their life, integrity, sexual indemnity or personal freedom is threatened or violated; f) protection of personal data, privacy, honour and security; g) participate in the proceedings by receiving clear, timely and full information and; h) that measures be adopted to prevent secondary victimization”.¹³¹

¹²⁶ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 17.

¹²⁷ Ibid, p. 17- 18.

¹²⁸ Ibid, p. 18.

¹²⁹ Added by Act No. 21,160 - Declares sexual crimes committed against minors not subject to statutes of limitations (2019).

¹³⁰ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 18.

¹³¹ Ibid.

Act 20507 – Categorizes the crimes of migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons and establishes regulations for their prevention and more effective criminal prosecution (2011)¹³²

Introduces amendments to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure for the classification and prosecution of the crimes of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

Act 21057 – Regulates videotaped interviews and other safeguards for underage persons who are victims of sex crimes (2018)

Establishes a regulatory framework for the protection of child and adolescent victims of violent and sex crimes (including crimes of sexual exploitation) in criminal proceedings, establishing operating principles for all actors involved in the process. Its purpose is to regulate videotaped investigative and judicial interviews as a tool to prevent secondary victimization.

COLOMBIA¹³³

Political Constitution of Colombia (1991)

- ✓ Establishes the fundamental rights of children and adolescents, including protection from all forms of violence and violations (Arts. 44 and 45).
- ✓ Provides for the responsibility of ensuring the protection of victims and other participants in the criminal process, with restorative justice terms and mechanisms as defined by law (Art. 250, no. 7).

Act 1098 of 2006 – Issues the Children and Adolescents Code

- ✓ Recognizes the rights of children and adolescents, including the right to be protected against “rape, inducement to, encouragement to and constraint in prostitution; sexual exploitation, pornography and any other conduct that violates the sexual freedom, integrity and training of the minor”.¹³⁴
- ✓ Develops an Administrative Process for the Restoration of Rights, which is carried out in the face of a threat or violation of rights and aims to restore the dignity of children and adolescents as holders of rights and with the capacity to exercise them.

¹³² Reported in: Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Chile due in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 4 March 2021].

¹³³ It should be noted that, in its response to the Enquiry Form, the State of Colombia refers to a broader set of laws related to the issue. A selection of these is listed below.

¹³⁴ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 23.

Act 679 of 2001 – This Act contains a statute on preventing and counteracting the exploitation of children, child pornography and sex tourism with children, pursuant to article 44 of the Constitution

- ✓ Establishes a series of prohibitions and sanctions specific to suppliers or servers of global information networks, administrators and users, regarding the hosting of pornographic links or material; and duties regarding reporting them (Arts. 7, 8 and 10).
- ✓ Promotes the implementation of awareness-raising measures (Art. 12); the development of an information system on sex crimes against children and adolescents; tourism awareness programmes (Art. 16); training for police personnel (Arts. 25, 26 and 28), among others.

Decree 1609 of 2002 of the Ministry of Communications. Which regulates Article 5 of Act 679 of 2001

Regulates Act 679 to prevent children and adolescents from gaining access to pornography on the Internet and other information networks and to prevent such tools from being used for the purpose of sexual exploitation or offering commercial services that involve the sexual abuse of children and adolescents. Sets out the responsibilities of Internet providers in preventing the dissemination of such content, as well as penalties for non-compliance.

Act 1336 of 2009 – supplementing and reinforcing the provisions of Act 679 of 2001, on combating exploitation, pornography and sex tourism involving children and adolescents

- ✓ Assigns specific functions and roles to various government entities at the national level, with the aim of preventing sexual exploitation.
- ✓ Strengthens the self-regulatory actions of the public and private sectors of tourism and telecommunications.
- ✓ “Stipulates the actions to be carried out in terms of awareness-raising and information by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, regarding the phenomenon of sex tourism with children and adolescents”¹³⁵(Art. 6).
- ✓ “Makes it compulsory to process and consolidate ‘information by means of a single format that must be completed by governmental and non-governmental organizations, and carry out at least every two years investigations to compile statistical information’ regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents”¹³⁶ (Art. 36).
- ✓ Amends the Criminal Code, adding article 219 on “sex tourism” again and modifying article 218 on “pornography with persons under 18 years of age”.

¹³⁵ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 24.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

Act 599 of 2000 – In which the Criminal Code is issued¹³⁷

The following behaviours, among others, are classified and penalized:

- Inducement to and constraint in prostitution (whether of legal age or not) (Art. 213 and Art. 214);
- Procuring with an underage person (Art. 213-A);
- Encouraging children to engage in prostitution (Art. 217);
- “Demanding commercial sexual exploitation of a person under 18 years of age” (Art. 217-A). Aggravating circumstances are provided for that may increase the penalty to 32 years imprisonment when the aggressor uses the advantage of anonymity as a tourist or traveller, or is armed, or when the conduct involves coexistence where the girl is handed over by her caregivers in exchange for some type of benefit for herself or her caregivers;
- Pornography with persons under the age of 18 (Art. 218);
- “Sex tourism” (Art. 219);
- Using or facilitating means of communication to offer sexual activities with persons under the age of 18 (Art. 219-A);
- Trafficking in persons (Art. 188B);
- Trafficking in underage persons (Art. 188C).

Act 906 of 2004 – In which the Code of Criminal Procedure is issued (amended in accordance with Decree 2770 of 2004)

Recognizes rights for the victims of crimes. “Victims of any crime shall have the right: a) To receive, throughout the proceedings, humane and dignified treatment; b) To the protection of their privacy, safeguards for their safety, and that of their relatives and witnesses; c) To a prompt and comprehensive reparation of the harm suffered, at the expense of the perpetrator or participant of the unjust act or of the third parties called to respond under the terms of this code; d) To be heard and to be provided with the provision of evidence; e) To receive from the first contact with the authorities and under the terms established in this code, information relevant to the protection of their interests and to know the truth of the events that make up the circumstances of the unjust act of which they have been victims; f) To have their interests considered when adopting a discretionary decision on the exercise of the prosecution of the unjust act; g) To be informed about the final decision regarding criminal prosecution; to appear, as appropriate, before the judge who monitors safeguards, and to file appeals before the presiding judge, when appropriate; h) To be assisted during the trial and the comprehensive reparation process, if required

¹³⁷ “CHAPTER IV OF TITLE IV ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. Refers to crimes where the means used by the aggressor is the objectification of the victim; that is, the victim becomes a commodity and is used sexually by the aggressor. This chapter was amended through Act 1329 of 2009; before this reform, it was called ‘On Procuring’ and referred only to crimes in which a third party ‘pimp’ profited or benefited from ‘sex trade’ involving another person. With the modification of this chapter’s name, the protection coverage of these crimes was extended and all actors and participants in the chain of sexual exploitation were included. This involves not only the conduct of the pimp, but also that of the intermediaries and, in particular, of the direct sexual exploiter (the ‘client’, so-called) or plaintiff in the case of Children and Adolescents” (The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 28).

in the interest of justice, by a lawyer who may be appointed ex officio; i) To receive comprehensive assistance in their recovery under the terms indicated by law; j) To be assisted free of charge by a translator or interpreter in the event of not knowing the official language, or of not being able to perceive the language through their senses” (Art. 11).¹³⁸

Act 1719 of 2014 – By which some articles of Acts 599 of 2000 and 906 of 2004 are amended and measures are adopted to guarantee access to justice for victims of sexual violence, especially sexual violence in armed conflict and other provisions are stipulated

“Its purpose is to adopt measures to guarantee the right of access to justice for victims of sexual violence, especially sexual violence associated with the domestic armed conflict.”¹³⁹

Act 1257 of 2008 – Regulates on awareness-raising, prevention, and punishment for acts of violence and discrimination against women, amends the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and Act 294 of 1996, and issues other provisions

Sets out forms of violence against women (including sexual violence) and the rights of victims.

Act 2137 of 2021 – By which the national early warning system for the prevention of sexual violence against children and adolescents is created, Act 1146 of 2007 is amended and other provisions are issued

“Its purpose is to develop a National Early Warning System for the Prevention of Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, amend Act 1146 of 2007 and establish measures that coordinate the identification, care, prevention and reduction of the main risk factors of sexual violence against minors in Colombia.”¹⁴⁰

Act 2081 of 2021 – Which declares that there is no statute of limitations in the case of crimes against sexual freedom, integrity and training, or the crime of incest, committed against persons under 18 years of age - “No more silence”.¹⁴¹

Declares that there is no statute of limitations for sex crimes against persons under the age of 18.

¹³⁸ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 22.

¹³⁹ Ibid, p. 26.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid, p. 27.

¹⁴¹ Reported in: Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021].

ECUADOR

Act 100 – Children and Adolescents Code (2003)

- ✓ Recognizes the rights of children and adolescents in Ecuador.
- ✓ Defines the concepts of sexual exploitation (Art. 69) and child trafficking (Art. 70).
- ✓ Makes it compulsory to report knowledge of a criminal act of this nature (Art. 72) and immediate intervention for protection (Art. 73).

Comprehensive Constitutional Criminal Code (2014, last amendment 2024)

Classifies the following offences:

- Trafficking in persons (Art. 91);
- Sexual exploitation of persons (Art. 100), it being an aggravating circumstance when the victim is a child or adolescent;
- “Forced prostitution” (Art. 101);
- “Sex tourism” (Art. 102);
- Pornography involving children or adolescents (Art. 103);
- Commercialization of pornography with the use of children and adolescents (Art. 104);
- Use of persons for public display for purposes of a sexual nature (Art. 172);
- Sexual extortion (Art. 172.1);
- Contact for sexual purposes with children under the age of eighteen by electronic means (Art. 173);
- Offer of “sexual services” to persons under the age of eighteen by electronic means (Art. 174).

Civil Code – Official Registry Reform 526 (2015)

Prohibits the marriage of persons under the age of 18.

Constitutional Act against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (2023) and its regulations

Contains mechanisms for preventing and responding to trafficking for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation and the smuggling of migrants.

GUATEMALA

Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala

“Establishes fundamental principles and rights for the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation and to guarantee their comprehensive well-being in the country.”¹⁴²

Decree 27-2003 – Act on the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (2003)

Aims to promote the protection of children and adolescents in the enjoyment of their rights, including protection against all forms of sexual exploitation or abuse (Art. 56). Provides for “prevention, protection, sanction and interagency coordination measures to safeguard their comprehensive well-being and their right to a childhood free of violence and exploitation”.¹⁴³

Decree 17-73 – Criminal Code (1973, with amendments in 2009 and 2022)

Classifies and punishes criminal conduct related to SEC (see amendments introduced below).

Decree 9-2009 – Act against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (2009)

- ✓ Its purpose is the prevention, repression, punishment and eradication of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons, as well as the care and protection of their victims and compensation for the damage caused.
- ✓ Creates a Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET).
- ✓ Creates and modifies crimes in matters of child sexual exploitation as defined in the Criminal Code (1973), incorporating the perspective of sexual exploitation rather than procuring or corruption of minors:
 - “Violation of sexual intimacy” (Art. 190);
 - “Promotion, facilitation or encouragement of prostitution” (Art. 191);
 - “Promotion, facilitation or encouragement of aggravated prostitution” (Art. 192);
 - “Paid sexual activities with underage persons” (Art. 193);
 - “Remuneration for the promotion, facilitation or encouragement of prostitution” (Art. 193 bis);
 - “Production of pornography with underage persons” (Art. 194);

¹⁴² The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 19.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

- “Commercialization or dissemination of pornography using underage persons” (Art. 195 bis);
- “Possession of pornography using underage persons” (Art. 195 Ter);
- “Use of tourist activities for the commercial sexual exploitation of underage persons” (Art. 195 Quater).

Decree 11-2022 – Amendments to Decree No. 17-73 of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Criminal Code, in relation to crimes committed against children and adolescents through technological means (Cybercrime Act)

Adds to the Criminal Code the crimes of “Seduction of children or adolescents through the use of information technologies” (Art. 190 bis) and “Blackmail of children or adolescents through the use of information technologies or technological means” (Art. 190 Ter), which punish those who contact, seduce and threaten children and adolescents through the use of information and communication technologies.

Decree 21-2006 – Act against Organized Crime (2006)

Aims to combat various forms of organized crime, including the crime of trafficking in persons, which includes the sexual exploitation of children as one of its forms.

Decree 28-2010 – Alba-Keneth Warning System Act (2010)

Establishes a comprehensive warning system for the immediate and effective search for missing or at-risk children and adolescents.

GUYANA¹⁴⁴

Childcare & Protection Agency Act No. 2 of 2009

Creates a *Childcare & Protection Agency* and determines its area of responsibility, including: preventing, reducing and addressing the effects of abuse and neglect against children.

¹⁴⁴ The information for Guyana is the same as that submitted in the 15th Report to the Secretary General of the OAS, 2018. Available at: <https://www.annaobserva.org/es/xv-informe-al-secretario-general-de-la-oea-2018/>. The State does not provide information in this regard in response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, beyond mentioning the Child Care and Protection Agency Act.

Sexual Offences Act No. 7 of 2010
“[...] introduces new or more definitive offences in relation to children, such as grooming, voyeurism, incest, relations of trust, and gender-neutral definitions of all offences” ¹⁴⁵
The Protection of Children Act No. 17 of 2009
Provides for the protection of children at risk, those in difficult circumstances and children in general.
The Prevention of Crimes Act No. 11 of 2008
Provides for the mandatory supervision of persons convicted of the following offences against children: domestic violence, sexual abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, pornography, incest, prostitution and kidnapping.
The Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act No. 2 of 2005
“[...] trafficking in persons convictions carry sentences ranging from three years to life imprisonment and include confiscation of assets related to trafficking activity” ¹⁴⁶
Criminal Law (Offences) Act No. 16 of 2005
“[...] covers rape, attempted rape, incest (chap. 8.01 title 7) ‘buggery’ (section 53), abduction of unmarried girls (sections 84-86), detention of females with intent to have carnal knowledge (section 87), while art. 350 of the Act regulates selling, publishing or exhibiting obscene matter [...]” ¹⁴⁷
Marriage Act (Amendment) (2005)

¹⁴⁵ Country Report, 2010: 103, in: IIN-OAS. 2018. *Addressing Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking in and Smuggling of Children And Teens In CARICOM Member States, 20 years after Stockholm*. 15th Report to the OAS Secretary General 2018. At the time of the State’s Report to the Committee, this was a bill; since 2010, it has become law, in force in the country.

¹⁴⁶ Country Report, 2010: 110, in: IIN-OAS. 2018. *Addressing Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking in and Smuggling of Children And Teens In CARICOM Member States, 20 years after Stockholm*. 15th Report to the OAS Secretary General 2018.

¹⁴⁷ Country Report, 2010: 89, in: IIN-OAS. 2018. *Addressing Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking in and Smuggling of Children And Teens In CARICOM Member States, 20 years after Stockholm*. 15th Report to the OAS Secretary General 2018.

MEXICO

Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico (1917)

Article 19 stipulates ex officio pretrial detention for certain offences, including sexual violence against children and adolescents and trafficking in persons.

General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2014)

- ✓ Recognizes the rights of children and adolescents.
- ✓ Promotes their protection against all forms of violence, mistreatment, abuse, trafficking in persons and exploitation (Art. 103).
- ✓ Establishes the obligation of the federal authorities, federal and municipal entities and of territorial demarcations of Mexico City, to take the necessary measures, within the framework of their respective responsibilities, to prevent, address and punish situations involving trafficking, sexual exploitation – with or without commercial purposes – or any other type of exploitation of children and adolescents (Art. 47).

General Act on Victims (2013)

Recognizes the rights of victims in criminal proceedings.

Art. 7 identifies as victims to be protected persons (not exclusively children and adolescents) who have experienced trafficking, among others.

Federal Criminal Code (1931)

Provides for the following offences:

- a) trafficking in persons;
- b) “pornography using persons under 18 years of age” (Art. 202);
- c) “sex tourism involving persons under 18 years of age” (Arts. 203 and 203 bis);
- d) “procuring of persons under the age of 18” (Art. 204).

These crimes have no statute of limitations (Art. 107 Bis) and include aggravating factors that may increase penalties to twice the usual sentence; among these factors are the existence of family bonds, power/authority roles, use of violence.

General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes (2012)

Its purpose is, among others, to establish the types of crimes in the field of trafficking in persons and their penalties. *“Any intentional action or omission of one or more persons to capture, entrap, transport, transfer, retain, deliver, receive or house one or more persons for the purpose of exploitation will be sentenced to between 5 and 15 years imprisonment and from one thousand to twenty thousand days’ fine, without prejudice to the corresponding sanctions*

for each of the crimes committed, provided for and sanctioned in this Act and in the relevant criminal codes. Exploitation of a person shall be understood as (...) III. Prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, in the terms of articles 13 to 20 of this Act” (Art. 10).

Regulating the General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes (2013)

Provides for the coordination of the Federal Government for the prevention, care, investigation, prosecution, eradication and punishment of crimes related to trafficking in persons. It outlines the actions to be implemented to ensure access to justice and comprehensive care for victims.

Migration Act (2011)

Seeks to strengthen the contribution of the migration authorities to public and border security, regional security and the fight against organized crime, especially that linked to the trafficking or kidnapping of migrants and trafficking in persons in all of its forms.

PERU

Political Constitution of Peru

States that “the supreme purpose of society and the State is the defence of persons and respect for their dignity” (Art. 1); it also stipulates that “The community and the State shall especially protect the child, the adolescent (...)” (Art. 4).

Act No. 27337 - Children’s Code

- ✓ Recognizes the rights of children and adolescents.
- ✓ Notes that “forced labour and economic exploitation, as well as forcible recruitment, prostitution, trafficking, sale and smuggling of children and adolescents, and all other forms of exploitation, are considered to be extreme forms that affect their personal integrity” (Art. 4).

Act No. 28251 – Amends Articles 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 176-A, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 183-A, and incorporates Articles 179-A, 181-A, 182-A into Chapters IX, X and XI of Title IV, Book Two of the Criminal Code (2004)

Contributes to the protection of children and adolescents against abuse and sexual exploitation by making amendments to the Criminal Code in the crimes of abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking in and smuggling of children and adolescents. Includes, among others, the legal concept of *User-client*, “*Child sexual tourism*”, *publications in the media on crimes involving the sexual freedom of minors*.

Act No. 30963 – Amends the Criminal Code in relation to penalties for the crime of sexual exploitation in its various forms and related crimes, to protect with special emphasis children, adolescents and women (2019)

Expressly includes the term “sexual exploitation of children and adolescents” and raises the penalty to life imprisonment.

Act No. 28950 – Against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling (2007)

Criminalizes trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and provides a framework for the care of victims. It is considered an aggravating circumstance when the victims are children or adolescents.

Act No. 31146 – Amending the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and Act 28950 against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, in order to systematize the articles referring to the crimes of trafficking in persons and exploitation, considering these as crimes against human dignity (2021)

Its purpose is to systematize articles referring to the crimes of trafficking in persons and exploitation, and to consider these crimes as being against human dignity. It makes a distinction between human trafficking (Chapter I) and exploitation (Chapter II), the latter including the sexual exploitation of children.

Act No. 30096 - Cyber Crimes Act (2013)

Establishes modifications to the Criminal Code, incorporating penalties for those who “proposition children and adolescents for sexual purposes by technological means”.

Act No. 30254 - on Promoting the Safe and Responsible Use of Information and Communication Technologies by Children and Adolescents (2014)

Provides for measures in favour of the protection of children and adolescents against the misuse of technological tools. These include obligations for Internet service providers to protect children and adolescents from pornography or content that is inappropriate for their age.

Act No. 30364 - to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women and Members of the Family Group (2015)

Establishes mechanisms, measures and comprehensive policies for the prevention, care and protection of victims of violence against women and members of the family group; as well as reparation for the harm caused.

Supreme Decree No. 005-2022 – MIMP

Modifies the Regulations of Act No. 30364 to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women and Members of the Family Group¹⁴⁸ and incorporates the *sexual exploitation of children and adolescents* as one of the forms of violence.

Supreme Decree No. 008-2021 – MIMP

Adopts a *National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents to 2030*, which has as its Priority Objective 03: Reduce the risk of the lack of protection of children and adolescents, and as Guideline 03.04: Increase timely access to services aimed at the care, recovery and reintegration of children and adolescents who are victims of violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

4.2. Access to justice for children and adolescents

In **CANADA**, support is provided to victims and witnesses through various services and legal provisions, in order to facilitate their participation in criminal proceedings. As stated above, the Criminal Code establishes a series of protection mechanisms that seek to guarantee their participation, ensuring their integrity and avoiding their revictimization, such as: taking statements from witnesses away from the public or using video screens; allowing support persons to be present during the statements; allowing statements to be heard on closed-circuit television; protection of the identity of witnesses and in certain cases, express prohibition of identifying persons under 18 years of age; among others (Arts. 486 and 715). In addition, the Courts prioritize reports of crimes involving children.

CHILE has carried out regulatory and institutional changes to promote the participation and protection of children and adolescents in judicial proceedings. In relation to reporting a crime, there are free telephone lines and websites to report SEC and trafficking, although not all are accessible to children and adolescents. For investigation, the Prosecutor's Office has *Specialized Units on Human Rights, Gender Violence and Sexual Offences*, in charge of carrying out the investigation of cases related to crimes against the sexual indemnity of children or adolescents. Mechanisms for the protection of victims and witnesses giving statements are also provided for (such as videotaped interviews); as are general measures (aimed at protecting the identity and privacy of victims) and specific measures (referring to protection against aggressors) for the

¹⁴⁸ Regulation approved by Supreme Decree No. 009-2016-MIMP.

protection of victims and their families, which the court with criminal jurisdiction must adopt, ex officio or at the request of any of the parties involved (Act No. 21,057 of 2018 and Act No. 21,523 of 2022).¹⁴⁹

The Office of the Ombudsman for Children highlights as a positive tool the *Interagency Investigative Protocol on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (2023)*, which includes interagency commitments to guarantee the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation during criminal proceedings¹⁵⁰ (see section 2.3 of this report).

In **COLOMBIA**, the Prosecutor General’s Office has “a *User Support Manual, a Guide for support, guidance and reception of complaints from children and adolescents as subjects of special protection* and with guidelines for differential care, which adapts the services offered to the age and special circumstances of the development of the person”;¹⁵¹ as well as a “*Protocol for investigation and prosecution of sexual violence* (Resolution 01774 of June 2016), which contains a checklist and practical tools for attention, investigation and prosecution”.¹⁵²

Through Act 906 of 2004, protection strategies are recognized for child and adolescent victims and witnesses of sexual violence during criminal proceedings, such as the possibility of taking advance evidence.¹⁵³ Legal Procurators attend all court proceedings in Colombia when there are children or adolescents involved and have the power to protect them with measures such as: avoiding exposure to aggressors, using technological means for judicial proceedings, requesting the presence of a psychologist for the proceedings in which their testimony is required, requesting that hearings not be public, among others established in Act 1098.¹⁵⁴

In **ECUADOR**, both the Council of the Judiciary and the Prosecutor General’s Office have developed and implemented various strategies and tools aimed at guaranteeing access to justice for children and adolescents who are victims of sexual offences.

The Plenary of the Council of the Judiciary resolved, by Resolution No. 110A-2018 of 27 Nov. 2018, “to declare as a top priority the pre-procedural and procedural treatment for crimes against the sexual and reproductive integrity of children and adolescents”, to ensure effective investigation

¹⁴⁹ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021]. Par. 54.

¹⁵² Ibid. Par. 60.

¹⁵³ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021].

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

and prosecution of cases.¹⁵⁵ In addition, this body adopted specialized tools, which are mandatory for justice operators, including: a *Guide for the Evaluation and Determination of the Best Interest of the Child in Judicial Proceedings* (adopted by Resolution 012-2021) and the *Ecuadorian Forensic Interview Protocol* (adopted by Resolution 116A-2018), and its respective Application Guide, which seeks to guarantee specialized listening of children and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence, providing respectful treatment throughout the process and avoiding acts of revictimization.¹⁵⁶ It also prepared a “Comprehensive Training Plan for the Specialization of Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Technical and Jurisdictional Teams involved in the Investigation, Prosecution and Judgement of Violent Offences against Women, Children and Adolescents, Femicide, Crimes against Sexual and Reproductive Integrity”.¹⁵⁷

For its part, since 2020 the State’s Prosecutor General’s Office has been managing an online reporting channel through which crimes of gender-based violence and crimes involving CSEC (such as those mentioned in the table above) can be reported.

Likewise, in 2023, it developed two tools to strengthen access to justice for children: *Instructions for the Specialized Care Subprocess for Children and Adolescents Victims of Crimes Relating to their Sexual Integrity* and the *Criminal Policy to support the Application of Instructions to provide Care for Child Victims of Crimes Relating to Sexual Integrity*.¹⁵⁸ Both tools promote guidelines to provide specialized and timely care for children as a group requiring priority attention as victims of crimes related to their sexual integrity, from the attention and reception of reports to the application of judicial expertise, “applying the approaches of childhood and adolescence, gender and principles such as participation, right to be heard, best interests of the child, non-revictimization, etc.”¹⁵⁹ In addition, it prepared a *Criminal Policy of Mandatory Admission to the SPAVT of Children and Adolescents in Cases of Crimes against their Sexual Integrity*,¹⁶⁰ “which provides guidelines for prosecutors to request mandatory entry into the National System of Protection and Assistance to Victims, Witnesses and Other Participants of Criminal Proceedings (SPAVT, in Spanish) in the case of children and adolescents victims of crimes against their sexual integrity, taking into consideration their vulnerability and need for protection”.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁵ Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023]. Par. 87.

¹⁵⁶ Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023].

¹⁵⁷ Ibid. Par. 45.

¹⁵⁸ Available at: <https://www.fiscalia.gob.ec/politicas-y-directrices-institucionales/>

¹⁵⁹ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

Other public policies of interest issued by this Office are: *Policy Guidelines for the Prevention of the Criminal Phenomenon of Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, and their Access to Justice* (2020); *Criminal Policy for Action in Alleged Cases of Crimes against Sexual Integrity in Which Medical Examination and Sampling are Required* (2022); *Criminal Policy on Guidelines for the Criminal Phenomenon of Trafficking in Persons* (2022); *Criminal Policy for the Prevention of Gender Violence - Guidelines for Action on Receiving Reports and Requesting Protection Measures in Any Type of Violence, be it Physical, Psychological or Sexual* (2023).¹⁶²

Since 2019, **GUATEMALA** has had Criminal Courts of First Instance and Criminal Sentencing Courts with Specialized jurisdiction in Crimes of Trafficking in Persons, including crimes of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, with intervention in the departments of Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, Petén and Zacapa. “Within the framework of specialized justice and in order to protect children from revictimization in proceedings, these jurisdictional bodies have a Gesell Chamber, closed-circuit television, videoconferencing or other tools to receive the statements of children and adolescents in order to avoid their revictimization.”¹⁶³

GUYANA has had a Children’s Court since 2018 and Sexual Offences Courts since 2017, both established with UNICEF support. It also has Child Advocacy Centres (CAC), created by the Child Care and Protection Agency in 2014 and managed by civil society, which provide various strategies for the protection of children in judicial proceedings, such as videotaping forensic interviews, support in attending hearings and psychosocial support for victims and their families, making them an important support tool for Sexual Offences Courts.¹⁶⁴

In **MEXICO**, the *General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents* stipulates that in jurisdictional or administrative proceedings in which children or adolescents are involved as victims or witnesses, all authorities must guarantee, at a minimum, the following rights: to have information on the nature of the proceedings and their role in them; that participation be carried out expeditiously with the help of a legal practitioner; to have the support of a significant adult family member during the proceedings, unless otherwise decided by the court; to preserve their right to privacy; to have free access to legal, psychological and any other necessary assistance, taking into account the characteristics of the case.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶² Seventh periodic report to be submitted by Ecuador in 2023 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 13 June 2023]. Par. 3.

¹⁶³ The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁶⁴ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁶⁵ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

In addition, the National Code of Criminal Procedure, the Federal Criminal Code, the General Act on Victims (LGV) and the Regulations of the General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes in the Field of Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance to Victims of those Crimes establish procedures, reporting channels, mechanisms for participation in judicial proceedings, procedural rights and specific protection measures for child and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation (for example, prohibition of approach, police surveillance or protection, temporary transfer to a shelter facility).

In **PERU**, in 2021, the Public Policy for the Reform of the Justice System was adopted (MINJUSDH. D.S. 012-2021-JUS, 15.07.202), in the preparation of which a Working Group dedicated to discussing access to justice for children and adolescents was considered. Some tools implemented to guarantee this right are: a *“Single interview protocol for children and adolescents in a Gesell Chamber”* (PJ. R.A. 277-2019-CE-PJ, 03.07.2019) and a *“Protocol for the Judicial Participation of Children and Adolescents”* (PJ. Administrative Resolution No. 228-2016-CE-PJ, 31.08.2016).¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁶ Combined sixth and seventh regular reports that Peru was due to submit in 2023, under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 21 March 2024]. Par. 55.

5.

RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION

This section seeks to discover the measures implemented for the care, restitution of the exercise of rights and social reintegration of the victims of SEC.

5.1. Care services for child and teenage victims of sexual exploitation

In **CANADA**,¹⁶⁷ **Child Advocacy Centres (CACs)** and **Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs)** provide trauma-based, multidisciplinary care to child victims of violence, including human trafficking. Similarly, the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P)**, funded under the “Support for Survivors” pillar of the *National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence*, offers support to victims of online violence, through crisis care, connection to additional services and support during statements (in addition to reporting incidents and helping to interrupt the online circulation of harmful material).

In **CHILE**, the Specialized Protection Service for Children and Adolescents is the public body in charge of developing a programmatic offer of remedial intervention. Included in the offer are **Specialized Protection Programmes on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (PEE, in Spanish)**,¹⁶⁸ which provide outpatient care to children and adolescents who are victims of this violence. These programmes are executed by Accredited Collaborating Bodies (OCAs); the provision of the service is, therefore, mixed.

According to its Technical Guidelines (2019),¹⁶⁹ the purpose of the PEEs is “*to contribute to ensuring the protection of children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation for the full enjoyment of their rights and comprehensive development,*” through three components: individual intervention with children, intervention with the family and management of intersectoral networks. Children and adolescents enter the Programme through referrals from the relevant Family Court, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and/or agencies of the child protection network.

“There are few collaboration agreements between the Specialized Protection Service and other protection agencies on the reparations line.”¹⁷⁰

In **COLOMBIA**, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) is the State entity in charge of the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, “providing special attention to those under threat, non-observance or infringement of their rights”. “(...) in all cases where there is knowledge of the alleged violation of or threat to the rights of a child or adolescent, the relevant administrative authority (Family Advocate,

¹⁶⁷ The State of Canada’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁶⁸ It should be noted that the Specialized Protection Service is anticipating a change in the structure of its care programmes, in which the PEE specialized line will no longer provide services as such.

¹⁶⁹ Available at: <https://www.sename.cl/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Orientaciones-Tecnicas-PEE.pdf>

¹⁷⁰ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 38.

Family Commissioner or Police Inspector), shall verify the condition of the safeguards for their rights through an interdisciplinary technical team, and depending on the results, will initiate an Administrative Process for the Restoration of Rights, PARD (in Spanish),” through which the necessary and most appropriate administrative and judicial measures will be provided for the restoration of rights.¹⁷¹ To this end, the ICBF must coordinate the National Family Welfare System, in the understanding that the restoration of rights is the responsibility of the State as a whole.

In cases of sexual violence against children and adolescents, the PARD must be based on the *“Technical Guideline for the Care of Children and Adolescents with Threatened or Infringed Rights, Victims of Sexual Violence”*¹⁷² and the *“Annex to the Technical Administrative Guideline for the Action Route for the Restoration of Rights of Child and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Violence”*.¹⁷³ Approaches to trafficking cases are undertaken on the basis of *“Technical Guidelines for the care of child victims of human trafficking”*.¹⁷⁴

In **ECUADOR**, the Undersecretary for Special Protection of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES, in Spanish), through the Directorate of Special Protection Services, handles specialized services for the care of child and adolescent victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. At present, there are three **residential foster care units**: one administrated directly by the MIES, one through an agreement, and a public one without MIES funding.¹⁷⁵

The care units’ intervention process consists, in general terms, of the following stages:¹⁷⁶ Admission (with no set period); Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Diagnosis (1 month from admission); Comprehensive Care Project for Girls and Adolescents (PAINA, in Spanish), with intervention in the areas of health, education, socio-family, legal, security, and Life Project oriented towards social inclusion; Exit (after evaluation by the technical team of the process carried out, considering the cessation of risk and the individual progress achieved, and the perception of the child or adolescent victim and her family); Follow-up (twelve months); Closure.

¹⁷¹ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 43.

¹⁷² Available at:

https://www.icbf.gov.co/sites/default/files/procesos/lm18.p_lineamiento_tecnico_programa_especializado_de_atencion_victimas_de_violencia_sexual_v2.pdf

¹⁷³ Available at:

https://www.icbf.gov.co/sites/default/files/anexo_ruta_violencia_sexual_17042018.pdf.

¹⁷⁴ Available at:

https://www.icbf.gov.co/sites/default/files/procesos/lm22.p_lineamiento_tecnico_para_la_atencion_de_ninos_ninas_y_adolescentes_victimas_de_trata_de_personas_v1.pdf

¹⁷⁵ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁷⁶ It should be noted that, in response to the Enquiry Form, the State offers much more extensive and specific information on the implications and characteristics of each stage.

In the care units' intervention process, there is coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, for urgent care upon admission and subsequent comprehensive health care, including mental health (offered on the basis of the *Technical Standard for Attention to Victims of Gender-Based Violence and Serious Human Rights Violations*), and with the Secretariat for Human Rights – Comprehensive Protection Service (SPI, in Spanish), for the follow-up stage, when users are from other provinces.

For its part, the State Prosecutor General's Office, through the National System of Protection and Assistance to Victims, Witnesses and other participants in the criminal process (SPAVT, in Spanish) and the Technical Team for the support of cases of gender-based violence attached to the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation, offers primary care and security plans for people at risk, during criminal proceedings, and carries out interagency coordination with other State entities and civil society organizations to put the victim in touch with sustained care services.¹⁷⁷

It should be noted that, as indicated in the Coordination and Cooperation section, there is in Ecuador an *Interagency Operating Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons (2019)*, developed by the Interagency Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Protection of their Victims, whose objective is to ensure synchronized and coordinated response in the comprehensive care of victims of trafficking in persons, as well as for the restitution of their rights, within the scope of the responsibilities of each institution.¹⁷⁸

GUATEMALA has two specialized services for care and reparation of damage for victims (of a general nature, not specific to SEC).

On the one hand, the **Institute for the Assistance and Care of the Victim of Crime**, created by Decree No. 21-2016, which aims to provide assistance and free specialized care to victims of crime, so that they can obtain “dignified, comprehensive and transformative” reparation. To this end, it seeks to guarantee access to justice through assistance and support in the legal process, and comprehensive recovery, through medical, psychological, and social care, among others, in coordination with the agencies associated with the Institute's responsibilities.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁷ The State of Ecuador's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

In addition, the **Comprehensive Care Model for Children and Adolescents** (MAINA, in Spanish) is an immediate and comprehensive care system to provide a differentiated and efficient response to children and adolescents who are victims of violence and avoid secondary victimization, through intra- and interagency coordination. It was created by the Public Prosecutor’s Office and also includes the following State institutions: Judicial Body, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, Ministry of Social Development, Office of the Prosecutor General, Social Welfare Secretariat, Municipality of Guatemala, Institute of Public Criminal Defence, National Forensic Science Institute of Guatemala.¹⁸⁰

In **GUYANA**, **Child Advocacy Centres** (CACs) provide psychosocial support to victims of child sexual abuse to help overcome trauma, in addition to support to the Sexual Offences Courts and support during judicial proceedings as outlined in the previous section of this report. In addition, these Centres provide training sessions to a variety of key institutional actors who provide support to child victims, as well as to parents and caregivers.¹⁸¹

MEXICO describes a number of bodies created by law with responsibilities related to the care of victims (but does not refer to a specific service or programme). On the one hand, the General Act on Children and Adolescents creates the **Federal Procurator’s Office for Child Protection** (PFPNNA, in Spanish) and the Procurators’ Offices for Protection in the federal entities, which include among their powers: “to coordinate the execution of and follow up on protection measures for the comprehensive restitution of the rights of children and adolescents”. For this purpose, the Federal Prosecutor’s Office, attached to the National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family, has a *Comprehensive Care Protocol for Child Victims of Crime and in Conditions of Vulnerability*. In addition, the General Act on Victims has created a **National System for Care to Victims**, operated through an Executive Commission for Care to Victims (CEAV, in Spanish) and State Commissions for Comprehensive Attention to Victims. The CEAV “has the objective of guaranteeing, promoting and protecting the rights of victims of crime and human rights violations, especially the rights to assistance, protection, care, truth, justice, comprehensive reparation and due diligence”.¹⁸²

PERU has **Specialized Residential Reception Centres for the care of girls and adolescents affected by trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation in situations of family vulnerability**, administered by the National Comprehensive Programme for Family Welfare (INABIF,

¹⁸⁰ The State of Guatemala’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁸¹ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁸² The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 39.

in Spanish) of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations. Currently, there are six centres, located in Lima (2), Cuzco (1), Madre de Dios (1), Loreto (1), and Puno (1).¹⁸³

Adolescents are admitted to the Residential Foster Care Centres as a result of a residential foster care protection measure issued by the Special Protection Units. Multidisciplinary teams provide social and psychological care to victims and, considering their needs, expectations and motivations, design and implement an Individual Work Plan with Reintegration components, in coordination with other services such as health, education, identity, legal advice and employment alternatives (for adolescents over 14 years of age).¹⁸⁴

Interagency coordination is determined by the *Individual Reintegration Plan Guide for persons affected by the crime of trafficking in persons*, adopted by Supreme Decree No. 009-2019-MIMP, which establishes the functions and procedures to be followed by the different sectors and institutions of the State, according to their responsibilities, in the care and reintegration of persons affected by trafficking in persons in its different forms.¹⁸⁵

Adolescent girls leave the Centres at 18 years of age. Since 2021, MIMP, the International Labour Organization and its implementing partner, NGO Alternativa, have been implementing a *Pilot Model for the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Survivors*. Within this framework, adolescent girls attend entrepreneurship and empowerment workshops and participate in Entrepreneurship Fairs organized by the Centres themselves, where they offer their products and obtain funds that will help them when they leave.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸³ The State of Peru's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

5.2. On specific training in SEC of/for operators of programmes and services related to children and adolescents of comprehensive systems for the promotion and protection of rights

It should be noted that, in response to the Enquiry Form, States report on various awareness-raising and training activities on SEC targeting actors from different institutions that are part of the comprehensive system for the promotion and protection of rights. Only initiatives that are constituted as training programmes or that have, at least, greater stability and structure are included here.

In **CANADA**, the Government annually offers specific training on human trafficking to members of the Canadian Police Services. In addition, it has worked together with provincial and territorial partners on the update of a *Handbook for Criminal Justice Practitioners on Trafficking in Persons*, which includes topics such as indicators of sexual exploitation, the impact on victims and working with traumatized victims.¹⁸⁷ Likewise, some of the projects funded through Justice Canada’s Victims Fund include practitioner training components, aimed at, for example, improving the detection and identification of cases of trafficking in persons or the support offered to young female victims, with trauma-informed practices and considering the risk factors they face.

In **CHILE**, the Specialized Protection Service promoted an *Academia* initiative, “connecting knowledge”,¹⁸⁸ in order to offer specialized continuous training to officials of the guarantees and comprehensive protection of children and adolescents system, whether or not they are collaborators of said Service. The *Academia* aims to transfer technical skills, abilities, knowledge and practices to those who work with children and their families, in accordance with the position they hold. This is carried out through e-learning. Topics addressed include sexual exploitation and complex trauma.¹⁸⁹

There is also a programme called “*GUARANTORS: Training in the rights of children and adolescents for the public service*”, which aims to coordinate the training offered in general matters involving the rights of children.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁷ Available at: [A Handbook for Criminal Justice Practitioners on Trafficking in Persons](#)

¹⁸⁸ Further information at: <https://www.servicioproteccion.gob.cl/portal/Estudios/Academia-Conectando-Saberes/>

¹⁸⁹ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

For its part, the Ministry of Tourism is developing an annual training plan on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the context of travel and tourism for tourism service providers.

In **COLOMBIA**, the Gender-Based Violence Team of the Protection Directorate - Rights Restoration Sub-Directorate of the ICBF, composed of practitioners specializing in the subject, implements a technical assistance plan aimed at both actors that make up the ICBF (such as family advocates and technical assistance teams at the regional level), as well as institutional actors of other public and private entities, and which addresses issues such as sexual violence, trafficking in persons, sexual and reproductive rights, implementation of the comprehensive care route, psychosocial care of cases. Similarly, through the *Binas Strategy for specialized attention to Gender-Based Violence*, it is sought to install capacity so that the actions of administrative authorities and practitioners in cases of violence against children are imbued with the gender perspective.¹⁹¹

In **ECUADOR**, the Prosecutor General's Office has an annual training plan for employees of prosecutors' and administrative prosecutors' offices, whose contents are determined according to the training needs detected, reports on crimes and the priorities of the authority. Among the topics addressed in these instances are: crimes against sexual and reproductive integrity; forensic interviewing through specialized monitoring for children and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence; crimes against children and adolescents on the Internet; specialized care for children and adolescents who are victims of crimes related to their sexual integrity; and trafficking in persons.¹⁹²

In addition, the Interagency Coordination Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, and Protection of their Victims coordinates training for national technical teams, with the support of academic institutions, such as the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO, in Spanish), and international cooperation, such as UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).¹⁹³

In **GUATEMALA**, the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons promotes the EDUSVET Training Programme, which focuses on the protection of children and adolescents against these issues. Among the courses available, there is an online course on Institutional Professionalization for Capacity Building in Cybersecurity and Combating Cybercrime.¹⁹⁴

¹⁹¹ The State of Colombia's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁹² The State of Ecuador's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

¹⁹⁴ The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

In **MEXICO**, the Executive Secretariat of SIPINNA carried out, in 2023 and 2024, a survey and systematization of the training offered on the protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation promoted by institutions that are part of the Working Group for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against SEC, of COMPREVNNA, in order to share it with the member bodies of this Commission and the Executive Secretariats of State SIPPINNAS, for dissemination. Two courses delivered by the SNDIF National System emerged from this survey: “Induction Course on Prevention and Attention to Child Sexual Exploitation” and “Prevention and Protection of Children and Adolescents against Trafficking in Persons in its eleven forms”, aimed at Public DIF State and Municipal Officials, and Prosecutors’ Offices for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, SEDENA, OSC bodies, teaching staff and students of education institutions; and an awareness-raising course on the prevention of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation in travel and tourism, offered by the Ministry of Tourism, for persons providing tourist services and the general public.

In **PERU**, the *National Policy against Trafficking in Persons and its forms of exploitation to 2030* is proposed as Priority Objective 3: “*Strengthen the care and reintegration process of victims of the crime of human trafficking*” and, within it, Service 29: “*Capacity building service for practitioners involved in the care and reintegration of children and adolescents affected by the crime of trafficking in persons*”, attached to the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations. In this framework, the MIMP annually conducts courses and workshops aimed at practitioners involved in providing care.

6. PARTICIPATION

This section seeks to learn about experiences that have incorporated child participation as a fundamental principle in addressing sexual exploitation.

CANADA promotes the inclusion of children’s voices in issues that affect them, including sexual exploitation, through a number of strategies. On the one hand, **National Youth Advisory Committees** involve young people from all over the country in debates on important issues. For example, the *Youth Advisory Committee of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)* participates in the design of the policies, programmes and strategies of this body and, within this framework, contributes to addressing online child sexual exploitation. The State considers it essential that strategies in this area be led by children.

In addition, collaboration with organizations such as Save the Children and Plan International facilitates the participation of children and adolescents in international forums, such as Women Deliver 2023.¹⁹⁵

However, the State points out that challenges persist in relation to the participation of children and adolescents, due in part to limited knowledge, resources and willingness, and underscores certain characteristics that participation processes should include:¹⁹⁶

- ✓ Safety: the risks of participation must be assessed and adequate support systems should be provided. Participation should not be harmful to children.
- ✓ Inclusiveness and non-discrimination.
- ✓ Be promoted by people with the right skills.
- ✓ Meaningful participation, allocating sufficient time and resources to this end.
- ✓ Including children and adolescents in decision-making on how to participate, taking into account their schedules and preferences in terms of activities and methods.

In **CHILE**, there are **Youth Advisory Councils** at community, regional and national levels, which seek to promote the participation of children and adolescents in policies, programmes and projects that may affect them.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁵ The State of Canada’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁹⁷ Further information is available on:

https://www.desarrollosocialyfamilia.gob.cl/storage/docs/Libro_Marco_para_incorporar_participacion_nna.pdf

With regard SEC specifically, the Office of the Ombudsman for Children submits a participation experience. As part of the preparation of the 2023 public account-rendering,¹⁹⁸ it promoted a training and consultation activity with adolescents from different educational establishments in the O’Higgins region, on this issue and others. “The methodology used considered the presentation of the thematic note (‘Sexual exploitation: a phenomenon that impacts children and adolescents in Chile’) through computer graphics produced by professionals from the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, the identification of the main concepts and ideas, individual and group reflections and ideas for solutions proposed by the participating adolescents.”¹⁹⁹ The adolescents “warned about the difficulties in distinguishing vulnerabilities, the fear they feel in the face of blackmail and their concern about the intentions of adults with regard to harming children”.²⁰⁰ In terms of proposals for improvement, they indicated the need to: promote education in rights and sex education from an early age, so that children learn about their rights and learn about boundaries; improve residential care for children and adolescents in State care; and provide support for victims, mainly of a psychological nature.²⁰¹ The opinions, concerns and interests collected on that occasion provided input for the work of the Ombudsman’s Office.

Among the challenges faced when attempting to promote or include the participation of children and adolescents, the Ombudsman’s Office highlights the need to:²⁰²

- strengthen the capabilities of practitioners who work with children and adolescents to promote, facilitate and support processes and initiatives for participation in the prevention and approach to SEC;
- develop, implement and disseminate methodologies for participation with children and adolescents in the approach to SEC; methodologies that should be diverse and adaptable, considering variables such as age, indigenous background, migratory status or disability;

¹⁹⁸ According to the provisions of Act No. 21,067, which established the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, “every year the Ombudsman for Children must draw up a public rendering of accounts on the actions of the Institution and the situation of the rights of children and adolescents by means of an Annual Report, which must be made available to the public, with a special focus on disseminating it among children and adolescents” (Response of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children of Chile to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 41).

¹⁹⁹ Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 42.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² Response of Chile’s Child Rights Ombudsman’s Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024.

- promote mechanisms for the systematization of experiences at local, national and global levels, which involve the participation of children and adolescents in the approach to SEC, in order to shed light on findings, strengthen recommendations and guide future activities;
- strengthen the impact of the opinions of children and adolescents on the phenomenon of SEC, promoting appropriate opportunities and methodologies that consider the standards of the right to participation, and overcoming adultcentrism.

COLOMBIA²⁰³ has had a **National Youth Advisory and Consultative Council** in place since 2015. “This is a Concurrence of Wills to exercise the representation of children and act as an advisory body in the decisions that are made to safeguard their rights.”²⁰⁴

For its part, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute has, at the territorial level (departments, districts and municipalities), “**Participation Panels of children and adolescents**, bodies that promote the mobilization of children and adolescents as fundamental stakeholders in the design and implementation of public policies that target them”.²⁰⁵ These Participation Panels are made up of approximately 25 children, aged between 10 and 17, and meet at least 4 times a year. The Panels discuss different topics that arise as a result the interest of children and adolescents themselves, with technical support from experts. During 2022 and 2024, various Panels²⁰⁶ addressed the issue of sexual exploitation, with an emphasis on learning how this crime violates their rights and affects their psychosocial development.²⁰⁷

In addition, within the context of assisting and supporting local governments in the process of producing their 2024-2028 Territorial Development Plans (PDTs, in Spanish) (which include different issues related to children, including the prevention of “sexual and commercial exploitation of children and adolescents”), the National Family Welfare System, through the Together for Children strategy (implemented in 2024), placed “special emphasis on the strengthening and revitalization of the different opportunities for child participation at the local level for the generation of proposals” and on the development of cross-generational sharing days with officials and decision-makers for the presentation of these proposals. “In addition to this, the development of a pact is proposed, through which the local government undertakes to take their proposals

²⁰³ In response to the Enquiry Form, the State of Colombia reports on various initiatives that promote or include the participation of children and adolescents, promoted by various institutional actors. Only those with explicit references to the issue of sexual exploitation are mentioned here.

²⁰⁴ Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports from Colombia, due to be submitted in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date received: 25 August 2021].

²⁰⁵ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 57.

²⁰⁶ Puerto Salgar (Cundinamarca) in 2022; San Jacinto (Bolívar), Tipacoque (Boyacá), Belalcázar (Cauca), Armenia (Quindío), Charalá (Santander), Medellín, Segovia, Vegachí, Yalí and Yolombó (Antioquia) in 2023; Lorica (Córdoba) and Honda (Tolima) in 2024.

²⁰⁷ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

into account and to receive the permanent advice of children throughout the process of producing the PDTs; finally, a review of the PDTs is also proposed, as well as the provision of “feedback” to the participating children on the impact of their participation and incidence.”²⁰⁸

A further participation experience involved “creation laboratories on the prevention of SEC”, carried out in the 33 regional ICBFs in 2023, for the development of social mobilization action for the commemoration of the “International Day against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children”. Girls and boys participated in the planning, implementation and dissemination of these activities, which had partners such as civil society organizations, territorial entities, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour.²⁰⁹

The following challenges to the inclusion of child participation, both on special occasions and in daily life, as well as in institutional and political advocacy opportunities, are mentioned:

- Adults’ beliefs and attitudes regarding this participation: they believe that children and adolescents do not comprehend reality, are not aware, lack experience, and, therefore, cannot make decisions; or they consider that their own needs, priorities and interests align with the pursuit of the well-being of children and adolescents and, that, therefore, their participation is not necessary.
- Participation mechanisms and scenarios are usually adult-centric.
- Participation mechanisms and scenarios include the voices of only some child representatives.
- The influence of children is limited, It has been observed that they have no impact on actions or decision-making, despite having generated proposals.
- Sexuality in general is a taboo subject.
- The naturalization of sexual violence and abuse, especially in rural communities.
- The impossibility of gaining access to diverse sources of information and guidance, especially in rural communities, given the limitations of Internet connections and access to specialized material.

²⁰⁸ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 58.

²⁰⁹ The State of Colombia’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

ECUADOR reports on various initiatives that promote or include the participation of children and adolescents in issues related to SEC, carried out by various State institutions.

Since 2021, the National Council for Cross-Generational Equality (CNII, in Spanish) has established two distinct advisory councils as areas for participation related to the national public policy cycle: the **National Advisory Council for Girls and Boys** and the **National Advisory Council for Adolescents**. At the same time, through delegations of these Councils, children and adolescents also take part in international areas or activities for participation.²¹⁰ In addition, the CNII has established strategic partnerships with civil society organizations focusing on children and adolescents, in order to coordinate actions to promote consultation and participation of children and adolescents in public management and to express their opinion on issues of interest, including sexual exploitation, through social networks and the media.²¹¹

The Ministry of Education has developed a participatory diagnosis with various members of the education community, including students, in order to reflect their needs and perceptions on the prevalence of psychosocial risk, and the need for prevention and responsible persons in the *National Plan for the Prevention of Psychosocial Risk in the Education System*. “To this end, it was important to create differentiated play opportunities and methodologies engaging students, education staff (teachers, authorities and DECE professionals) and families. In total, 540 students, 540 education professionals and 540 family representatives were convened.”²¹²

For its part, and within the framework of the implementation of the Project for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Girls and Adolescents, in 2021 the Ministry of Public Health developed a participatory process with male and female adolescents aged 10 to 19 years for the review and validation of methodologies, material and educational-communication tools, such as a toolkit for the prevention of gender-based violence with adolescents and the Sexuality without Mysteries Website.

²¹⁰ The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²¹¹ Examples available at:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C7cCeNwuSuR/?igsh=MTNqbjV3amlnMmJtNg==>

https://x.com/RODDNA_ec/status/1794765428855873879

https://www.instagram.com/p/C7h_BdEvLl8/?igsh=bXM3MWO1cjdmc2lx

https://x.com/RODDNA_ec/status/1795311308101026268

²¹² The State of Ecuador’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

As challenges to participation, the State identifies: the lack of areas and opportunities; social and cultural inequality; the lack of information and support; and the risk of exploitation and violence. In this regard, it highlights the need to:²¹³

- ✓ disseminate the value of the participation of children and adolescents and promote a culture in which their opinions are heard, at all levels;
- ✓ provide children with appropriate information, training and support;
- ✓ promote safe and accessible areas for the participation of children and adolescents;
- ✓ update the instruments that define the rules for shaping the areas, bodies and mechanisms for participation that are in force;
- ✓ rethink the concept of participation in digital environments and include strategies that are attractive and functional for different generations;
- ✓ have facilitators trained in handling these specific groups;
- ✓ coordinate processes and mechanisms for the participation of children and adolescents in the national citizen participation system, so that they can be effective and have an impact on public policy;
- ✓ have sufficient technical and financial resources available to ensure the sustainability of these participatory processes.

In **GUATEMALA**, a **Youth Network for the Prevention of the Crimes of Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons** was formed, which allows the inclusion of young people in issues of community importance, such as this.²¹⁴

The main challenges posed for the inclusion of child participation (in prevention processes) are the following:²¹⁵

- lack of recognition of their rights;
- lack of opportunities and safe spaces;
- lack of resources and funding for programmes and projects that promote participation, which limits their effectiveness and scope;

²¹³ The State of Ecuador's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²¹⁴ The State of Guatemala's response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

- lack of support and training for children and adolescents so that they can participate meaningfully in social and decision-making processes.

GUYANA emphasizes that the main challenge in promoting child participation is the attitude of adults towards them in relation to the fact that they should be silent and should not get involved or participate, identifying a gap between culture and child protection laws. The State considers that allowing children and adolescents the opportunity to contribute and share their views on issues that impact their lives strengthens their ability to expose threats to their well-being and promote their rights.²¹⁶

MEXICO describes a participation experience. In June 2023, the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with World Vision Mexico and SE SIPINNA, held a National Survey on Safe Tourist Destinations for children and adolescents, within the framework of the “Tourism in Support of Children” initiative.²¹⁷ This survey, which was carried out by means of the [ninezlibredeviolencia.org](https://www.ninezlibredeviolencia.org) platform, included a questionnaire for children and adolescents between 8 and 17 years of age and also enabled the reception of opinions through phrases, stories, songs, poems and audio-files. The survey included the participation of 115,086 children and adolescents from all federal entities.²¹⁸ The following conclusions emerged: “40% of participants consider that children, adolescents and young people can be forced by adults to engage in sexual activities. Likewise, 19.4% propose that governments and institutions should pay greater attention to the needs and concerns of children and adolescents.”²¹⁹ These outcomes are taken into account when defining actions within the framework of the Strategy.

²¹⁶ The State of Guyana’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²¹⁷ This initiative includes the following lines of action: 1) Mobilization and participation of children, adolescents and young people, 2) Strengthening the capacities of the public, private and social sectors, 3) Recognition and dissemination of committed tourist destinations and establishments and 4) Promotion of intervention models and strategies. Further information at: <https://www.gob.mx/sectur/prensa/sectur-y-world-vision-mexico-en-colaboracion-se-sipinna-impulsan-la-iniciativa-turismoxlaninez-en-mexico-356634?idiom=es> y <https://www.gob.mx/sectur/prensa/sectur-y-world-vision-mexico-en-colaboracion-se-sipinna-impulsan-la-iniciativa-turismoxlaninez-en-mexico-356634?idiom=es> (The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p. 43).

²¹⁸ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²¹⁹ Source: <https://www.gob.mx/sectur/prensa/sectur-y-world-vision-mexico-en-colaboracion-se-sipinna-impulsan-la-iniciativa-turismoxlaninez-en-mexico-356634?idiom=es>

Among the challenges identified by the State are:²²⁰

- sexuality continues to be a taboo subject, even more so in rural communities; therefore, there is some reluctance to talk about the subject, both on the part of children and adolescents and of their significant adults;
- the complexity of the issue necessarily implies that information and the methodological strategy used for participation should be handled with care and requires people with the capacity to intervene.
- sexual exploitation may be related to the activities of criminal groups, so there may be a fear of reprisals.

In **PERU**, the MIMP promotes **Advisory and Participatory Councils of Children and Adolescents** (CCONNA, in Spanish) at district, provincial, regional and national levels. CCONNAs are composed of children and adolescents between 8 and 17 years of age, democratically elected by their peers, whom they represent, and aim to be an opportunity to disseminate the needs and aspirations of children and adolescents from their perspective. “They are organized around an Assembly of children and adolescents, promoted by educational institutions, youth organizations, school municipalities and other groups. Their constitution is recognized by municipal or regional ordinance (according to the level of the organization promoted by the CCONNA) and by ministerial resolution of the MIMP, in the case of the national CCONNA.”²²¹ Among their functions, they debate and issue opinions on consultations on regulatory proposals made by institutions; monitor respect for their rights; participate in areas or commissions; participate in national and international activities to promote their rights, in coordination with the levels of government. In this framework, CCONNA participates in the sessions of the Multisectoral Commission for Children and Adolescents to 2030.

The State mentions as challenges to participation: reversing adultcentrism, strengthening the perspective of the child or adolescent as a person with rights who requires priority and comprehensive care, and achieving paradigm shifts on the capacity for participation of children and adolescents in matters that affect them.²²²

²²⁰ The State of Mexico’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024.

²²¹ The State of Peru’s response to the Enquiry Form, 2024, p.16.

²²² Ibid.

CONCLUSIONS

The Report to the Secretary General of the OAS 2024, *Addressing the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the States of the Region*, aims to submit an overview of the **current status of the problem of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and how the States of the region approach it, from a comprehensive perspective**, over the period 2019-2024. The report contains information from the **eight States** that responded to the enquiry sent out by the IIN-OAS: **Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico and Peru**.

The Enquiry Form was sent to the Representatives of the Member States before the Directing Council of the IIN, with the suggestion that, in order to respond, it be shared with the interagency coordination bodies of their countries that are dedicated to the subject and/or with other institutions involved in public policy on the issue.

As a first observation, it should be noted that some of the States only sent information corresponding to the governing body for children or on exploitation; others sent the responses of all of the stakeholders who responded to the enquiry at the national level, but without integrating them into a “country report”; still others sent information corresponding to different institutions. Particularly worthy of mention is the situation in Chile, where the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, convened by the governing body to be part of the country’s response, requested that, given the nature of the institution, they might send an Alternative Independent Report themselves. This institutional heterogeneity and the

different ways of responding to the enquiry show evidence of the difficulties that still beset the development of a comprehensive and intersectoral approach to the issue in the States. In addition, it implies that the information submitted may be limited or biased, in keeping with the knowledge of the people and institutions that were part of the response, and that there may be other data or resources of interest that are not being included in the survey.

Below are the main conclusions that emerge from the information compiled, together with the identification of progress and challenges that persist in addressing this issue.

Diagnosis

All of the States party to the report share data on the phenomenon of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, derived from various sources, which allows for some characterization of the issue in their countries. Data collection, systematization and dissemination has always been a challenge for the region. In this regard, despite the limitations indicated below, the recording of information by different State institutions is regarded as progress.

As an obstacle, it has been noted that the various institutions within the same country record situations differently, based on different conceptions of the issue, and without connection between them, which makes it difficult to arrive at a single diagnosis. For example, while in some services a situation might be recorded as “exploitation through pornography”, in the judicial system it could be filed according to the description of one or more of the different criminal behaviours associated with it, for example “production”, “dissemination”, “storage”. The same “case” may be filed in different institutions (for example, in the police system and the special protection system), without there being any connection between the two sets of information.

Police and judicial system records are traditionally the most generally systematized and widely disseminated. The eight States that responded to the enquiry submitted data from these sources. However, it is important to bear in mind that these sources of information alone do not make it possible to analyze the phenomenon in its entirety and full complexity because the record is reduced, on the one hand, to the situations on which a complaint is actually made and/or a judicial process is initiated (for which reason they are vastly under-reported) and, on the other, to the

classifications given by criminal law (criminal conduct). Other information, such as detection indicators or qualitative characterization (including manifestations, scenarios, actors), is not necessarily included.

Therefore, although the recording and systematization of information by different institutions with responsibilities in the field is considered an advance, the development of a **single information system** that brings together all sources/institutions and enables data cross-referencing, **considering the person as the main focus of information**, based on a common conception of the issue, remains a challenge for the States.

Despite the above, the data provided by the States that responded to the Enquiry Form have made it possible to identify some common trends in relation to the manifestation of the problem:

- ✓ the prevailing modalities of SEC, according to the terminology proposed by the IIN, are **“sexual relations for remuneration”** and **“use in/for pornography”**.
- ✓ the prevailing SEC venue is the **digital environment**, which can be explained by the expansion of this area and the proliferation of multiple technological tools during the pandemic and post-pandemic, as well as by the priority given to this phenomenon by public policy.
- ✓ The highest proportion of victims of SEC are **women**, which is indicative of the links between the issue and the gender component.
- ✓ The highest proportion of SEC victims are between the **ages of 12 and 17**.
- ✓ There is a **gap between reported cases, investigations and penalties** (in cases where this information is available). In this context, the strengthening of the human and technical resources of the police, Public Ministry and Judiciary to follow up on the reported events is presented as a challenge. While the general public and practitioners from different services are motivated to report, if the teams of these bodies are not strengthened, a gridlock takes place in the criminal investigation, which results in a perception of impunity.

Although most of the States have data disaggregated by geographical area and explanations are provided about the reasons for prevalence in certain territories (greater population density, border areas, tourist areas, organized crime), analysis on the incidence of territorial characteristics and dynamics in the dimension and expression of the issue needs to be deepened.

In this regard, it is worth highlighting Canada's reflection on the fact that the areas with the highest prevalence are the most populated, but they are also those with the highest state investment for the detection and prosecution of crime. In this respect, it is important to note that the numbers could be accounting not only for the problem but also for the response capacity; as there could be other areas with many undetected situations.

Similarly, Guyana's thoughts in relation to indigenous or native communities is unavoidable, a situation that can be extrapolated to other States. As noted by the State, the social, cultural and religious norms and the governance structures of these communities can constitute a risk factor for SEC and cause under-registration.

Finally, it should be noted that only Chile offers information on people prosecuted for SEC crimes, which accounts for the invisibility of exploiters in the States' analysis and diagnosis of the phenomenon, as well as in their approach.

Coordination and cooperation

The approach of **public policy** to the issue of the sexual exploitation of children in the States party to the report is varied. Some States report on general plans or policies for the promotion, guarantee and protection of the rights of children and adolescents, which include some type of action in this area. Others describe national plans against trafficking in persons, which include trafficking in children and adolescents for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Finally, only a **few have specific policies on the sexual exploitation of children**.

This lack of specificity shows a lack of prioritization of the issue by the States and constitutes an obstacle and challenge in addressing a problem that needs specialization. Comprehensive (in terms of the forms and scenarios of the phenomenon and the lines of response), intersectoral and specific frameworks or guidelines are required.

The priority afforded to the issue of trafficking in persons, in terms of both the existence of policies and coordination, and its consideration as a response to the problem of SEC, deserves reflection. Although anti-trafficking policies include children and adolescents, as the name suggests, they are not specific to this age group and the specific features of childhood and adolescence are lost in the approach. Nor are they specific to

this form of exploitation. Likewise, it should be borne in mind that there are sexual exploitation situations that do not occur in the context of human trafficking and that should also be addressed by the protection system.

The existence of **interagency and intersectoral coordination bodies** (Committees, Panels) created by law is a constant feature in terms of the institutional arrangements for addressing sexual exploitation, trafficking in and smuggling of children in the States party to the report (and in the region). In addition, a novel factor is the emergence of interagency working groups that are installed within the framework, or with the purpose of following up on ongoing policies and plans. Unlike what occurs with public policy instruments, there are interagency bodies devoted specifically and exclusively to the issue of sexual exploitation.

These bodies are made up of representatives of institutions from all levels of the State and civil society, which shows a recognition of the comprehensiveness and intersectoral features required by this approach.

It was observed that in only one of the States were youth organizations included as members of these collectives. This shows that their recognition as stakeholders with the possibility of contributing to reflections on and development of responses to the problem continues to be wanting, and is still a challenge.

With regard to **the role of the private sector** in tackling SEC and its connection with public policy, we can highlight the increasing levels of responsibility taken on by the various stakeholders linked to travel and tourism, promoted by National Tourism Administrations themselves on the basis of public policy (for example, through the promulgation of Codes of Conduct). There are fewer references to the involvement of the private sector in information and communication technologies (and, when it occurs, it occurs in terms of social responsibility and not as guarantors of rights), which becomes unavoidable in the current context.

Finally, in relation to **cooperation between countries**, multilateral agreements predominate in relation to human trafficking and smuggling. The role of the Regional Action Group of the Americas (GARA, in Spanish) as an interagency body for the preparation of regional agreements in relation to SEC in the context of travel and tourism is also noticeable.

Prevention

The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a multi-causal phenomenon, which originates from the intersection of different factors; individual, family, community and socio-cultural, that place children and adolescents in a vulnerable situation in the face of this form of violence. **A prevention policy or strategy should include actions at all of these levels, focusing on safeguarding rights.**

A step forward is the fact that, when consulted in a broad sense on the measures that have been implemented for the prevention of SEC, many States report on different strategies and actions that, without being specific to SEC, refer to or address some of its contributing factors (including related problems) and, could, therefore, prevent the problem, considering it in all of its complexity. Thus, strategies stand out that are aimed at addressing gender-based violence; violence and other forms of violations of rights at the domestic level; conceptions of and attitudes towards children and adolescents; new masculinities; healthy relationships; sexual and reproductive rights.

In the field of SEC, specifically, **awareness-raising actions** continue to be predominant, in various formats: campaigns, awareness-raising days, information material. These actions are aimed at different target audiences (public officials of all State institutions, private sector practitioners, community, families, children and adolescents) and their purpose, in general terms, is to share information on the subject, as well as resources and tools to act against it. As for their content, in addition to general information, of special note are the campaigns referring particularly to SEC in the context of travel and tourism and to online exploitation and risk.

As regards obstacles related to the design and implementation of awareness-raising actions as prevention measures, we agree with the observations raised by the Office of the Ombudsman for Children for the context of Chile, which also apply to other countries in the region: they are usually isolated, non-periodic actions developed by different institutions according to their interests, without a comprehensive outlook or governance.

In this context, a good practice that has been identified (although it is also limited) is the preparation of the paper *Criteria for the Review of Prevention Campaigns and Dissemination Strategies*, by the Inter-Ministerial Commission to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes in the Field of Trafficking in Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of these Crimes in Mexico, which involves the establishment of minimum guidelines that the materials must comply with according to the governing body.

This lack of governance and coordination applies to all of the prevention measures. Different public institutions implement various actions according to their interests, without there necessarily being comprehensive reflection and collective development regarding the issue and what is required for its approach, regardless of which institution is then in charge of execution according to its responsibilities. Some of the States (Guatemala, Mexico) have National Prevention Plans or Strategies in place as comprehensive instruments, but what has been reported reflects that they do not escape this reality of diversification, which demonstrates the need for even greater interagency and intersectoral coordination to overcome fragmentation in their approach.

In addition, no State reports engaging in **impact assessments** of the preventive measures implemented. The fact that, in some cases, at least their scope is recorded, in terms of people and territories, is recognized as progress. However, the effectiveness of the measures adopted is not measured against the proposed objectives, so this aspect continues to be pending.

Another challenge arises with the **participation of children and adolescents in preventive actions**. Most States report actions aimed at them, which is a step forward compared to what was happening ten years ago (see report to the Secretary General of the OAS 2014²²³) regarding their recognition as subjects with agency. However, only one State (Colombia) reports an experience in which the participation of children and adolescents in determining and developing actions is included, on the basis of their feelings and perspective. In this respect, their involvement in the analysis of the problem and the development of responses to its approach, which goes beyond considering them as recipients, continues to be a challenge.

The inclusion of the **intersectional approach in preventive actions** is also perceived as incipient. This approach underlines the fact that different variables or characteristics – such as age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social class, disability, immigration status – are interrelated in a person’s existence and determine their different experience in different situations. When asked whether preventive measures incorporate this perspective, what variables are taken into account and in what way, a lack of awareness of the approach is observed in some States or institutions; in others, a conceptual answer is offered, which reflects an intention, but is not evidenced in the description of the specific actions. Consequently, there is relative progress in terms of the recognition of the importance and contribution of this approach in terms of principles, but which has not yet been translated into action. In the strategies described, the variables that were taken into account are gender and ethnicity.

²²³ Available at: <https://www.annaobserva.org/es/xiv-informe-al-secretario-general-de-la-oea-2014/>

In relation to the **role of the private sector in prevention** and in connecting with public policy, most States recognize its importance in the field of travel and tourism. National Tourism Administrations and the work they do with the private sector for the prevention of SEC in this context have clearly been strengthened, which is valued as progress, in the recognition of the comprehensiveness and intersectorality required to address the issue and the responsibilities of the public and private tourism sectors in this regard. There are public policy actions that target different private sector operators, as well as measures implemented by the sector itself. Drafting and implementing National Codes of Conduct as part of public policy is a widespread practice in the States party to the Report and in the region.

In other areas, the collaboration established in Guyana between the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and the Association of Gold and Diamond Miners of Guyana to ensure the protection of children and adolescents in mining districts is a noteworthy good practice, which can be incorporated or bolstered in other States that also have large enterprises or economic enclaves of this type.

Finally, there are few references to public policy actions or partnerships with the private sector in the field of information and communication technologies (only Canada and Peru refer to this). Strengthening the involvement of the public and private sectors in ICTs is a necessity and a challenge, not only in terms of corporate social responsibility, but also within the framework of public policies for the promotion of rights and the prevention of violations.

Protection

An exhaustive analysis of the content of all current regulations on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents referred to by the States exceeds the purposes of this report, but it is possible to note some trends.

All of the States have general laws for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, which recognize the rights inherent in this population, such as the right to protection from all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation. Similarly, all refer to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, or other specific laws that introduce changes to these, in relation to the prosecution of the crime.

Offences such as “sexual relations for remuneration” (in many cases called “sexual exploitation”), “use in pornography” and “trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation” are criminally punished through the classification of the various associated criminal behaviours: promotion,

inducement, recruitment, transfer, production, dissemination, offer, storage, payment, etc. Most States criminalize the use of electronic means for the commission of crimes; however, only two refer to regulatory frameworks that establish obligations for Internet service providers, which is perceived as an action to be reinforced, considering the incidence of this context in the phenomenon. In addition, most States punish exploitation in the context of travel and tourism, with different types of criminal offences.

The style “forced marriages or common-law relationships” deserves special consideration. Formal unions are regulated by the Civil Code or laws relating to marriage, which establish the minimum age permissible for marriage. However, in the context of sexual exploitation, most of these unions do not take place formally, so they are not specifically classified and must be prosecuted under other types of criminal law (sexual abuse, sexual relations in exchange for remuneration).

Only Canada refers to the possibility of prosecuting citizens or permanent residents for sex crimes against children and adolescents committed abroad; a very important aspect on which there is no information in the other States.

In relation to access to justice, it is noted, first of all, that it is one of the Enquiry Form’s questions that received the fewest answers, which may mean that there has been limited progress on this matter, or that actors within the system as a whole lack knowledge or access to this specific information.

Notwithstanding, most States report various institutional and regulatory strategies and tools promoted to guarantee this right, such as the creation of Specialized Units (in police departments, prosecutor’s offices and courts) and the recognition of minimum standards and specific procedural rights: special protection measures; videotaped interviews as a mechanism to collect the testimony of child and adolescent victims or witnesses; support of a significant adult; providing advance statements; among others. The decision to prioritize dealing with cases involving sex crimes against children and adolescents stands out as a good practice.

However, despite the principles and rights widely recognized in regulatory frameworks, and institutional improvement efforts, as seen in the Diagnosis chapter, there is a considerable gap between cases reported and judicial proceedings completed, and an even greater gap in relation to convictions achieved (in addition to the inevitable number of situations that are not even reported).

In this respect, some of the weaknesses that are identified as hindering the efficient administration of justice are:

- ✓ lack of reporting channels and procedures that are accessible to children and adolescents and adapted to their potential and needs;
- ✓ insufficient human and financial resources, which delays investigations and all stages of the process (for example, if prosecutorial teams are not reinforced, it is not possible to move forward with the investigation of all reported events);
- ✓ lack of technological resources for investigations;
- ✓ absence of specialized units and protection mechanisms (such as Gesell Chambers) in all territories, with the consequent prioritization of institutional rationales over the needs and schedules of children and adolescents;
- ✓ lack of awareness and specialized training of police and judicial personnel in child rights, gender, sexual violence and trauma-sensitive perspectives;
- ✓ lack of knowledge regarding the mandatory instruments that involve them (protocols and other tools do not acquire value if they are not known and appropriated by those who have to apply them);
- ✓ socio-economic inequalities that affect access to justice.

Recovery and Reintegration

As in previous editions of this report, the answers offered by the States in relation to the care and social reintegration of child victims of sexual exploitation tend to be the most limited and unspecific. This may show that it is one of the least developed lines of action in the States, or that there is less systematization of information.

Although all States have some type of service or programme that provides care for child and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation, **there are not always specific and specialized services in this area.**

The most specific service is in Chile, and it is about to cease operating as such, according to the Office of the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child; and those of Ecuador and Peru, which refer to trafficking in children and adolescents for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Other programmes/services mentioned address the care of victims of crime in general, violence, sexual violence, or trafficking in persons in all its forms.

Some States also refer to assistance and support services to victims during the judicial proceedings of which they are a part. In this regard, it is important to note that these services/programmes offer primary care measures, but do not carry out comprehensive or specialized processes for recovery, restitution of rights and social reintegration. In addition, States must ensure the comprehensive care of victims regardless of their participation in criminal proceedings; therefore, the State's response should not be limited to these instances.

In relation to the incorporation of the intersectional approach in services and care measures, the same reality is observed as that documented in terms of prevention. Some approaches are considered in the design of models and strategies on the basis of technical guidelines or standards (in particular, gender, sexual orientation, disability, interculturality); however, there is a lack of awareness among practitioners regarding their implications and they are not translated into concrete practices.

With regard to linkage between victim care services and other programmes of the same institution and other institutions that are part of the comprehensive system for the guarantee and protection of rights, it is noted that, although interagency coordination is envisaged, there are usually no protocols or collaboration agreements, thus leading to many of the challenges identified in relation to actual care provided. **Comprehensive intervention and social reintegration cannot be achieved without interagency coordination that ensures the provision of care and guarantees rights in all areas.**

On the training of practitioners of all the institutions involved – crucial for interagency action to be possible and effective – the States report on various activities aimed at building awareness and knowledge on the subject. However, these actions are often scant, isolated and lacking in continuity and, as the Office of the Ombudsman for Children of Chile notes, “they do not respond to the design of a training plan in keeping with a public policy with governance”.²²⁴ In addition, it is necessary to distinguish between awareness-raising activities and training activities, which imply different methodological requirements and standards.

In this sense, developing a training and specialization plan on the issue of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, targeting different institutions according to their responsibilities, but with certain common minimum contents and requirements (for example, indicators on detection, impact, expression of harm and how this affects intervention possibilities), is identified as a need. Likewise, it is important to establish

²²⁴ Response of Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report, 2024, p. 34.

partnerships with the academic sector for the development of specific vocational training programmes on the subject, as well as for the inclusion of content on the subject in the curricula of professions that may come across this issue in their professional practice.

Notwithstanding the above, the creation of more structured and institutionalized training proposals relating to the rights of children and adolescents in general, which include or may include the subject of SEC, is recognized as progress in the States.

As challenges facing the care of, restitution of the enjoyment of rights and social reintegration of victims, the following are reiterated in the States party to the report:

- Lack of awareness and training among the various actors in the system for the detection of SEC risk factors or indicators and referral and timely care.
- Lack of specialized training (knowledge and skills) for those who work directly with victims.
- Deficiencies in the amount and coverage of specialized services, in terms of both quotas and territorial scope.
- Hindrances to interagency and intersectoral coordination.
- Insufficient services or places for mental health care.
- Lack of or insufficient programmes to address drug and alcohol use.
- Social stigmatization of victims.

Finally, it should be noted that no State, except the Office of the Ombudsman for Children of Chile, refers to mechanisms for and outcomes of impact evaluation of victim care services (evaluations are reduced to administrative criteria), which is viewed as indispensable. The SEC issue is constantly changing and with it, its impact on victims. This requires a permanent review of the guidelines, methodologies and work tools, which must be adapted to the specificity and different manifestations of the phenomenon. It also requires intervention models that put children and adolescents at the centre, considering their possibilities and needs at all times, rather than prioritizing institutional objectives and schedules.

Participation

Most States have formally constituted areas available as mechanisms to ensure the right of children and adolescents to participate in the public policy cycle: consultative councils, advisory groups, participation panels, etc. As opportunities to address all issues related to the rights of children and adolescents, they include or may include sexual exploitation.

In the field of SEC specifically, some States report on specific initiatives or activities that included consultations with children and adolescents in order to learn about the phenomenon from their perspective and consider their vision and recommendations for action planning. This is recognized as progress; however, they are one-off actions, which lack continuity and are not institutionalized.

In addition, there is still some confusion regarding the right to participation, insofar as it is depicted as involving actions that promote or include child participation, activities where children and adolescents are the targets or beneficiaries, but that are not carried out by or with them, nor are their opinions sought for decision-making or the implementation of subsequent action.

Among the challenges that persist in the inclusion of the participation of children and adolescents in addressing the SEC issue, it is possible to identify some that are related to participation in general and others related specifically to the subject. These include:

- Adultcentrism. Children and adolescents are still not considered holders of rights, with the ability to know, express opinions and influence their reality, so their vision and opinions are underestimated and are subordinated to those of adults. This is observed both at the family level and in everyday decisions, as well as at the institutional level.
- Lack of practitioners with appropriate training and skills to promote and implement processes and initiatives that include the participation of children and adolescents.
- Formally established opportunities for participation are usually not representative of the reality of children and adolescents in the country. Variables such as gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, disability, migratory status, and rurality hinder participation.
- Participatory mechanisms and scenarios often respond to adult and institutional rationales and interests, and are not adapted to the possibilities, needs and interests of children and adolescents.

- The actual scope and impact of participation remain limited. Beyond the processes that are promoted, their opinions are not necessarily reflected in decision-making.
- Sexuality continues to be a taboo subject, especially in rural areas; therefore, there are no opportunities to talk about this issue or the involvement of children and adolescents in these matters is promoted to a lesser extent.
- Lack of safe and specialized areas. The specificity and nature of the issue of the sexual exploitation of children require, in addition to the capacities to promote participation indicated above, specific knowledge and skills to address the matter.

A challenge that must be most particularly underscored is how to promote and ensure the participation of child and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation, without this implying revictimization, but rather, making certain that it contributes to their recovery and the restitution of rights.

With this in mind, moving forward with this line of action requires:

- ✓ To continue promoting the conception of children and adolescents as holders of rights and a culture that values and respects their perspective and opinion.
- ✓ Generate training and access to information for children and adolescents, so that they can be aware of their rights; in particular, those linked to the phenomenon of SEC, train on this issue, and develop informed opinions.
- ✓ Strengthen the capacities of practitioners to promote, facilitate and support participation processes and those of other adults who will co-participate or co-habit these processes/areas.
- ✓ Create safe areas for participation to address these issues, including: being mindful of the methodology used; having the capacity to respond to the reactions and effects that may occur during the exchange; and anticipating and mitigating the risks to which children and adolescents may be exposed.
- ✓ Generate areas and methodologies adapted to the interests, needs, possibilities and contexts of children and adolescents, also considering other variables that intersect, such as gender, ethnic origin, social class, migratory status, disability.
- ✓ Propose mechanisms that ensure a real impact or consideration of the opinion of children and adolescents in decision-making.

As stated at the beginning, it is hoped that this Report will serve as a general diagnosis of the current state of play in addressing the issue of the sexual exploitation of children in the countries of the region, identifying successes and challenges that persist, and that, based on it, actions can be implemented or research on a particular manifestation of the phenomenon and/or a specific line of action can be strengthened.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Sources of information used. Data related to the persons and institutions that responded to the Enquiry Form and Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, by State.

Appendix 2 - Conceptual Note and Enquiry Form sent to the States

Appendix 3 - Statistical tables submitted by the States in response to the Enquiry Form

Appendix 4 - Research, publications and other resources shared by States in response to the Enquiry Form

Appendix 1 - Sources of information used. Data related to the persons and institutions that responded to the Enquiry Form and Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, by State.

STATE	SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED
CANADÁ	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Institution: Public Health Agency of Canada (no specific data) ²²⁵
CHILE	Chile's Child Rights Ombudsman's Office Response to the Enquiry Form, submitted as an Alternative Report. Person responsible for the response: Anuar Quesille Vera Position: Child Ombudsman Institution: Child Rights Ombudsman's Office Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Chile under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2021. [Date received: 4 March 2021]. https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g21/161/81/pdf/g2116181.pdf
COLOMBIA	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Institution: Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (no specific data) Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Colombia due in 2021 under article 44 of the Convention. [Date of receipt: 25 August 2021]. https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g23/205/56/pdf/g2320556.pdf
ECUADOR	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Institution: National Council for Intergenerational Equality (no specific data) Seventh periodic report submitted by Ecuador under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2023. [Date received: 13 June 2023]. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FECU%2F7&Lang=es

²²⁵ The last report sent by the State to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was presented in 2019, so the information provided is outside the time period considered for the preparation of this report. For this reason, it is not used as a source of information.

GUATEMALA	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Institution: Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (no specific data)
	Seventh periodic report submitted by Guatemala under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2023. [Date received: 15 June 2023]. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FGTM%2F7&Lang=es
GUYANA	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Permanent Mission of Guyana to the OAS (no specific data) ²²⁶
MÉXICO	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Person responsible for the response: Adalberto Martínez Mendoza Position: Operation Coordinator Institution: Executive Secretariat of SIPINNA
	Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports submitted by Mexico under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2020. [Date received: 18 December 2020] https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g23/175/99/pdf/g2317599.pdf
PERÚ	State's response to the Enquiry Form. Person responsible for the response: Henry Aguilera Rodríguez Position: Director General- Directorate-General for Children and Adolescents Institution: Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations
	Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports submitted by Peru under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2023. [Date received: 21 March 2024] https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/083/98/pdf/g2408398.pdf

²²⁶ The last report sent by the State to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was submitted in 2010, so the information provided is outside the time period considered for the preparation of this report. For this reason, it is not used as a source of information.

Appendix 2 - Conceptual Note and Enquiry Form sent to the States

Report of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on measures taken by Member States to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

2024

CONCEPT NOTE

By mandate of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), through Resolution AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99) of June 7, 1999, the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) must submit an annual report to the Secretary General of the organization on the measures undertaken by Member States to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas²²⁷.

The preparation of these reports varied over the years in terms of objectives, content and periodicity, following the evolution of the phenomenon and the responses of the States to it. From quantitative reports, focused mainly on the existence of National Plans of Action (as a commitment assumed by the States at the First World Congress) and on the adaptation of the national regulatory framework to international commitments, we moved towards the preparation of thematic reports, of a qualitative nature, which addressed a specific modality or dimension of the phenomenon, highlighted by its relevance at the time and/or demanded by the States.

Considering the time elapsed since the last general report and taking into account the changes that have taken place in the region in recent years (at the social, economic, political and cultural levels, including those derived from the COVID-19 pandemic), on this occasion, it was decided to prepare a comprehensive report on the current state of affairs regarding the approach to the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents -in all its manifestations- in the countries of the region, from a comprehensive perspective (considering diagnostic and planning actions, prevention, protection and victim care).

²²⁷ Resolution AG/RES. 1667 (XXIX-O/99), operative paragraph 3: "To instruct the Inter-American Children's Institute to prepare an annual report, to be submitted to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, describing the steps taken by the member states to combat the commercial and other sexual exploitation of children and adolescents".

From the IIN (2021) we understand the phenomenon of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (ESNNA) as the use of children and adolescents in erotic or sexual activities in exchange for (or with the promise of) remuneration, in cash or in kind, to the child or adolescent victim, to the latter and to a third person or persons, or only to a third person or persons.

This exploitation can take place in different forms, referred to as "modalities of exploitation", and in different spaces, referred to as "scenarios of/for exploitation". At the international level, four main modalities are recognized, which may take on different forms of expression in different countries or territories: paid sex; use in/for pornography, including child sexual abuse material and involvement in erotic or sexual performances; international or internal trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation²²⁸; forced marriages or de facto relationships. Among the scenarios, the following are identified: intrafamily level; communities; alternative care and surrounding residential centers; digital environment and communication and information technologies; travel and tourism; migration processes²²⁹.

Three main sources of information will be used to prepare the report: information provided by States through a consultation form; State reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the respective Concluding Observations of the Committee; and other secondary sources.

It is considered that a broad systematization of this type will serve as a general diagnosis of the current status of the approach to CSEC in the region, making it possible to assess the progress made and identify the difficulties that persist. It will also serve as a basis for implementing specific actions or for further research on a particular manifestation of the phenomenon and/or a specific component of action.

The report will be in charge of the technical team of the Inter-American Program of Cooperation for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents, in a work process to be developed in the period February-September 2024.

²²⁸ It is important to note that only the trafficking of children and adolescents for sexual exploitation is considered a form of CSEC, but not trafficking for other forms of exploitation (which will therefore not be included in the report).

²²⁹ For more conceptual information, we suggest reading: IIN-OAS (2021). Terminology associated with sexual exploitation of children and adolescents (ESNNA), from a rights perspective. Institutional position.

STATE ENQUIRY FORM

This form is an information-gathering instrument for the preparation of the Report to the OAS Secretary General on the measures undertaken by the Member States to combat Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CSEC), 2024.

It is addressed to the States, as a means of having information provided directly from them. It is sent to the representatives of the Member States to the IIN Directing Council. In order to provide a response, it is suggested that this information be shared with the country's inter-institutional coordination mechanisms dedicated to the issue and/or with other institutions involved in public policy on the subject.

The Form consists of 28 questions, organized in 6 blocks, coinciding with the Stockholm Categories. **All questions refer to the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in a broad sense, including all modalities and scenarios (for more details, see Concept Note).**

The State is requested to answer the questions by providing **current information and/or information that it considers noteworthy from the last 5 years in relation to** all manifestations of the phenomenon in the country. **Please include references to the sources consulted.**

The information provided will be a valuable input for the elaboration of this regional product. **We thank you in advance for your contributions and time.**

For inquiries or support, please write to Alejandra Di Pierro, coordinator of the *Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents*, at adi pierro@iinoea.org.

Deadline for submission of responses: May 31, 2024

QUESTION PROTOCOL

State:

Person responsible for the response:

Position:

Institution:

1. DIAGNOSIS

This section seeks to understand the scope and characteristics of the phenomenon of CSEC in the country: availability of data, modalities in which it is expressed, scenarios in which it occurs, actors involved.

- 1.1. Does the State have **quantitative and/or qualitative data** that make it possible to measure the phenomenon of CSEC in the country (e.g.: number of situations detected, number of victims assisted, number of complaints, number of prosecutions and convictions, number of investigations in progress, profile of victims, exploiters and intermediaries, among others)? What do they indicate? What are the trends? Highlight the most relevant data of the last five years.
- 1.2. In what **modality(ies)** is CSEC mostly expressed in the country?
- 1.3. In which **scenario(s)** does CSEC mostly occur in the country?
- 1.4. Is there any link between the forms in which the phenomenon manifests itself and geographical areas, productive activities and/or social conjunctures? Describe it.
- 1.5. Have there been any specific **studies or research** on CSEC in the country in the last five years? By whom were they conducted? Mention their main findings and conclusions.

It would be appreciated if existing reports, diagnoses, studies and research could be attached.

2. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

This section seeks to understand the institutional responsibilities, the inter-institutional arrangements and the routes through which CSEC situations are handled.

- 2.1. Which **state institutions** have competencies in CSEC? Briefly describe their functions, areas or units involved and main actions deployed.
- 2.2. Are there **inter-institutional spaces** for the construction of public policy on CSEC? Briefly indicate their integration, tasks and work methodology (frequency of meetings, decision-making mechanism, resources, monitoring).
- 2.3. Are there **protocols or inter-institutional action routes** for addressing (detection, referral, reporting, care) of situations of ESNNA? Which institutional actors are involved?
- 2.4. Does the State have an **inter-institutional public policy in place** that establishes guidelines for addressing CSEC? Describe: main components, institutions involved and their role, resources and funding sources, period of validity, monitoring and evaluation process.
- 2.5. What is the role of the **private sector** in addressing CSEC in the country? Does it have a link with the State and public policy?
- 2.6. Does the State have **multilateral and/or international cooperation agreements** on CSEC? Briefly describe their objectives, actors involved and validity.

It would be appreciated if existing plans, protocols and road maps could be attached.

3. PROTECTION

In this section we seek to learn about legislative and legal advances for the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.

- 3.1. What is the country's **current regulatory framework** on CSEC? Indicate number, date of enactment and main contents.
- 3.2. Have there been any **legal reforms** for the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation and the prosecution of the crime in the last five years?

- 3.3. Have any modifications or new mechanisms been incorporated into **the judicial system** for the protection of children and adolescents from sexual exploitation and prosecution of the crime in the last five years?
 - 3.4. How is **access to justice** for child and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation? Mention: protection mechanisms, complaint channels, participation in judicial processes, procedural rights (right to free and quality legal assistance, right to be informed and heard at all stages of the process, right to be accompanied, right to protection of privacy), among other aspects that you consider relevant.
 - 3.5. How are **transnational crimes** dealt with (complaints, extradition, jurisdiction)?
 - 3.6. In your opinion, what are the **main challenges** in the implementation or enforcement of the regulatory framework and access to justice?
- Please attach recent legislation, regulations or other instruments.

4. PREVENTION

This section seeks to identify the main actions or measures implemented to prevent or reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

- 4.1. What kind of **measures has the State implemented** for **the prevention** of CSEC?
 - 4.2. Do the prevention measures implemented by the State incorporate the **intersectionality** perspective (gender, sexual diversity, ethnic origin, disability, migratory status, among others)? What variables are taken into account and how?
 - 4.3. Have **awareness-raising activities been** carried out in the country? Describe who is responsible, objectives, format, content, target audience, impact evaluation.
 - 4.4. **Have training/education activities been** carried out for the identification of risk factors and alarm indicators and the early detection of situations of CSEC? Describe who is/are responsible, target audience(s), methodology used. Are unmet needs detected in this regard?
 - 4.5. What is the **role of the private sector in the prevention of** CSEC in the country? Does it have a link with the State and public policy?
- Please attach campaigns, dissemination or training materials, or other recent instruments.

5. RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION

This section seeks to know the measures implemented for the care, restitution of the exercise of rights and social reintegration of the victims of ESNNA.

- 5.1. Does the country have **specialized services** for the care and reparation of harm to victims of CSEC? Describe their main characteristics: type of management (state, private, mixed); admission conditions; support offered (medical, psychological, educational, legal, socio-economic); intervention phases and timeframes; work methodology; exit conditions; post-release support. What is the impact of these services?
- 5.2. What is the **link between the specialized services and the other institutions of the protection system**? Are there inter-institutional agreements and/or agreements to guarantee priority attention to victims of CSEC? Which ones?
- 5.3. Do the institutions of the **protection system** have spaces and/or professionals with specific training on CSEC? Are there training programs for operators of programs and services related to children and adolescents on sexual exploitation? Are there unmet needs in terms of human resources training? Which ones?
- 5.4. Do the measures or responses to victims incorporate the **intersectionality** perspective (gender, sexual diversity, ethnic origin, disability, migratory status, among others)? What variables are considered and how? What are the differential responses?
- 5.5. In your opinion, what are the main **challenges** in the care, restitution of the exercise of rights and social reintegration of victims?

6. PARTICIPATION

This section seeks to learn about experiences that have incorporated the participation of children and adolescents as a fundamental principle in addressing sexual exploitation.

- 6.1. Have experiences been implemented that include the **participation of children and adolescents**? In what dimension: design, monitoring and evaluation of public policy; prevention; protection; care and restitution of rights? Describe by whom they were promoted, methodology used, evaluation.
- 6.2. In your opinion, what are the main **challenges** in promoting or including the participation of children and adolescents?

Appendix 3 - Statistical tables submitted by the States in response to the Enquiry Form

CHILE

Number of events or occurrences of identified victims of CSE by modality (2022-2023)

Modality	Specific type	Number of events (occurrences) identified	Percentage with respect to the modality	Percentage with respect to the total of modalities
CSE in face-to-face modalities	Obtaining the realization of sexual action	264	25%	12%
	Promotion and/or facilitation of sexual exploitation	779	75%	35%
	Total	1.043	100%	47%
CSE in virtual environments	Acquiring of abusive material	686	58%	31%
	Commercialization of abusive material	370	31%	16%
	Production of abusive material	125	10%	6%
	Total	1.181	100%	53%
Total		2.224	100%	100%

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data provided by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

COLOMBIA

National report on children and adolescents who entered the administrative process for the restitution of rights, due to admission as victims of sexual violence - commercial sexual exploitation, in the period 2020 to 2024 (January - April) by sex.

Sex	Period					Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Female	301	380	225	261	72	1.239
Masle	61	52	36	37	16	202
Total	362	432	261	298	88	1.441

Source: Missionary Information System – SIM

National report on children and adolescents who entered the administrative process for the restitution of rights, due to admission as victims of sexual violence - commercial sexual exploitation, in the period 2020 to 2024 (January - April) by age.

Age range	Period					Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
0 – 5 years	15	10	5	7	2	39
6 – 11 years	41	41	31	31	3	147
12 – 17 years	303	377	223	259	83	1.245
Over 18 years	3	3	2	1	0	9
No data	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	362	432	261	298	88	1.441

Source: Missionary Information System – SIM

Number of children and adolescents victims of offences related to CSEC, by events that occurred between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023, disaggregated by sex and offences

Offences (in Spanish)	No data	Female	Male	Total
Del proxenetismo	0	1	0	1
Delitos contra la libertad, integridad y formación sexuales	0	50	14	64
Demanda de ESC con menor de 18 años Art 217A Agravado n.1 Ejecutada por Turista o Viajero Nacional o Extranjero	2	30	19	51
Demanda de ESC con menor de 18 años Art 217A Agravado n.3 Cometido por Miembro de Grupo Armado Organizado al margen de la ley	0	1	0	1
Demanda de ESC con menor de 18 años Art 217A Agravado n.4 Menor de 14 años	4	59	14	77
Demanda de ESC con menor de 18 años Art 217A Agravado n.5 Responsable Integrante de la Familia de la Víctima	0	5	0	5
Demanda de ESC con menor de 18 años Art 217A	6	120	37	163
Estímulo a la Prostitución de Menores Art 217 CP	0	1	1	2
Inducción a la Prostitución Art 213	3	41	5	49
Inducción a la Prostitución Art 213 Agravado Art 216 n.1 Cuando se realizare en persona menor de 14 años	0	7	2	9
Omisión de denuncia Art 219 B	0	0	1	1
Pornografía con Menores Art 218 CP	46	461	109	616
Proxenetismo con Menor de edad Art 213A Agravado Art 216 n.1 Cuando se realizare en persona menor de 14 años	0	16	1	17
Proxenetismo con Menor de edad Art 213A Agravado Art 216 n.4 Víctima Vulnerable por Edad, Etnia, Discapacidad, Ocupación u Oficio	0	5	3	8
Proxenetismo con Menor de edad Art 213A CP	6	45	3	54
Trata de personas Art 188A CP cuando la finalidad sea la Pornografía	0	4	0	4
Trata de personas Art 188A CP cuando la finalidad sea la Prostitución	0	14	0	14

Trata de Personas en Persona Protegida con fines de Explotación Sexual Art 1418	0	0	1	1
Trata de Personas Transnacional Art 188A CP Cuando la Finalidad sea el Turismo Sexual	0	2	0	2
Utilizac. o Facilita. Medios de Comunicación para Ofrecer Act Sexuales con Menores de 18 años Art 219A	4	58	18	80
Total	71	920	228	1219

Source: SPOA - Attorney General's Office.

Sexual Offences to children and adolescents, between January-December 2023

Offences to children and adolescents (in Spanish)	Girls	Boys	No Data	Total
Art 208. Acceso Carnal abusivo con Menor de 14 años	5724	996	123	6843
Art 209 Actos Sexuales con Menor de 14 años	9761	2472	153	12386
Art 211 Acceso Carnal Abusivo con Menor de 14 años (Circunstancias Agravación)	4	1	0	5
Art 211 Actos Sexuales con Menor de 14 años (Circunstancias de Agravación)	3	1	0	4
Art 213 A Proxenetismo con Menor de edad	53	8	2	63
Art 217 A Demanda de Explotación Sexual Comercial de Persona Menor de 18 años	101	32	2	135
Art 217 Estímulo a la Prostitución de Menores	9	2	0	11
Art 218 Pornografía con Menores	809	245	13	1067
Art 219 A Utilización o Facilitación de Medios de Comunicación para Ofrecer Servicios Sexuales de Menores	171	46	0	217
Total	16635	3803	293	20731

Source: National Police

National report on children and adolescents who entered the administrative process for the restitution of rights, due to admission as victims of sexual violence - commercial sexual exploitation, in the period 2020 to 2024 (January - April) by Regional.

Regional	Period					Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Amazonas	0	2	1	2	0	5
Antioquia	56	64	32	38	16	206
Arauca	2	4	2	3	1	12
Atlantico	19	16	14	12	3	64
Bogota	59	76	46	50	18	249
Bolivar	39	26	17	32	12	126
Boyaca	7	8	4	2	2	23
Caldas	30	38	25	5	1	99
Caqueta	0	2	0	0	0	2
Casanare	2	2	1	3	1	9
Cauca	5	8	5	9	3	30
Cesar	2	4	1	8	2	17
Choco	0	2	1	0	0	3
Cordoba	1	10	10	14	2	37
Cundinamarca	8	12	9	10	2	41
Guainia	0	1	1	0	0	2
Guaviare	5	1	2	4	1	13
Huila	6	6	4	11	0	27
La Guajira	8	10	8	1	0	27
Magdalena	13	7	5	2	1	28

Meta	5	6	3	4	2	20
Nariño	2	4	1	2	1	10
Norte de Santander	19	17	17	18	6	77
Putumayo	3	2	1	0	0	6
Quindío	2	3	6	1	2	14
Risaralda	17	17	4	6	2	46
San Andres	2	0	0	0	0	2
Santander	7	11	3	9	0	30
Sucre	2	12	1	2	1	18
Tolima	13	17	9	7	3	49
Valle del Cauca	27	42	28	38	5	140
Vaupes	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vichada	1	2	0	4	1	8
Total	362	432	261	298	88	1.441

Source: Missionary Information System – SIM

ECUADOR

Cases prosecuted on CSE admitted to judicial units between 01/01/2019 and 04/30/2024

Judicial Case (in Spanish)	Period						Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Trata de personas	16	14	7	4	2	1	44
Explotación	12	14	15	3	6	1	51

Prostitución forzada	17	12	14	10	6	1	60
Turismo sexual	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pornografía con utilización de niñas, niños o adolescentes	14	10	12	20	19	12	87
Pornografía con utilización de niñas, niños o adolescentes	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pornografía con utilización de niñas, niños o adolescentes	1	1	8	4	3	1	18
Comercialización	5	13	15	14	39	7	93
Total	65	65	71	55	77	23	356

Fuente: Sistema Automático de Trámite Judicial Ecuatoriano, SATJE (causas ingresadas en primera instancia)

Cases prosecuted on CSE admitted to judicial units between 01/01/2019 and 04/30/2024, by Province.

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Azuay	2	1	1	0	2	0	6
Bolívar	0	0	3	1	1	0	5
Carchi	2	3	1	0	0	0	6
Chimborazo	1	1	3	2	2	0	9
Cotopaxi	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
El Oro	15	6	6	5	7	1	40
Esmeraldas	0	0	2	1	2	0	5
Galapagos	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Guayas	12	21	12	13	17	4	79
Imbabura	1	2	1	1	4	0	9

Loja	1	6	1	0	1	1	10
Los Rios	4	1	6	2	1	1	15
Manabi	4	7	5	8	8	3	35
Morona Santiago	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
Napo	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Orellana	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pastaza	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pichincha	7	7	14	14	21	10	73
Santa Elena	1	2	5	0	2	1	11
Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas	3	0	3	0	2	0	8
Sucumbíos	2	2	2	1	1	0	8
Tungurahua	4	2	3	4	1	1	15
Zamora Chinchipe	3	1	2	0	0	0	6
Total	65	65	71	55	77	23	356

Source: Ecuadorian Automatic System of Judicial Procedure, SATJE

Number of convictions and acquittals handed down on CSE, between 01/01/2019 and 30/04/2024, by year of resolution

Sentences	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Conviction	10	15	10	21	12	3	71
Sentence Ratifying Innocence	7	8	5	7	0	2	29
Total	17	24	15	28	12	5	100

Source: Ecuadorian Automatic System of Judicial Procedure, SATJE

Cases of sexual violence detected or committed in the education system between 01/01/2019 and 30/04/2024, according to the year of the complaint band offending group

Year of the complaint at de education system	Offending Group		Total
	Offender INSIDE the education system	Offender OUTSIDE the education system	
	Number of complaints	Number of complaints	Number of complaints
2019	179	595	774
2020	26	243	269
2021	7	317	324
2022	119	856	975
2023	120	649	769
2024	7	23	30
Total	458	2683	3141

Source: REDEVI

GUATEMALA

Complaint on CSE by year and department

Departament	2023	2024
Alta Verapaz	0	1
Baja Verapaz	1	0
Chimaltenango	9	0
Chiquimula	4	1
El Progreso	2	1

Escuintla	6	0
Guatemala	42	9
Huehuetenango	3	0
Izabal	5	0
Jalapa	1	0
Jutiapa	4	0
Peten	5	0
Quetzaltenango	1	4
Quiche	1	0
Retalhuleu	2	0
Sacatepéquez	2	0
San Marcos	6	1
Santa Rosa	1	0
Solola	0	0
Suchitepequez	3	1
Totonicapan	1	1
No Registrado	1	0
Total	100	19

Gender of children and adolescents aggrieved by CSE crimes

Género	2023	2024
Female	56	16
Male	8	2
Unregisterd	36	1
Total	100	19

Age range of children and adolescents aggrieved by CSE crimes

Age range	2023	2024
0 to 12 years	31	12
13 to 17 yeas	69	7
Total	100	19

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CSE offences established by Guatemalan law

CSE Offences (in Spanish)	2023	2024
Actividades sexuales remuneradas con personas menores de edad	37	2
Actividades sexuales remuneradas con personas menores de edad con circunstancias especiales de agravación	8	1
Comercialización o difusión de pornografía de personas menores de edad	9	3
Empleo de personas menores de edad en actividades laborales lesivas a su integridad y dignidad	15	3
Posesión de material pornográfico de personas menores de edad	3	0
Posesión de material pornográfico de personas menores de edad con circunstancias especiales de agravación	15	0
Producción de pornografía de personas menores de edad	9	8

Promoción, facilitación o favorecimiento de prostitución	3	1
Remuneración por la promoción, facilitación o favorecimiento de prostitución	1	1
Total	100	19

Complaints for Grooming

Departamento	Complaints Grooming	
	2023	2024
Alta Verapaz	10	0
Baja Verapaz	1	0
Chimaltenango	5	1
Chiquimula	3	0
El Progreso	3	0
Escuintla	6	2
Guatemala	44	18
Huehuetenango	3	0
Izabal	4	0
Jalapa	3	0
Jutiapa	8	0
No registrado	1	0
Petén	2	1
Quetzaltenango	7	1
Quiche	1	1
Retalhuleu	5	0

Sacatepequez	5	0
San Marcos	1	1
Santa Rosa	0	4
Solola	2	0
Suchitepequez	4	0
Zacapa	1	1
Total	119	30

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Grooming

Departament	Number of children and adolescents aggrieved	
	2023	2024
Alta Verapaz	10	0
Baja Verapaz	2	0
Chimaltenango	13	1
Chiquimula	3	0
El Progreso	3	0
Escuintla	6	3
Guatemala	51	6
Huehuetenango	3	0
Izabal	5	0
Jalapa	2	0
Jutiapa	9	0
No registrado	1	0

Peten	2	1
Quetzaltenango	6	0
Quiche	1	0
Retalhuleu	5	0
Sacatepequez	6	0
San Marcos	1	1
Santa Rosa	2	0
Solola	5	0
Suchitepequez	1	1
Zacapa	0	0
Total	137	13

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Seduction, by gender

Gender	2023	2024
Female	72	9
Male	16	4
Unregistered	49	0
Total	137	13

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Seduction, by age

Age range	2023	2024
7 to 12 years	24	0
13 to 17 years	75	13
Unregistered	38	0
Total	137	13

Source: Tables and graphs prepared by the SVET Monitoring and Statistics Directorate based on information obtained from the "Seduction and Blackmail" database Public Ministry 2023 - as of April 2024.

Complaints for Sextortion

Departament	Complaints for sextortion	
	2023	2024
Alta Verapaz	0	0
Baja Verapaz	1	0
Chimaltenango	0	0
Chiquimula	0	0
El Progreso	1	0
Escuintla	0	1
Guatemala	5	4
Huehuetenango	3	1
Izabal	2	1
Jalapa	2	0
Jutiapa	3	0

No registrado	0	0
Peten	1	0
Quetzaltenango	0	1
Quiche	0	1
Retalhuleu	0	0
Sacatepequez	0	0
San Marcos	2	4
Solola	3	0
Suchitepéquez	0	1
Zacapa	0	0
Total	23	14

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Sextortion

Departamento	Number of children and adolescents aggrieved	
	2023	2024
Alta Verapaz	0	0
Baja Verapaz	1	0
Chimaltenango	0	0
Chiquimula	0	0
El Progreso	1	0
Escuintla	0	0
Guatemala	6	2
Huehuetenango	5	1

Izabal	4	2
Jalapa	2	0
Jutiapa	4	0
No registrado	0	0
Peten	1	0
Quetzaltenango	0	2
Quiche	0	0
Retalhuleu	0	0
Sacatepequez	0	0
San Marcos	2	3
Solola	3	0
Suchitepéquez	0	0
Zacapa	0	0
Total	29	10

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Sextortion, by gender

Gender	2023	2024
Female	21	6
Male	4	3
Unregistered	4	1
Total	29	10

Number of children and adolescents aggrieved by Sextortion, by age

Age range	2023	2024
7 to 12 years	4	0
13 to 17 years	18	10
Unregistered	7	0
Total	29	10

Source: Tables and graphs prepared by the SVET Monitoring and Statistics Directorate based on information obtained from the "Seduction and Blackmail" database Public Ministry 2023 - as of April 2024.

Appendix 4 - Research, publications and other resources shared by States in response to the Enquiry Form (in Spanish)

CHILE

Cámara de Diputadas y Diputados (2022). Informe de la Comisión Especial Investigadora sobre las situaciones de abuso y explotación sexual a niñas, niños y adolescentes bajo protección del Estado (CEI 67). https://www.camara.cl/verDoc.aspx?prmID=66799&prmTipo=INFORME_COMISION

Defensoría de la Niñez (2023). Informe Anual 2023: Nota Temática N°4: Explotación Sexual: un fenómeno que impacta a la niñez y adolescencia en Chile. <https://www.defensorianinez.cl/informe-anual-2023/>

Defensoría de la Niñez (2024). Nota Técnica N°5 Explotación sexual contra niñas, niños y adolescentes: factores y caracterización en los últimos años. Observatorio de Derechos de la Defensoría de la Niñez. <https://observatorio.defensorianinez.cl/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Nota-Tecnica-N5-Desafios-ante-la-explotacion-sexual-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes.pdf>

Fundación Tierra Esperanza (2022). Diagnóstico de la ruta de atención de niños, niñas y adolescentes víctimas de explotación sexual comercial, identificación de nudos críticos y propuesta de modelo de intervención. <https://plandeaccioninfancia.ministeriodesarrollosocial.gob.cl/storage/cms/document/csEyp7LiEFETW4E1FbzMre9aSLjoxrZNJNt4j3Hr.pdf>

Hogar de Cristo (2021). Del dicho al derecho: Ser niña en una residencia de protección en Chile. <https://hogardecristo.cl/sernina/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DDaD3.pdf>

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Escuela de Trabajo Social) (2023). Informe Estudio: Sistematización de experiencias de abordaje y propuesta de un modelo de intervención de la explotación sexual comercial de niñas, niños y adolescentes en entornos digitales. <https://plandeaccioninfancia.ministeriodesarrollosocial.gob.cl/storage/cms/document/nqPWEAehVzI2kSt5htwC9GNzY6ZZA7Mmli6aiPHj.pdf>

COLOMBIA

OBN, ICBF. (2020). Infografía Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en Colombia. https://www.icbf.gov.co/system/files/infografia_escna_vf.pdf

ECUADOR

Defensoría del Pueblo de Ecuador. (2023). Informe Intermedio Investigación Defensorial Caso-DPE-1701-170122-300-2023-000005. repositorio.dpe.gob.ec/handle/39000/3549

ECPAT International. (2022). Panorama de País de ECPAT: Ecuador. <https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ECPAT-Country-Overview-Ecuador-Final-November2022.pdf>

MÉXICO

Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (2019). Diagnóstico Nacional sobre la situación de la trata de Personas en México 2019. https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-08/DIAGNOSTICO_SITUACION_TDP_2019.pdf

ECPAT México (2018). Informe La Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes en los Viajes y el Turismo. Cancún, México. Una mirada inicial. http://ecpatmexico.org.mx/pdf/publicaciones-editoriales/INFORME_ESCNNA-VT_CANCUN_2018_ECPAT%20MEXICO_EDIAC%20a%20Edicion.pdf

Oficina de Defensoría de los Derechos de la Infancia A.C. (2021). Es un secreto. La explotación sexual en las escuelas. <https://dispensariodi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/es-un-secreto-la-explotacion-sexual-infantil-en-escuelas-2.pdf>

PERÚ

CHS Alternativo (2023). Las economías criminales y su impacto en el Perú. ¿Cuáles? ¿Cuánto? ¿Dónde? ¿Cómo? Versión Resumida. <https://chsalternativo.org/publicaciones/las-economias-criminales-y-su-impacto-en-el-peru-cuales-cuanto-donde-como/>

PROMSEX (s/f). No más mujeres invisibles: contra la trata, explotación sexual y violencia sexual en zonas de minería informal de Madre de Dios y Piura. <https://promsex.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/No-ma%CC%81s-Mujeres-Invisibles.pdf>



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