

## CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD (CRC)

### PURPOSE

For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier (Article 1).

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- non-discrimination: Children should neither benefit or suffer because of their race, colour, gender, language, religion, national, social or ethnic origin, or because of any political or other opinion; because of their caste, property or birth status; or because they are disabled.
- the best interests of the child: Laws and actions affecting children should put their best interests first and benefit them in the best possible way.
- survival, development and protection: The authorities in each country must protect children and help ensure their full development — physically, spiritually, morally and socially.
- participation: Children have a right to have their say in decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account.

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENSURING RESPECT, PROMOTION & PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS—THE 3P's: Provision, Protection & Participation

#### 1. The Right to Provision

These are the rights to services, skills and resources: the 'inputs' that are necessary to ensure children's survival and development to their full potential; for example: health care (Article 24), education (Article 28), the right to play (Article 31).

#### 2. The Right to Protection

These are the rights that ensure children are protected from acts of exploitation or abuse, in the main by adults or institutions, that threaten their dignity, their survival or their development; for example: protection from abuse and neglect (Article 19), the regulation of child labour (Article 32), protection and care in the best interests of the child (Article 3).

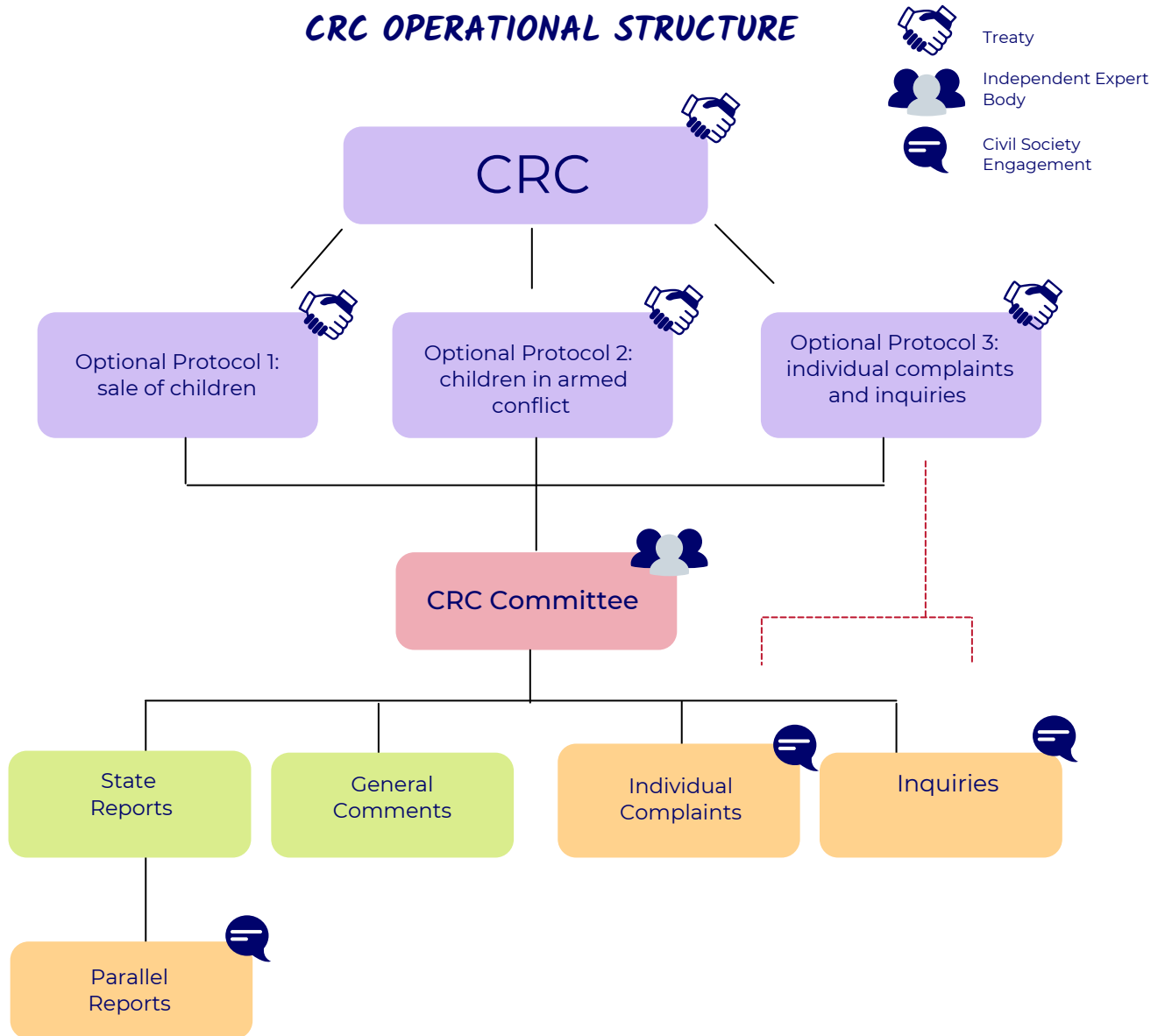
#### 3. The Right to Participation

These are the rights that provide children with the means by which they can engage in those processes of change that will bring about the realisation of their rights, and prepare them for an active part in society. They include, for example: the right to express their views and to be heard in legal proceedings (Article 12), freedom of expression and the right to information (Article 13).

### STATE OBLIGATIONS

- State to ensure a child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment
- State shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of rights recognised in the CRC
- State to ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities
- State to respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the CRC

## CRC OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



*Samoa became a party to the CRC in 1994 & all 3 CRC Optional Protocols in 2016*