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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD  
Thirty-eighth session  
Pre-sessional Working Group  
4-8 October 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of  
the second periodic report of Belize (CRC/C/65/Add.29)

**PART I**

**Under this section the State party is requested to submit in written form  
additional and updated information, if possible, before 25 November 2004.**

**A. Data and statistics, if available**

1. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, ethnic groups, urban or rural areas) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on:
  - a. the number and percentage of children under 18 living in the State party;
  - b. the number and percentage of children belonging to minorities and indigenous children, non-national children including immigrant children.
  
2. In light of Article 4 of the Convention, please provide disaggregated data on budget allocations and trends (in percentages of the national and district budgets) for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 regarding the implementation of the Convention evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:
  - a. education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education)
  - b. health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care, HIV/AIDS and other health care services for children, including social insurance);
  - c. programmes and services for children with disabilities;
  - d. support programmes for families;
  - e. support for children living below the poverty line;
  - f. the protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;

- g. programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;
- h. programmes and services for children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples;
- i. programmes and services for abandoned children, including street children;
- j. juvenile justice.

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number of children:

- a. separated from their parents;
- b. placed in institutions;
- c. placed with foster families;
- d. adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions.

4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, up to the age of 18, disaggregated by gender, age groups and, if possible, ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003:

- a. living with their families;
- b. living in institutions;
- c. placed with foster care;
- d. attending regular schools;
- e. attending special schools;
- f. not attending schools.

5. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003:

- a. rates of infant and child mortality;
- b. rates of immunization;
- c. rates of malnutrition;
- d. children infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- e. adolescent health, including early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health and suicide, drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse; and
- f. number of health professionals working in the health care services for children.

6. With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender, ethnic groups and types of violations reported) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the:

- a. number of child abuse cases reported;
- b. number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up;
- c. average duration of the case from the time of reporting to a court decision;
- d. number and proportion of victims that have received counseling and assistance in recovery.

7. With reference to the right to education, please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age groups, if possible ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, immigrant children) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 in percentage of the relevant age group on the:

- a. rates of literacy, below and over 18 years;
- b. rate of enrolment in pre-primary schools, primary schools and in secondary schools;
- c. percentage of children completing primary and secondary education;
- d. number and percentage of drop-outs, repetition and retention;
- e. number of children in private schools;
- f. ratio teacher per children and number of children per class.

8. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age and type of crime) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, in particular on the number of:

- a. persons below eighteen, who have allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;
- b. persons below eighteen who have been charged with a crime and of them those who are sentenced, and the type of punishment or sanctions related to offences including length of deprivation of liberty;
- c. detention facilities for persons below eighteen in conflict with law and their capacity;
- d. persons below eighteen detained in these facilities and persons below eighteen detained in adult facilities;
- e. person below eighteen kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;
- f. reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons below eighteen occurred during their arrest and detention;
- g. percentage of recidivism cases.

9. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, if possible ethnic group, urban and rural areas) for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number of children:

- a. involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking and the number of children provided with access to recovery and other assistance;
- b. involved in substance abuse and the number of children who received treatment and rehabilitative assistance;
- c. involved in child labour;
- d. unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and displaced children.

## **B. General Measures of Implementation**

1. The Committee would appreciate receiving detailed information on concrete and time bound activities related to recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.99 of 10 May 1999), which have not yet been fully implemented, in particular those related to the priority of adequate budgetary allocations to ensure implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights of children (para.12), the prohibition of corporal punishment (para.19), the protection against domestic violence, ill-treatment and sexual abuse (para.22), the equal enjoyment of all human rights by children with disabilities (para.26) and the juvenile justice system (para.30). Please explain the obstacles to implementation and how the State party envisages overcoming them.

2. Please provide more information on the efforts undertaken by the State party to harmonize domestic law with the provisions and principles of the Convention.

3. Please provide information on cases, if any, where the Convention has been directly invoked in courts.

4. Please describe measures undertaken to strengthen data and statistics collection mechanisms and procedures with regard to the implementation of all provisions of the Convention.

5. Please provide information on the content of a national Plan of Action for children and adolescents prepared in response to "A World Fit for Children" following the 2002 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. Please also explain implementation processes, particularly in terms of priorities and budget allocations, and modalities of monitoring and evaluating its implementation.

6. Please provide information on the content of the new Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2009, in particularly about the extend to which children will benefit from this plan.

7. With regard to the establishment of an Ombudsman in July 1999, please provide updated information on the mandate, financial and human resources of this body. Please provide information on the number and nature of the complaints relating to areas covered by the Convention filed with this body and its responses to these complaints. In addition, please provide information on the Ombudsman's own initiatives taken to ensure the effective implementation of the rights of the child.

8. With regard to the establishment of an Inspector of Social Services Institutions, in 2001, please provide information on the measures taken by the Inspector to enforce the child specific provisions of the Social Service Agencies Act.

9. Please provide further information on efforts to provide training, awareness and information on the Convention to various groups of professionals working for or with children.

10. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention using human rights based approach.

## **PART II**

**Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages or the State party as well as in other languages or dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.**

## **PART III**

**Under this section, the State party is to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in its report with regard to:**

- New bills or enacted legislation;
- New institutions;
- Newly implemented policies;
- Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.

## **PART IV**

**The following is a preliminary list of major issues (that does not contain issues already covered in Part I) that the Committee may take up during the dialogue with the State party. They do no require written answers. This list is not exhaustive as other issues might be raised in course of the dialogue.**

1. The enforcement of national legislation relating to the rights of the child.
2. Birth registration, with a particular regard to children living in rural areas.
3. Violence against children, including corporal punishment.
4. A curfew between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. for children under 16 years established in 1999 by adoption of the Families and Children (Protection of Children) (Belize City) Regulations.

5. The situation of children with disabilities, the lack of adequate legislation, access to social and health services, equal opportunities to education, rehabilitation and recreation.
6. Educational system, including equal access to education by all children, literacy, administration of school discipline, the situation of pregnant students and students with their children.
7. Health, including the implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme introduced in 2001, HIV/AIDS and access to safe water and sanitation in rural areas.
8. Adolescent health concerns and reproductive health issues, including medical counselling without parental consent and early pregnancy.
9. Leisure, recreation and cultural activities.
10. Economic exploitation, child labour, especially child domestic work.
11. Substance abuse.
12. Implementation of the new Act on Trafficking in Persons (2003) and measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation.
13. Juvenile justice, inter alia, the minimum age of criminal responsibility, the (monitoring of the) conditions of detention facilities for juveniles, alternatives for (pre-trial) detention.
14. The situation of children belonging to minorities or indigenous peoples.

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