

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
Fortieth Session
Pre-sessional Working Group
12 – 30 September 2005

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of
the third periodic report of Finland (CRC/C/129/Add. 5)

Part I

Under this section the State party is requested to submit in written form additional and updated information, if possible, before 5 August 2005.

A. Data and statistics, if available

1. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the number and percentage of children under 18 living in Finland:
2. In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional disaggregated data for the years 2003- 2005, on budget allocations and trends (in percentages of the national budget or GDP) 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) child care services, including day care centers;
 - c) health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health care services for children);
 - d) programmes and services for children with disabilities;
 - e) support programmes for families;
 - f) support for children living below the poverty line (please also specify the criteria for 'poverty' and indicate the number of children living below the poverty line);
 - g) the protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;
 - h) programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;
 - i) juvenile justice;
 - j) juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation;
 - k) other social services.

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, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) for the last three years on the number of children:
 - a) separated from their parents;
 - b) placed in institutions;
 - c) placed with foster families;
 - d) adopted domestically;
 - e) adopted internationally.
4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, disaggregated by gender and age, covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004:
 - a) living with their families;
 - b) in institutions;
 - c) attending regular schools;
 - d) attending special schools;
 - e) non attending any school.
5. Please provide information on the number of children abducted from or to Finland.
6. With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender, minority and indigenous groups and types of violations reported) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the:
 - a) number of reported cases of child abuse;
 - b) number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up.
7. Please provide disaggregated data (including by gender, age, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on:
 - a) the enrolment and completion rates in percentages of the relevant group in pre-primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools;
 - b) rates of literacy under 18 years old;
 - c) rate of children completing primary and secondary school;
 - d) number and percentage of drop-outs and repetitions;
 - e) teacher per child ratio;
 - f) number of children attending school abroad.
8. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) on early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health problems (e.g. suicide rates, eating disorders, depression), drug use, alcohol and tobacco abuse covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Please also provide numbers of health professionals working in the health care services for children.
9. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (including by gender, age groups, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) on children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.
10. Please provide appropriate disaggregated data (including by gender, age and type of crime)

covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, in particular on the number of:

- a) persons below 18 who have allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;
 - b) persons below 18 who have been sentenced and type of punishment or sanctions related to offences including length of deprivation of liberty;
 - c) persons below 18 who have been tried as adults;
 - d) detention facilities for juvenile delinquents and their capacity;
 - e) persons below 18 detained in these facilities and minors detained in adult facilities;
 - f) persons below 18 kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;
 - g) reported cases of abuse and mistreatment of children occurred during their arrest and detention.
11. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, minority and indigenous groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on:
- a) the number of children involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking and the number of those children who were provided access to recovery and reintegration services;
 - b) the number of children involved in substance abuse and the number of those children who received recovery and reintegration services;
 - c) the number of migrant unaccompanied minors, asylum-seeking, refugee children, as well as the number of children awaiting expulsion;
 - d) the number of children involved in labour who are under 16;

B. General Measures of Implementation

1. The Committee would appreciate receiving information on intended or planned activities related to recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.132 of 16 October 2000) on the second periodic report of Finland (CRC/C/70/Add.3) which have not yet been fully implemented, in particular those contained in paragraphs: 11-12 (coordinated policy relating to children); 15-16 (budgetary allocations); 21-22 (training and dissemination of the Convention); 33-34 (support to families with children); 35-36 (placement of children in alternative care); 37-38 (family reunification); 39-40 (violence against children, including sexual abuse); 51-52 (asylum-seeking and refugee children); 59-60 (children belonging to an ethnic minority or an indigenous group).
2. Please indicate whether the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been invoked directly in domestic courts during the reporting period, and if so, please provide examples of such cases.
3. Please provide additional information on measures taken to improve the system for collection of disaggregated data on children under 18 in all areas under the Convention.
4. In paragraph 498 of the State party's report it is stated that the Government should have submitted to Parliament, in the course of 2004, proposal for an amendment of the Act on the Integration of Immigrants and Reception of Asylum Seekers, taking note of some Parliament suggestions concerning the need to improve the position of asylum-seeking and refugee children. In this regard, please inform the Committee whether the Amendment of the Act has been approved and the changes it has brought to the situation of children, if any.

5. Please provide information on the expected amendments of the criminal legislation concerning trafficking in persons and child pornography mentioned at paragraph 578 and 579 of the State party's report.
6. Please provide updated information on the new Government Bill on the use of Sami language.
7. Please inform the Committee on the findings of the interagency working group chaired by the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Unit and set up in September 2004 to develop a new national plan of action to combat trafficking.
8. Please provide information on the role of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the Convention as well as in the process of preparation of the State party report, if any.
9. 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.

Part II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all official languages of 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 invited to briefly (3 pages maximum) update 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 not require written answers. This list is not exhaustive as other issues might be raised in the course of the dialogue.

1. Protection from discrimination and xenophobia in particular with respect to children belonging to ethnic minorities and asylum-seeking children.
2. The State party's strategy to significantly strengthen the Convention's overall implementation with particular attention to the general principles of the Convention (non-discrimination (art.2), the best interests of the child (art.3) and the right of the child to express its views and be heard (art.12)).

3. National Plan of Action for children.
4. Regulation and practices concerning the separation of children from parents.
5. Domestic violence, including corporal punishment, and sexual abuse.
6. Alcohol abuse.
7. Children with disabilities.
8. Human rights education.
9. Support and protection provided to asylum-seeking children.
10. Family reunification.
11. Juvenile justice
12. The situation of Roma, Sami and other minority children.