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To <mandrijasevic-boko@ohchr.org>, "GVAMISU, Archive"  
<gvamisuarhive@um.dk>  
cc "Michael Braad" <micbra@um.dk>

bcc

Subject Consideration of Denmark's 3. report in accordance with  
article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:  
Monday 26 September 2005.

Dear Ms Andrijasevic-Boko,

Please find below the list of Danish delegates to the meeting at OHCHR on Monday. We should be grateful if this list could be transmitted to your reception in order that the delegation be admitted to Palais Wilson.

Yours sincerely,  
Sussi Loades

- > Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
- > Mr. Kim Vinthen, Head of the Human Rights Unit, Head of Delegation
- > Ms. Marianne Hoffmann, Minister Counsellor
- > Mr. Michael Braad, 1. secretary of Embassy, Geneva
- >
- > Ministry of Justice:
- > Ms. Barbara Bertelsen, Head of Section
- >
- > Ministry of Family and Consumer Affairs:
- > Ms. Christina Barfoed- Høj, Head of Section
- >
- > Department of Family Affairs:
- > Mr. Lars Thøgersen, Special Advisor
- >
- > Ministry of Employment, National Working Environment Authority:
- > Ms. Karen Müller, Head of Section
- >
- > Ministry of refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs:
- > Ms. Karen Johansen, Head of Section
- >
- > Ministry of Education, National Education Authority:
- > Mr. Jens Thuesen, Head of Section
- >
- > Ministry of Social Affairs:
- > Ms. Anne Sandbeck, Head of Section
- >
- > Home Rule Government of Greenland, Ministry for Families and Justice:
- > Ms. Kirsten Olesen, Head of Department
- >

Consideration of the 3rd Periodic Report submitted by Denmark under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the initial Report under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Introductory Statement by Denmark

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Committee,

I would like to start by expressing my Government's deep appreciation for the important work of this Committee and its tireless endeavours to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols.

The Danish Government considers the effective and independent international monitoring of compliance with international human rights standards a priority. Indeed, it is one of five top priorities of Danish international human rights policy. The others are:

- To continue efforts within focus areas such as the fight against torture and the rights of indigenous peoples
- To increase attention to the human rights situation in individual countries
- To promote democratisation and respect for human rights in Danish development assistance and
- To enhance cooperation with civil society

The Danish Government is firmly committed to ensure that Denmark acts in compliance with her international obligations at all times. We therefore welcome scrutiny and we welcome the opportunity to discuss with this Committee the implementation in Denmark of the obligations laid down in the two international instruments under review today.

Mr. Chairman,

You have before you our latest report on the implementation in Denmark of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the third periodic report since the Convention entered into force for Denmark in 1991. You also have out Initial report on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. In addition, we have provided the Committee with written responses to the additional "List of Issues" presented to us only last August. I would like to assure you of our firm commitment to enter into a constructive and open dialogue with you on the issues at hand. This commitment is reflected in the broad participation by line ministry experts in my delegation.

May I take this opportunity to introduce to you and to the Committee the members of the Danish delegation:

- Head of Delegation, Head of Department,  
Mr. Kim Vinthen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Minister Counsellor, Ms. Marianne Hoffmann,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 1<sup>st</sup> secretary Mr. Michael Braad, the Danish UN mission in Geneva

- Head of Section, Ms. Kirsten Olesen,  
The Home Rule Government of Greenland

- Head of Section, Ms. Barbara Bertelsen,  
Ministry of Justice

- Head of Section, Ms. Christina Barfoed-Høj  
Ministry of Family and Consumer Affairs

- Special Advisor, Mr. Lars Thøgersen  
Department of Family Affairs

- Head of Section, Ms. Karen Müller  
Ministry of Employment, National Working Environment Authority

- Head of Section, Ms. Karen Johansen,  
Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs

- Head of Section, Mr. Jens Thuesen,  
Ministry of Education, National Education Authority

- Head of Section, Ms. Anne Sandbeck,  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman,

In our reporting, we have endeavoured to address the issues comprehensively and diligently. Let me also state that the Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, child Prostitution and child Pornography entered into force for Denmark in 2003. Our initial report in this respect was duly submitted to this Committee in August this year.

Domestically, I think it is fair to say that many children benefit from the advantages of a comparatively rich society, - a society that tends to focus on the best interests of the child through the creation of favourable conditions for the family as such. The Government is very conscious to find new and innovative ways and means to optimise conditions for the family, including the rights of the child.

In the international context, Denmark is strongly committed to international cooperation on improving the livelihood and conditions of children. This is demonstrated inter alia by active and engaged Danish participation in EU and UN/Security Council efforts to address the impact of armed conflict on children.

It is also reflected in the longstanding tradition for providing substantial Danish development assistance to countries and peoples in need. In February this year, the re-

elected Danish government made it clear, that Danish development assistance will remain above 0.8 per cent of GDP. This places Denmark well above the UN-target of 0.7 per cent. And even more importantly, the constant high level ensures the resources to continue providing health and education to children in developing countries.

The fight against poverty is the overall objective of all Danish development cooperation. To our minds, investing in children is an effective means of achieving poverty reduction to the benefit of children and young people, but also society as a whole. Denmark's commitment to children and young people in development and its obligations under the CRC are reflected in Danish development policy.

The Millennium Development Goals make up the framework for a 2005 set of guidelines on Children and Youths in Danish Development Assistance. Six of the eight MDGs refer specifically to children, as they point to safeguarding the rights of the children to health, education, protection and equality. The guidelines provide a means to transform policy into action.

Beyond the MDGs, there is a need for increased focus on children and youth in armed conflicts. As present member of the UN Security Council, Denmark has worked determined to improve the situation of children trapped in armed conflict.

Denmark has a strong and productive partnership with the NGOs involved in fighting the use of children and soldiers and other forms of exploitation of children in armed conflict. One example of this cooperation was the launching of Save the Child's policy brief 'Child Protection in Emergencies' at the Danish UN-Mission in New York in April this year.

Mr. Chairman,

With your permission, I would like now to address some specific points in relation to our report on the Child and the additional information, we have provided.

With the ambition to enhance the interests of children, the Danish Government established a Ministry of Family and Consumer Affairs in 2004. One of the main goals is to coordinate and prepare legislation and projects concerning children and their families. Its responsibilities include maternity/paternity leave and day-care facilities for children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that the child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. To support a good and harmonious family life, the past few years have seen a number of initiatives to ensure that the family is capable of creating the common life that suits the individual family. One of these initiatives is the extended and flexible paternity/maternity leave to a total period of 52 weeks with full daily cash benefits. These initiatives offer families improved possibilities for choosing the family and working life, which matches the individual family's needs.

As you will have noticed from Denmark's third report and from the Danish replies to the supplementary questions, the field of juvenile justice has received much attention in recent years. In September 2003 the Danish Government established a ministerial committee in relation to the effort concerning young criminals. Among its tasks, the committee was asked to consider the need to direct and improve the effort in certain areas, including crime prevention measures – taking into account the recent developments in youth crime.

The committee presented its provisional report to the Government Committee of Coordination in December 2004. One of the recommendations in the report was to establish of a working group to consider the possibilities of reducing the duration and increasing the efficiency of the criminal procedures in certain types of cases involving young persons.

In February 2005, the Government set out the objective that the conviction of criminals below the age of 18 and the serving of the sentence for these persons should be made swifter. Cases of a less complicated nature shall therefore be brought before the courts within a month after the identification of the accused and serving of the sentence should be commenced a month after the final court decision – at the latest. The Director of Public Prosecutions has been asked to establish a committee in order to propose initiatives to fulfil these objectives.

Furthermore, the Prison and Probation Service has offered programmes in "anger management" to maladjusted young persons with aggression-related convictions since the year 2000. As a result of the positive experiences with the programmes, a scheme is currently being prepared, which will make it possible to make the participation in equivalent programmes a term for a conditional sentence in cases concerning violence.

Finally, The National Commissioner of Police has drawn up a report on measures of crime prevention aimed at groups of younger persons that cause concern and insecurity in local areas, but who are not yet involved in serious crime. The report contains a series of proposals, including that police districts and local authorities develop a common strategy, to implicate the parents and to intensify the SSP co-operation (between schools, social services and police). The police districts have been asked to incorporate and adapt the suggestions contained in the report to the local effort and report to the National Commissioner of Police which measures have been taken by October 1st at the latest."

Mr. Chairman,

With your permission, I would now like to hand over the floor to the distinguished representative from the Greenland Home Rule Government to give a short statement.

Thank you