

At its March 1997 session, the Committee considered implementation of the Convention in the Dominican Republic in the absence of a current report from the government. The Committee's concluding observations (CERD/C/50/Misc.6) noted with regret that the Dominican Republic has not submitted a report since 1988. The Committee recommended that the government make use of the technical assistance offered under the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the aim of preparing and submitting as soon as possible an updated report.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 2 September 1982.

The Dominican Republic's fourth periodic report has been submitted (CEDAW/C/DOM/4) but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 2 September 1999.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 8 August 1990; ratified: 11 June 1991.

The Dominican Republic's initial report was due 10 July 1993.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 126–128)

The Working Group did not receive any new cases of disappearance. Two cases remain to be clarified. The first involves an individual who was arrested in June 1984 in Santo Domingo and subsequently disappeared. The second concerns a university lecturer, who was also a journalist and political activist, who was reportedly detained in May 1994 by members of the army and subsequently taken to a military base. No new information was provided by the government on either case.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 67)

The report notes that there are sex tourism beaches and beach resorts in the Dominican Republic. Reference is also made to the use of young boys as prostitutes, known as "hanky panky" boys, who are beach boys and possibly as young as 13. The boys stay on the beaches with foreign tourists and establish a relationship with their visitor which can last for years. The report notes that the practice is more peculiar to the Dominican Republic than to other countries in the region.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/47, Sections IV, V)

In the section on trafficking in women and forced prostitution the report notes that in the Dominican Republic, women often borrow against future earnings or mortgage their family home in order to obtain the advance fees demanded by recruiters. The debts, amounting to thousands of U.S. dollars, must be paid back before the women are allowed to leave. In commentary on violence against women

migrant workers, the report states that live-in domestic work in countries of the European Union is a rapidly growing area of employment that is currently developing outside of labour regulatory schemes. The increasing demand is met mostly by undocumented migrant women from a number of countries, including the Dominican Republic.

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ECUADOR

Date of admission to UN: 21 December 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Ecuador has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 29 September 1967; ratified: 6 March 1969.

Ecuador's third periodic report was due 30 June 1997.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 4 April 1968; ratified: 6 March 1969.

Ecuador's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/84/Add.6) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 4 November 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 4 April 1968; ratified: 6 January 1972.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 23 February 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 22 September 1966.

Ecuador's 14th periodic report was due 4 January 1994; the 15th periodic report was due 4 January 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 14.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 9 November 1981.

Ecuador's fourth periodic report was due 9 December 1994.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 30 March 1988.

Ecuador's third periodic report was due 25 June 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration; declarations under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 23 March 1990.

Ecuador's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.44) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its May 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Ninth preambular paragraph; article 24 and article 38.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 129–131)

The report notes that no new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group to the government and that