

- ▶ pursue efforts to promote human rights education and create a wider awareness and understanding of the principles and provisions of the Convention through a systematic information campaign for children and adults alike;
- ▶ promote a comprehensive training programme policy for professional groups working with and for children;
- ▶ consider acceding to other international human rights instruments, including the two International Covenants on Human Rights and the Convention against Torture;
- ▶ undertake to gather all necessary information on the situation of children in the various areas covered by the Convention and in relation to all groups of children, including the most vulnerable;
- ▶ adjust the National Policy on Children in order to cover all children, including children 14–18 years of age;
- ▶ increase the allocation of resources to the social sector to overcome and remedy existing disparities and develop, with international assistance, a comprehensive strategy for children, taking due account of the best interests of the child;
- ▶ make a greater effort to combat traditional attitudes and stereotypes and to sensitize society to the situation and needs of the girl child, children born out of wedlock, children living and/or working on the street, child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, children with disabilities, refugee children and children belonging to tribal minorities;
- ▶ promote and facilitate children's participation and respect for their views in decisions affecting them, especially in the family, at school, and in the judicial and administrative procedures;
- ▶ take further measures to ensure the registration of the birth of all children;
- ▶ develop public awareness campaigns and measures to provide appropriate assistance to families in carrying out their child-rearing responsibilities with a view, *inter alia*, to preventing domestic violence, prohibiting corporal punishment, and preventing early marriages and other harmful traditional practices;
- ▶ take additional measures to combat violence against and abuse of children, including sexual abuse, develop programmes for the rehabilitation and reintegration of traumatized children and devise adequate procedures and mechanisms to deal with complaints of both physical and psychological ill-treatment;
- ▶ ensure that allegations of violations of children's rights are investigated and prosecuted;
- ▶ consider becoming a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions;
- ▶ take further steps in the area of health and welfare services, in particular, to combat malnutrition and ensure the implementation of a National Nutritional Policy for children;
- ▶ make greater efforts to ensure the treatment of children with disabilities and raise awareness about the need to facilitate the active participation of those children in the community;
- ▶ take further steps in the area of education, including training teachers, improving the school environment, increasing enrolment and fighting school drop-out;
- ▶ carry out effective information campaigns to prevent and eliminate child labour and expand the present cooperation with international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF, and non-governmental organizations;
- ▶ enforce regulations to prevent child labour, investigate complaints and impose severe penalties for violations and strengthen efforts to provide opportunities for education and leisure to child workers and children working and/or living on the street;
- ▶ consider ratifying ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for employment;
- ▶ ensure adequate protection of refugee children — including in the field of physical safety, health and education — and establish procedures to facilitate family reunification;
- ▶ pursue legal reform in connection with the very young age of criminal responsibility, the lack of adequate protection for children aged 16–18, grounds for arrest and detention of children, the possibility of imposing heavy sentences on children, and the solitary confinement and ill-treatment of children by the police; and
- ▶ work to reinforce bilateral and regional cooperation to prevent and combat the serious problem of trafficking of children.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4, para. 17)

The report notes that an urgent appeal was sent to the government on behalf of two individuals without providing details of the cases.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 61–63)

The Working Group (WG) transmitted, for the first time, a case of disappearance to the government which reportedly occurred in 1996 and concerned the organizing secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, an organization which campaigns for the rights of the indigenous people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The victim was reported to have been forcibly taken from her home by security personnel before the general elections of 12 June 1996. The information received indicated that her abduction may have been linked to her support of a parliamentary candidate representing the interests of indigenous people. The government informed the WG that a three-member committee had been set up to investigate the case as well as to suggest legal steps to prevent such acts in the future. The committee will report to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 50–55)