

- ▶ ensure the active participation of children and their involvement in all decisions affecting them in the family, at school and in social life;
- ▶ develop effective public awareness campaigns and adopt measures to provide appropriate assistance to the family in the performance of its child-rearing responsibilities, including parental guidance and counselling, with a view, *inter alia*, to preventing domestic violence, prohibiting the use of corporal punishment, and preventing early pregnancies;
- ▶ reinforce existing measures to protect children from harmful information;
- ▶ take all necessary measures to regulate and monitor national and international adoptions and consider becoming a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993);
- ▶ focus greater efforts on eradicating illiteracy and on increasing access to school education of indigenous children and children living in rural areas;
- ▶ take all necessary measures to fight school drop-outs and ensure retention;
- ▶ develop effective public campaigns for the prevention and the elimination of child labour, especially in rural areas, while systematically and forcefully encouraging the enrolment, retention in and return of children to school;
- ▶ consider becoming a party to ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for admission to employment and review all relevant standards, clarify and enforce regulations to prevent child labour, investigate complaints and impose severe penalties for violations;
- ▶ ensure adequate protection of refugee children, including in the field of education, and develop procedures, in cooperation with UNHCR, to facilitate family reunification as well as to appoint legal representatives for unaccompanied children and to apply, when relevant, child friendly interview techniques;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to prevent and combat sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and ensure their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration; and,
- ▶ revise the juvenile justice system to ensure its compatibility with the principles and provisions of the Convention.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### *Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 20)

The report refers to the adoption of Act No. 15 of 1990 which categorized certain activities involving minors (rape, sexual molestation and prostitution) as aggravated offences. The government indicated to the Special Rapporteur that the law has not succeeded in preventing such practices, partly because of the sophisticated communications technology currently used by organized crime.

#### **Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

In the section dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report notes that in Colombia there are trafficking networks for prostitution that send women to several countries in the region, including Panama.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PARAGUAY

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 October 1945.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Land and People:** Paraguay has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/Add.24) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the general political structure, the separation of powers, and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The Constitution sets out all basic human rights and provides for a number of mechanisms to protect and safeguard them. Remedies for violations include habeas corpus, actions under the law on criminal procedure, actions under the Code for Juveniles, and systems of compensation. The office of the Defensoria del Pueblo (Ombudsman) has been established and functions as a parliamentary commissioner to defend human rights, channel claims by citizens and protect community interests. The Ombudsman may publicly censure acts or conduct contrary to human rights and must report annually to the two chambers of Congress. The Constitution is the supreme law with international treaties ratified by Paraguay directly following it in rank; treaties are defined as a part of domestic positive law which may be invoked before the courts. The Directorate-General for Human Rights was established in 1990 with a broad mandate encompassing the promotion, dissemination and protection of human rights.

#### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Acceded: 10 June 1992.

Paraguay's second periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

#### **Civil and Political Rights**

Acceded: 10 June 1992.

Paraguay's second periodic report is due 9 September 1998.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 10 January 1995.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Acceded: 6 April 1987.

Paraguay's third periodic report was due 6 May 1996.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 23 October 1989; ratified: 12 March 1990.

Paraguay's third periodic report is due 10 April 1999.

Paraguay's second periodic report (CAT/C/29/Add.1) was considered by the Committee at its April/May 1997 session. The report prepared by the government addresses new measures and developments related to implementation of articles 2 through 15 of the Convention. Among the points made are: the new draft Penal Code establishes penalties for the offence of torture and specifies that acts of torture committed by public officials or with their consent will not go