

problems associated with housing in urban areas to the detriment of rural areas; the lack of information concerning land survey, delivery of land titles and land allocation related to agrarian reform; the persistence of forced evictions by private landowners and the failure of the authorities to take the necessary measures to address this problem; the lack of information on the situation of the elderly, disabled persons and HIV positive and AIDS infected persons; information provided by the World Health Organisation, stating that the number of AIDS cases has increased from 133 in 1993 to 574 in 1996 for women and from 256 in 1993 to 1,050 in 1996 for men; the insufficiency of prevention campaigns in terms of addressing the appropriate ways and means available to combat the transmission of the virus; and, the persistence of sex tourism in resort areas, sometimes involving minors, although noting that coercive measures have been taken by the authorities against persons involved as local agents in such exploitation.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ take measures, notably at the fiscal and social levels, to address the problem of the inequitable distribution of wealth among the population in order to combat poverty;
- ▶ pursue measures to combat the arbitrariness and corruption of some judges and public officials;
- ▶ provide in the next report information on the means available, if any, to challenge the discriminatory, arbitrary and unjust application of a law, an executive decree or a decree of a court;
- ▶ take concrete and appropriate measures, such as information and education campaigns, and the reform of the criminal law in order to penalise acts of racial discrimination by public officials and private persons and prevent and combat acts of racial discrimination;
- ▶ pursue its policies designed to achieve full equality between women and men, in all areas of economic, social and cultural life;
- ▶ undertake a thorough review of the domestic legislation with a view to eliminating any remaining discriminatory legal provisions, especially with respect to labour, family, criminal, civil and social security laws;
- ▶ make available specific remedies to women victims of sexual discrimination;
- ▶ carry out information and education campaigns and take positive measures to promote the participation of women, on an equal basis with men, in public life, on the labour market and with respect to social and cultural activities;
- ▶ take effective measures at the education and socio-economic levels with a view to stem the outflow of skilled workers from the Dominican Republic;
- ▶ take all necessary measures to ensure that Haitian immigrants enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights fully and without discrimination, including through the delivery of residence permits or naturalisation;
- ▶ adopt positive measures to improve the living conditions in the *bateyes*, modify their legal status, improve their relationships with municipalities and require sugarcane companies to provide inhabitants of the *bateyes* with basic facilities, such as water and electricity, and with health and social services;
- ▶ review the minimum wage without delay and adjust it periodically to provide workers with a decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant;
- ▶ ensure that all sectors of activities are covered by the regulation of the minimum wage, including the sugarcane industry, and that inspection mechanisms be set up and given the means to carry out their tasks in order to conduct surveys in this area;
- ▶ allow workers in the free trade zones to form and join trade unions, comply with their right to strike, respect the minimum standard with regard to working conditions and set up inspection mechanisms and give them the freedom to carry out their tasks in these zones;
- ▶ continue the review of the Social Security Law bearing in mind the obligation under article 9 of the Covenant for universal coverage;
- ▶ monitor closely the situation of children and deploy all necessary means to ensure that all children fully enjoy the rights under the Covenant, with special attention paid to abandoned children, street children, exploited children, working children and teenage mothers;
- ▶ take necessary measures to combat violence against women and children in the family;
- ▶ pursue and intensify its efforts to ensure that safe drinking water be made available to the rural population and all those living in deprived urban areas;
- ▶ pursue and intensify efforts to address fully and effectively the problems related to housing, including through provision of increased resources for: both construction and rehabilitation and for the relocation of evicted and displaced communities; decentralisation and greater autonomy of local authorities in this field; and, effective coordination of the activities undertaken by all the competent organs;
- ▶ complete the process of land survey in order to issue title deeds to regularize the ownership of land by much of the population, in rural as well as in urban areas;
- ▶ take steps without delay to protect the population from forced evictions by private owners;
- ▶ provide in the next report full and concrete information on the situation of the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons who are HIV positive or AIDS infected; and,
- ▶ launch a specific and explicit information campaign on HIV/AIDS, its causes and prevention measures.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 4 January 1978.

The Dominican Republic's fourth periodic report was due 3 April 1994.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 4 January 1978.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 25 May 1983.

The Dominican Republic's fourth through seventh periodic reports were due 24 June 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1996 respectively.