

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 22 December 1995.

Liechtenstein's initial report was due 20 January 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Articles 1, 7 and 10.

THEMATIC REPORTS**Voluntary Fund for victims of torture, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/27, para. 4)**

The report of the Secretary-General notes that Liechtenstein contributed to the Voluntary Fund in 1996.

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LUXEMBOURG

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 26 November 1974; ratified: 18 August 1983.

Luxembourg's third periodic report is due 30 June 1998.

Luxembourg's second periodic report (E/1990/6/Add.9) was considered by the Committee at its November/December 1997 session. The report prepared by the government provides commentary on: the right to work, including just and favourable conditions of work and trade union rights; social security (sickness insurance, old-age and disability insurance, maternity benefits, family allowance, accident insurance, unemployment allowances); protection of the family and the mother and child; rights of the child; an adequate standard of living; physical and mental health; and, education and the system of the education.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (E/C.12/1/Add.22) noted positively: the existence of a comprehensive social security scheme; efforts to improve and update legislation with regard to economic and social rights; introduction of dependence insurance; drafting of a law to guarantee the right to health care; establishment of the Tripartite Coordination Committee to promote social peace and stability; efforts made to address the problem of rising unemployment; and, measures taken to ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of foreigners living in the country.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee were: the fact that the ICESCR has not been given the status of domestic law; the absence of judicial decisions related to the application of the Covenant by domestic courts; the failure of the Constitution to entrench a clear definition of the principle of gender equality; the persistence of inequitable gender disparities, particularly in the conditions of work and salary scales in the private sector; failure to incorporate fully into law the provisions of ILO Conventions on medical examinations of young people in industrial and non-industrial occupations, particularly with regard to employment in domestic service and agriculture; the absence of a comprehensive and specific legal framework that promotes and protects the rights of persons with disabilities; provisions in the Civil Code making a clear distinction between "legitimate" and "natural" children and discrimination against

children born out of wedlock; the absence of a comprehensive programme to combat all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and adolescents; the occurrence of adolescent health problems arising from, for example, drug abuse; the high incidence of suicides among young people; the absence of specialized geriatric doctors and facilities to address the problems associated with an aging population; the high drop-out rates among youth of secondary school age; the absence of human rights education in the school curricula; and, the low level awareness of the ICESCR, particularly among the judiciary and within professional groups, NGOs and the general public.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ take all appropriate measures to ensure equal treatment of women and men in employment, especially in the private sector;
- ▶ follow-up on the intention to ratify ILO Convention 111 related to discrimination in employment;
- ▶ adopt the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities to enhance the promotion and protection of their fundamental rights;
- ▶ eliminate any existing distinction in the Civil Code regarding children born out of wedlock;
- ▶ adopt more effective legislation to prevent and protect children and adolescents from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse;
- ▶ continue efforts to prevent and combat drug abuse and suicide tendencies among youth and, where necessary, reinforce existing measures;
- ▶ take steps to decrease the high number of school drop-outs and adopt the draft law guaranteeing the right to continuing education; and,
- ▶ include human rights education in the school curricula and undertake measures to educate the judiciary, professional groups, NGOs and the general public about the provisions of the Covenant.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 26 November 1974; ratified: 18 August 1983.

Luxembourg's third periodic report was due 17 November 1994.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 3 of article 10; paragraphs 3 and 5 of article 14; paragraph 2 of article 19; article 20; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 18 August 1983.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 13 February 1990; ratified: 12 February 1992.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 12 December 1967; ratified: 1 May 1978.

Luxembourg's 10th periodic report was due 31 May 1997.

Luxembourg's ninth periodic report (CERD/C/277/Add.2) was considered at the Committee's March 1997 session. The report prepared by the government includes demographic data and information on: integration and immigration; expression of violence; organized and non-organized racial, ethnic, anti-Semitic or xenophobic harassment; statistics of racist offences; and anti-racist and anti-discrimination legislation.