

- ▶ explicitly prohibit by law corporal punishment and amend legislation protecting children from violence in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to protect children from harmful information, including in the audio-visual media and in media using new technologies;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to promote and guarantee the child's right to freedom of expression at home, in school, in other institutions, and in society;
- ▶ adopt laws on adoption and consider ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures, including law enforcement and rehabilitation, to combat all forms of child abuse, especially ill-treatment within the family;
- ▶ undertake to prevent and combat the phenomenon of children working and/or living in the street;
- ▶ strengthen health care for children as well as information and prevention programmes to combat HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;
- ▶ continue and strengthen family planning and reproductive health programmes, including for adolescents;
- ▶ noting efforts to draft specific legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation, enact rapidly such a law and develop public campaigns involving all sectors of society, including traditional leaders, with a view to changing attitudes;
- ▶ make primary education compulsory and free to all;
- ▶ make efforts to ensure easy and full access to basic services, including the areas of health, education and social services, to refugee children living in Togo;
- ▶ adopt legislation and measures to protect children from exploitation through child labour in the informal sector and take appropriate measures, including through cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries, to prevent and combat the trafficking and sale of children;
- ▶ support all rehabilitation programmes dealing with child victims of drug and substance abuse;
- ▶ reinforce the legislative framework to protect children fully from all forms of sexual abuse or exploitation, including within the family; and,
- ▶ envisage undertaking a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, with particular attention given to terms and conditions of detention, access to legal assistance and alternative measures to imprisonment.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 345–347)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. There remain 10 cases to be clarified, concerning: six people who were reportedly detained in 1994 by members of the armed forces as they were on their way to visit relatives of the Secretary-General of

the Togolese Drivers' Trade Union; a civil servant who was reportedly the adviser to the President of the High Council of the Republic between 1991 and 1993 and who is said to have been abducted from his car and taken to an unknown destination by three men in a minibus, followed by a military vehicle; a man arrested by the police and taken to the Central Commissariat from where he disappeared a few days later; a farmer abducted from his home by armed men and taken to an unknown destination; and a businessman abducted from his home by five men in military fatigues. The WG notes that no new information on these cases was received either from the government or the sources of the reports.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 19, 96; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 474–476)

The report refers to a letter received from the government related to the amnesty law that was enacted by the National Assembly concerning all acts of homicide and other crimes committed on 25 March 1993 and 5 and 6 January 1994, and all offences of a political nature committed prior to 15 December 1994. The government noted that, under the law, the persons arrested for political or politically-inspired offences were being released and all judicial proceedings against those alleged to have committed offences of this type were being dropped. The Special Rapporteur (SR) reiterated his concern about such an amnesty law, noting that it is creating a climate of impunity in Togo. Further, that because of its extremely broad scope, it is detrimental to the rights of victims of human rights violations. The SR reminded the government that efforts to ascertain the truth concerning all human rights violations are essential, and that if national reconciliation is to have firm foundations, it must not neglect the right of all victims to demand that justice be done. To the same end, the SR urged the government to take into consideration the right of the victims to redress and compensation.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Contemporary forms of slavery, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, para. 74)

In the section dealing with early marriages, incest and detained juveniles, the report of the Working Group refers to information indicating that children are trafficked from Togo to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and other countries in Africa. The organization reporting this called for coordination and cooperation among the countries in the region, non-governmental organizations and other institutions with a view to drawing up a regional plan of action to combat the exploitation and trafficking of children in West Africa.

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, para. 15)

The report refers to the practice of "Trocosi" girls, or those delivered into the "slavery of God" and notes that Togo is among the countries in which the practice exists.

Other Reports

National institutions, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/41, para. 24)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to a statement by a representative of the National Commission for Human