

tuberculosis in Russia, particularly in prisons, where the health and social conditions of detention are unacceptable; the eightfold increase, in 1996, in the rate of HIV-infection, which is reported to be due to increased drug use; the growing and major problem of drug addiction among the young; the inadequate funding of hospitals; the non-availability of drugs for the treatment of illness, particularly for those who cannot afford these medicines; the deterioration of the educational system and its effects on school achievement; and, the figures for school attendance and the drop-out rates of the young at all levels.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ take action to protect the indigenous peoples from exploitation by oil and gas companies and, more generally, ensure their access to traditional and other sources of food;
- ▶ take vigorous steps to ensure the protection of women against sex discrimination in employment, and that victims of sex discrimination may receive compensation from employers who act illegally;
- ▶ adopt legislation to protect women victims of domestic violence;
- ▶ put in place specific programmes to assist such victims of domestic violence and bring to justice the perpetrators of such acts;
- ▶ take comprehensive measures to ensure safety and health in the workplace;
- ▶ increase funding of the labour inspectorate;
- ▶ develop a framework to encourage and protect workers who report inadequate conditions of work;
- ▶ take steps to accelerate further the development of trade unions by, *inter alia*, removing the practical constraints to the right to freedom of association, ensure that management is separated from official unions as part of a bargaining unit and, generally, enable the unions to function more effectively;
- ▶ develop a comprehensive strategy to combat child labour;
- ▶ develop and improve its policy, perhaps with assistance from the ILO, for assisting the unemployed to find work and to receive unemployment benefits;
- ▶ take immediate steps to ensure the payment of wages by both the state and private enterprises, and to punish those who have illegally diverted these funds for other purposes;
- ▶ increase assistance to those who live in poverty and make available to them adequate financial resources so that they can live in dignity;
- ▶ increase efforts to secure the well being of pensioners;
- ▶ make greater efforts to target social welfare expenditure to the truly needy sectors of the population;
- ▶ adopt a plan of action for food subsidies for the poor;
- ▶ try to resolve problems of legal title to land, the financing of supplies and equipment to farm areas, and transportation to markets as soon as possible to stimulate domestic food production;
- ▶ examine linkages between an acceptable and adequate food supply and questions related to a seriously polluted environment and the lack of investment in infrastructure for the maintenance and improvement of the water supply;
- ▶ take appropriate action to clean up the environment and prevent enterprises from engaging in further pollution, especially that which contaminates the food chain;
- ▶ undertake as a matter of priority the maintenance and improvement of the water supply system;
- ▶ take vigorous action against enterprises which have been found to have imported contaminated food;
- ▶ take immediate action to improve the health conditions in prisons, especially with regard to the rise in the rate of tuberculosis among prisoners and detainees;
- ▶ address the eightfold increase in HIV-infection in 1996 as a health question of the utmost importance through, for example, an information campaign in the mass media which explains the nature of the disease, the modes of transmission, including sexual modes of transmission, and prevention techniques, adopt laws and take all necessary measures to prevent discrimination against persons who are HIV-positive;
- ▶ increase funding of hospitals and make available medicines and medical attention to those who cannot afford them;
- ▶ continue and intensify efforts to treat drug addiction and to apprehend and punish drug dealers; and,
- ▶ adopt stronger and more effective measures to reinforce the educational system, reduce the rate of school drop-out, and enhance the protection of children against illegal employment and other abuses.

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

Signed: 18 March 1968; ratified: 16 October 1973.

Russia's fifth periodic report is due 4 November 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 48 of the ICCPR; declaration under article 41.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 1 October 1991.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 1.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Signed: 7 March 1966; ratified: 4 February 1969.

Russia's 15<sup>th</sup> periodic report was due 6 March 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 17.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 23 January 1981.

Russia's fifth periodic report is due 3 September 1998.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 10 December 1985; ratified: 3 March 1987.

Russia's third periodic report was due 25 June 1996.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 16 August 1990.

Russia's second periodic report was due 14 September 1997.