

of children, including children belonging to indigenous communities, Afro-Ecuadorean children and girls;

- ♦ continue efforts to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth; ensure that birth registration procedures are widely known and understood by the population at large;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures, including setting up of social programmes and rehabilitation measures, to prevent and combat child abuse and ill treatment of children within the family, at school, and in society at large; strengthen law enforcement with respect to such crimes; develop adequate procedures and mechanisms to deal with complaints of child abuse; establish educational programmes to combat traditional attitudes within society regarding child abuse;
- ♦ allocate appropriate resources and, when needed, consider seeking technical assistance to reinforce efforts to make basic health care accessible to all children; make concerted efforts to combat malnutrition; ensure the adoption and implementation of a national nutritional policy on children; promote breast-feeding in all health facilities and the public at large;
- ♦ undertake a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary study to understand the scope of adolescent health problems, as a basis to promote policies in this area, and to strengthen reproductive health education and counselling services; undertake further efforts for the development of child-friendly counselling services as well as care and rehabilitation facilities for adolescents; strengthen measures to prevent and combat substance abuse among adolescents;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures, including international cooperation, to prevent and combat the damaging effects of environmental degradation, including pollution, on children;
- ♦ take comprehensive measures to establish poverty alleviation programmes with special emphasis on the access to health care and education of children, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of children;
- ♦ strengthen educational policies and the educational system in order to reduce gender and geographical disparities and establish retention programmes and vocational training for drop-out students; strengthen measures to improve children's access to leisure, recreational and cultural activities, especially for the most vulnerable groups of children;
- ♦ undertake appropriate measures to adopt legislation to protect all the rights of asylum-seeking and refugee children;
- ♦ give specific attention to research on, and monitoring of, the situation of children living and/or working on the streets and those involved in hazardous labour, including domestic service and prostitution; develop

national policies on the prevention and the elimination of the most hazardous forms of child labour; consider ratifying ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for access to work;

- ♦ take measures on an urgent basis to address the trafficking of boys and girls into neighbouring countries for work, including prostitution, noting that cooperation with neighbouring countries is strongly encouraged;
- ♦ reinforce the legislative framework to protect children fully from all forms of sexual abuse or exploitation, including within the family; undertake studies with a view to designing and implementing appropriate policies and measures, including care and rehabilitation, to prevent and combat this phenomenon; and
- ♦ ensure that the deprivation of liberty is only used as a measure of last resort in the area of juvenile justice and that children have access to legal aid; provide alternative care (e.g., foster family) for children living in prisons with one of their parents; and conduct training programmes on the relevant international standards for all professionals involved with the juvenile justice system.

### Human Rights Committee

Ecuador's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/84/Add.6, February 1997) was considered by the Committee at its July 1998 session. The report prepared by the government covers the period 1990 to 1996 and contains information on, *inter alia*: protections and guarantees outlined in the May 1997 Constitution which entered into force in August 1998; the Congressional Ad Hoc Commission on Human Rights; the functions and mandate of the Ad Hoc Commission for Truth and Justice; the functions and role of the Constitutional Court; the office and functions of the Ombudsman, established in 1997; elements of the National Development Plan related to the rights and status of women, equality between women and men, measures to assist peasant women, the Act Prohibiting Violence against Women and the Family, sexual violence; provisions related to a declaration of a state of emergency; abolition of the death penalty and the right to life; standards of living, health, health insurance and life expectancy; prohibition of torture and ill treatment, abolition of the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) of the National Police; labour and employment; the right to liberty, detention, due process, habeas corpus; the prison system, prison policy, conditions in prisons, the situation of women in prison; freedom of movement, immigration and deportation processes; and equality before the law and the court system.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CCPR/C/79/Add.92) welcomed: the expanded list of provisions in the new Constitution for the protection of human rights; the adoption of legislation which establishes measures for the compensation of victims of human rights violations; the National Human Rights