

- ▶ improve the system of data collection and ensure that it identifies appropriate and specific disaggregated indicators to allow the identification of sectors where further action is needed in all parts of the country and with regard to all groups of children, including children in especially difficult circumstances;
- ▶ continue and increase activities in the field of the promotion of public awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention;
- ▶ set up programmes for the continuous training of officials and professionals working with and for children, including members of the police force and other law enforcement officials, judicial personnel, teachers at all levels of education, social workers and medical personnel;
- ▶ within the review of the school curricula currently under way, place special emphasis on the incorporation of the general principles of the Convention in the programmes of education;
- ▶ pursue efforts to ensure full conformity of national laws with the Convention, bearing in mind the general principles of the best interests of the child, the prohibition of discrimination and the respect for the views of children and their right to participate in family, school and social life, and incorporate specific provisions in the law to reflect those principles;
- ▶ as a matter of priority, review and bring into line with the Convention provisions related to the minimum age of marriage for girls, the age of criminal responsibility, the minimum age of access to employment and work in family enterprises;
- ▶ launch information campaigns to prevent and combat prevailing discrimination towards girls;
- ▶ adopt appropriate pro-active measures for the protection of children born out of wedlock;
- ▶ give priority in budget allocations to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of children, with particular emphasis on health and education, and on the enjoyment of these rights by children belonging to the most disadvantaged groups;
- ▶ bearing in mind the situation of refugee children born in Syria and Syrian-born Kurdish children, guarantee the right to be registered and to acquire a nationality to all children under Syria's jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective, in particular, of the race, religion or ethnic origin of the child, parents or legal guardians;
- ▶ consider ratification of the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- ▶ pay special attention to the problem of ill-treatment and abuse of children within the family and of corporal punishment in schools;
- ▶ develop information and education campaigns to prevent and combat the use of any form of physical or mental punishment within the family or in schools;
- ▶ consider establishment of a complaint mechanism intended to benefit child victims of such ill-treatment or abuse;
- ▶ establish mechanisms for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of ill-treatment and abuse;
- ▶ review and bring into line with the Convention provisions of the Labour Act No. 91 of 1959 related to the protection of children with regard to employment and consider ratifying ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment;
- ▶ undertake a reform of the system of juvenile justice and set up an independent monitoring body to receive and consider complaints of children involved with the administration of juvenile justice; and,
- ▶ conduct studies, in close cooperation with UNICEF and others, in the field of health and the adequacy of the family planning system; education and human rights education; early marriage; and child abuse, including sexual abuse of children within the family.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1997 session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the situation in Syria under the 1503 procedure. The documents prepared for this process and the summary records of discussions are confidential. The Commission decided to discontinue consideration under 1503.

The report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1997/13), prepared as requested in the 1996 resolution of the Commission (1996/2) on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, notes that the Department of Public Information (DPI) undertook activities related to this question. [These are discussed in greater detail under the heading of Israel and the occupied territories.]

At its 1997 session, the Commission adopted by roll call vote a resolution (1997/2) on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan. In the resolution the Commission: recalled relevant UN resolutions and called on Israel to end violations of the rights of Syrian citizens in the Golan and its occupation of territory; reaffirmed the illegality of the 1981 Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Golan; reaffirmed the international principle of non-acquisition of territory by force; noted with concern the report of Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs; reaffirmed the importance of the peace process and noted the principle of land for peace; expressed concern at the suspension of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks; expressed the hope that the commitments reached in previous talks will be respected so that peace talks may be resumed as soon as possible; called on Israel to comply with relevant UN resolutions including those related to the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Golan; called on Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the Golan; emphasized that displaced persons must be allowed to return to their homes and recover their properties; called on Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on Syrian