

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ take steps fully to harmonize national legislation with the Convention and, in particular, address the areas of administration of justice and the minimum ages for access to employment, marriage and criminal responsibility;
- ▶ continue efforts to strengthen the institutional framework to promote and protect human rights in general and the rights of the child in particular;
- ▶ conduct awareness-training programmes on children's rights for members of Parliament to assist them in incorporating the principles and provisions of the CRC in legislative reform;
- ▶ consider establishment of an independent mechanism, such as an Ombudsperson, for the rights of the child;
- ▶ pay particular attention to full implementation of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ▶ make greater efforts to ensure that the provisions of the CRC are widely known and understood by both adults and children, particularly in rural areas;
- ▶ organize systematic training and in-service training programmes on the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures, including legal ones, to protect children from harmful information, including in audio-visual media such as television;
- ▶ strengthen efforts to prevent and combat ill-treatment and sexual abuse of children, within and outside the family;
- ▶ initiate a comprehensive study on abuse, ill-treatment and domestic violence to improve the understanding of the nature and scope of the problem;
- ▶ strengthen law enforcement against perpetrators of abuse, including sexual abuse;
- ▶ develop adequate mechanisms and procedures to deal with complaints of child abuse, such as the establishment of a family court;
- ▶ prohibit by law corporal punishment within the family, at school and in care institutions;
- ▶ bring legislation on adoption into conformity with the Convention and consider ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ▶ adopt further measures to raise awareness on pre-natal services for women;
- ▶ promote adolescent health by strengthening reproductive health education and services to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS;
- ▶ develop measures to better include children with disabilities in society;
- ▶ direct greater efforts to training teachers and improving the school environment;
- ▶ conduct research to determine the extent of the problem of child economic exploitation and its causes;
- ▶ increase poverty alleviation programmes and schemes and strengthen further the social welfare system;

- ▶ continue legal reform in the area of administration of juvenile justice, including with regard to the minimum age of criminal responsibility, alternatives to detention, and special facilities for girl offenders; and
- ▶ abolish corporal punishment as a means of discipline and flogging as a means of punishment.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, para. 477)

The report notes that various reports were received relating to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1996, which, if passed by Parliament, would allow Trinidad and Tobago to carry out executions currently deemed unconstitutional. The information received indicated that article 2 of the Constitution Bill 1996 stipulates that delay in the execution of a death sentence does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment, while article 3 seeks to withdraw from persons sentenced to death the right to a remedy for violations of the right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment and is moreover retroactive in application. The report states that the Bill would, in essence, overturn the 1993 ruling of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC), the highest court of appeal for Trinidad and Tobago, as well as for various other Caribbean countries, stating that the execution of prisoners who have been on death row for more than five years constitutes inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/477, paras. 25, 28, 37)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that communications were sent to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Christians.

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URUGUAY

Date of admission to UN: 18 December 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Uruguay has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE.1/Add.9/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the political and economic history, the structure of government, the authorities responsible for overseeing implementation of human rights, remedies for violations and the role of international cooperation in implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The general legal framework for the protection of human rights is established in the Constitution, as well as laws, decrees and administrative acts and decisions. Habeas corpus and *amparo* protect personal freedom and address acts of omission or commission by the state, its agents and authorities and individuals that damage, restrict, alter or threaten in a clearly illegal way any of the rights or freedoms set out in the Constitution. Remedy for violations may be sought through