

soldiers and reports of children forced into labour; and, forced and under-age recruitment of child-soldiers.

Additional concerns expressed by the Committee were: the fact that children working in the family environment or in family enterprises are not protected by law; the insufficiency of measures taken to address the problems of child abuse, the sale and trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the insufficient measures taken to provide physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration to children victim of any form of neglect, abuse and/or exploitation, particularly victims of armed conflicts, sexual exploitation and child labour; and, the problems associated with the administration of juvenile justice.

The Committee recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ▶ undertake a comprehensive review of national legislation to bring it into conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention, especially in the areas of non-discrimination, citizenship, freedom of association, corporal punishment, child labour, adoption and the administration of juvenile justice;
- ▶ repeal the Citizenship Act, the Village and Towns Acts, and the Whipping Acts;
- ▶ reinforce at all levels the role of the National Committee for the Rights of the Child in the implementation of the Convention;
- ▶ take all necessary measures to integrate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Plan of Action fully in all programmes and sectoral policies;
- ▶ gather all necessary data on the situation of children in the various areas covered by the Convention, including on children belonging to the most vulnerable groups;
- ▶ ensure that sufficient budgetary allocation is provided to social services for children and that particular attention is paid to the protection of children belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- ▶ assess on an ongoing basis the "child-impact" of decisions taken by the authorities;
- ▶ fully integrate the general principles in the Convention in all policies, laws, actions and programmes affecting children at all levels including on the administrative and judicial levels;
- ▶ abolish the categorization of citizens, as well as the mention on the national identity card of the religion and ethnic origin of citizens, including children;
- ▶ launch a systematic information campaign, for both children and adults, on the Convention, consider incorporating the Convention in the school curricula, and take appropriate measures to facilitate access by children to information produced on their rights;
- ▶ develop a comprehensive training programme, especially focussing on child abuse, for professional groups working for and/or with children;
- ▶ take steps to ensure that national law and practice with regard to adoption fully conform with the Convention and consider ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ▶ give an alternative education choice to non-Buddhist and poor children and take all measures to fully guarantee the freedoms of association and speech as well as the right to peaceful assembly;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to provide access to health services throughout the country and to all children and take appropriate action to offer better protection and access to social services to physically and mentally disabled children;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to reduce the level of school drop-out and the repetition rate and allocate resources to translate school materials into minority languages;
- ▶ in the context of the armed conflict, prevent any occurrence of forced relocation, displacement and other types of involuntary population movements and reinforce the central tracing agency to favour family reunification;
- ▶ investigate rapidly, impartially, thoroughly and systematically all reported cases of abuse, rape and/or violence against children committed by members of the armed forces, apply appropriate judicial sanctions to perpetrators and give wide publicity to such sanctions;
- ▶ ensure that the army fully refrains from recruiting under-aged children and abolish forced recruitment of children as well as their involvement in forced labour, and take all necessary measures to prevent and combat, by legal or any other appropriate action, the exploitation of adopted children including through labour;
- ▶ takes all appropriate measures to prevent and combat child abuse, including sexual abuse, and the sale and trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography and, in this regard, consider the establishment of bilateral agreements to prevent and combat transnational trafficking and sale of children for sexual exploitation;
- ▶ take all necessary measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of children victims of armed conflict, abuse and neglect, any form of violence, including rape, child labour and forced labour, sexual exploitation and trafficking and sale;
- ▶ envisage undertaking a comprehensive reform of the system of juvenile justice and organize training programmes on the relevant international standards for all those professionals involved with the system of juvenile justice; and,
- ▶ implement all the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and envisage ratifying other major international human rights treaties.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was established in Commission Resolution 1992/58 and extended most recently by the Commission resolution 1997/64. It required the SR to establish or to continue direct contacts with the people of