

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: the lack of full conformity of domestic legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention; the lack of adequate coordination among various governmental bodies in promoting and protecting the rights of the child and developing a comprehensive approach to the implementation of the Convention; insufficiencies in the steps taken to promote awareness and understanding of the principles and provisions of the Convention among both children and adults; insufficient and unsystematic training on children's rights provided to professionals working with and for children; the absence of data on adolescent health, including on teen-age pregnancy, abortion, suicide, violence and abuse; and the absence of an independent mechanism to register and address complaints from children concerning violations of their rights under the law.

The Committee expressed regret that the Great Green Document on Human Rights does not include express prohibition of discrimination on the basis of language, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, and birth status. Particular concern was expressed over discrimination against children of migrant workers and non-citizens, and children born out of wedlock. The Committee was also concerned that although the Great Green Document on Human Rights prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, there are still disparities in legislation and practice, in particular with regard to inheritance rights and, further, that decisions related to the acquisition of nationality are only based on the status of the father.

Concern was also expressed over: the continued use in administrative instructions and regulations of the term "illegitimate children" to refer to children born out of wedlock; provisions in the law applicable in the case of rape of a minor, excusing the perpetrator of the crime from penal prosecution if he is prepared to marry his victim; the lack of prohibition in local legislation of the use of corporal punishment, however light, at home; the existence of child abuse and violence within the family; and, the fact that diarrhoea and chronic under-nutrition or stunting in children under the age of five, are still wide spread.

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

- ♦ review legislation with the aim of reforming it to conform fully with the Convention, and consider enacting a children's code; ensure that the legislation explicitly prohibits discrimination on any grounds and guarantee the right to a nationality to every child;
- ♦ take further steps to strengthen coordination between the various government bodies involved in children's rights, at both national and local levels as well as between the ministries, and make greater efforts to ensure closer cooperation with NGOs working in the field of human and children's rights;

- ♦ consider designing and implementing a special plan of action for children reflecting a comprehensive approach to children's rights, and incorporating all aspects and provisions of the Convention;
- ♦ make greater efforts to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are widely known and understood by adults and children alike; organize systematic training and retraining programmes on the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children; incorporate the Convention in school and university curricula;
- ♦ consider the introduction of a number of policies and programmes that guarantee implementation of the existing legislation through adequate services, remedies and rehabilitation programmes;
- ♦ consider the establishment of an independent body for monitoring the implementation of the Convention;
- ♦ abolish the use of the term "illegitimate children" to refer to children born out of wedlock in legislation, policies, programmes, regulations and administrative instructions;
- ♦ take adequate measures to ensure the protection and enjoyment of rights by non-citizens who are under the state's jurisdiction;
- ♦ conduct further studies in relation to widespread chronic malnutrition or stunting and diarrhoea in order to use such research to guide policies and programmes to reduce the occurrence of stunting;
- ♦ provide to the Committee further information on the legislation that excuses the perpetrator of the crime of rape from penal prosecution if he is prepared to marry the victim, noting that this provision interferes with the victim's free will and could lead to early marriage;
- ♦ enhance the the inclusion approach which entails including disabled children in the mainstream facilities and natural environment of the child, while still maintaining specialized programmes and facilities as needed;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures, including those of a legislative nature, with the aim of prohibiting corporal punishment at home; conduct awareness-raising campaigns to ensure that alternative forms of discipline are administered in a manner consistent with the child's dignity and in conformity with the Convention;
- ♦ ensure proper investigation of cases of abuse and ill treatment of children, including rape and sexual abuse within the family, that sanctions are applied to perpetrators and publicity is given to decisions taken in such cases, with due regard to protecting the right to privacy of the child;