

- ♦ continue law reform efforts aimed at the elimination of all remaining discriminatory laws and provisions, with priority attention given to such laws as the civil code, the nationality law and the labour law.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 156–158)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group to the government. Of the two outstanding cases, one concerns a person who was arrested in June 1984 in Santo Domingo and who subsequently disappeared, and the other concerns a university lecturer – also a journalist and political activist – who was reportedly detained in May 1994 by members of the army and subsequently taken to a military base. The report notes a reply from the government referring to information previously provided on one of the cases, stating that the person concerned had a criminal record for crimes which included rape and leaving the country illegally, and therefore it was likely that he was out of the country.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (E/CN.4/1998/101, para. 15)

In the section on sex tourism, the report refers to allegations that over 30,000 children in the Dominican Republic work as prostitutes to escape poverty. Most of these children no longer live with their parents because they have either been thrown out or prefer to work on the streets to earn a living for themselves or their families. Minors who engage in this trade are common in Santo Domingo and other tourist zones such as Boca Chica and Puerto Plata.



ECUADOR

Date of admission to UN: 21 December 1945.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Ecuador has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 29 September 1967; ratified: 6 March 1969.
Ecuador's third periodic report was due 30 June 1997.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 4 April 1968; ratified: 6 March 1969.
Ecuador's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/84/Add.6) was considered at the Committee's July 1998 session; the

fifth periodic report was due 4 November 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 4 April 1968; ratified: 6 March 1969.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 23 February 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 22 September 1966.

Ecuador's 13th, 14th and 15th periodic reports were due 4 January 1994, 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 14.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 9 November 1981.

Ecuador's fourth periodic report was due 9 December 1994.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 30 March 1988.

Ecuador's third periodic report was due 28 April 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration; declarations under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 23 March 1990.

Ecuador's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.44) was considered at the Committee's September 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Ninth preambular paragraph; article 24 and article 38.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Ecuador's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.44, June 1996; CRC/C/Q/ECU/1) was considered by the Committee at its October 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and is not exhaustive. Rather, it provides an overview of the situation of the rights of children and young persons in Ecuador. Information included in the report related to, *inter alia*: the National Plan of Action for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, the New Children's Code (1992) and the establishment of an Ecuadorean Standing Forum of Organizations for and of Children and Young Persons; the definition of the child and minimum age levels; measures related to non-discrimination and the work of the National Office for Women (DINAMU), the Secretariat for Indigenous Affairs (SENAIN) and the National Council on Disabilities (CONADIS); measures related to the best interests of the child; health and health care, the National Disabilities Plan; education, access to education, the education system; name, nationality, preservation of identity; child abuse and the Network for the Care of Abused Children established in 1988; the administration of juvenile jus-