

- ♦ upgrade the status and decision-making capacity of the Ministry for Women's Affairs, on the basis that its merely advisory and coordinating role is an impediment to furthering women's human rights.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (E/CN.4/1998/101, para. 10)

The report refers to the development by police authorities of a strategic policy to aid in the prevention and detection of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The policy has included active work by the national authorities to suppress the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and address the problem of the Internet being used to disseminate child pornography.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/10, para. 12, 29; E/CN.4/1998/10/Add.1, "Comments received from States")

The addendum to the main report contains the government's response to information that was included in the Special Rapporteur's (SR) report to the 1997 Commission (E/CN.4/1997/19). The information related to the export of battery scrap from New Zealand to the Philippines. The government stated: the exports constituted neither "illicit traffic" nor "dumping", the two key elements of the mandate established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/81; since the transactions violated Philippines national law, the activities of importers based within the Philippines are within the jurisdiction of that government, not that of New Zealand; the export was a normal commercial transaction, not "dumping" in the trade sense nor was it "dumping" in the sense used in the wastes context, since the batteries were not subject to disposal but rather recycled as an input into industrial process in the Philippines; and, the trade was environmentally benign as it substituted the use of recycled lead for virgin lead. The government also noted that the information provided by the SR focussed in some detail on the industrial processing which followed the import of battery waste to the Philippines and stated that the potential impact, including from a human rights perspective, of such industrial processing was a different question from that of the movement and disposal of raw materials. The government expressed its doubts about this subsequent industrial processing being an element of the SR's mandate. The reply noted that both New Zealand and the Philippines have acceded to the Basel Convention, which provides a legal framework governing trade in hazardous wastes, including a system of Prior Informed Consent. Since New Zealand was not a state party to the Convention at the time of the alleged exports, a conclusion of "illicit" trade could not be based on legal obligations pursuant to the Basel Convention.



NORWAY

Date of admission to UN: 27 November 1945.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Norway's fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 (d) of article 8.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Norway's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/115/Add.2) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 1 August 2001.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 2 (b) and 3 of article 10; paragraphs 5 and 7 of article 14; paragraph 1 of article 20; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 20 March 1968; ratified: 13 September 1972.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 13 February 1990; ratified: 5 September 1991.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 21 November 1966; ratified: 6 August 1970.

Norway's 15th periodic report is due 5 September 1999.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 21 May 1981.

Norway's fifth periodic report was due 3 September 1998.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 9 July 1986.

Norway's third periodic report (CAT/C/34/Add.8) was considered at the Committee's May 1998 session; the fourth periodic report is due 25 June 2000.

Declarations and Reservations: Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 8 January 1991.

Norway's second periodic report (CRC/C/70/Add.2) has been submitted and is pending for the Committee's May/June 2000 session; the third periodic report is due 6 February 2003.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee against Torture

Norway's third periodic report (CAT/C/34/Add.8, July 1997) was considered by the Committee at its May 1998