



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
29 January 2024

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child Ninety-fifth session

Summary record of the 2764th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 18 January 2024, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Skelton

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Senegal (CRC/C/SEN/6-7; CRC/C/SEN/Q/6-7; CRC/C/SEN/RQ/6-7)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Senegal joined the meeting.*
2. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal), introducing his country's combined sixth and seventh periodic reports (CRC/C/SEN/6-7), said that Senegal had adopted legislative, regulatory and institutional measures for the promotion and protection of children's rights. In that context, efforts had been made to guarantee, without discrimination of any kind, children's economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.
3. Child protection services had been extended throughout the country, including by establishing new structures for education, social protection and emergency care. In November 2023, a project involving both the Government and civil society had been launched to standardize alternative care for children deprived of parental care. Four new educational complexes, which would be managed by the Directorate for Legal and Social Protection, were being built. New headquarters were being built for that Directorate.
4. The food budget for children in care facilities had increased significantly. More staff had been recruited for the care system, and the number of children taken into care had increased from 6,484 in 2018 to 18,045 in 2021. The dropout rate had fallen at the primary and middle school levels.
5. The authorities had worked with *daaras*, traditional Qur'anic schools, to combat vulnerability among children, and vulnerable children had received care at the Assistance and Guidance Centre for Children in Street Situations. Almost 200,000 children under the age of 5 had received support through more than 2,000 integrated early childhood development centres.
6. The legal and institutional framework for the protection of children, in particular from sexual exploitation, had been strengthened through a range of laws and decrees. A project to institutionalize the children's parliament had been developed to strengthen children's participation in public life.
7. Progress had been made in the health sector, as reflected in a drop in the maternal mortality rate. Efforts to improve nutrition included screening for acute malnutrition. Under the policy to improve access to preschool education, the enrolment rate for children aged 3 to 5 had risen. More than 3,000 community teachers had been recruited or trained to work with preschool children in community schools. Agreements had been signed between the authorities and 76 Qur'anic schools to introduce new subjects into their curricula. The establishment of the Civil Status Directorate was another example of progress.
8. **Ms. Kiladze** (Country Task Force) said that the delegation might provide more information on the status of efforts to adopt the new children's code and on plans to enforce it. An update regarding the adoption of new legislation on human trafficking and migrant smuggling would also be welcome. She would like to know what was done to ensure that there were sufficient resources to effectively implement legislation concerning children. It would be interesting to learn whether there were any plans to adopt a third action plan for the implementation of the National Child Protection Strategy, whether the National Intersectoral Child Protection Committee had the necessary financial and human resources and whether it ensured coordination between the central and local authorities.
9. The delegation was invited to comment on reports that public spending on the social sector and children's rights had decreased in recent years. It might also comment on whether the State party had plans to increase the budget for vulnerable groups of children, including for the Disadvantaged Children's Programme, and introduce a budgeting process that adopted a children's rights perspective.
10. She would like to know how data on children were broken down. Similarly, she would be interested to discover how the State party intended to strengthen the National Statistics and Demography Agency, especially with respect to collecting data on children's rights. It

would be useful to learn, too, of any progress towards the establishment of a national child protection information management system.

11. She wondered whether the State party was going to finalize the implementation of legislation to bring the Senegalese Human Rights Committee into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). She also wondered whether a children's ombudsman would be established.

12. It would be interesting to find out whether the State party planned to adopt a legislative framework to ensure that businesses were held legally accountable for violations of children's rights and whether businesses were obliged to assess, consult on and publicly disclose the environmental, health-related and children's rights impact of their activities. In that connection, she would like to know whether the State party monitored private sector activities, especially with respect to violations of children's rights. When would the draft tourism code be adopted?

13. **Ms. Beloff** (Country Task Force) said that she would like the delegation to outline the obstacles and challenges that were preventing the State party from adopting legislation to implement the Convention and ensure equal treatment and legal protection for all children.

14. **Ms. Kiladze** said that she would like to know whether the Senegalese Constitution explicitly guaranteed equality without discrimination, whether access to justice was guaranteed for all children who had experienced discrimination and whether all children had equal access to health care and education. She would be interested to learn how the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability was enforced, especially in schools, and would welcome an outline of the measures, including any awareness-raising measures, taken to combat discrimination against vulnerable groups of children.

15. She would also welcome clarification of the steps taken to ensure that, in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child were a primary consideration, information on the implementation of any legislation that covered a child's right to be heard and further detail regarding the children's parliament. In addition, she would like to know how the State party planned to address infant and child mortality.

16. She wondered whether progress had been made in follow-up to the Committee's previous recommendations on the prohibition of corporal punishment. In that respect, she wondered whether there were plans to amend article 285 of the Family Code, which provided for the right of a person with parental authority to correct a child. It would be interesting to learn about any mechanisms to promote non-violent discipline and awareness-raising campaigns to change cultural attitudes towards corporal punishment. She wondered whether there were any plans to devise a strategy to combat all forms of violence against children and whether there was a database containing information on domestic violence against children.

17. She wished to know whether there were child-friendly mechanisms to address cases of violence against children and whether investigations into such cases were child-friendly and effective. She also wished to know whether there were sufficient resources for the rehabilitation of child victims of violence, as well as for the National Child Protection Strategy, and whether a range of stakeholders were involved in that rehabilitation. She would be interested to know, too, whether there were any community-based or municipal programmes for families to prevent violence against children.

18. She wondered what steps were taken to ensure mandatory reporting and multi-stakeholder intervention in cases of child sexual abuse, whether legislation was in place guaranteeing protection, including protection from prosecution, for child victims of sexual abuse and whether measures had been taken to address the stigmatization of such children. She would appreciate further information on rehabilitation services for child victims of sexual abuse and on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases of such abuse. She wondered whether there were any measures to raise awareness about child sexual abuse among relevant professionals and the public. How was the State party addressing child marriage and female genital mutilation?

19. **Ms. Aho** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that she would like to know whether the mobile courts for birth registration were still operational, whether the late birth

registration document was issued immediately to the person requesting it, whether birth registration was wholly free of charge and how birth certificates were issued. In that connection, she wondered whether the *talibés*, the children who studied and roomed in Qur'anic schools, had access to their birth certificates and what steps were taken to identify children without birth certificates and rectify that situation. She would also be interested to learn what the birth registration rate in the State party was and how the disparity between rural and urban areas was being addressed. In addition, she wished to know how the State party ensured that the population understood the importance of birth registration, whether civil registration centres were widely accessible and whether civil registration officials received sufficient training and had the necessary equipment and support to register births.

20. She wondered whether children who were abandoned in the State party were issued birth certificates and how they could obtain a certificate of nationality. It would be interesting to learn whether there had been a study of the number of stateless children in the State party and how it planned to resolve the issue of statelessness. It would also be interesting to know whether the population was aware of the different procedures for redeclaring birth.

21. If the children's parliament was operational, she would like to know more about it. In particular, she wondered what its budget was and which ministry was responsible for it. She also wondered what measures were being taken to protect children's right to privacy and to protect them from seeing harmful images online. Did the media dedicate time to disseminating information on children's rights?

The meeting was suspended at 3.40 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

22. **A representative of Senegal** said that children's rights were enshrined in the Constitution, the preamble to which expressly referred to the Convention. The Constitution also contained specific provisions on children's education, their protection and the assistance that the State had to provide to families to strengthen care for them; in addition, it prohibited all forms of discrimination based on race, sex and religion. The Family Code provided comprehensive protection in relation to family, birth registration and civil status, while the Criminal Code provided for severe penalties for physical, sexual and other forms of violence. Act No. 2020-05 of 10 January 2020 on the Criminalization of Rape and Acts of Paedophilia provided additional protection for children in that regard. Obstacles to the adoption of the draft children's code – which would bring together principles relating to child protection in a single code – lay not in political opposition to it but in the perceived incompatibility of some of its provisions with social and cultural values. His Government was working to strengthen dialogue with communities and religious and cultural stakeholders in order to build consensus for the adoption and application of the code.

23. Opportunities for children's participation in communities and institutions included child-led school governments and children's clubs at the local level. His Government was working to mobilize all the necessary resources to support a children's parliament and to ensure that it included opportunities for participation at the regional and neighbourhood levels.

24. The National Intersectoral Committee on Child Protection, which had been established under the National Child Protection Strategy, had been working since 2014 to coordinate efforts to protect children within a framework that, through departmental child protection committees, was present at all administrative levels. Civil society and other stakeholders were represented on the Committee, and they benefited from the technical and financial support of relevant ministries. A final evaluation of the National Child Protection Strategy would be published in the first quarter of 2024.

25. His Government had regularly and significantly increased the budget allocated to the protection of children. A programme for the legal and social protection of children had been established under the Ministry of Justice. A comprehensive programme on children under the Ministry for Women, the Family and Child Protection was provided with 10 billion CFA francs (CFAF) annually. Resources were mobilized with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), civil society and international cooperation agencies. Under the project Investing in the Early Years for Human Development in Senegal, CFAF 42 billion was made available for assistance with nutrition, civil registration and early childhood development.

26. A preliminary bill to establish a children's ombudsman and strengthen oversight of the implementation of child protection policy had been drafted. It would be integrated into the draft children's code or adopted as a separate piece of legislation.

27. **A representative of Senegal** said that his Government was committed to regaining A status for the Senegalese Human Rights Committee, the national human rights institution, and to ensuring that its operations conformed fully with the Paris Principles. A bill to that end had been adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2023 and was to be brought before the National Assembly in due course. His Government had also increased the budget allocated to the institution.

28. The allocation of budgetary resources to mobile courts was the responsibility of the Directorate of Criminal Affairs and Pardons. Before a mobile court began operating, the head of the relevant jurisdiction made arrangements for access to the required civil records. Outreach campaigns were conducted beforehand to inform the public of the opportunity to use the mobile court's services. Once a mobile court had finished its work, its decisions were sent to the relevant municipal authority, the necessary civil registration was completed and documents such as birth certificates were issued. Such services were provided to the population at no charge.

29. **A representative of Senegal** said that, under article 7 of the Constitution, all citizens had the right to life, liberty, security, the free development of their personality, and physical integrity. Article 18 stated that forced marriage was a violation of individual freedoms and punishable under law. Article 20 provided that it was the right and duty of parents to support their children with the assistance of the local community and the Government, which was charged with protecting children from exploitation, controlled substances, moral abandonment and crime. Under article 21, the Government had to create the preconditions necessary to guarantee education to children, while article 22 provided that the Government had the duty to provide education and training to children through the public school system. Both boys and girls throughout Senegal enjoyed the right to attend school.

30. **A representative of Senegal** said that all miners working in the formal sector, in which regular labour inspections were carried out, were adults. A special tourism police force focused on preventing the sexual exploitation of children in the coastal tourist areas of southern Senegal in particular.

31. **A representative of Senegal** said that there were lines in the State budget both for children's programmes of a general nature and for child protection more specifically. In addition to programmes for preschool, primary and secondary education, funding was provided to the Qur'anic schools for the promotion of literacy and to programmes administered by the Ministry for Women, the Family and Child Protection. Statistics indicated that such efforts had contributed to parity in educational attainment between boys and girls at all levels. A policy document on the promotion of inclusive education was presently being drafted. Funds earmarked for Qur'anic schools working with local communities would provide them with decentralized access to resources.

32. **A representative of Senegal** said that, by promoting the participatory, inclusive governance of integrated early childhood development centres and by encouraging the use of school canteens, her Government had improved the general health and well-being of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children under the age of 6. A framework was in place for such children that included medical, nutritional, educational and financial support, and a community-based approach had been taken to health, hygiene and nutrition-related practices. Such efforts had contributed to a reduction in the infant mortality rate from 61 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 31 per 1,000 in 2023.

33. **A representative of Senegal** said that the Ministry for Women, the Family and Child Protection operated a free 24-hour hotline for reporting violence against children. An online platform was also available to children who wished to report abuse.

34. The Ministry often held days dedicated to children's rights in conjunction with occasions such as Day of the African Child. Brochures on children's rights translated into multiple national languages had been distributed throughout Senegal.

35. **A representative of Senegal** said that, under article 10 (2) of Act No. 2022-01 of 14 April 2022 on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, any child on the territory of Senegal without a legal representative who requested refugee or stateless status could benefit from educational assistance. Under article 9, any such child was placed under the protection of the National Commission for Refugees and Stateless Persons. The Act provided that any persons unable to obtain administrative assistance from the Commission were guaranteed access to judicial proceedings so that they could seek to have their status regularized. A national action plan for the eradication of statelessness had been developed for the period 2022–2024. The issues in question were also addressed in the draft children’s code.

36. **A representative of Senegal** said that activities to raise awareness of the importance of civil registration had been conducted under the “Nekkal” programme and in connection with the country’s national civil registration awareness week, during which events held in the national languages had been organized at the local level. Training was regularly provided to stakeholders in civil registration, including civil registrars, community workers, village leaders, neighbourhood delegates and members of the groups of women leaders known as neighbourhood godmothers. Birth registration rates varied by region, with the highest rates above 90 per cent and the lowest between 60 and 70 per cent. Civil registration services had been decentralized to make them more accessible and were generally available at the community level. With support from UNICEF, the civil registration and health systems had been linked to allow births to be registered immediately after delivery.

37. **A representative of Senegal** said that, in 2023, thousands of civil registration officials had received training.

38. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that no timeline could be given for the adoption of the children’s code. The capacity of the National Statistics and Demography Agency to provide disaggregated data would be strengthened. The commission of tourism-specific offences was not tolerated, and criminal sanctions for acts of paedophilia had been instituted. Children with disabilities were provided with assistance in the specialized centres. Full gender parity had been achieved in the country’s legislature.

39. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** said that she wished to know whether claims based on the Convention could be asserted in domestic courts under the constitutional provision regarding the status of international treaties and, if so, whether any such claims had been brought. She would appreciate information on the resources available to the National Intersectoral Child Protection Committee, the results of the evaluation of the National Child Protection Strategy, any confidential avenues of recourse available to children and the role of the Office of the Ombudsman in safeguarding children’s rights. She would like to know whether the Office could receive complaints from children or initiate investigations of its own accord. She wondered whether public consultations had been held on the draft children’s code and, as the delegation had suggested it was necessary to take account of social norms in the draft, how those norms would be reconciled with the provisions of the Convention.

40. **Ms. Aho** said that she wished to know whether any costs were associated with the issuance of substitute birth certificates, which required a court ruling, how long it took for a birth certificate or substitute birth certificate to be drawn up, how family members were informed that a certificate was ready to be picked up, what was done with certificates that were not picked up and whether provisions regarding registration applied equally to *talibés*.

41. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** said that he would be grateful for clarification as to whether a stateless child, a child without a birth certificate or a child whose birth had not been registered could, without an adult to act on his or her behalf, approach a court directly to obtain a ruling on his or her nationality or to seek a substitute birth certificate.

42. **Ms. Kiladze** said that she would welcome further information on the mechanisms for mobilizing the multiple agencies involved in cases of violence against children and on the relevant referral procedures. She wished to know what resources had been made available for the implementation of the Plan of Action for Ending the Practice of Excision 2022–2026, what steps, if any, were being taken to raise awareness among the public, including women, of the need to stop female genital mutilation and what the State party was doing to reduce the number of child marriages and to eliminate the exceptions – applicable only to girls – to the minimum age for marriage.

43. **Mr. Jaffé** said that, given the number of years that the draft children's code had been under development, it would be helpful to have a clear idea of the steps that remained before its adoption. He wished to learn about any initiatives to protect children from corporal punishment, which appeared endemic in the State party.

44. **Ms. Beloff** said that she wished to know why some of the data presented in paragraphs 308 to 316 of the State party's combined sixth and seventh periodic reports appeared to contradict other data provided in the same paragraphs and whether the discrepancies perhaps reflected underlying problems in the data-collection system.

45. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that further information could not be provided on the draft children's code because the efforts to build consensus among the sectors concerned were still under way. Although the children's code was not yet in effect, a wide range of measures under the Criminal Code and other laws ensured that children were fully protected. He wished to know what data had served as the basis for the Committee's assertion that corporal punishment was endemic in Senegal, a perception that the delegation did not share. Responsibility for child-rearing fell to parents, and it was possible that the preferred methods of child-rearing differed from one part of the world to another. The delegation would look into the discrepancies in data noted by the Committee.

46. **A representative of Senegal** said that the results of the evaluation of the National Child Protection Strategy had underscored the need for further efforts to raise public awareness of children's rights, for the National Intersectoral Child Protection Committee to meet more often and more regularly, for means of gauging progress, for increased funding and for emerging issues, such as the protection of children online and from the effects of climate change, to be addressed. The bulk of the budget relating to the work of the Child Protection Committee was allocated to the ministries that would actually implement the sectoral policies; the Committee's role was mainly one of coordination. Representatives of various sectors had been consulted on the draft children's code, but public consultations had not yet been held.

47. Cybercrime involving children was addressed under the Criminal Code. The Code had been amended to provide protection against child pornography. A commission on data protection monitored and reported violations of children's right to privacy. A policy and plan for protecting children online were in place. The harmful effects of social media on children would be addressed under a bill on the protection of children online. Outreach was undertaken to encourage parents to develop the skills necessary to protect their children online and to encourage children to use social media responsibly. Reports made through the 116 hotline, which could be used 24 hours a day, could result in referrals, and the National Child Protection Strategy set out how the involvement of various agencies would be triggered. In 2022 and 2023, the hotline had received a total of more than 15,000 calls, including at least 75 reports of sexual abuse, all of which had resulted in action by the competent agencies.

48. *Talibés* had the same civil registration rights as all other children. Birth registration was free. However, there were court fees associated with the issuance of substitute birth certificates. During hearings for substitute birth certificates, the courts informed the applicants of the date on which they could pick up the certificate from the relevant civil registration office.

49. The Government had begun mapping the country's Qur'anic schools as part of the Investing in the Early Years for Human Development in Senegal Project. It invested billions of CFA francs in those schools, including through the Ministry of Education. A project for the modernization of the Qur'anic schools had a budget of CFAF 64 billion.

50. The Ministry for Women, the Family and Child Protection had been working over the past two years to support the return of children from the Qur'anic schools to their areas of origin, including through socioeconomic reintegration projects. Continuous surveillance had recently been set up to identify and provide shelter to children in street situations. In 2023, CFAF 6 billion, much of which had been devoted to the recruitment and skills-building of Qur'anic teachers, with training focusing on child protection, had been set aside for the Qur'anic schools. The bill on the status of those schools, on which extensive consultations had been held, would, when it was made law, determine the conditions under which they

could operate and establish a national governing body. The President had recently called for the submission of the bill to the National Assembly. The Qur'anic schools also received donations and other contributions.

51. The preparation of the draft children's code was a further example of the importance given to consultation in Senegal, as it had involved national consultations of religious leaders, representatives of various ethnic groups and others. Work on a national plan to combat child marriage, which had involved national consultations, had concluded. A coalition of children's rights groups and other non-governmental organizations, which supported dialogue and collaboration between the State and civil society, also worked on child marriage. Reforms were being debated and could be introduced once consensus was reached.

52. The Government had an action plan and national strategy for the eradication of female genital mutilation. Community action, which included monitoring and work with local bodies and elected representatives, was taking place in areas where the practice was widespread.

53. **Mr. Seck** (Senegal) said that Senegal had always participated in discussions on female genital mutilation, including by contributing to resolutions on the issue at the General Assembly. The process of persuading citizens to change societal behaviours took time, as evidenced by the long consultations on the Family Code to raise the age for marriage to 16.

54. **Mr. Mezmur** (Country Task Force), noting that the democratic culture of Senegal contributed to the protection and promotion of children's rights, said that he would welcome a rough time frame for the entry into force of the draft children's code. As polygamy remained possible under the Family Code, it would be of interest to the Committee to hear whether it had adverse effects on children's rights – for example, in relation to their care or to questions of inheritance – and if so, how the State party planned to address those effects. The Committee welcomed the planned legal framework for alternative care and would like to know the time frame for its introduction.

55. It would be helpful to hear about any measures taken to address the problems that *confiage*, the system of sponsorship and adoption in exchange for money or services for the family, posed for children. A comment on the findings of the 2019 mapping exercise on public and private facilities receiving and accommodating children and how those findings had informed laws, policies and programmes would also be helpful.

56. The Committee would be interested to hear of any actions to facilitate family reunification, particularly for internally displaced persons and children deprived of their family environment. The establishment of a competent central authority for intercountry adoption was a positive development, but he would like to know whether the authorities planned to correct the general failure to systematically obtain the consent of both the parents of the child put up for adoption. He also wondered what measures were taken to prevent improper financial gain and ensure that children being adopted were those who would benefit from adoption.

57. He would appreciate an explanation of the steps that were taken to coordinate the work done under the Government's education programmes and to address any identified coordination challenges. He wondered whether the authorities intended to strengthen the social safety net by covering school fees for children from the most vulnerable communities. As sexual abuse remained a huge challenge in the education system, he would like to know whether any educators had been found guilty of rape, harassment or acts of paedophilia. It would be helpful to know what the draft bill on the status of the State party's Qur'anic schools involved and what plans had been made to move it forward over the next one to two years.

58. While the allocation of close to 20 per cent of the country's gross domestic product to education was very welcome, he would be interested to learn, in view of the large proportion of the education budget that went to salaries and the very small proportion of children with disabilities, whether any additional investment was envisaged. Lastly, he wished to know whether there were plans to scale up initiatives such as catch-up classes and provide opportunities for vocational training, in particular to support the 15- to 17-year-olds struggling to make the transition to further education.

59. **Ms. Aho** said that she would like to know what percentage of the State party's children had a disability and what measures were in place for early detection of disabilities. She

wished to hear about actions to address the fact that non-medical staff were administering vaccinations in remote areas. It would also be helpful to hear about work to ensure that schooling for children with disabilities was inclusive. She wondered whether there was a programme to combat discrimination against children with disabilities and, if so, what its budget was. She also wondered whether there was any community involvement in the care of such children. She would welcome news of any plans to accelerate the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

60. She wished to learn how the authorities were improving access to health in rural areas and whether, for example, there were plans to renovate Ziguinchor Regional Hospital, which was in an advanced state of disrepair. She would also like to know whether the authorities intended to strengthen the technical platforms of the health-care system and what efforts were being made to combat brain drain and retain specialized medical personnel, gynaecologists in particular.

61. It would be helpful to know whether health services were available near the artisanal gold-mining zone in Kédougou and how accidents involving children were dealt with there. She would welcome an update on the incident of 26 May 2022 in which 11 babies had died in a fire, the action taken for the mothers in distress and the measures taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. She would also welcome an update on the scandal involving the embezzlement of funds earmarked for efforts to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the outcomes of the ensuing judicial process and plans for any recovered funds.

62. She wished to know more about current vaccination coverage in the State party. She also wished to know what measures had been taken to tackle infant mortality and acute malnutrition and promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life. In that connection, it would be helpful to know how much breastmilk substitutes such as infant formula cost.

63. She wondered whether there were health centres that provided adolescents with information on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and distributed contraceptives. She wondered, too, whether there were any plans to prevent early pregnancy and decriminalize abortion or to provide health care before and after clandestine abortions. It would be useful to know what was being done to prevent and treat tuberculosis in children.

64. She would appreciate an update on the actions and strategies in place as part of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa and the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage. She wondered whether treatment for obstetric fistulae was available at no charge and, if so, whether women were aware of the possibility of free treatment. Lastly, she wondered whether there was a mental health-care facility with dedicated care and staff for children and whether there were any measures to tackle drug and alcohol addiction.

65. **Ms. Beloff** said that she wished to know why the Act on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons had not entered into force and when it might come to have legal effect. She would like the delegation to explain how having procedures for the protection of asylum-seeking, refugee and stateless children governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure was compatible with the Convention.

66. She wished to hear what concrete measures were taken to ensure that children were enrolled in and remained in school rather than on the street. While positive measures had been taken to provide tax exemptions and incentives for small-scale productive activities, it would be helpful to understand their impact on preventing children from engaging in such activities instead of going to school.

67. She wondered why legislative proposals to address exceptions to the minimum age for work and hazardous work had not been made law. She also wondered why begging remained a criminal offence and what measures were in place specifically to address child begging. It would be useful to hear what steps were taken to ensure that the most vulnerable children were in school. Lastly, she wondered whether the State party had a proper juvenile justice system.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.