

Responses to Recommendations

BAHAMAS

Review in the Working Group: 1 December 2008
 Adoption in the Plenary: 18 March 2009

Bahamas' responses to recommendations:

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Recommendations pending responses:	Summary
11 REC accepted; 6 rejected; 7 pending	The delegation commented the 7 REC but no clear answer is given besides part of REC n°5 which is rejected.	No additional information provided	None	Accepted: 11 Rejected: 7 No clear position: 7 Pending: 0

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/10/70:

“52. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue were examined by the Bahamas, and the recommendations listed below enjoy the support of the Bahamas:

- 1. To complete its accession and to speedily ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Algeria, France, Netherlands, Slovenia, Argentina, Pakistan);
- 2. To consider the possibility of acceding to the other major human rights instruments, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Algeria, Slovenia, France) and the Optional Protocol thereto (Czech Republic); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Argentina); the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria, Mexico, Haiti); the optional protocols to the various United Nations conventions on human rights (France); the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mexico); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Bangladesh); to ensure that civil society is involved in the implementation of the outcome of the review (United Kingdom); and to report on these consultations in the next round of the universal periodic review (Netherlands);

- 3. To introduce to its criminal legislation aggravating circumstances on the grounds of racial discrimination, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Djibouti);
- 4. To continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and consider specific measures in order to promote tolerance and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation (Sweden);
- 5. To ensure the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence (Protection Order) Act (Netherlands, Czech Republic);
- 6. To continue to take effective measures to address the serious social problem of rape and to reinforce its domestic legislation concerning domestic violence against women (Italy);
- 7. To consider specifically with regard to the prevention of physical abuse of children the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Netherlands); to take necessary measures, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to prevent child abuse and neglect and increase efforts to ensure the registration of all children at birth (Italy); to undertake a comprehensive study on child abuse in order to understand its scope and to suggest ways to prevent it (Canada, Australia); to take the necessary measures to implement article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Argentina);
- 8. To develop further and implement measures to deal with the large backlog of cases in courts (Slovenia);
- 9. To respond, without delay, to concerns raised by several special rapporteurs on the conditions of detention in the Carmichael Detention Centre (Slovenia);
- 10. To seek the support and advice of the various United Nations agencies in order to meet its international commitments in the protection and safeguarding of human rights (Mexico); to step up its efforts, with the assistance of OHCHR, in human rights training (Algeria); to seek support from all countries and relevant organizations, including OHCHR, to support the request of the Bahamas for technical assistance in human rights training and capacity-building (Barbados, Jamaica);
- 11. To continue its positive efforts and share its experiences, best practices and lessons learned, such as in the field of women's rights and the empowerment of women, and in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination (Cuba).

53. The recommendations below will be examined by the Bahamas. The response of the Bahamas to the recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its tenth session:

- 1. To establish an independent body for the promotion and protection of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles (Algeria); to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia), as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Germany, Canada), that is adequately resourced, child-sensitive and able to provide remedies in a timely manner (Canada);
- 2. To continue to strengthen the functions of the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry for Legal Affairs, with a view to harmonizing national and international obligations in the field of human rights (Mexico);
- 3. To continue to develop a national strategy for human rights education in the school system at all levels, in accordance with the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, including the review and revision of curricula and textbooks, the training of teachers and the practice of human rights in the school community (Italy);
- 4. To ease prison congestion and its impact on mothers with young children (Ghana);

- 5. To extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Mexico, Czech Republic, Latvia);
- to consider increasing its dialogue with treaty bodies and special procedures (Brazil); to respect the deadlines for submitting reports to various treaty bodies of the United Nations (France), and to regularly report to the treaty bodies, and specifically with regard to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Netherlands);
- 6. To increase the age of criminal responsibility of children (Czech Republic);
- 7. To implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers (Canada).

54. The recommendations below noted in the report did not enjoy the support of the Bahamas:

- 1. To consider withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 2 (Algeria);
- 2. To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mexico, United Kingdom, Australia); to abolish the death penalty (Germany); to consider the repeal of provisions allowing for the death penalty (United Kingdom); to declare a moratorium on executions and start an information campaign explaining to the population the problems of capital punishment (Chile); to consider establishing a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/149 (Brazil); to consider the adoption of a legal moratorium on the use of death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment in national legislation (Italy); to abolish the death penalty and immediately declare a moratorium on all executions (Australia); to effectively abolish the death penalty and that a moratorium be immediately decreed with respect to all executions (Haiti); to envisage actions to abolish capital punishment (Botswana); to make a real political commitment to combating violence against women, and in particular that it change its national legislation allowing the criminalization of marital rape (France); to amend existing legislation so as to outlaw marital rape (United Kingdom); to continue its efforts to promote gender equality and consider appropriate legislative changes, including criminalizing marital rape (Sweden);
- 3. To consider undertaking studies on children involved in the commercial sex industry, factors luring or compelling them to engage in such crimes, and to take appropriate action (Bangladesh);
- 4. To focus more efforts on combating child prostitution and pornography and in aiding its victims in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Canada);
- 5. To eliminate corporal punishment from Bahamas legislation in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Chile); to continue, as a matter of priority, efforts to prohibit corporal punishment, of children as well as of adults, and to allocate necessary resources to allow the full implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (Sweden); to put an end to corporal punishment in schools and in the home, and to revise article 1.10 of the Criminal Code (Haiti);
- 6. To subject any detention of migrants, refugees or asylum seekers to judicial review and ensure that persons are informed of their rights (Canada)."

Disclaimer: This classification is not official and is based on United Nations documents and webcast. For questions, comments and/or corrections, please write to info@upr-info.org