

Side Event

Using the UPR to promote the Rights of the Child

12 March 2009, from 14.00 to 16.00
Palais des Nations, Room XVII

Presentation by Roland Chauville, President of UPR Info

Slide 1:

Rights of the Child issue:

- Raised on every State under Review (SuR)
- Recommendations to all SuR except Tunisia, Morocco and Indonesia

=> Rights of the Child, with women's rights, is the one of the most raised issue at the UPR.

Slide 2:

During the four first sessions were made:

- 125 advance written questions
- 883 remarks
- 429 recommendations

=> This study is based on the reports of the working group. A remark is every mention the term "child", "juvenile" or "CRC" in the section I of the report of the Working Group. A recommendation is every mention of the same terms occur in the section 2 of the report.

Slide 3:

114 States raised the issue:

- African Group: 27
- Asian Group: 33
- Eastern European Group: 17
- Grulac: 13
- WEOG: 24

=> There is a balance between regional groups with a bit less for the Grulac and a bit more by the WEOG.

I – Evolution from Session 1 and 2 to Session 3 and 4

Slide 4:

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Number of States	66	77	74	89
Advance Questions	39	30	19	37
Remarks	144	233	215	291
Recommendations	45	85	123	176

=> The table shows a growth in both the number of States raising the issue and the number of time the issue is raised.

II – The concrete example of 6 States at the UPR

Slide 5:

The six most active States in terms of recommendations (REC):

- Brazil,
- Canada,
- Czech Republic,
- Italy,
- Mexico and
- Slovenia.

Slide 6:

	Brazil	Canada	Czech Republic	Italy	Mexico	Slovenia
Number of SuR on which REC were made	20	15	11	31	22	17
Total of REC made	22	24	16	34	28	24
Total of children specific REC	15	13	9	33	16	23

=> What are “specific children recommendations”? These are recommendations that solely addresses this issue and that does not include it with others such as minorities or women.

For example: “we recommend you to prevent and punish human trafficking, in particular trafficking in women and children.”

A children specific recommendation is: “we recommend you to implement effective measure to fight trafficking in children.”

=>Italy is the most active State.

=>Slovenia, when addressing the rights of the child, solely addresses this issue.

Slide 7:

When looking at a recommendation, there are five criteria to say whether this recommendation is constructive or not:

- **Topic specific:** is the recommendation only addressing the rights of the child?
- **SuR specific:** is the recommendation specific to the State under Review?
- **Precise:** is the recommendation addressing a particular right/law/mechanism or all the rights of the child?
- **Action-oriented:** is the recommendation asking for a concrete action to be taken? Not only to improve the situation of the rights of the child in general?
- **Time-bound:** does the recommendation contain a deadline or a timeframe for implementation? This is almost never used but all recommendations should be implemented within four years.

Slide 8 et 9:

Main issues raised by the six States:

- **Ratification and withdrawing of reservations CRC, OP-CRC and others:**
Brazil (3); Canada (1); Italy (2); Mexico (6); Slovenia (1)
- **Implementation CRC recommendations :**
Brazil (1); Canada (3); Italy (8); Mexico (1); Slovenia (3)
- **Visit of Special Rapporteur:**
Mexico (1);
- **Child labour:**
Brazil (4); Canada (1); Italy (5); Slovenia (2)
- **Trafficking:**
Brazil (1); Canada (1); Czech Republic (1); Italy (1); Mexico (1); Slovenia (2)
- **Violence against children/ corporal punishment:**
Brazil (4); Canada (1); Czech Republic (1); Italy (7); Mexico (2); Slovenia (4)
- **Children without Parental care:**
Brazil (3); Canada (1); Slovenia (3)
- **Juvenile justice system :**
Brazil (3); Canada (1); Czech Republic (5); Italy (2); Mexico (3); Slovenia (5)
- **Child soldiers/in armed conflict:**
Canada (2); Czech Republic (1); Italy (1); Slovenia (2)
- **Child prostitution/pornography:**
Canada (1); Czech Republic (1); Italy (2); Mexico (1)
- **Education:**
Canada (2); Italy (7); Slovenia (3)
- **Others:**
Canada (1); Czech Republic (2); Italy (6); Mexico (2); Slovenia (2)

Conclusion

Slide 10:

112 children specific recommendations by the 6 States:

- 56 accepted
- 3 rejected
- 47 have not been answered yet
- On the remaining 6 recommendations, the SuR give no clear answer on whether they accepted them or not.

=> Details of the three rejected: two on child soldiers (one to Sri Lanka by Canada and one to Colombia by Slovenia) and one on child prostitution and pornography to Bahamas by Canada.

=>Conclusion: recommendations on the rights of the child have a strong acceptance rate.