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COMPILATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1*

Belize

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

* Late submission.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

Core universal human rights treaties[2]	*Date of ratification, accession or succession*	*Declarations /reservations*	*Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies*
ICERD	14 November 2001	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICCPR	10 June 1996	Yes (art. 12, para. 2, art. 14, para. 3 (d), art. 14, para. 6)[3]	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No
CEDAW	16 May 1990	None	-
OP-CEDAW	9 December 2002	None	Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): No
CAT	17 March 1986	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No Individual complaints (art. 22): No Inquiry procedure (art. 20): No
CRC	2 May 1990	None	-
OP-CRC-AC	1 December 2003	Binding declaration under article 3: 16 years	-
OP-CRC-SC	1 December 2003	None	-
ICRMW	14 November 2001	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No Individual complaints (art. 77): No

Core treaties to which Belize is not a party: ICESCR (signature only, 6 September 2000), OP-ICESCR[4], ICCPR-OP1, ICCPR-OP2, OP-CAT, CRPD, CRPD-OP and CED.

Other main relevant international instruments	*Ratification, accession or succession*
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Yes
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Yes
Palermo Protocol [5]	Yes
Refugees and stateless persons [6]	Yes, except 1961 Convention
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto [7]	Yes
ILO fundamental conventions [8]	Yes
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	Yes

1. In 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) encouraged Belize to consider ratifying ICESCR.[9]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. In 2005, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) welcomed the adoption in 2003 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act, which provides special protection for children, and the subsequent establishment of a special Task Force to give greater effect to the implementation of the Act.[10]

3. CRC noted with appreciation Belize's proposals to reform the Criminal Code and the Evidence Act, and the review of the laws of Belize completed in 2003 by the National Committee for Families and Children. It recommended that Belize continue to strengthen its efforts to ensure full conformity of its domestic law with the Convention, for instance by enacting a comprehensive children's code.[11]

4. In 2008, an ILO Committee of Experts noted that article 16(4) of the Constitution provides for certain exceptions to the principle of non-discrimination. The Committee reiterated its request for more detailed information, including adopted laws and administrative or judicial decisions, on the application of these exceptions. It also noted the absence of any provision in the Labour Act (revised edition 2000) which defines or prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation. It encouraged the Government to include such a provision in the near future.[12]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

5. In 2007, while commending Belize for the law reform process undertaken to promote women's rights,[13] CEDAW nevertheless expressed concern about the weak institutional capacity of the national machinery for the advancement of women such as the Women's Department in the Ministry of Human Development.[14] CEDAW recommended that Belize provide the department with the authority, decision-making power and resources necessary to work effectively for the promotion of women's equality, coordinate use of the gender mainstreaming strategy across all sectors of Government and ensure that such efforts are results-oriented and sustainable.[15]

6. As of 6 March 2009, Belize does not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).[16] In 2005, CRC welcomed the establishment in 1999 of an independent Ombudsman, but noted that this body was not properly equipped either in terms of its mandate and its human and financial resources to deal with complaints filed by or on behalf of children. The Committee welcomed information that the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents in Belize 2004-2015 (NPA) calls for exploration of the establishment of an ombudsperson for children.[17]

D. Policy measures

7. CRC noted with appreciation the adoption of the NPA and the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee of the National Committee for Families and Children to monitor its progress.[18] However, UNICEF noted low implementation rates of the NPA because of inadequate resources, poor governance and disproportionate service provision between urban and rural areas.[19] CRC recommended that Belize provide adequate resources for the full and effective implementation of the NPA, and that it take all necessary measures to ensure a rights-based, open, consultative and participatory process for its implementation.[20]

8. A 2007 ILO Committee noted with interest the adoption of the National Action Plan entitled "Belize equity and equality strategic plan: Facilitating the implementation of a national gender management system", which resulted in the decision to draft a National Gender Policy and an Equal Pay Bill. The Committee asked the Government to indicate the measures taken under the plan to promote the employment of women in general and in particular in higher income jobs, with a view to reducing inequalities in remuneration.[21]

9. In 2008, UNICEF noted that increased efforts are required to enable a national human rights framework and a human rights-based approach to development.[22]

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

Treaty body[23]	*Latest report submitted and considered*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Follow-up response*	*Reporting status*
CERD	-	-	-	Initial, second and third reports overdue from 2002-2006 respectively
HR Committee	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1997
CEDAW	Combined third and fourth report submitted 2005, considered 2007	August 2007	-	Combined fifth and sixth report due 2011
CAT	Initial report submitted 1991[24]	-	-	Revised initial and second report overdue since 1992
CRC	Second report submitted 2003, considered 2005	March 2005		Combined third and fourth report overdue since 2007
OP-CRC- AC	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2006
OP-CRC- SC	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2006
CMW	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2004

2. Cooperation with special procedures

Standing invitation issued	No
Latest visits or mission reports	None
Visits agreed upon in principle	None
Visits requested and not yet agreed upon	None
Facilitation/cooperation during missions	-
Follow-up to visits	-
Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals	About two communications were sent within the four year periodicity covering particular groups. The Government replied to one communication.
Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues [25]	Out of the 13 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate-holders during the period under review,[26] Belize responded to none of them within the deadlines.

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

10. In 2007, CEDAW expressed concern that widespread poverty among women is one of the causes of violation of women's rights and discrimination against them, particularly in rural areas and among Mayan women.[27] It urged Belize to make the promotion of gender equality an explicit component of all its national development strategies, policies and programmes, in particular those aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Furthermore, it

recommended that Belize put in place evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of its poverty reduction strategies on women, including on rural women.[28]

11. In 2005, CRC expressed concern at the persistent discrimination faced by girls, migrant children, minority and indigenous children, and children with disabilities, living in poverty, affected by HIV/AIDS, living in rural areas, as well as pregnant students and teenage mothers in schools.[29] It recommended that Belize increase its efforts to adopt appropriate legislation, to ensure the implementation of existing laws guaranteeing the principle of non-discrimination, and to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination on any grounds, particularly against all vulnerable groups of children.[30]

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

12. While welcoming the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act of 2007,[31] CEDAW expressed concern about the continued prevalence of violence against women and the lack of social awareness about it.[32] It urged Belize to place high priority on implementing a comprehensive approach to addressing all forms of violence against women, including through the effective enforcement and monitoring of the Domestic Violence Act.[33] In 2008, WHO indicated that domestic violence continued to increase. In 2003, there were over 1,200 registered cases of domestic violence. Of concern is also the high incidence of sexual violence, especially among young women.[34] The 2005 Common Country Assessment (CCA) report noted that the "cultural" justification for the continued sexual predation of young females is still a persistent problem.[35]

13. CRC noted Belize's efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children such as the "Stamp Out Child Abuse" campaign. However, it expressed concern about child pornography and trafficking of children and drew attention to existing risk factors, such as the growing tourism.[36] It recommended that Belize take all necessary measures to effectively prevent, and protect all children from, trafficking, sexual exploitation and child pornography, including through implementing the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act, and to provide the recently established Task Force with adequate resources.[37]

14. While noting the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act in 2003, CEDAW expressed concern that Belize is becoming a destination country for trafficked women. It called upon the State to ensure that legislation on trafficking is fully enforced. It also recommended that Belize address the root cause of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution by increasing its efforts to improve the economic situation of women, and that it take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of victims.[38]

15. The 2005 CCA report noted the persistence of corporal punishment of children, including within schools and families.[39] In 2005, deeply concerned about the situation and that the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Education Act legitimize its use.[40] CRC urged Belize to critically review its legislation with a view to abolishing the use of force for the purpose of correction and to introduce new laws prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in the family and within all institutions. It also urged the Government to strengthen public education and social mobilization campaigns on non-violent forms of discipline and child-rearing, with the participation of children, in order to change public attitudes to corporal punishment.[41]

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

16. Gravely concerned at the growing number of cases of murders, violence in the streets, domestic violence and sexual abuse of minors, especially girls, CRC recommended that Belize conduct investigations and bring perpetrators to justice. It also recommended that the Government introduce awareness campaigns, ensure due adherence to all relevant procedures regarding the management of child abuse cases, and that victims have access to adequate counselling.[42]

17. CRC also noted with concern that Belize's sex offence legislation is discriminatory, leaving boys without equal legal protection from sexual assault and abuse.[43] Observing that section 47 of the Criminal Code concerning prostitution only covers cases where the child in question is a female, an ILO Committee of Experts in 2008 asked the Government to indicate the measures taken or envisaged to secure the prohibition of the use, procuring or offering of boys under 18 for prostitution.[44]

18. In 2005, CRC reiterated its serious concern at the low minimum legal age of criminal responsibility and the large number of children in detention.[45] It was deeply concerned that children as young as 9 can be sentenced to life imprisonment without provision for parole. It recommended that Belize establish a system of juvenile justice that fully integrates the provisions and principles of the Convention and other relevant international standards. Furthermore, it recommended that the Government raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility, urgently review legislation concerning life imprisonment of children, ensure that detained persons under the age of 18 are separated from adults, and improve procedures of arrest and conditions of detention for juveniles.[46]

19. In 2007, CEDAW expressed concern about the lack of access to justice for women, and encouraged Belize to eliminate impediments and to enhance women's legal literacy, awareness of their rights and capacity to effectively claim them.[47]

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

20. In 2005 CRC expressed deep concern about the practice of early marriage, and the low minimum age for marriage (14 years with parental consent). CEDAW noted with concern that a man who has sexual relations with a girl under the age of 16 can, with the consent of her parents, marry her without being prosecuted for carnal knowledge. Both CEDAW and CRC recommended that Belize raise the minimum age of marriage.[48]

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

21. UNICEF noted the weak role of the media in reporting on human rights issues.[49]

22. In 2007, CEDAW remained concerned about the low rate of representation of women in public life and in elected bodies;[50] a United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the seats held by women in the national parliament decreased from 6.7 per cent in 2004 to 3.3 per cent in 2008.[51] CEDAW noted with concern that Belize does not support the use of quotas or targets to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality between women and men. It urged Belize to effectively use temporary special measures to accelerate the realization of women's de facto equality with men.[52]

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

23. In 2007, CEDAW expressed concern about the situation of women in the labour market, characterized by levels of female unemployment at twice the rate of men, inadequate employment opportunities for women, the concentration of women in low-paid sectors of public employment and the consistent wage gap. It noted with concern the absence of a system of maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits for all women as required by article 11, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention.[53] It encouraged Belize to implement measures to encourage and support women's entrepreneurship and urged the Government to fully implement article 11 of the Convention. It also recommended that efforts be strengthened to eliminate occupational segregation and to close the wage gap between women and men.[54]

24. In 2008, the ILO Committee noted that for several years it had requested the Government to amend the Settlement of Disputes in Essential Services Act of 1939, which empowers the authorities to refer a collective dispute to compulsory arbitration, to prohibit a strike or to terminate a strike in services that are not to be considered essential. The Committee considered that certain services listed as essential under the Act such as the banking sector, civil aviation, postal services, social security and the petroleum sector, cannot be considered as essential services in the strict sense of the term in which a strike could be prohibited. It said the authorities could establish a system of minimum service in other services which are of public utility rather than impose an outright ban on strikes. It requested the Government to take necessary measures to amend the Settlement of Disputes in Essential Services Act. [55]

25. In 2008, the ILO Committee pointed out that the imposition of sanctions involving compulsory labour as a punishment for breaches of labour discipline or for having participated in strikes is incompatible with the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105). The Committee expressed firm hope that the necessary measures will be taken to bring section 35(2) of the Trade Unions Act into conformity with the above-mentioned Convention.[56]

26. In 2008, the ILO Committee noted that, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), cases of anti-union discrimination occur in practice in the banana plantation sector and in export processing zones, where employers do not recognize any unions. The Committee requested the Government to send its observations on this subject.[57]

27. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to provide further details concerning cases detected by the authorized officers of the worst forms of child labour, and on measures taken, such as the number of prosecutions.[58] Furthermore the Committee noted the information provided by the Government in its second periodic report to CRC that, following the increasing reports on the sexual and labour exploitation of children within the Corozal commercial free zone, the Ministry of Labour placed a labour officer within the zone in order to monitor such problems in 2002. The Committee requested the Government to provide information on the outcome of the inspections and investigations carried out by the labour officer in the Corozal commercial free zone.[59]

28. In 2005, CRC remained concerned at the high rate of working children in Belize and the negative consequences of the exploitation of child labour, such as school dropouts, and the negative effects on health of harmful and hazardous work. It noted with particular concern the high number of child rural workers and regretted the lack of adequate data on child labour in the country.[60] It recommended that Belize ensure the full implementation of the child labour provisions, including the provision of non-formal education and training, in order to ensure the

development of children to their full potential, and that it take all necessary measures to prevent child labour, including in rural areas.[61]

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

29. The 2005 CCA report noted that the most recent poverty assessment confirmed that poverty in Belize is extensive and persistent: one in three persons is not able to meet basic food and non-food costs, and 10.8 per cent of the total population was not able to meet even the basic food costs.[62] It highlighted the fact that the Maya are the major victims of poverty.[63] A 2008 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the total proportion of the urban population living in slums decreased from 62 per cent in 2001 to 47.3 per cent in 2005, and that the total proportion of the population using an improved drinking water source increased from 63 per cent in 2000 to 66 per cent in 2006.[64]

30. CRC was concerned at the persistent high rate of children living in poverty, especially in rural areas.[65] UNICEF noted that close to 40 per cent of children lived in poverty, and this reached as high as 84.5 per cent in the poorest districts and among the ethnic Mayan population.[66] CRC recommended that Belize take all necessary measures to provide support and material assistance to economically disadvantaged families and to guarantee the right of children to an adequate standard of living.[67]

31. CRC was also concerned at the regional disparities in accessibility to health services, the high number of infant deaths and regional differences in this respect, the situation of malnutrition among infants and children, the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the rural and most remote areas, and the low prevalence of breastfeeding.[68] It recommended that Belize prioritize the allocations of financial and human resources to the health sector to ensure equal access to quality health care by children in all areas of the country. It recommended that the Government continue its efforts to improve prenatal care and the nutritional status of infants and children, and ensure access to safe drinking water. CRC also recommended that Belize strengthen its efforts to implement the National Breastfeeding Policy.[69]

32. In 2007, CEDAW was concerned about high maternal mortality rates, the number of deaths resulting from induced abortions, and the high rate of teenage pregnancies. UNICEF noted that women in Belize face obstacles in the use of contraceptives, in seeking sexual and reproductive health counselling, and in making decisions about their sexual behaviour due to the control of their spouses, partners, families, and society.[70] CEDAW urged Belize to take concrete measures to enhance women's access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services. It recommended that Belize consider reviewing laws relating to abortion with a view to removing punitive provisions and providing women with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortions.[71]

33. The 2005 CCA report stated that HIV/AIDS is the most serious social and health problem facing the country. A 2008 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the proportion of people between 15-49 years old living with HIV, was 2.1 per cent in 2006.[72] The 2005 CCA report noted that a range of successful measures have been taken and need to be maintained and extended (notably, voluntary screening, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, improved testing of blood transfusions, awareness of condom usage and antiretroviral treatment management).[73] The report also noted that following the establishment of the National AIDS Commission in 2000, strides have been made in better coordinating the national response to HIV/AIDS.[74]

34. In 2007, CEDAW expressed concern about the high rates of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, recommending Belize step up efforts to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS and improve dissemination of information about the risks and ways of transmission.[75] UNICEF indicated that gender disparities and ingrained stigma and discrimination hamper efforts to reverse the spread of HIV and inhibit universal access to testing, prevention, treatment and care.[76]

35. CRC remained concerned about the concrete shortcomings in the birth registration system, and the consequences of non-registration on access by children to education, health and other services.[77] It recommended that Belize implement an efficient and free birth registration system, with particular attention to immigrant parents and parents whose children were born out of wedlock.[78] Concerned at the large number of children who do not have birth registration documents and who consequently cannot claim nationality and social benefits, CEDAW called upon Belize to expedite and facilitate the process of registration of children without documentation and issue them with birth certificates and identity documents.[79]

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

36. The 2005 CCA report stated that access to basic education services was high, with net enrolment in primary education over 90 per cent.[80] However, it noted that rates of dropout, grade repetition and failure remain high, and that, despite a total 43 per cent secondary school enrolment rate, only one in four poor adolescents continue on to secondary school.[81]

37. CRC expressed its concern at the high rate of illiteracy and regional disparities in this respect. It noted Belize's efforts to reduce the high rate of school dropouts, but regretted the deficiencies in the implementation of these initiatives. It remained concerned about the fact that parents are sometimes charged additional fees, thereby creating financial obstacles and denying many children access to education.[82] CRC was also concerned about the quality of education and the insufficient teacher training, particularly in the most remote areas of the country.[83]

38. CEDAW expressed concern about the persistence of social barriers that impede women's education and are reflected in the early dropout rate of girls from school and the lack of measures to ensure that teenage mothers stay in or return to school.[84] In 2005, CRC expressed its grave concern that Belize does not have a policy to prevent and combat the school-based practices of educational exclusion of pregnant students and teenage mothers.[85] UNICEF highlighted that the expulsion of pregnant girls continues in schools managed by religious organizations. [86] CEDAW recommended that Belize implement measures to ensure equal rights of girls and young women to all levels of education, to retain girls in school and to put in place monitoring mechanisms to track girls' access to and achievement levels in education.[87]

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

39. UNICEF stated that serious disparities experienced by the indigenous populations are masked by national averages, and therefore inequalities and exclusion among populations are largely obscured. Available disaggregated data reveal disparities in income, health and nutrition status, access to quality services, school drop-out and completion rates, teenage pregnancy and child labour.[88]

40. CRC expressed concern about the widespread poverty among children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples and the limited enjoyment of their rights, particularly concerning their access to social and health services, and education.[89] It recommended that

Belize strengthen its efforts to improve the equal enjoyment of all rights of children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, in particular, by prioritizing effective measures to reduce poverty among them. It also recommended that the Government take measures to promote respect for the views of children, especially girls, belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples and facilitate their participation in all matters affecting them.[90]

41. In April 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people transmitted a communication to the Government concerning the Maya people in the Toledo District.[91] Of concern was information received of oil concessions being issued without sufficient consultation with the concerned communities, which could affect indigenous lands and the Mayan way of life. The information referred to a process of privatization and parcelling of indigenous lands, as well as the lease of traditional lands to foreigners and non-Maya people. The Special Rapporteur thanked the Government for its complete response,[92] and sought clarifications in light of additional information received.[93] Among other things, it was alleged that the issuance of leases over lands in which community members hold customary title is disruptive to the traditional land rights system, and violates indigenous peoples' legitimate property rights.

42. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts noted the Government's statement of measures to promote equality of opportunity for ethnic minorities, including Belizeans and non- Belizeans. It asked the Government to provide information regarding efforts, including programmes or policies of public bodies, cooperative efforts with workers' and employers' organizations and any other measures designed to promote equality of opportunity and treatment for various ethnic groups in employment and occupation.[94]

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

43. CRC noted with appreciation the efforts made by Belize to better safeguard the right of the child to require a nationality. Notwithstanding the positive steps taken by Belize, it was concerned at the high number of immigrant children without any legal status or documentation residing in the territory of Belize.[95] It recommended that Belize continue its efforts to promote and facilitate the proper registration of all undocumented immigrant children and provide them with the legal status they need.[96]

44. A 2005 UNHCR report noted that the Government did not reactivate the asylum procedure and indicated that it had no plans to do so in the future. Instead, the Government announced that individuals with compelling protection needs would be allowed to remain in the country with a different migratory status.[97]

45. A UNHCR report stated that there has been progress towards the local integration of long-staying refugees and that refugees received citizenship or permanent residence in the first half of 2006.[98]

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

46. The 2005 CCA report stated that one of the major achievements over the past year has been the reduction and control of water- and food-borne diseases. Malaria cases were reduced constantly since 1995 from 10,441 cases to 1,200 cases in 2004, although there was an increase to 1,323 reported cases as at the end of October 2005.[99]

47. In 2005, CRC acknowledged that natural disasters caused by several hurricanes in the region in the last few years have given rise to a growing number of economic and social difficulties.[100] According to UNICEF, Tropical Storm Arthur in 2008 has affected an estimated 8,000 people and displaced 1,600 families. UNICEF noted that the fact that many people now live in congested settings, if not addressed immediately, may contribute to violence and abuse[101]. It stressed that indigenous populations in the southern district are particularly vulnerable. [102]

48. A 2008 World Bank report noted that the country's immediate challenges include improving living standards, which have suffered recently due to rising food and fuel costs, and combating violent crime. While significant progress has been achieved in several of the social indicators, the alleviation of poverty continues to be a major challenge.[103]

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

N/A.

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

49. The 2007-2011 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) report noted three programme areas of United Nations activities throughout the period 2007-2011: poverty elimination by investing in people, reversal of the spread of HIV and AIDS, and improvement of sustainable development practices.[104]

50. In 2007, CEDAW invited the Government to seek international technical assistance for the development of data collection and analysis efforts, in order to assess the actual situation of women in Belize.[105]

51. CRC recommended that Belize seek technical assistance from, among others, UNICEF and WHO, for the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents[106] and for the implementation of the National Breastfeeding Policy.[107] It recommended that the Government seek assistance from UNICEF regarding the abolition of corporal punishment, and from UNICEF and UNAIDS, regarding prevention of HIV/ AIDS.[108] It also recommended that Belize seek assistance from UNICEF and UNESCO in order to reduce illiteracy.[109] Furthermore, CRC recommended that Belize strengthen its cooperation with ILO and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.[110]

52. UNICEF noted that the 2007-2011 UNICEF Country Programme and Action Plan (CPAP) is designed to support the Government by focusing on nutrition, child survival, safe motherhood, quality education, HIV, positive adolescent development and violence and disaster preparedness and response.[111]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006* (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org.

[2] The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] Reservations: "(a) The Government of Belize reserves the right not to apply paragraph 2 of article 12 in view of the statutory provisions requiring persons intending to travel abroad to furnish tax clearance certificates; (b) The Government of Belize reserves the right not to apply in full the guarantee of free legal assistance in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of article 14, since, while it accepts the principle contained in that paragraph and at present applies it in certain defined cases, the problems of implementation are such that full application cannot be guaranteed at present; (c) The Government of Belize recognizes and accepts the principle of compensation for wrongful imprisonment contained in paragraph 6 of article 14, but the problems of implementation are such that the right not to apply that principle is presently reserved".

[4] Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008, in which the General Assembly recommended that a signing ceremony be organized in 2009. Article 17, para. 1, of OP-ICESCR states that "The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant".

[5] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[6] 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

[7] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

[8] International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No.105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and

Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

[9] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 38.

[10] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 67.

[11] CRC/C/15/Add.252, paras. 9 and 10.

[12] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092008BLZ111, para. 2.

[13] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 6.

[14] Ibid., para. 13.

[15] Ibid., para. 14.

[16] For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex I.

[17] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 13.

[18] Ibid., para. 11.

[19] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 3.

[20] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 12.

[21] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, 2007, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092007BLZ100, para. 3.

[22] UNICEF submission on the UPR on Belize, p. 1.

[23] The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
HR Committee	Human Rights Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CAT	Committee against Torture
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families

[24] The Committee requested a more detailed and revised report, and postponed further consideration of the initial report until the Committee's next session, when the revised initial report would be available (CAT/C/SR.156).

[25] The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate-holder.

[26] See (a) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006; (b) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (E/CN.4/2006/95 and Add.5), questionnaire on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms sent in June 2005; (e) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people sent in August 2007; (f) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005; (g) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/2006/45), questionnaire on the right to education for girls sent in 2005; (h) report of the Working Group on mercenaries (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005; (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children's organs sent on July 2006; (j) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2005/78), questionnaire on child pornography on the Internet sent in July 2004; (k) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2004/9), questionnaire on the prevention of child sexual exploitation sent in July 2003; (l) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices; and (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007.

[27] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 15.
[28] Ibid., para. 16.
[29] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 25.
[30] Ibid., para. 26.
[31] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, paras. 5 and 6.
[32] Ibid., para.19.
[33] Ibid., para. 20.
[34] PAHO, regional office of the World Health Organisation, "Health situation analysis and trends summary", available at www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp_084.htm.
[35] UNCT Belize, Common Country Assessment (CCA) Belize, 2006, p. 23, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[36] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 67.
[37] Ibid., para. 69.
[38] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para.22.
[39] UNCT Belize, Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 23, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[40] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 40.
[41]Ibid., para. 41.
[42]Ibid., paras. 48 and 49.
[43] Ibid., para. 68.
[44] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, p. 1, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092008BLZ182.
[45] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 70.
[46] Ibid., para. 71.
[47] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, paras. 11 and 12.
[48]Ibid., paras. 31 and 32, and CRC/C/15/Add.252, paras. 23 and 24.
[49] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 3.
[50] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 18.
[51] United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals indicators, available at http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx.
[52] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, paras. 17 and 18.
[53]Ibid., para. 25.
[54] Ibid., para. 26.
[55] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062008BLZ087, paras. 1-4.
[56] Ibid., Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062008BLZ105, paras. 2-3.
[57] Ibid., Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062007BLZ098.
[58] Ibid., Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092008BLZ182, para. 2.
[59]Idem.
[60] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 65.
[61] Ibid., para. 66.
[62] See Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 17, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[63]Idem.
[64] United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals indicators, available at: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg.
[65] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 58.
[66] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 1.
[67] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 59.
[68] Ibid., para. 52.
[69] Ibid., para. 53.
[70] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 2.
[71] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 28.
[72] United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Development Goals indicators available at: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg.
[73] UNCT Belize, Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 20, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.

[74] UNCT Belize, Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 20, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[75] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, paras. 27 and 28
[76] UNICEF submission to UPR on Belize, p. 2.
[77] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 32.
[78] Ibid., para. 33.
[79] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 34.
[80] See Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 22, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc. See also UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 2.
[81] See Common Country Assessment Belize, 2005, p. 19, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[82] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 60.
[83] Ibid., para. 61.
[84] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 23.
[85] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 61.
[86] UNICEF submission to UPR on Belize, p. 2.
[87] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 24.
[88] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 1.
[89] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 72.
[90] Ibid., para. 73.
[91] A/HRC/4/32/Add.1, paras. 18-20
[92] Ibid, para. 38. See the government response at paras. 21-28.
[93] Ibid, paras. 29-37.
[94] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092008BLZ111, para. 6,
[95] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 34.
[96] Ibid., para. 35.
[97] UNHCR, Global Report 2005, Geneva, 2006, p. 415, available at http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/publ/opendoc.pdf.
[98] UNHCR, Global Appeal 2007, Strategies and Programmes, Geneva, 2006, p. 288, available at /www.unhcr.org/static/publ/ga2007/ga2007toc.htm.
[99] See Common Country Assessment Belize, 2006, p. 22, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8291-CCA_Belize.doc.
[100] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 6.
[101] UNICEF, News note, 9 June 2008, “Flash flooding displaces 1600 families in Belize”, available at http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_44416.html.
[102] UNICEF submission to the UPR on Belize, p. 2.
[103] World Bank, Belize Country Brief, Washington D.C., 2008, available at http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/LACEXT/BELIZEEXTN/0,,menuPK:322044~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:322034,00.html.
[104] UNCT Belize, United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Belize 2007-2011, 2006, p. 4, available at http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/8254-UNDAF_Belize.pdf.
[105] CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, para. 10.
[106] CRC/C/15/Add.252, para. 12.
[107] Ibid., para. 53.
[108] Ibid., para. 57.
[109]Ibid., para. 62
[110] Ibid., para. 66.
[111] UNICEF submission on the UPR on Belize, p. 3.

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