



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixty-third session

Summary record of the 1802nd meeting*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 6 June 2013, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Sandberg

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* No summary record was issued for the 1801st meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties *(continued)*

Third and fourth periodic reports of Slovenia (CRC/C/SVN/3-4; CRC/C/SVN/Q/3-4 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Slovenia took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) said that additional protection and services had been provided to children under the Family Violence Prevention Act and a national programme to prevent family violence for 2009–2014. Social work centres took a multidisciplinary approach and notified the police immediately of any reports of violence against children. A programme for children and youth for 2006–2016 and an action plan for its implementation set out measurable goals for children's well-being. A number of new provisions to promote the rights of children had been introduced under a bill to amend the Family Code. She noted with regret, however, that the draft had been rejected in a referendum in 2012.
3. The establishment of the Child Observatory in 2004 had led to improvements in data collection on children, research and monitoring of children's rights. Data on children were collected and annual reports were drawn up by various institutions and agencies and submitted to the Social Protection Institute, which had responsibility for keeping the Observatory's online database on children.
4. A public debate would be held under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities on a bill introducing amendments to the Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act. The amendments were aimed at increasing the involvement of fathers in the family at the earliest stages of a child's life by encouraging them to take better advantage of parental leave, which was set at 130 days under the bill. The Ministry was also proposing that adoptive parents should be granted more leave for the care of children.
5. Family centres funded in part by the Ministry offered services free of charge, including positive parenting activities and measures to prevent family violence, in accordance with the relevant recommendation of the Council of Europe on positive parenting.
6. The Ministry of Education was working with NGOs and experts on the Roma to promote education among Roma children under an amended national strategy. Many Roma education projects had been funded with the support of the European Social Fund, including a project to include Roma assistants in elementary schools, who acted as a bridge between the schools and Roma students and their parents. Support had been provided to improve the quality of their education, help them to learn and motivate them to attend class with the aim of reducing the dropout rate. Emphasis had been placed on publishing materials in the Romani language and promoting Romani culture by including relevant optional courses in the elementary school curriculum.
7. The Health Care and Health Insurance Act had been amended in 2011 to provide children in Slovenia with access to free health care, including preventive care. Children whose health insurance had not been paid either by their parents or by their parents' employers were covered under the Act. Special attention had been given to children's well-being under a mental health protection programme. Gaps had been identified in the mental health system; services would be improved beginning in 2014 with the help of a grant from the Norwegian Government.
8. The current economic crisis had prompted the Government to provide additional funding for school meals for primary and secondary school pupils under the School Meals

Act. Free monthly public transport passes had been distributed to all secondary and higher education students who lived more than 5 kilometres away from their educational establishments. A national programme for social protection for 2013–2020 had been set up in 2013, one of the aims of which was to provide assistance to children deprived of a suitable family life and children with behavioural problems. Specialized programmes were also in place offering children and families psychosocial assistance.

9. The Government cooperated closely with and provided funding to NGOs for the implementation of programmes for families and children. NGOs had also been actively involved in drafting such important programmes as the national programme for children and youth.

10. Several amendments had been introduced to the Criminal Code to tackle more effectively the problems of child trafficking, the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The amendments were in keeping with European Union directives in those areas. Slovenia was also continuing its efforts to make its justice system more child-friendly under the Council of Europe project entitled “Building a Europe for and with Children”. Legislation had been adopted to incorporate the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse into the national legislation.

11. In accordance with the decision handed down by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Kurić and Others v. Slovenia*, the Government had established a special interministerial working group to prepare a compensation scheme and pay damages to persons whose rights had been violated. The persons in question were known as “erased” persons, i.e. persons who had been citizens of Yugoslavia living in Slovenia who had been erased from official records.

12. Unaccompanied minors living in Slovenia who had applied for international protection and persons under international protection were classified as vulnerable persons and given special care, attention and treatment. Such children enjoyed the same rights as Slovenian nationals. Furthermore, they were provided with additional educational assistance, literacy courses, workshops and excursions.

13. Special attention was given to the rights of children in the foreign policy of Slovenia, as was shown in the country’s initiatives and work in various international and regional forums such as the Human Rights Council, the Security Council, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and others. Slovenia would also take part in the Council of Europe initiative to prepare a European strategy on the rights of the child for 2016–2019.

14. **Ms. Wijemanne** (Country Rapporteur) said that she hoped that the draft legislation to amend the Family Code would be improved and passed so that children’s rights were protected more effectively, including in respect of issues relating to foster care, domestic violence and family courts. What was the State party doing to ensure that the legislation would be passed? She wondered what was being done to enhance coordination among the relevant ministries and agencies responsible for the welfare of children and families. While commending the establishment of independent monitoring mechanisms, the Child Observatory and the Deputy Ombudsman, she noted with concern that the role of the Deputy Ombudsman was too narrowly defined, as he was purported to be responsible only for hearing complaints about violations of children’s rights. There was a need, however, for the Deputy Ombudsman to be a strong advocate for children and to ensure that programmes and laws to protect children’s rights were enforced. Were there plans to enhance the power of the Deputy Ombudsman to ensure that those rights were upheld?

15. Noting that same-sex partnerships were recognized in the State party, she wished to know whether the rights of children of people in such relationships were protected by law.

She would also appreciate more information on the efforts made to protect children from migrant families and unaccompanied children and to ensure that they had access to essential services. What authorities were responsible for their protection and welfare?

16. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** (Country Rapporteur), commending the State party on the impressive steps that it had taken on behalf of children, sought clarification as to the resources that had been allocated to protecting the rights of children, particularly in the light of the current economic crisis. She would appreciate further details of the cuts in social protection measures and loss of rights that had been called for under the Fiscal Balance Act of May 2012, including the curtailment of the right to reduced kindergarten fees and the right to subsidized school meals.

17. She asked whether the data collected by the Child Observatory was broken down into categories of children, such as those from migrant or refugee backgrounds, Roma children and children from other minority groups. While the minimum age for marriage was set at 18 years under the law, she had received a report that a Roma girl aged 13 years had been given away in marriage. Did the State party have any data on underage marriage? Were there any circumstances in which a person under the age of 18 could lawfully marry? She had also been informed that some Roma girls had entered into informal marriages. Before being subjected to sexual intercourse, they were allegedly compelled to undergo virginity examinations by their mothers, mothers-in-law or other female relatives. Did the delegation have information on such a clear violation of the rights of the child? Were such cases investigated? The evidence suggested that such a harmful practice was related to trafficking in persons, not to Roma traditions.

18. What ministry or agency was responsible for the social work centres mentioned in the report and elsewhere? Did the staff receive any training in the rights of the child? What steps had been taken to ensure that children had access to information on matters of concern to them and in a language that they understood?

19. **Mr. Gurán** asked whether the State party had any special plans to maintain its high standard of child protection despite the economic downturn. Did it have the political will to keep the rights of the child a priority? He would appreciate further details of the competence of the independent monitoring mechanisms and the ways in which the Deputy Ombudsman and Child Observatory coordinated their activities. Did the Deputy Ombudsman have responsibilities other than hearing complaints?

20. **Ms. Oviedo Fierro** would be grateful for further information on the outcome of the discussion in the children's parliament. Did the parliament have an effect on policymaking in the country or the living conditions of children? Did children have a say elsewhere in public life, such as in school forums? Did boys and girls participate equally in parliamentary and other consultations? She would also welcome information on any steps that had been taken to set up children's helplines, as they played an important part in protecting children. If such facilities existed, were they run and funded exclusively by NGOs, or did they receive the backing of the State?

21. **Mr. Cardona Llorens**, referring to general comment No. 14, said that there was a need for more information on how the State party was implementing in practice the fundamental principle of the best interests of the child. Were proper procedures in place to ensure that those interests were given due consideration? Was there a specific law to which children or their families could refer if the principle was violated? He would welcome further details of the training of judges, prosecutors and authorities responsible for asylum-seeking children in ways to ensure the best interests of the child.

22. **Ms. Khazova** said that the issue of so-called erased persons was still pending, despite the State party's efforts to resolve it. Many such persons had been unable to obtain citizenship or residency status under the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of

Former Yugoslavia living in the Republic of Slovenia. They had therefore been erased from the relevant registry and had become de facto stateless persons. The case of *Kurić and Others v. Slovenia* showed that the problem persisted. The people concerned were now adults. What was being done to clarify their status? Was the State party considering granting the children or grandchildren of such persons citizenship or compensation for the suffering that they had experienced? It was not clear how many people were concerned.

23. **Ms. Aidoo** asked whether the data collected by the Child Observatory was gender-disaggregated and covered vulnerable groups such as street children, children forced into begging and children living in poverty, as poverty had increased in the country in recent years.

24. **Mr. Kotrane** asked whether the State party had plans to accede to the Migrant Workers Convention. He would like to know whether children as young as 15 years of age were allowed to marry under the law if they were deemed to be mature enough. More information on the efforts to prohibit corporal punishment was needed. Was there any express prohibition against corporal punishment in the home?

25. **Mr. Mezmur**, noting the statement in the report that the dissolution of Yugoslavia had not resulted in de jure statelessness, said that there was de facto statelessness nonetheless. Evidently no outreach programme had been established for the persons concerned who were still living abroad. He would welcome an update on the extent to which such persons were being compensated. He wondered whether the indicators showing an increase in child neglect and abuse in the country were attributable to a rise in abuse by parents or rather to an improvement in the means of detection or awareness about the issue.

26. **The Chairperson** would like to know how the State party catered for the rights of vulnerable children, such as children with disabilities and children from minority communities, and what it was doing to ensure that their voices were heard in the courts and social work centres. What training was provided to staff in those centres? What scope did children have to voice their opinions on issues affecting them, such as foster care and custody?

The meeting was suspended at 11.55 a.m. and resumed at 12.15 p.m.

27. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) said that the best interests of the child had been taken into account and were clearly defined in the bill on the Family Code. The draft legislation also included a proposal to establish family courts to ensure that proceedings involving contact or custody, for example, ran smoothly and quickly. The provisions on foster care, positive parenting, family mediation and institutions such as the social work centres had been guided by the best interests of the child. Although the provisions on same-sex marriage in the bill had led to its defeat in the parliament, there had been no disagreement on the provisions that aimed to enhance the protection of children's rights. She explained that 12 months had to pass before a rejected bill could be resubmitted to the parliament and noted that the Government would soon be making the necessary amendments to ensure that the draft would be acceptable to a majority.

28. The Child Observatory had been set up to monitor the situation of children in particular rather than of families in general. Data was collected centrally, using more than 700 indicators, covering key areas such as demographics, health and family, and vulnerable groups such as Roma children, children with special needs, unaccompanied minors and victims of violence. The Observatory produced an annual report showing various relevant trends to help policymakers to prepare their strategies. International research was also used to inform policy decisions and was available online. The Observatory was separate from the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman, although the Ombudsman regularly received information from the Observatory.

29. **Mr. Gurán** asked why, after more than a decade since its establishment, the Human Rights Ombudsman was still not an accredited institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
30. **Ms. Khazova** said that available information indicated that the office of the Deputy Ombudsman rarely received complaints directly from children. She wished to know whether that was the case and, if so, why so few communications had been submitted.
31. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) explained that the Ombudsman had four deputies, including a children's ombudsman, who had received a number of applications from children. However, more could be done to make the institution more accessible to children. Nevertheless, the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman was involved in outreach work and efforts to improve its accessibility and deal more directly with children.
32. **The Chairperson** asked whether the Ombudsman's Office had a website or Facebook page that could be accessed by children via the Internet.
33. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) said that the draft Family Code had tackled the issue of discrimination against persons in registered same-sex partnerships, in that it gave such partnerships the same status as marriages. An application by a same-sex family for second-parent adoption had been approved under a national administrative body decision in 2011, with both partners enjoying equal parental rights, although there had been fewer than 10 such adoptions to date.
34. **Ms. Khazova** said that the Committee had received reports that children from same-sex families suffered violence and bullying at school. She asked whether there were any programmes to support the children concerned.
35. **Mr. Vilfan** (Slovenia) said that he was not aware of the bullying cases mentioned. However, school counsellors were available to handle concerns raised by children, parents or teachers. Issues that could not be addressed in schools by the teachers or counsellors were dealt with by outside experts, including from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
36. **Ms. Wijemanne** asked whether a confidential complaints mechanism existed in schools.
37. **Mr. Vilfan** (Slovenia) said that, in schools, information on the complaints procedure was disseminated by teachers and parents. Children and their parents were able to report problems directly to experts through electronic media. Moreover, there was an anonymous, 24-hour helpline, and mediation services staffed by multidisciplinary teams of experts were available to resolve various problems.
38. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) said that much work had been done in the area of foster care and adoption. On the basis of data from the Children's Observatory, foster care procedures had been significantly improved under new legislation. The legislation set stricter conditions for foster families and gave caregivers broader competence to make decisions concerning the child's daily life. When children were placed in foster care, a group was established to ensure their well-being, involving the child, the foster parents, the child's biological parents, other foster family members, a social worker and perhaps a school counsellor. The groups handling foster care cases operated on the basis of trust, and the child's wishes were taken into consideration.
39. **Ms. Vouk-Železnik** (Slovenia) said that an interministerial group on issues relating to children and young people had been established under the 2006–2012 programme for children and young people to coordinate efforts among focal points in the relevant ministries. Its work was coordinated by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, and the programme had been extended until 2016.

40. **Ms. Lenardič Purkart** (Slovenia) said that a new interdepartmental commission for human rights had been established in 2013, comprising representatives from all ministries, the national statistical office and the Prime Minister's Office. The commission managed the State party's reporting under various human rights treaties and the universal periodic review process and monitored the follow-up of recommendations.

41. **Ms. Vouk-Železnik** (Slovenia) said that while legislation on family relations did not explicitly refer to corporal punishment, it covered the best interests of children, which required parents to ensure that their children's psychosocial needs were met and to foster their mental and physical development. The draft Family Code, however, contained an explicit prohibition of corporal punishment.

42. She said that a range of measures was being taken to prevent domestic violence, and stressed the role of NGOs in that field. The implementation of schemes at the local and regional level was important, and guidelines on combating violence had been developed for social work centres. The Ministry of Labour also co-funded positive parenting measures in family centres, which worked to prohibit corporal punishment and foster children's personal growth.

43. **Ms. Wijemanne** asked whether, in addition to measures to foster positive parenting, specific measures had been taken in schools to promote alternative forms of discipline.

44. **Mr. Vilfan** (Slovenia) said that, from 2008 to 2011, a project co-financed by the European Union had tackled the problem of violence in school. Several State institutions and ministries, as well as universities and the Institute of Criminology, at the Faculty of Law, Ljubljana, had been involved in efforts to train experts and parents on how to identify positive behaviour and prevent violence. The project had been extended to cover the period 2014–2017.

45. **Ms. Vouk-Železnik** (Slovenia) said that the minimum age for marriage was 18, and only in exceptional cases did centres for social work approve marriages involving children aged 15 or above. In the past five years, only three such marriages had been authorized. The State was working with NGOs to prevent forced marriage, raise public awareness and train social workers.

46. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** asked whether the authorization of the authorities was required for unregistered marriages involving minors.

47. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) said that the centres for social work were rarely notified of informal marriages in the Roma community. Such marriages were prohibited by law. The Government planned to take measures to raise awareness among stakeholders and social workers who worked with children from the Roma community about the issue.

48. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** asked what criteria were used by the social work centres to decide on whether to authorize underage marriages.

49. **Ms. Vodičar** (Slovenia) indicated that the social work centres responsible for decisions on early marriage respected the best interests of the child. Very few applications for marriage by persons under 18 were approved. However, each application was reviewed on an in-depth, lengthy, case-by-case basis, taking into account the level of maturity of the persons concerned and other factors and involving the parents of both applicants.

50. **Mr. Vilfan** (Slovenia) said that the cuts in preschool subsidies under balanced budget legislation had been temporary. In recent years, the number of children in kindergarten had increased, and the State party had exceeded the targets set by the Council of Europe on kindergarten facilities.

51. All persons had the right to communicate in their mother tongue, and the State party had adopted a strategy to promote the inclusion of migrant children in the education system.

Slovenian language courses, as well as additional educational support, were funded from the national budget. The Ministry of Education worked with universities to prepare learning materials distributed free of charge to schools and seminars were held for training staff. Legislation on primary education had also been amended to ensure that children should not have to repeat a year due to insufficient knowledge of Slovenian. Secondary school students had access to a range of language courses. In January 2013, a resolution on a national language policy programme had been adopted, and various measures were being taken to support minority groups, with information on their rights and opportunities provided in several languages.

52. A children's parliament education project launched in 1990 provided an important platform for children to express their views. The project included mentors, volunteers, head teachers, teachers and counsellors and was coordinated by the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth. The parliament's sessions were open to all pupils, and the parliament operated at the local, regional and national level. The children's parliament was also engaged in direct dialogue with Government representatives. The Association prepared a report based on the work of the children's parliament, which was used to implement a range of Government initiatives, including schools for parents, day centres for young people and leaflets providing information to victims of abuse. The participation of girls in the children's parliament was higher than that of boys.

53. **Ms. Trbanc** (Slovenia) said that the economic crisis had taken its toll on children's services. The unemployment rate in Slovenia was at an all-time high and more families risked being plunged into poverty. The austerity measures introduced in 2012 had not left vulnerable groups without protection, as the poorest families still received child benefits. However, according to an impact study, those measures had worsened the situation of single-parent families. In order to remedy that situation, the Government was planning to amend the relevant legislation to increase support for large and single-parent families. It also planned to reintroduce State scholarships for secondary school pupils. The Government also co-financed a number of social protection programmes aimed at assisting vulnerable groups, including children. Moreover, State-sponsored day-care centres welcomed children with special needs and provided them with support, meals and leisure activities. Children in distress could also avail themselves of a 24-hour helpline.

54. **Ms. Potočnik** (Slovenia) said that foreigners who were in possession of a residence permit or who were under international protection had access to brochures that provided information on their rights and obligations. The brochures were currently being updated.

55. With regard to the current status of persons erased from the population register in Slovenia, she explained that the law regulating the status of those persons had been amended in 2010, in accordance with a number of Constitutional Court decisions, to provide for a solution to the situation of "erased" persons who had been unable to regularize their status, including the status of their children. Under the law, eligible persons living abroad were entitled to apply for residence permits. The law related only to status and did not cover any compensation scheme. Nevertheless, her Government was in the process of enforcing the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Kurić and Others v. Slovenia* and had presented a compensation scheme to representatives of the persons concerned and to civil society. In order to obtain a residence permit, applicants were required to prove their eligibility through a special procedure, which they could initiate in Slovenia or abroad.

56. **Mr. Klančnik** (Slovenia) said that police officers were aware of the issues affecting ethnic minorities in Slovenia and had received comprehensive training to deal with them. Knowledge of the Romani language had proven to be an essential tool in working with the Roma community. The amended Police Act provided police officers with specific guidelines on how to deal with children and other vulnerable groups. Any reported

instances of violence against children were promptly investigated and awareness-raising initiatives had also been undertaken in that area.

57. According to the Criminal Code, children aged under 14 could not be held responsible for a criminal act. They could be questioned as accessories to a crime but were not subject to criminal proceedings. Social work centres were responsible for handling such cases. Recent amendments to the Criminal Code had also broadened the scope of criminal offences against children and thus afforded children greater protection against such offences.

58. **Mr. Cardona Llorens** asked whether the State party's national legislation included procedures for determining the best interests of the child; whether the best interests of the child were taken into consideration in the handing down of judgements and drafting of bills; and whether individuals who dealt directly with children, such as judges, received special training on how to determine their best interests.

59. **Ms. Winter** asked whether the State party had considered enshrining the best interests of the child in the Constitution.

60. **Ms. Wijemanne** asked how the State party planned to achieve inclusive education in schools; how it planned to ensure that children with disabilities had access to such education; what methods were used to identify disabilities in children; and what support was provided to the families of those children.

61. The fact that many Roma children did not have access to comprehensive health care remained a cause for concern. The high rate of maternal mortality within that community also posed a serious problem. She asked how the State party planned to reduce the inequalities between the mainstream population and minority communities such as the Roma.

62. She also wished to know what measures the State party had adopted to tackle emerging health problems, such as mental health issues and obesity, and to enforce legislation on the marketing of breast milk substitutes. She noted with concern the rise in tobacco addiction and alcohol and drug abuse among adolescents and asked what action the State party had taken to curb that trend. Life skills education should cover not only issues relating to substance abuse but also sex education. She requested additional information on the life skills education currently provided in schools and elsewhere. Noting with concern the high suicide rate among young people, she asked what measures had been adopted to prevent suicide and whether young people could avail themselves of counselling services.

63. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** noted with concern that child maintenance worth millions of euros had not been recovered by the State maintenance fund. She also expressed concern over the effectiveness of prison sentences handed down to those convicted of non-payment of child maintenance, as the State often ended up paying more for the upkeep of convicts than the dedicated maintenance fund paid out in child maintenance. She asked whether the State party had taken any action to remedy that situation; why the amount of child maintenance awarded by the courts was so low; what could be done to guarantee payment of maintenance awarded by the courts; and whether the Family Code contained provisions on child maintenance and other related issues.

64. Turning to the question of child advocates, she would be interested to know why advocates had not been assigned to all the children who had requested one; what criteria were used to assign an advocate to a child; who took the final decision on assigning an advocate; whether children who had not been assigned an advocate simply went unrepresented; whether there were any plans to allocate more budgetary funds to that initiative; and what other forms of legal aid were available to children.

65. She enquired as to the State party's success rate in prosecuting traffickers; whether judges received special training in that area; how victims were handled and the support extended to them; and whether they were provided with suitable accommodation. She would also appreciate additional information on the mental health programmes currently in place in the State party and would like to know whether patients were required to pay for treatment.

66. **Ms. Aidoo** welcomed the progress achieved by the State party in the area of early childhood development. She asked whether programmes in day-care centres adopted an integrated and holistic approach to educating children aged 6 and younger; whether the same approach was adopted in kindergartens; whether children from minority groups participated in kindergarten programmes; and whether there were programmes to facilitate the integration of the different communities into Slovenian society.

67. **Mr. Cardona Llorens** asked how the measures envisaged in the area of juvenile justice would be enforced when a child came into conflict with the law; whether alternative measures had been envisaged for such children who had reached the age of criminal responsibility; whether it was necessary for them to appear before the courts and, if so, who took such a decision; and whether the police received special juvenile justice training. He requested additional information on the detention facilities in which children under the age of 15 could be held. He also wished to know who took the decision to place convicted children in the same facilities as convicted adults, and whether the best interests of the child were considered prior to taking such a decision; what steps had the State party taken to address the delays in the justice system; and how proceedings involving children, such as divorce, were expedited to avoid exposing the child to unnecessary suffering.

68. **Mr. Mezmur** said that the Committee had received reports that Roma children were often educated in separate schools. He enquired as to the steps taken to address that specific problem; the impact of the programmes and strategies in place to improve the situation of the Roma in Slovenia; and whether the State party planned to expand the range of projects funded by the European Social Fund. The Committee would also appreciate more information on literacy levels within the Roma community.

69. He asked whether the curriculum in primary and secondary schools included human rights education and whether teachers received training on human rights issues. He wished to know of the efforts undertaken by the State party to promote domestic adoption. He requested clarification on the penalties incurred for the sexual exploitation of children and on whether teachers incurred penalties different from other offenders.

70. **Mr. Kotrane** commended the State party on the details provided in the report. The Committee had expressed concern about whether the State party's legislation prohibited all the ways in which children could be sold and, in particular, the sale or trafficking of children for adoption. Recalling that the Optional Protocol prohibited States parties from facilitating illegal adoption, he asked whether the State party's legislation prescribed specific penalties for doing so. He also wished to know whether the State party's legislation explicitly prohibited child labour and whether it contained any provisions on extraterritorial jurisdiction.

71. **Mr. Nogueira Neto** asked whether children who were the victims of or witnesses to crimes involving sexual violence were required to appear before the courts, and, if so, whether there were child-friendly interrogation procedures in place.

72. **Ms. Wijemanne** would appreciate further details of the protection provided to children who were the victims of trafficking and child pornography. Noting the high rate of road traffic accidents involving children, she wished to know of the measures adopted by the State party to prevent such accidents.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.