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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 15th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 October 2010, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Melon (Vice-Chair) ..... (Argentina)

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*In the absence of Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Ms. Melon (Argentina), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (continued) (A/C.3/65/L.15)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.15: Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity*

1. **Mr. Mogini** (Italy), introducing the draft resolution, said that the text updated those of previous years, underlining the increasing links between transnational organized crime and other destabilizing factors, and the impact they had on the development of stable societies and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It focused on the initiatives and achievements of the recent high-level meeting on transnational organized crime and the special treaty event, the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the political declaration adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It also anticipated the successful outcome of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and expressed concern regarding the overall financial situation of UNODC.

2. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Uruguay had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**Agenda item 106: International drug control** (continued) (A/C.3/65/L.16)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.16: International cooperation against the world drug problem*

3. **Mr. Sánchez Contreras** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan and Peru had joined the sponsors. The text stated the concerns of the international community and the repercussions that drugs had on society and proposed forms of cooperation to combat the problem. The draft resolution included new paragraphs that expressed concern at the increase in production and consumption of illegal drugs and that highlighted the importance of

HIV prevention programmes for drug users, the adequate availability of internationally controlled licit drugs, and the need to exchange information on drug trafficking trends and to increase the budget of the UNODC. Finally, it acknowledged the steps taken by governments to comply with the three Conventions on drug control and the Palermo and Merida Conventions, and urged all Member States that had not yet done so, to ratify and implement those agreements.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, El Salvador and Uruguay had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (continued) (A/C.3/65/L.14 and L.15)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.14: United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*

5. **Ms. Karim** (Malawi) introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States.

**Agenda item 106: International drug control** (continued) (A/C.3/65/L.2, L.3, L.4, L.5, L.6 and L.13)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.13: Realignment of the functions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and changes to the strategic framework*

6. **The Chair** invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.13 on the basis of the Committee's agreement to merge the text of draft resolutions A/C.3/65/L.2 and A/C.3/65/L.3.

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that when resolutions 18/6 and 52/14 had been adopted, the Commissions had been informed that an independent evaluation unit would be established under the Office of the Executive Director, to be funded partly through the redeployment of resources from the programme budget of the United Nations and partly through voluntary contributions. It had been proposed to redeploy the vacant programme budget post at the P-5 level of Chief of the Strategic Planning Unit, allocated under subprogramme 2, to executive direction and management. In addition to the P-5 post funded under the programme budget, voluntary contributions would be required to fund five other posts to ensure the

effective and operational functioning of the independent evaluation unit (one P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and two General Service staff). That would require \$1,560,000 per biennium to be funded from voluntary contributions. The current level of voluntary contributions available for evaluation was \$800,000, so an additional \$760,000 would be needed to ensure the effective functioning of the independent evaluation unit in 2010-2011.

8. In accordance with those proposals, the P-5 post had been redeployed and would be regularized in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 should the General Assembly endorse the permanent move of the post. In the meantime, the recruitment process had been initiated. The unit currently comprised one P-4 and one General Service staff member, funded from voluntary contributions. A Junior Professional Officer post would be filled before the end of 2010.

9. As a result of the reassignment of the P-5 post, the Strategic Planning Unit was currently fully funded from voluntary contributions and consisted of one P-4 post, one P-3 post and a General Service post. To ensure the proper functioning of the Strategic Planning Unit, additional resources for six more posts would be needed (one P-5, one P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and two General Service posts) and an operational budget. That would represent \$1,680,000 per biennium, to be funded from voluntary contributions. The current level of voluntary contributions available for strategic planning was \$739,200, so an additional \$940,800 would be required to ensure the effective functioning of the Unit in 2010-2011.

10. The budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 included the "realignment of the functions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and changes to the strategic framework" and was before the General Assembly, in accordance with established procedures.

11. The resource requirements for the biennium 2012-2013 would be reviewed in accordance with established budgetary procedures. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.13 therefore would not entail any programme budget implications for the biennium 2010-2011.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.13 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.4: Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women*

13. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.4, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

14. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that the adoption of operative paragraph 19 of the draft resolution would entail extrabudgetary resources of \$455,800 to develop online training modules for relevant professionals and a guide for legislators and policymakers based on the revised and updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

15. The level of resource requirements would also provide for general temporary assistance to cover additional planning, implementing and backstopping work and to provide support for technical assistance and advisory services to Member States, and a three-day expert group meeting in Vienna.

16. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.4 therefore would not entail any programme budget implications for the biennium 2010-2011.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.4 was adopted.*

18. **Mr. Siddique** (Pakistan) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.4. Pakistan had been engaged in negotiating the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, annexed to the draft resolution. The adoption of the draft resolution did not imply a new mandate for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Over the years, the Government of Pakistan had undertaken numerous steps towards the promotion and protection of women's human rights, in particular ending violence against women, and would continue to work on the updated strategies, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and national legislation.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.5: United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*

19. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.5, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

20. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that it was envisaged that additional extrabudgetary resources of \$274,300 would be required to implement the activities relating to operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft resolution. That level of resource requirements would provide for: general temporary assistance to cover planning, implementing and backstopping work; consultancy services and assistance for the development of online training modules based on the adopted United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders; the organization of the expert group meeting in Vienna; and official travel and assistance for staff to provide technical assistance and advisory service to Member States, upon request.

21. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.5 therefore would not entail any programme budget implications for the biennium 2010-2011.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.5 was adopted.*

23. **Mr. Siddique** (Pakistan) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.5. Pakistan had been engaged in the process negotiating the adoption of the Bangkok Rules. He hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution would improve the treatment of women prisoners and offenders worldwide. In line with its commitments, the Government of Pakistan had worked to promote and protect the human rights of women, including women prisoners, and hoped to work on the Rules incrementally in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and national legislation.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.6: Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*

24. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.6, which had been

recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

25. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that in order to reflect the provisions of paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the narrative of subprogramme 1 of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 would need to be modified. The following output would need to be added under paragraph 16.55 (a) (iii) b: "report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime".

26. An additional \$135,700 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to implement the activities under paragraph 9, including conference servicing, comprising interpretation and documentation, for the 10 meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat had indicated that those requirements could only be met on an "if available" basis and the modalities would have to be determined in consultation between the Commission secretariat and the Department to ensure that no additional conference servicing resources would be required.

27. In order to reflect the provisions of paragraph 10, the narrative of subprogramme 1 of section 16 of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 would need to be modified. The following output would need to be added under paragraph 16.55 (a) (iii) b: "report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to review the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".

28. Resources in the amount of \$135,700 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, to implement the activities under paragraph 10, including conference servicing, comprising interpretation and documentation, for the 10 meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group. The provision of those conference services were subject to the same conditions as those required for paragraph 9.

29. The financial implications for the biennium 2012-2013 would be considered in accordance with established budgetary procedures. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.6 therefore would not

entail any programme budget implications for the biennium 2010-2011.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.6 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 64: Promotion and protection of the rights of children** (*continued*) (A/65/336)

(a) **Promotion and protection of the rights of children** (*continued*) (A/65/41, A/65/206, A/65/219, A/65/262 and A/65/221)

(b) **Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children** (*continued*) (A/65/226)

31. **Ms. Zhang Dan** (China) said that in its development strategies, her Government had aimed to ensure children's right to life, protection and participation. China had accomplished the goals set forth in its current ten-year plan for the development of children and was currently preparing an outline for the forthcoming 10 years.

32. Her Government had acceded to a series of international treaties protecting the rights of the child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols; furthermore, it had fulfilled all its treaty obligations and prepared comprehensive periodic reports in accordance with treaty provisions. Its first report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict would soon be submitted.

33. China's cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international agencies had been long-standing and effective, yielding positive results in terms of implementation of projects in such areas as, inter alia, advocacy for knowledge about children, policy development, health and nutrition, child protection and community service, and disaster prevention.

34. A developing country with a huge child population, China recognized that it had a long way to go before all its children could fully enjoy their rights, hence its tireless efforts to strengthen the child protection mechanism, improve the child welfare system, and promote equal opportunity in education and balanced development.

35. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that North-South dialogue involving the most and least developed countries was

of particular importance in attaining the aim of strengthening child rights.

36. Building a world fit for children remained an elusive goal, with the rates of infant mortality and stunting due to malnutrition remaining high, especially on the African continent. Efforts to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 also remained a significant challenge.

37. Violence against children, especially in areas affected by armed conflict, could only be dealt with by addressing its root causes. His Government attached particular importance to issues affecting children and mothers, as demonstrated by domestic legislation that stipulated the protection of child rights as set forth in the Convention and the provision of maternal care.

38. In close cooperation with UNICEF, his Government had successfully dealt with the impact of ongoing armed conflict on children in western Sudan by, inter alia, establishing specialized units within the police and armed forces to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and working to raise awareness among citizens and officials alike. In that context, his delegation welcomed positive developments in Sudanese-Chadian relations, and noted that the Sudanese President had pardoned some 200 child soldiers fighting in rebel movements, previously arrested in connection with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attack on Omdurman.

39. At the recent high-level meeting on Sudan, his Government had assured the international community of its commitment to dialogue with rebel groups within the framework of the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade and to full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. He reiterated his country's commitment to continued cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, who had recently visited Sudan.

40. Sudan's efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly in the areas of education, health and protection, relied on both Governmental and international support; in that connection, his delegation called for an increase in funding for the operations of UNICEF in Sudan and in Africa more broadly.

41. Lastly, Sudan noted with concern the increase in attacks on the dignity and rights of children living in

occupied territories, also expressing alarm at the crimes committed against children in regions afflicted by armed conflict and hunger, often under the guise of humanitarianism and charity, as in the case involving refugee children from Darfur in eastern Chad. The international community must see to it that such crimes did not go unpunished.

42. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba) said that the current economic and financial crisis had had devastating effects on children, who had been hit by the increase of hunger, poverty, inequality and social exclusion, as well as child labour, trafficking in organs, child pornography and prostitution. The decline in the mortality rate of children under five years of age, while an important development, was no cause for celebration, as the overall numbers remained unacceptably high.

43. Fifty-two years after the establishment in Cuba of a more just and equitable social system for all, her country had an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000 live births, the lowest in Latin America and among the lowest in the world. That dramatic decrease since the pre-1959 era had been achieved by means of a public and universal health-care system based on the idea of putting the people's needs before commercial and economic interests. With regard to education, Cuba guaranteed all children universal access to a comprehensive education free of charge.

44. Such achievements were also the result of the Cuban people's extraordinary efforts in the face of the adversity forced upon them by the criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America for over half a century and rejected annually by the international community in General Assembly resolutions. Losses caused by the blockade in the health sector and related restrictions targeting certain medical institutions had hampered Cuban children's hospitals from acquiring proper materials, such as a device manufactured in the United States of America to correct a heart defect without open-heart surgery. Cuban children therefore continued to be innocent victims of the United States blockade against Cuba. As long as policies in which international cooperation and solidarity did not prevail continued to hold sway, the world's children and the future of humankind would remain in danger.

45. **Ms. Kursh** (Israel) said that her country was striving to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals, including those related to the well-being of children, having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols. Measures taken in that area included the establishment of community-based prenatal clinics with a view to reducing maternal mortality and promoting improved child health. The programme had been replicated in various African countries including Ghana and customized to meet the needs of the communities in question.

46. Turning to education, she pointed out that its quality depended on the quality of teachers. Israel had issued a five-year reform plan to tackle the challenges posed by teachers' low salary and poor working conditions. Part of the plan entailed bringing promising individuals formerly employed in the technology sector into teaching. Her Government was also sharing its best practices with teachers worldwide through its agency for international development cooperation, MASHAV, which in turn collaborated with United Nations entities on teacher-training initiatives and other joint ventures.

47. Several extremely disturbing instances of domestic violence involving children had recently caught the attention of the Israeli public, underscoring the need for better coordination between the Welfare Ministry and other Governmental bodies in order to flag situations requiring immediate intervention before such tragedies occurred. Israel's vibrant civil society was particularly active in that area. In closing, she emphasized the need to invest in the world's children, individuals who needed the nurturing, protection and guidance of adults in order to create and enjoy a better world.

48. **Mr. Rakovskiy** (Russian Federation) said that much remained to be done before the world was truly fit for children. The relevant ministries and agencies of his Government were preparing the fourth periodic report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in March 2011. In October 2010, the Russian Federation had submitted its first report on implementation of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Accession by the Russian Federation to the second Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was under way.

49. Most of the national social projects of the Russian Federation addressed the quality of life and health of children, creating conditions for realization of their intellectual and creative potential and providing support to children in difficulty, including the federal programme “Children of Russia”, currently in its final year.

50. A State commission that dealt with juvenile affairs and protection of the rights of minors made on-site visits to study various aspects of children’s issues. A post of commissioner for the rights of the child had been set up and had been operating successfully for over a year. A support fund for children in difficulty, established in 2008 by Presidential decree, was designed to reduce social adversities faced by children and to encourage effective ways and means of working with families and children in need of assistance. A national campaign had been launched to raise awareness of child abuse. President Medvedev had been the first to join the initiative, followed by many well-known public figures. A telephone hotline for children, teenagers and their parents had been set up in September 2010. It was expected that by the end of the year it would be accessible nationwide.

51. **Mr. de Séllos** (Brazil) said that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had received more ratifications than any other international human rights instrument and had encouraged the development of domestic legislation and protection systems in many countries. However, as the Special Representative had indicated in her report (A/65/262), violence against children remained widespread, largely hidden and still often condoned by society. Global adherence to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography would be an important first step in changing that situation. As a staunch supporter of the two-year campaign for universal ratification of the Protocols, Brazil strongly encouraged all Member States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying both instruments as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also strongly supported the Human Rights Council’s ongoing work to develop a third Optional Protocol that would provide a communications procedure for victims of violations.

52. The principles set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been enshrined in Brazil’s 1988 Constitution, even before the Convention came into force in 1989. Brazil was also one of the first Member

States to adopt specific legislation on the rights of children, the Statute of the Child and the Adolescent. As part of its effort to enforce that law, it had launched a programme in 2007 to reduce violence against children and adolescents consisting of 40 policies and actions aimed at promoting the rights of vulnerable children at all levels of Government. It had also recently passed a law increasing the penalties for sexual crimes, crimes against sexual dignity and sexual exploitation. Another law addressed the production, sale and distribution of child pornography and the acquisition of related material. A bill penalizing the use of corporal punishment in schools had recently been introduced as well.

53. Cooperation with neighbouring countries, especially in the context of MERCOSUR, had proved critical in addressing sexual violence and sexual exploitation, which by nature tended to transcend national boundaries. Brazil’s hosting of the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2008 was a reflection of its unfaltering commitment to combating that problem.

54. **Ms. Hoang Thi Thanh Nga** (Viet Nam) said that although progress had been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to reducing child mortality, increasing school enrolment and combating disease, it was of great concern that 10,000 children under five years of age died every day and that more than a million children were left motherless every year. Primary school enrolment rates were increasing too slowly to achieve the goal of all children receiving a primary-school education by 2015. Moreover, in many parts of the world, children continued to fall victim to trafficking, child labour and violence.

55. Safeguarding and promoting the rights of children must be an integral part of development policies. Poverty and other socio-economic issues must be addressed to ensure the sustainability of programmes that targeted children and must be better incorporated into the policies and agendas of those United Nations bodies promoting development. Key elements of the newly launched Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health were to be commended and must serve as a reference when designing measures to improve the health of children. Furthermore, long-term investment was required in order to build resilient health-care systems and to that end, developed countries must honour their commitments to provide

long-term unconditional financial aid to developing countries. United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and treaty bodies concerned with children must more closely coordinate their work so as to increase their effectiveness and efficiency while avoiding duplication of work.

56. Viet Nam had sharply increased investment in health care and culture; more than 90 per cent of children under the age of six now had access to free health care and the mortality rate for children under five had been halved from 58 per thousand in 1990 to 24.4 per thousand in 2009. Viet Nam was striving to reduce infant mortality further to 14.8 per thousand by 2015. School enrolment rates had also increased sharply in recent years and the quality of education in schools had been improved. Gender equality policies encouraged girls to attend school and assistance was provided to encourage the enrolment of children of ethnic minorities. Progress had, however, been uneven across the country and school completion rates remained lower in certain upland and rural provinces than in urban areas. Viet Nam was therefore striving to achieve further improvements in health care and education. In that connection, international cooperation played a key role and Viet Nam looked forward to continued support and assistance from international institutions and donor countries.

57. **Ms. Abdolmaleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, on 21 September 2010, Iran had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Her country was already a party to the Convention and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and had also ratified ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour.

58. Protection of the child was rooted in her country's religion and culture and enshrined in its laws. In its legal system, children bore no criminal responsibility. Its Constitution provided for free education for all citizens through primary school, and more than 90 per cent of Iranian children aged 6 to 10 had access to primary education. The Government had begun to set up public preschools in both urban and rural areas and was also providing interest-free loans to the private sector for the establishment of private preschools.

59. Her country had established an extensive primary health-care network. As a result, child mortality rates had fallen significantly, with infant and under-five mortality currently approaching zero; immunization coverage exceeded 90 per cent, and polio had almost been eliminated. Programmes had also been initiated in the areas of childcare, vaccination, combating certain diseases prevalent in children, and preventing childhood malnutrition.

60. **Ms. Fulp** (United States of America) said that the United States of America was proud of its record of promoting the welfare of children at the national and global levels.

61. At the national level, an extensive network of programmes protected children's rights with regard to a variety of issues such as child pornography, commercial sexual exploitation, forced child labour, access to health care, foster care and education. Moreover, a 2009 Act provided resources to strengthen existing programmes and extend health insurance coverage to an estimated 11 million children, 4 million of whom had previously been uninsured. Furthermore, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act had earmarked \$5 billion for early-childhood programmes, childcare and programmes for infants and preschool children with disabilities to help them succeed in school and beyond. The United States was committed to providing equal education opportunities to all children, regardless of their individual circumstances, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, or disability. Students with disabilities, low-income students and students of colour received assistance and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act required public schools to make available to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their individual needs.

62. The United States was committed to ensuring that the protection of the rights of children was fully integrated into its foreign policy and viewed UNICEF as a key partner in its global efforts to protect children. In 2009, the United States had been the largest donor to UNICEF, providing it with \$130 million in core funding and an additional \$170 million in non-core funding. It fully supported UNICEF initiatives to improve children's health and education, protect them from violence and exploitation and advocate on behalf of their rights. The United States also commended efforts by UNICEF to eradicate polio, achieve the



Millennium Development Goals related to education and to act on behalf of children in emergency situations.

63. **Ms. Shinohara** (Japan) said that social inequity, infectious diseases and the world financial and economic crises had worsened the situation of children in many parts of the world.

64. Education was a right that must be equally enjoyed by all. It empowered people to achieve their full potential and played a vital role in reducing poverty and inequality, improving health and promoting sustainable development and world peace. Japan had announced a new economic cooperation policy through which it would provide \$3.5 billion in education assistance over five years from 2011. In addition, Japan was working to foster coordination between schools, communities and governments to provide a high-quality educational environment for at least 7 million children.

65. Although some progress had been made in reducing the number of child soldiers, the situation of children in armed conflict remained critical and it was hoped that more countries would become State parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

66. As a sponsor of Security Council resolution 1882 (2009), Japan commended the fact that the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict had referred to perpetrators of sexual violence as well as to killing and maiming. The international community must coordinate efforts to prosecute those who had violated the rights of children. In that connection, Japan was deeply concerned by attacks which targeted educational facilities, teachers and students.

67. Further efforts were needed to reduce neonatal and child mortality. To contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals related to health, Japan was taking steps to improve preventative services and clinical care for children and newborn babies. In cooperation with other donors, Japan aimed to save over 11 million children's lives, including nearly 3 million newborn babies. Japan also intended to scale up effective interventions through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

68. **Mr. Al-Mesallam** (Qatar) said that Qatar attached great importance to the rights of the child. Its efforts to

promote those rights stemmed from principles enshrined in its Constitution, which, inter alia, stipulated that the family was the basic unit of society, protected young people from corruption and exploitation and enshrined their right to attain their full potential. The law, moreover, provided protection to children, mothers and older persons, safeguarded workers' rights and outlawed the employment of women and children in dangerous professions, including the participation of children in camel races. Furthermore, all internationally recognized violations of children's rights, including sexual exploitation, prostitution, slavery and forced labour were punishable under Qatari law. Qatar had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols.

69. Additionally, Qatar had established authorities and institutions to safeguard children's rights, including the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, which was striving, inter alia, to ensure that national legislation and practices complied with human rights instruments. It had also established shelters for women and children who were victims of abuse and violence and supported their reintegration into society. Publicity campaigns and workshops raised awareness among all sectors of society of the rights of children.

70. Qatar remained deeply concerned about the violation of the rights of children living under foreign occupation. In particular, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to inflict violence on Palestinian children and deny them access to education and health care. Reports by the Secretary-General must address the plight of those children and, as a matter of urgency, a solution to their tragic situation must be found.

71. **Ms. Anbar** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that Libya remained fully committed to honouring its obligations under the international instruments on children's rights to which it was a party. Under those instruments, it was incumbent on Governments to provide children with a quality education, protect them from sexual abuse, exploitation and violence and combat HIV/AIDS. In that regard, Libya had adopted legislation to safeguard children's rights, including laws which outlawed child labour.

72. Libya had made great progress in improving child health and had succeeded in immunizing over 95 per cent of the country's children. Polio and neonatal tetanus had been eliminated. Outbreaks of measles and

other infectious diseases were under control and neonatal mortality had fallen to 17.6 per thousand live births by 2007 and was still declining. The mortality rate for children under five had fallen to 20.1 per thousand.

73. Libya provided all children, regardless of their gender, with free compulsory education at the primary and intermediate levels and had enshrined the right of all children to an education in its national legislation.

74. The international financial crisis had had a huge negative impact on the economies of developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, struggling to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, children in regions affected by conflict were forcibly recruited by armed militias and were victims of physical violence and sexual exploitation. Children were also trafficked by international criminal networks. Libya urged the international community and donors to provide the necessary assistance to children in developing countries and thus ensure that they could look forward to a future free from disease, hunger, poverty and ignorance.

75. Libya was most concerned by the inhuman situation of Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation and the grave violations of their rights by Israel. Over 10,000 Palestinians remained in Israeli prisons where they were subjected to physical and psychological violence. Subjected to an Israeli-imposed blockade, the situation of Palestinians in Gaza was particularly dire: deprived of clean drinking water, food, medicine, clothing and shelter, people in Gaza were denied their most fundamental rights including, first and foremost, the rights to freedom and self-determination.

76. **Mr. Siddique** (Pakistan) said that many children, especially those living under foreign occupation, were subjected to grave human rights violations. Investing in children was to invest in a brighter future for the world. Improving basic health and education, reducing maternal and child mortality and fostering global partnerships must remain shared priorities.

77. The unprecedented floods in Pakistan in 2010 had affected 20 million people, a significant number of whom were children. Pakistan, in collaboration with international partners, was taking steps to meet the needs of children in flood-stricken areas. However,

rehabilitation and reconstruction would be a long-term task.

78. Pakistan laid great emphasis on fulfilling its international human rights commitments, and was a State party to several international conventions which aimed to protect women and children. Moreover, the National Commission for Children's Welfare and Development had been established to promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, assess the impact of constitutional, legal and administrative provisions on the welfare and development of children and make relevant recommendations. At the federal level, Pakistan had established a child complaint cell to address the grievances of children. A child protection management information system had also been established in collaboration with UNICEF. A child protection bill, drafted in consultation with all stakeholders, including civil society, would soon be submitted to Parliament and a social protection scheme provided assistance to children with disabilities. Furthermore, Pakistan had comprehensively banned the trafficking of children.

79. As 2015 drew near, international cooperation would be required in order to overcome the obstacles to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals that lay ahead, including humanitarian crises, growing income inequality and concerns about the effects of migration and climate change.

80. **Ms. Solórzano-Arrigada** (Nicaragua) said that her Government firmly supported the Convention and its Optional Protocols and had modern legislation in place to promote the rights of the child. The protection of children's rights was a shared responsibility between the Government, families, communities and society. Given that nearly half of the population of Nicaragua was under the age of 18, children were a major priority group in the Government's national development plan, which centred on the provision of free, comprehensive and quality health and education services. Specifically, in the area of education, programmes focused on the goal of eradicating illiteracy and achieving universal primary education, which was expected to be reached by 2012. In the area of health, a steady decline in infant and maternal mortality had been achieved through improving access to basic health services. The reduction of neonatal mortality was envisioned through improving the quality of health care. Food security programmes had reduced chronic infant malnutrition

and provided food to nearly 1 million children in schools.

81. An important structure existed to protect children's rights, including the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Children and Adolescents, whose recommendations had resulted in a ban on corporal punishment in schools and the prohibition of discrimination based on sexuality in all public health units. The Government was also developing a system to make accurate information from all institutions involved in the social security system readily available to citizens and decision-makers in order to facilitate development and implementation of policies for the protection of children's rights. Legal recognition of children had improved, with the proportion of children missing from the civil registry decreasing from nearly 40 per cent in 2005 to 20 per cent in 2009. Finally, the Ministry of Labour was implementing a comprehensive plan in order to eliminate child labour and the exploitation of adolescent workers.

82. **Mr. Haetanurak** (Thailand) said that his Government attached great importance to the promotion and protection of children's rights, evidenced by the ratification of the Convention and its two Optional Protocols, with national legislation being enacted accordingly. Education had been given particular priority, and his delegation was pleased to note that Thailand had achieved Millennium Development Goal 2 of achieving universal primary schooling and Goal 3 of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. The Government was turning its focus to ensuring free and universal education for the first 15 years of schooling and providing early childhood education. His delegation was grateful for the recognition Thailand had received in the Secretary-General's report (A/65/226) for its advancements in the area of education. National legislation guaranteed children with disabilities the right to education and the ability to choose the school best suited to their capacities. Nearly 68 per cent of persons with disabilities were able to access education, from early intervention to college level, and that percentage was increasing. Furthermore, a regulation enacted the previous year guaranteed education from the primary through the university level free of charge to persons with disabilities, with related expenses sponsored by the federal Government.

83. Promoting the rights of the child required legal recognition of all children. An act passed in 2008

provided every child born in Thailand, including displaced and stateless children, with the right to birth registration, which entitled them to basic health services and education. The Cabinet had also recently adopted a landmark resolution to withdraw Thailand's reservation to Article 7 of the Convention. The Government had established youth councils at the local and national level to provide a forum for children's views, ensure their participation in decision-making and offer them skills training. For the fourth consecutive year, two youth delegates were also representing Thailand at the General Assembly. However, Government only played a small, albeit important part in children's development. Communities, schools and families also needed to be strengthened to create a society in which children could thrive.

84. **Archbishop Chullikatt** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the growing impunity with which violence was committed against children in situations of conflict was deplorable. Children and adolescents had become more vulnerable in the face of new tactics of war. They were, for example, being used as combatants at an age when they should be learning to love and respect their neighbours. That and many other heinous activities pointed to the need for all parties concerned to make concrete commitments to address such grave violations. The Catholic Church had been a constant partner of the United Nations in combating the use of child soldiers and, through its various structures operating in many conflict zones, was actively engaged in taking care of victims of violence. In 2009 the Holy See, along with the Community of Sant'Egidio, Caritas Internationalis and other Catholic humanitarian and education organizations, had hosted an event with the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict to highlight the work of the Catholic Church and exchange best practices.

85. Numerous regional and international initiatives in recent years had demonstrated how concerted commitment to the well-being of children could bring about positive results. The recommendations in the reports of the Special Representative on violence against children and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/65/262 and A/65/221) had great potential to reduce violence against children and young adolescents. However, they must be implemented in the best

interests of the child and with full respect for the rights and duties of parents. Governments had a responsibility to promote and protect the family, which was the basic unit of society and the place where children developed their potential, became aware of their dignity and prepared for the future.

86. **Ms. Cho** Hyung-hwa (Republic of Korea) said that although the right to be heard was one of the main principles of the Convention, it had not been sufficiently considered in the Secretary-General's report (A/65/226). The international community had been moving to provide a forum where children's opinions could be heard and could influence policy. In that respect, her delegation greatly appreciated that the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had appropriately recognized the importance of children's participation and had provided detailed methods for implementing the right to be heard. For its part, her Government had established several forums to ensure youth participation.

87. Although the realization of Millennium Development Goal 2 of achieving universal primary education was within sight, producing meaningful results for children involved more than reaching that simple objective. Issues such as retention rates and the quality of education must also be addressed. Inequality among groups was widening, despite advancements in development. Her Government therefore welcomed the efforts of UNICEF to introduce equity-based programming, which focused on the most vulnerable groups of children, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

88. Children who were affected by crime needed protection, whether they were victims or criminals. The juvenile justice policies of the Government of the Republic of Korea prioritized prevention of crime and reintegration of perpetrators over punishment. Such policies included provision of alternative education for juvenile criminals, mandatory education for their guardians to promote nurturing environments and court-appointed assistance in juvenile protection cases.

89. **Ms. Smith** (Norway) said that promoting the rights of the child was an integral part of her Government's efforts to provide every person the possibility of pursuing their full potential. Promoting

the rights of the child was the soundest investment a country could make and must be part of any sound macroeconomic policy; countries that defaulted on their obligations under the Convention would pay the price through diminished growth and prosperity. While gains had been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, they had not been equally distributed between and within countries, leaving the most vulnerable children behind. In a recent report, UNICEF had presented evidence that taking an equity-focused approach to improving children's development held a tremendous potential for positive outcomes and was much more cost effective than spending equally across all economic strata. Provision of more aid to the poorest and most marginalized areas of society would lead to greater results in terms of reducing child mortality, among other goals. As the second-largest donor to UNICEF, Norway welcomed the report and called on other countries to increase their national investment in social sectors, adopt redistributive policies and accept nothing but good governance.

90. The Government of Norway had taken special responsibility for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Progress towards those Goals had been the slowest, and in that respect, her Government affirmed its support for the development of the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which had the aim of saving the lives of millions of young children and their mothers by 2015. The Government had tripled its investment in global health over the past decade and would be further increasing it in the coming year as part of the international aid budget, which made up more than 1 per cent of gross national income. Education for the 69 million school-aged children who were out of school was another priority of Norwegian aid. Half of those children were living through conflict and emergency situations, and in that regard, she urged Member States to contribute funding for their education, in line with General Assembly resolution 64/290 on the right to education in emergency situations.

91. With regard to the problem of violence against children, at the global level, the girl child was particularly vulnerable. Special attention was required to eliminate traditional attitudes and practices that were harmful to girls. There was also an urgent need to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence against

children in all settings, including in situations of conflict and crisis. The Government of Norway fully supported the recommendation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children that all States introduce an explicit national legal ban on all forms of violence.

92. **Mr. Zakaria** (Malaysia) said that while every State must make serious efforts to ensure the protection of children from abuse and exploitation, large-scale development issues such as poverty and conflict were closely related to the violation of children's rights. Developing countries required appropriate assistance and resources to address the underlying development issues that undermined the promotion of children's rights.

93. The Government of Malaysia had been taking steps to adhere to international treaties on children's rights. It had recently withdrawn its reservations to Articles 1, 13 and 15 of the Convention, and an inter-ministerial committee was analysing the possible withdrawal of the remaining reservations to the Convention and accession to the two Optional Protocols. Furthermore, amendments were being proposed to the Child Act of 2001 to bring it in line with the core principles of the Convention. The proposed changes included measures to improve treatment of children charged with criminal offences, including the repeal of corporal punishment; improve the protection of children under temporary custody; and increase the penalties for offences related to the abuse or exploitation of children. Policies and guidelines on child development, protection of children and reproductive health education had also been adapted or formulated and were currently being implemented.

94. Malaysia had achieved Millennium Development Goal 2 of universal primary education in 1990 and gender parity in education had been achieved in 2005. Women's enrolment in tertiary institutions had greatly increased, with women now making up 60 per cent of students. Education was recognized as essential to development and was consistently the largest budget allocation, averaging a fifth of the total annual budget. New approaches were also being formulated to meet Goal 4 of reducing child mortality.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*