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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Pre-sessional Working Group
21-25 May 2007

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

**List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the
second, third and fourth periodic reports of PARAGUAY on the rights
covered by articles 1 to 15 of the International Covenant on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/PRY/3)**

1. Please indicate whether, in accordance with the Committee's 1996 recommendations, the State party has taken steps to improve its statistics-collection systems on the basis of disaggregated indicators, with a view to an objective assessment of problems and of progress made in implementing the provisions of the Covenant.
2. Please provide information on the terms of reference of the Office of the Ombudsman, the number of cases dealt with in the last five years, and the human and financial resources at the Office's disposal.
3. Please provide information on human rights education in the State party at all levels, and on measures taken to promote awareness among public officials, legislators, members of the judiciary and law enforcement officers.

Article 1

4. Please indicate what policy the State party has followed to resolve the conflicts with landless peasants referred to in paragraph 64 of the report; and what steps have been taken to restore ancestral land to indigenous communities.

Article 2

5. Paragraph 8 of the report states that 9.7 per cent of the indigenous population has electricity and only 2.5 per cent has access to drinking water. Please provide detailed, up-to-date information on the measures being taken by the State party to remedy this situation. Please also provide disaggregated statistical data on the indigenous peoples, in order to make it possible to assess the level of enjoyment of their right to health, housing and education.
6. Please indicate what specific measures the State party has taken to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to buildings and transport.
7. Paragraphs 181 and 182 of the report refer to discrimination against some groups of workers and indigenous people. In this connection, please provide information on complaints lodged for discriminatory acts. What measures are being taken to encourage victims to lodge complaints about the discriminatory acts described in paragraphs 181-185 of the report?
8. Please provide detailed, up-to-date information, including disaggregated statistical data, on refugees and asylum-seekers in the State party, and on the steps taken to protect their economic, social and cultural rights.

Article 3

9. Please report on tangible outcomes of the State party's plans and programmes on gender equality described in paragraphs 134 to 159 of the report.

Article 6

10. Please provide up-to-date information on the informal, unskilled labour sector in the State party and on measures taken to regularize that sector.
11. Please comment on the 2006 report of the Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinating Office, which states that emigration is the consequence of the lack of any government employment policy, and indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that employment policies are more effective and enable Paraguayans to stay and work in the State party.

Article 7

12. In light of the information provided in paragraph 208 of the report, please provide detailed, up-to-date information, including data disaggregated by sex and age, on domestic workers in Paraguay. In that regard, please indicate:
 - (a) The legal norms regulating domestic work, and specifically whether domestic workers enjoy the same rights as other workers, including the maximum working day, rest days and the minimum wage; and
 - (b) Oversight mechanisms and the frequency of labour inspections in this sector.
13. Please indicate whether sexual harassment has been classified as an offence in Paraguay and what penalties are applicable for that offence.

14. What measures have been taken to tackle the current wage gap between men and women in Paraguay?

15. Please indicate whether the minimum wage established in Paraguay (paragraph 196 of the report) is sufficient for a decent living, in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant.

Article 8

16. Please report on the degree of compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code prohibiting discrimination against trade unions, and with court orders to reinstate workers.

Article 9

17. According to information available to the Committee, social security coverage in the State party is very limited. In this connection, please provide disaggregated up-to-date information on the categories of workers who have social security and the benefits provided. Please describe the progress made in the social security consultations referred to in paragraph 278 of the report. Paragraph 305 of the report indicates that there are many families without a minimum of social protection. Please indicate what steps are being taken to guarantee social security to such families.

Article 10

18. Please indicate what criminal penalties are imposed on the perpetrators of domestic violence.

19. Please indicate whether there continue to be cases of minors being recruited for military service and what steps have been taken to abolish this practice.

20. Please provide detailed, up-to-date information on the measures being taken to remedy the situation referred to in paragraph 456 of the report, which states that 20 per cent of children under the age of 2 and 45 per cent of children aged 2 to 5 in low socio-economic strata display some degree of psychomotor deficiency.

21. Please provide disaggregated statistical data on street children, and precise and detailed information on the measures taken to protect them.

22. Please provide detailed information on legislative and practical measures adopted to combat trafficking in children and sexual exploitation in Paraguay, especially in the border areas. Please also: (a) indicate whether there is an up-to-date database showing the scale of this problem; (b) state what measures have been taken to rehabilitate the victims of sexual exploitation; and (c) specify the number of cases that have been brought for such charges, as well as the penalties imposed on the perpetrators of such offences.

23. Paragraph 342 of the report states that 13.6 per cent of all persons between the ages of 5 and 17 work, and that 34.9 per cent of these children do not go to school. Please provide further detailed and up-to-date information on this point, including the measures being taken to remedy the situation.

Article 11

24. Please indicate the percentage of the population living below the poverty line in the State party and the measures being taken to achieve the poverty-reduction objectives described in paragraph 76 of the report. Has a timetable been established for achieving the objectives of the Government's development strategy, as set out in paragraph 97 of the report?

25. Paragraph 33 of the report states that, in 2002, 29.6 per cent of urban households and 20.7 per cent of rural households were headed by women, and that a substantial proportion of such households are characterized by poverty and extreme poverty. Please indicate what measures have been taken to remedy this situation and what evaluations have been conducted.

26. Please indicate whether there have been any evaluations of the Food and Nutrition Assistance Programme (PROAN) mentioned in paragraph 383 of the report and, if so, what results they have yielded.

27. Please indicate what measures the State party has taken to tackle the problem of inadequate housing in Paraguay, as referred to in paragraphs 393 to 400 of the report.

28. Please provide information to supplement that provided in paragraph 104 of the report on the situation of prisons throughout Paraguay, including disaggregated statistical data on the prison population showing prisoners' level of enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food.

29. Paragraph 89 of the report indicates that the drive to expand soya production has almost completely destroyed native forests, of which less than 5 per cent remain. Please provide detailed, up-to-date information on the urgent measures being taken to address this serious situation and to tackle the problems relating to water use and the damage caused by misuse of toxic products.

Article 12

30. In view of the fact that, as indicated in paragraph 470 of the report, abortion continues to be the leading cause of maternal mortality, please indicate whether the State party is intending to amend its legislation to provide for exceptions to the general ban on abortion when the mother's life is in danger. Please also indicate what measures have been taken to inform the population on birth control methods and on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies in general.

31. Please indicate the measures taken to protect patients in mental hospitals, especially women and children. Please also indicate whether the State party is planning in the near future to include in its domestic legislation procedural safeguards for persons admitted to psychiatric institutions, and provide information on the matter. Please also provide information on cases of persons admitted voluntarily or involuntarily to psychiatric institutions, and on the solitary confinement regime.

32. According to information received by the Committee, more than 80 per cent of the population of the State party does not have adequate health care. Please provide up-to-date information on the operation of the State party's national health service, including disaggregated statistical data on those covered by that system. Please also indicate what steps are being taken to extend health service coverage to the rest of the population.

Article 13

33. Please indicate whether, in accordance with the Committee's last concluding observations, funding for the education sector has been increased, and provide detailed, up-to-date information in this regard. Please indicate progress towards the achievement of the education goals referred to in paragraph 86 of the report.

34. According to information available to the Committee, the high cost of uniforms, school materials, transport and so on, prevents many children from having access to primary education. Please comment. Please also provide detailed, up-to-date information on those domestic workers who have access to education, and those who do not.

35. Paragraph 7 of the report states that 82 per cent of the Pai tavyterá are illiterate. Please indicate what measures have been taken to redress this situation.

Article 15

36. Please indicate when the State party is planning to adopt the law regulating the official languages of Paraguay, as referred to in paragraph 185 of the report, and describe the measures being taken for the preservation, dissemination and use of other indigenous mother tongues, in addition to Guarani.
