

STATE PARTY EXAMINATION OF URUGUAY'S INITIAL REPORT ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

68TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
12 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2015

Content

Opening Comments.....	1
General Measures of Implementation.....	1
Protection, recovery and reintegration.....	2
International assistance and cooperation.....	2
Concluding remarks.....	2

Uruguay ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) on 09 September 2003. On 20 January 2015, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) examined the initial periodic report of Uruguay.

Opening Comments

The delegation of Uruguay was led by Ms. Alejandra Costa, Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. She was supported by representatives from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay in Geneva, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the National Parliament, the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents (INAU) and the System of Adolescent Criminal Liability (SIRPA).

Ms. Sara Oviedo Country Rapporteur for OPAC, welcomed the delegation.

Mr. Hatem Kotrane, Country Rapporteurs for OPAC, welcomed the general alignment of the legislation of Uruguay with the OPAC.

General Measures of Implementation

Legislation

The Committee reminded the delegation that the OPAC called for the explicit ban of the recruitment of children and asked whether the State party was considering introducing this ban. The delegation replied that there was no conflict or cases of recruitment of children in Uruguay. Therefore, it did not judge necessary to explicitly ban the recruitment of children.

Note: This report is prepared at the discretion of Child Rights Connect. The content is designed to give a summary of the key discussions during the session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child but it is neither an official nor fully comprehensive report. More reports and further information can be found at www.childrightsconnect.org/index.php/publications-resources/crc#countrysum

The Committee inquired about children's enrolment in military schools. The delegation explained that teenagers could enrol in military school. They were virtually considered as adults, however, parents or guardians had to give their consent to the enrolment. The delegation added that no complaints had been made on this issue.

The Committee was concerned about the way in which disciplinary matters were addressed in military institutions, and asked whether a follow-up mechanism existed. The delegation replied that there was no follow-up mechanism in place. However, military institutions fell under the umbrella of the Ministry of Defence, and complaints regarding punishment in military institutions could be made to the National Human Rights Institute.

Coordination and monitoring

The Committee asked about the existence of a coordinating body for the implementation of the OPAC. The delegation said that there was no coordination of activities regarding the implementation of the OPAC

Dissemination and training

The Committee asked about training and dissemination of the OPAC. The delegation answered that trainings focusing on the right to peace were organised with a main focus on peacekeeping. The provisions of the OPAC were taught at school, although they did not constitute a specific subject in schools curriculum. In addition, the dissemination of human rights was the basis of the current plan for education of the State party.

Cooperation with civil society

The Committee asked if civil society had participated in the drafting of the State's initial report on the OPAC. The delegation did not provide an answer.

Prevention

The Committee noted that there was no current armed conflict in the State party and that there was no forced or voluntary recruitment of children.

Protection, recovery and reintegration

The Committee asked whether there were rehabilitation measures in place for former child soldiers moving to Uruguay and if there were measures established to deal with unaccompanied children coming from conflict zones. The delegation replied that former child soldiers moving to Uruguay were treated under the same procedures as migrant children. It added that there were several children coming from conflict zones in State party. However, it was difficult to establish whether they had been used as soldiers in their countries of origin. The delegation also explained that basic services and care were provided to unaccompanied children under an established protocol. Links were established with childhood organisations from the children's countries of origin to inquire about the situation of the children.

International assistance and cooperation

The Committee asked if extraterritorial jurisdiction was conditioned by the principle of double criminality. The delegation confirmed that the principle was applied.

Concluding remarks

Ms. Oviedo and Mr. Kotrane, the Country Rapporteurs, thanked the delegation and indicated that the main goal of the Committee was to facilitate the implementation of the OPAC.

The delegation said that one of the first follow-up steps would be to publish the Concluding Observations following their release. It thanked the Committee members for their interesting and constructive comments.