



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
25 September 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of the Child Seventieth session

Summary record of the 2036th meeting*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 21 September 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Mezmur

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* No summary record was issued for the 2035th meeting.

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

Consideration of reports of States parties (continued)

Combined second to fourth periodic reports of Brazil (CRC/C/BRA/2-4; CRC/C/BRA/Q/2-4 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Brazil took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Cordeiro Dunlop** (Brazil), introducing her country's periodic report (CRC/C/BRA/2-4), said that both the Convention and the Statute of the Child and Adolescent had been in force in Brazil for the past 25 years and had made the country a better place for children. Historically, wealth had been concentrated in the hands of a few, and policies to improve the distribution of wealth had only recently been implemented. Those policies had significantly increased incomes in households with children and adolescents.

3. The Constitution was based on democratic freedoms, the guarantee of economic, social and cultural rights, and the decentralization of government. The federal states and municipalities thus played a large role in the implementation of policies on education, health, social security and other matters. The infant mortality rate had dropped significantly since 1990, exceeding the target set under the Millennium Development Goals. Her Government was strengthening its actions to reduce neonatal mortality among vulnerable groups and was also strengthening differentiated and culturally adapted policies targeting indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.

4. Increased numbers of prenatal check-ups had helped to reduce infant and maternal mortality. Vaccination coverage continued to expand, and the vertical transmission of HIV had been greatly reduced. The challenge remained, however, to reduce the number of AIDS cases among adolescents 15 to 19 years of age.

5. The Food and Agriculture Organization had removed Brazil from its hunger map in 2014 in response to the significant drop in the malnutrition rate. That reduction had been achieved through a set of policies on food and nutritional security as well as economic policies that had created jobs and increased the minimum wage. A total of 36 million Brazilians had escaped from poverty since 2003, thanks in part to social policies and conditional cash transfers, which were focused on children's well-being.

6. The "Caring Brazil" Programme had been launched in 2012 to help families with children under 6 years of age who were living in extreme poverty. As of 2014, the Programme had helped more than 16 million people escape from poverty and had opened up places in nursery schools for 580,000 children.

7. Progress could be seen across all indicators relating to education. More than 80 per cent of the 49.8 million students in the country were enrolled in free public schools. Education was compulsory for all children between 4 and 17 years of age. The percentage of the country's gross domestic product that was invested in education had reached 5.6 per cent, and further increases were expected. The Government had committed to investing 75 per cent of the profits from oil and gas reserves in education. Most of the 3 million children who were still not enrolled in school were poor children from ethnic minorities.

8. The Statute of the Child and Adolescent had laid the foundations for inclusive education to children with disabilities, and the number of such children enrolled in mainstream schools had jumped from 30,000 in 2000 to 700,000 in 2014. Nevertheless, prejudice and inadequate services still hindered the enjoyment by such children of the right to education in some areas.

9. While the number of adolescents enrolled in school had increased, many still dropped out for such reasons as discrimination, pregnancy or the need to earn a living. The number of institutions offering vocational and technical training to young people had greatly increased since 2002. New public universities had been established, and more than 3 million tertiary-level students received scholarships or financial aid. Quotas had also made higher education more accessible to students from poor families and ethnic minorities.

10. The number of registered births had dramatically increased in recent years. The remaining 5 per cent of children still not registered were mostly indigenous children and those who lived in isolated and remote areas. Child labour among children 5 to 15 years of age had dropped by 76 per cent between 1992 and 2013. Of the children who still engaged in child labour, most were Afro-Brazilian children 10 to 15 years of age living in urban areas.

11. The laws had been amended in order to combat impunity for crimes against children, particularly sex crimes. A 24-hour hotline had been established to receive complaints of such crimes and of other human rights violations. However, police officers needed further training in dealing with such complaints.

12. In December 2014, the Chamber of Deputies had adopted a bill establishing guidelines and public policies to benefit young children. Like all public policies in Brazil, the bill had been drafted through a process involving the wide participation of civil society. In matters concerning children and adolescents, cooperation between the Government and civil society took the form of councils and conferences on the rights of children and adolescents. Such councils had been established in all federal states and almost all municipalities. In addition, guardianship councils worked to protect and guarantee the rights of children and adolescents.

13. Since June 2014, corporal punishment and cruel or degrading treatment had been prohibited in schools. There was no limitation period for crimes against the sexual dignity of children and adolescents until the victim reached 18 years of age. Violent or arbitrary actions carried out by State officials against children were specifically criminalized, and guidelines on the use of force had been issued with a view to reducing lethal police violence. Further actions in the field of public security were being taken as part of the "Safer Brazil" Programme, launched in 2012.

14. The homicide rate among adolescents was on the rise, particularly among poor, Afro-Brazilian adolescents. A series of wide-ranging and systematic actions involving cooperation among different sectors and among the different state-level governments would be needed to address the problem of public security. One approach would be to focus social initiatives on areas with the highest rates of violence. A series of coordinated actions to be known as the National Pact to Reduce Homicides was currently being developed.

15. The National Socio-Educational Care System had recently been established, through which social and educational measures were carried out for adolescents in trouble with the law. Under the System, municipalities were responsible for offering community-based social and educational programmes, while the federal Government carried out measures involving the deprivation of liberty. Due to a lack of proper facilities, however, the law establishing the System was not being fully implemented in all parts of the country. The Government was therefore investing in the necessary resources to improve those facilities. Legislation and guidelines had been adopted that should help states and municipalities to effectively structure their social and educational programmes. Improving the System with the aim of stopping adolescents from embarking a life of crime was one of the Government's most important tasks.

16. Brazil was also taking affirmative action to rectify the legacy of injustice and rights violations faced by children and adolescents from indigenous and other marginalized groups. Her Government believed that focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable groups was key to creating a country where all persons were rights holders and benefited from public policies. Brazil was committed to creating a society based on human rights, sustainable development and the reduction of poverty and inequality.

17. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** (Country Task Force) asked whether the State party had taken any measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

18. She wished to know whether the Convention was directly applicable in the national legal system, whether it had been invoked before federal or state courts, and whether it took precedence over national law. She also wished to know about any relevant case law.

19. While welcoming the extensive legal framework for the promotion of the rights of the child, she noted several obstacles preventing the implementation of the Convention, such as weak governance mechanisms and a lack of technical capacity, as well as conservative political forces at work in the country. The delegation should explain what was being done to address that situation.

20. She asked whether any assessments of the Ten-Year National Plan of Action for the Promotion of Children's Rights (2011-2020) or other plans affecting children had been conducted and, if so, whether those plans had achieved their objectives. The implementation of social and economic policies to promote and protect the rights of the child seemed to be suffering from a lack of coordination among public institutions. In the light of the recently announced reorganization of various government ministries, she wished to know what body was responsible for the implementation of the Convention.

21. As to the allocation of resources, she said that despite the introduction of numerous social programmes intended to help low-income families and vulnerable groups, funding shortages still affected critical areas, particularly for mechanisms to combat and prevent violence. Moreover, while there were many policies and programmes for children and adolescents, the procedures for obtaining funding were blighted by bureaucracy. In that connection she asked whether the Government planned to establish a children's rights-based budget, prevent funding cuts that could affect the implementation of the Convention, remove bureaucratic red tape and increase planning expertise at the municipal level.

22. While welcoming improvements made to the system of data collection, she asked what further measures were envisaged to standardize data collection and address the lingering gaps for certain vulnerable groups and thematic areas.

23. Notwithstanding the various mechanisms in place, she asked whether the Government intended to establish an independent mechanism for monitoring the realization of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles. She also asked how the State party raised awareness of the Convention and its principles among vulnerable groups, such as street children, and what training on the Convention and other related instruments it provided for public servants.

24. She asked what the involvement of civil society organizations had been in the drafting of the State party report. She also invited the delegation to comment on reports that human rights defenders working with indigenous communities were

subjected to violence and intimidation. What measures had been taken and investigations launched in that regard?

25. She said that she would be interested to know whether implementation of the Convention formed part of the private sector's Corporate Social Responsibility and whether private companies were held liable for children's rights violations, such as in the case of tour operators and the sexual exploitation of children. Information should also be provided on the impact of privatization in the spheres of education and juvenile detention, particularly in view of the absence of adequate monitoring mechanisms and qualified staff.

26. She said that she would welcome information on a draft bill that would lower the age of criminal responsibility from 18 to 16 years of age and also the alternative plan to lengthen the amount of time a juvenile could be deprived of liberty. Both proposed measures were of grave concern to the Committee. A more holistic approach was needed to combat rising youth violence.

27. While some progress had been made, deep-rooted forms of discrimination and regional inequality persisted and were often a source of conflict. Furthermore, training on equality had seemingly disappeared from Government and regional action plans. What concrete action was being taken to change attitudes and eradicate all forms of discrimination?

28. She enquired how the principle of the best interest of the child had been incorporated into case law. Information had been received to the effect that children were disinclined to participate or express their opinions, as their views were rarely taken into account. In that connection, she asked what specific measures had been taken or envisaged to foster greater participation and give due consideration to children's opinions.

29. Noting the progress made towards reducing the infant mortality rate, she said that one of the biggest threats facing children and adolescents in Brazil was the high incidence of murder, particularly among vulnerable groups. In that regard, she wished to know what measures and funding were in place or envisaged to tackle that threat to child safety and survival. Information on the number of investigations conducted, the outcomes thereof, and the forms of redress for victims and their families should also be provided.

30. **Ms. Oviedo Fierro** (Coordinator, Country Task Force), noting that the State party was currently going through a somewhat turbulent period, urged the Brazilian Government to resist the general tendency in times of crisis to cut back on funding and programmes.

31. While welcoming the improvements made to the system of birth registration, most notably the reduction in the rate of underregistration, she said that she wished to know what specific action was being taken to ensure that all children were registered at birth, including those not born in hospital. Birth certificates issued by the National Foundation for Indigenous People did not have the same legal standing as those issued by the State and she wondered how the Government was intending to standardize the two registration processes. Information should also be provided on the data-collection system's real-time data capabilities and how the State party ensured respect for the country's rich cultural and linguistic diversity at national and regional levels. For example, how did the Government promote cultural awareness when it came to a person's right to use their indigenous name?

32. After listing the various interrelated rights and freedoms for children under the Convention, she invited the delegation to provide information on the concrete actions that had been taken to ensure those rights, including for children in foster care or

detention centres. The right to participation was often considered as a gateway right to the enjoyment of other rights and freedoms. In that connection, she asked whether the Government had established any permanent mechanisms and long-term programmes, and allocated funding for them, in order to promote and uphold that right. She also asked to what extent children were routinely consulted and able to express their opinions and whether the delegation could provide any information that might explain the seeming lack of participation in civil life among children of 16 to 18 years of age. She commented that the replies to the Committee's list of issues (CRC/C/BRA/Q/2-4) generally referred to measures taken several years earlier and asked for details of current initiatives for fostering greater participation. For example, were there any permanent mechanism in schools and colleges? How were the opinions of children taken into consideration during the consultation process and what procedures were in place to implement their suggestions?

33. Regarding freedom of expression, it was disturbing to note that children and adolescents were often stigmatized by society and the media for the way that they chose to express themselves. In that connection, she wondered what training was provided to all public servants to raise awareness of, and promote respect for freedom of expression.

34. Lastly, she wished to know what measures of protection were in place to safeguard the integrity of children as spectators of, or participants in, public performances and competitions, including beauty pageants. Information on how the Government promoted Internet safety would also be welcome.

35. **Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi** (Country Task Force) said that the Committee was concerned by reports of the persistence of the use of torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment — chiefly in police stations, prisons and juvenile detention centres — and the pervasive culture of impunity. Information should be provided on the measures taken to combat the use of such treatment, and on the prosecution of perpetrators and support and rehabilitation for victims.

36. While corporal punishment had been outlawed, in practice it was still a common form of discipline. In that connection, she asked whether the Government had implemented any measures to enforce the relevant law and whether it had initiated any awareness-raising campaigns in that regard.

37. She said that, despite the efforts of the State party, the Committee remained concerned by the high number of children who fell victim to abuse, especially sexual abuse, in schools, public places and within the family. In 2011, more than 250,000 children were victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Brazil, and sexual violence was the second most frequent crime committed against children. Child exploitation was another common problem, particularly in areas where large-scale development was taking place and in tourist areas in the north-east of the country. She asked whether the State party had implemented a standardized system to collect data on sexual violence against children, whether preventive, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes had been set up, whether the budget allocated to such efforts had increased, and what the outcomes of prosecutions against perpetrators of such crimes had been. She also wanted to know whether the helplines created for children were available only for victims of sexual violence or whether any child whose rights had been violated could make use of the service, and whether the helplines were easily accessible to children across the country.

38. She noted that the minimum age of marriage could be reduced to 16 if consent from both sets of parents was given. However, she was very concerned by cases where minors even younger than 16 were married in order to avoid criminal prosecution. Such marriages were most often contracted in the event of a girl falling pregnant after

having been abducted. If the victim married the perpetrator of the crime, the latter was able to avoid prosecution. She wondered how such harmful practices were consistent with protecting the rights of the child.

39. **Mr. Torres** (Brazil) said that, with regard to the general measures undertaken to implement the Convention, Brazil had signed the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention in 2012 and the domestic ratification procedures were under way. The Convention itself held the same value as a law in Brazil and was implemented in conjunction with the Statute of the Child and Adolescent at federal, state and municipal levels. One of the most important bodies for the promotion of children's rights was the Human Rights Secretariat, which contained the National Secretariat for the Promotion of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent and focused on improving cross-sectoral interaction between different Government departments.

40. A number of programmes had been undertaken to protect children's rights, such as the Ten-Year Plan of Action for the Promotion of Children's Rights (2011-2020), the National Plan for Fighting Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents, and the National Plan for the Promotion, Protection and Defence of the Right of the Child and Adolescent to Family and Community Living. All those plans were carried out at federal, state and municipal levels. The Agreement for the Establishment of Strategies had also recently been signed by executive and judicial authorities as a means of monitoring Brazil's progress towards reaching its targets on protection of children's rights. In addition, Brazil had set up a national committee to monitor the implementation of its national plans. Efforts were under way to set up a similar committee in each state of Brazil and the Government hoped to achieve that goal by the end of 2016. The National Council of the Rights of the Child and the Adolescent (Conanda) was also responsible for deciding children's policies and for monitoring the Government's compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Conanda met regularly and was committed to ensuring the participation of children and adolescents in policymaking at all levels.

41. **Ms. Grignani** (Brazil) said that the System for the Guarantee of the Rights of Children and Adolescents was an effective way to organize efforts undertaken for the promotion of children's rights. Its three main areas of work were the defence, promotion and social control of children's rights. National conferences on children's rights were held periodically, which incentivized the participation of civil society and adolescents themselves in the shaping of policies that affected them. Forty per cent of the delegates attending such conferences were adolescents. Brazil had also set up groups comprising adolescents from all states in the country and from ethnic minorities to participate in the conferences.

42. **Mr. Torres** (Brazil) said that the question regarding the administrative restructuring of the Human Rights Secretariat and of the relevant national ministries was currently being considered by the Government. However, no official information confirming the restructuring had yet been released. As for budgetary resources, Brazil was not the only country to be facing economic difficulties following the crisis, but such difficulties were temporary and the Government was making fiscal adjustments to improve the economic situation. Brazil had not been able to develop an overall budget for children's welfare that covered all relevant areas, such as education and health, but the amount of money invested in such areas had been increasing over recent years.

43. In respect of data collection, Brazil had significantly improved its efforts to obtain data, particularly in the areas of health and education. However, a number of challenges remained, including the need to improve information systems that focused specifically on children, such as Sipia, which had encountered many problems since its implementation.

44. **Ms. Pimenta** (Brazil) said that data-collection systems in the field of health had improved considerably over recent years. There was a national registry for health professionals, which monitored professionals from both the public and private sector, and the Government was also working towards introducing Unified Health System cards which would provide data on both health professionals and the users of health-care establishments. Efforts had been made to improve data collection on cases of child and maternal mortality through the institution of the Investigation Committee on Maternal and Neonatal Mortality, as well as on cases of domestic violence.

45. **Mr. Brito** (Brazil) said that Brazil's welfare policy had improved over the past 10 years as a result of the introduction of the Unified Welfare System, which was consistently monitored. Censuses were conducted annually to collect data on all of the welfare services and equipment provided across the national territory. Furthermore, monthly care registries had been developed as a means of gathering quantitative and qualitative data on individualized care provided to children and their families. Data collection pertaining to child labour had also increased, but there were still areas requiring improvement. One of the improvements needed was the establishment of dialogue between different sectors, such as health and education, in order to provide better care to underprivileged children.

46. **Mr. Torres** (Brazil), explaining the procedure for compiling the State party's periodic report, said that, once the first draft of the report had been completed, it had then been submitted for public consultation on the Government's website. Any citizen or civil society organization could submit views on the report, which was then passed on to Conanda for further suggestions and revisions.

47. **Ms. Egas** (Brazil) said, in respect of Brazil's interest in working with independent mechanisms, that a law had been enacted in 2014 to restructure Conanda in order to make it more effective and more independent, and at the same time to increase the participation of civil society in policymaking. The Government also acknowledged the need to guarantee independent investigation mechanisms within the federal police and public prosecutor's office.

48. **Mr. Torres** (Brazil) said that awareness-raising campaigns on children's issues, such as the prevention of violence against children, were consistently conducted in the State party. Brazil was celebrating 25 years since the enactment of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent and efforts had been undertaken to raise awareness of the Statute. For example, meetings had recently been organized between adolescents and lawmakers with a view to discussing how the Statute could be further improved. Moreover, training had been organized for public sector workers in the field of health, education, and social care. In 2012, a national school had been set up to train professionals in juvenile law and centres had also been established in almost every municipality to provide training for guardianship councillors.

49. **Mr. Dodsworth Magnavita De Carvalho** (Brazil) said that teachers were provided with special training on unaccompanied children and drug-related issues. A basic national common curriculum had recently been introduced at the primary and lower and higher secondary education levels, covering civil, political and constitutional rights.

50. **Mr. Torres de Araújo Lima** (Brazil) said that, under the Constitution, the age of criminal responsibility was 18 years and current moves to lower it had met with overwhelming opposition, both in political and judicial circles and within civil society.

51. **Mr. Perondi** (Brazil) said that a series of measures had been introduced to deal with offenders aged between 12 and 18 years. A bill on early childhood was currently before the Senate for consideration.

52. **Mr. Suplicy** (Brazil) said that work was being carried out to increase the number of school places in the city of São Paulo. A law on the provision of a basic income on an unconditional basis had been approved by Congress and would be phased in gradually, beginning with the poorest sectors of society.

53. **Ms. Oviedo Fierro** said that it seemed that children were still being taken into care simply because their parents were poor. She asked to what extent the financial situation of parents influenced the decisions of judges in that regard. More must be done to ensure that children were placed with families, and conditions in children's institutions must be further improved. She asked how many children were currently living in institutions, what alternative forms of care had been developed and what their coverage was, what changes had been introduced at the institutional level to improve conditions of care for children, why the authorities were not focusing more on family reintegration. She wished to know what was being done to support single parents with young children in terms of financial benefits, employment, training and violence prevention, what measures were taken as a part of the National Plan for the Promotion, Protection and Defence of the Right of the Child and Adolescent to Family and Community Living, what the major restrictions were in terms of its implementation, whether sufficient financial and human resources had been made available for the introduction of all of the institutional changes proposed by the State party, whether those changes were being introduced in only a limited number of Brazilian states, and whether indigenous children received equal treatment in institutions. Information would be welcome on measures to promote domestic, rather than international, adoption; the current legal situation in terms of adoption; whether and how legislation on domestic adoption had been amended; whether the central adoption authority and other adoption bodies had been strengthened and provided with sufficient technical and financial resources; whether the level of adoption-related corruption had been reduced; whether adoption procedures had been made more transparent; and what was being done to promote the adoption of Afro-Brazilian boys and adolescents.

54. It seemed that there were no measures in place in Brazil guaranteeing the rights of mothers deprived of their liberty. Additional information on their situation would be welcome. She asked what the current status of immigration legislation was and whether it had been brought into line with the relevant international standards, what responsibilities the National Committee for Refugees and members of the judiciary currently had in terms of the protection of child refugees in Brazil, and whether a legislative amendment allowing children born abroad of Brazilian parents to retain Brazilian nationality without having to travel to Brazil had entered into force. She enquired whether special, flexible procedures had been adopted to speed up the registration of unaccompanied child asylum seekers; whether they were granted refugee status and provided with legal counsel; whether a process for the determination of statelessness and nationality had been introduced into national law; and whether a database relating to asylum seekers, stateless persons and refugees had been set up. Information should be provided on how widespread the sale of and trafficking in children was in the State party, how many complaints mechanism had been put in place in that regard, how many convictions for the sale of and trafficking in children there had been, what was being done to protect child victims, whether preventive work was carried out with families and schools, how the actions of relevant official bodies were coordinated, whether allegations that public officials had been involved in trafficking in persons were true, and how the results of a recent investigation into cross-border trafficking in persons would be used and whether there were agreements in place on trafficking in persons with neighbouring countries.

55. **Ms. Aho Assouma**, turning to the issue of health, said that the State party had not provided any information on the number of children with disabilities in the country. She asked whether any disability prevention programmes had been launched,

whether any community based support and care programmes had been set up, whether measures had been taken to ensure that children were not taken into care by the authorities simply because one of their parents was living with a disability, whether the views of children with disabilities were taken into account, whether they could participate in decision-making processes, whether the State party would adopt provisions ensuring that they were consulted. She wished to know what steps had been taken to protect children with disabilities placed in institutions from violence, whether any prosecutions had been brought in that regard, and whether it was true that girls with disabilities were sterilized and what had been done to amend law No. 9263/96 on family planning.

56. Under article 208 of the Federal Constitution, children and adolescents with disabilities had the right to specialized education, preferably within the mainstream education system. She asked whether the article was in line with the principle of the provision of inclusive education, whether the rights of children with disabilities were being upheld in that regard and why children with disabilities had to pay additional fees to cover the costs generated by work undertaken to ensure the accessibility of education services and whether girls with disabilities had effective access to violence prevention services and reparation. Information on the situation relating to stunting in children would be welcome. She asked what percentage of the national budget was allocated to health and, more specifically, to paediatric health care, what measures had been taken to tackle the high rates of obesity, diabetes and other non-transmissible diseases among children of school age in Brazil and to halt the marketing of unhealthy foods, what the situation was in terms of the prevalence of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and the strategies in place to tackle those diseases, whether and to what extent leprosy was an issue in Brazil, whether the national health insurance scheme covered everyone in the country and whether steps had been taken to extend its coverage, and what the situation was in terms of the methods used to purchase and distribute pharmaceutical products. The State party should indicate whether it had recruited sufficient specialized medical personnel, why waiting lists for medical treatment were so long, whether doctors prioritized private sector work over service in public hospitals, whether medical staff were correctly trained in emergency procedures or sent on refresher courses, whether physicians and nurses guilty of medical error were sanctioned and how many children had been covered by recent vaccination campaigns and what types of vaccine had been administered. She asked for information on children born blind and on any relevant preventive or care programmes, including projects providing follow-up for pregnant women. Why were mortality rates so high in Brazil and why were so many Caesarean sections carried out?

57. She asked why the National Control of HIV Transmission programme made no allowance for breastfeeding by mothers infected with HIV and whether children aged 5 to 14 years with mental health issues received health care and how many hospital beds were set aside for them. The State party should consider decriminalizing abortion in order to ensure that pregnant women did not have to undergo dangerous and illegal procedures. She asked whether care and reintegration programmes were provided for children affected by drugs, psychotropic substances and alcohol, what the prevalence rate of AIDS was and whether there was a prompt HIV/AIDS testing procedure in place in maternity wards. Information on the spatial epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in the State party, discrimination against patients with HIV/AIDS, including by medical staff, and HIV/AIDS infection rates among adolescents would be welcome. What steps had been taken to tackle the excessive use of dangerous agrochemical products near schools, rivers and water sources?

58. **The Chairperson** asked how the major stakeholders worked together on the National Education Plan, what measures had been taken to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas in terms of the quality of education and to tackle illiteracy

among indigenous and Afro-Brazilian children, and what results had been obtained, how private education was being monitored, how State funding for private schools was being used and what effect the channelling of public money to private schools had on the public education system. More information on overcrowding in juvenile detention facilities, and the sentencing of children for minor offences and gang violence would be welcome.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.