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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
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OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial report of NORWAY (CRC/C/OPAC/NOR/1)

The State party is requested to submit in written form additional and updated information, if possible before 2 April 2007

1. Please clarify which authority is in charge of the implementation of the Optional Protocol. Please also indicate whether there is any mechanism available for monitoring and periodically evaluating its implementation.

2. Please provide information on the inclusion of international crimes listed in article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in the domestic law. In particular, please provide detailed information as to whether Norway assumes extraterritorial jurisdiction over the war crime of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 into the armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities. Also in relation to extraterritorial jurisdiction, please indicate whether Norwegian courts have jurisdiction in case of forced recruitment or involvement in hostilities of a person under 18 if the crime is committed outside Norway, by or against a Norwegian citizen.

3. With regard to the volunteers under the age of 18 in the Home Guard Youth, please clarify whether their exemption from military disciplinary authority is based on an established practice, as stated in the State party's initial report in paragraph 7, or embedded in law.

4. Please provide information on education and training on the provisions of the Optional Protocol. Please also provide information on the human rights education provided at different levels of the Norwegian Defence Forces, in particular regarding the scope of application of the Optional Protocol. Considering that Norway is engaged in United Nations peacekeeping operations and NATO-led operations, as well as in other international military operations, please provide information on education and training on human rights, in particular on children's rights, provided to Norwegians serving in these operations. Please also describe other measures taken to disseminate information on the Optional Protocol.

5. Please provide disaggregated data (including by sex, age and country of origin) covering the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children coming to Norway from areas affected by armed conflict.

6. Please provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendation, adopted on 3 June 2005, on the supervision of and care provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, including psychological and psychiatric services provided to traumatized asylum-seeking children, the improvement of the situation in reception centres and the more expeditious processing of asylum claims (please see the Committee's concluding observations on the State party's third periodic report, CRC/C/15/Add.263, paras. 41-42).

7. Please provide information on the measures taken to follow up on the 2005 report on the mental health of children living in reception centres in Norway, "I sykisk helse for barn i asylmottak", recommendations of an interdepartmental working group, Ministry of Local and Regional Affairs.

8. According to Norway's National Plan of Action for Children, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs has financed a project run by the Centre for Crisis Psychology, which aimed at developing permanent procedures for identifying exposure to traumatic events and psychological after-effects in refugee children. Please provide information on the follow-up to this project.
