



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Fifty-fourth session

25 May-11 June 2010

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

List of issues related to the consideration of the initial report of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (CRC/C/OPAC/MKD/1)

The State party is requested to submit in written form additional and updated information, if possible, before 6 April 2010.

The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights contained in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party. The present list of issues covers only some priority questions on which the Committee would like additional information before the dialogue.

1. Please clarify whether at present mandatory conscription for the Armed Forces in the State party has been suspended and/or abolished. Please inform the Committee of any measures taken by the State party to verify the age of volunteers and/or persons mandatorily conscripted into the Armed Forces.
2. Please describe legal measures in place to prohibit and criminalize the recruitment or use in hostilities of children by armed groups other than the Armed Forces of the State party, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol.
3. Please explain whether the State party can assume extraterritorial jurisdiction over the war crime of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into the Armed Forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities. In relation to extraterritorial jurisdiction, please inform the Committee whether the courts have jurisdiction in cases of forced recruitment or involvement in hostilities of a person under 18 years of age if committed outside the State party by or against one of its nationals.
4. Please provide disaggregated data (including sex, age and country of origin) covering the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 on the number of children with refugee and/or humanitarian status in the State party who have been displaced by conflicts in neighbouring countries; and on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children coming to the State party from areas affected by armed conflict. Furthermore, please explain what mechanisms are in place to identify children who have been involved in armed conflict, in order to provide them with physical and psychological recovery measures.