



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Summary record of the 2853rd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 16 January 2025, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Skelton

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Honduras (continued)
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1. At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Honduras joined the meeting.
2. **The Chair**, welcoming the delegation of Honduras to the meeting, explained that additional members of the delegation would be participating via video link.
3. **A representative of Honduras**, replying to the questions raised by Committee members at the previous meeting, said that the Government had to balance achieving the highest possible human rights standards with reaching consensus, including among the more conservative sectors of society. Nevertheless, sex education had been introduced in the science, social science and physical education curricula for the first nine years of compulsory education. In higher grades, the topic was also addressed in health, biology and civics classes.
4. Schools were the safest place in Honduras. There were no reports of violence leading to death in any establishment under the Ministry of Education, which was implementing protocols on violence prevention through peaceful coexistence, sport and art. Violence was also addressed through programmes on early pregnancy, suicide, sexual abuse, irregular migration, trafficking in persons, drugs and child labour. In addition, the Ministry of Security was developing a community and school policing model with a focus on violence prevention.
5. Efforts to prevent emigration included the roll-out of the rural education model, under which agricultural schools in areas that had been declared free from agrochemical pesticides and genetically modified crops helped boost self-sufficiency, food security and the local economy. For instance, over 30 native bean and corn varieties had been identified, and over 1,500 products were being made by students at those schools, who then enjoyed the profits. Gender parity had been achieved in school enrolment, and high-achieving students had received scholarships to pursue higher education. Under the policy on support for and inclusion of returning migrants, returnees could enrol in school at any point of the academic year. More than 6,000 returnees had attended school at the various levels in 2024.
6. President Castro Sarmiento had reintroduced free education and direct investment in all public primary and secondary schools. Resources were not managed centrally but, rather, by the parents' association of each school. A law was being formulated to guarantee the investment of a percentage of gross domestic product in education.
7. Regarding the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the *Case of the Miskito Divers (Lemonth Morris et al.) v. Honduras*, the Ministry of Education was working on providing scholarships for the children of divers and, more generally, on the implementation of an intercultural bilingual education programme so that children could receive instruction in their mother tongue. Lastly, preschool and primary education classrooms had been set up in prisons to safeguard the right to education of children living with their imprisoned mothers.
8. **A representative of Honduras** said that a programme for the support of persons with disabilities and rehabilitation services had for the first time been established under the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, in recognition of the importance of prevention, especially with regard to musculoskeletal disabilities, a programme had been set up on the care provided to people with injuries caused by external factors and the reduction of traffic accidents. Services for persons with visual impairments were being decentralized.
9. The Ministry was working to expand coverage of and access to family planning services, including in emergencies, through training, the publication of a manual and the establishment of adolescent-friendly services. Under the primary healthcare strategy, family health teams collaborated with municipal committees for the prevention of early pregnancy on developing information strategies. Nonetheless, more needed to be done to include sexual and reproductive health in the curriculum. The number of abortions performed, including among adolescent girls, had fallen by 20 per cent in 2024, and more than 900 healthcare practitioners had received training in the treatment of complications arising from abortion.

With funding from the World Bank, work was under way to enable the Ministry of Health to carry out the initial steps for birth registration electronically, using a system that was interoperable with the national civil register, and thus capture up to 92 per cent of births.

10. In 2024, food supplements had been distributed to children in 10 of the country's departments and the protocol for the care of acute malnutrition in children under 5 years of age had been updated. Overweight and obesity continued to be a problem and would be measured in the updated national children's census and the demographic and health survey to be conducted in 2025, using the STEPwise approach to non-communicable disease risk factor surveillance (STEPS). A law regulating energy drinks had been adopted, and a bill on front-of-package nutrition labelling was before the National Congress. With the impetus of the President, the system of healthcare copayments had been abolished in December 2024 to reduce barriers to access to healthcare services and standardize costs.

11. Lastly, alcoholism, especially among men, and smoking, in particular among young people, remained the most prevalent forms of substance abuse. Although there had not been a rise in drug use, as Honduras was primarily a country of transit for synthetic drugs, a national reference centre for addiction was being established, with a focus on the younger population.

12. **A representative of Honduras** said that the bill on the rights of persons with disabilities included key principles of the Convention, such as the fullest development of the child, the State's obligation to provide inclusive education, prevention and early detection of disability, and non-discrimination. While the bill did not specifically mention the principle of subsidiarity, its general approach was to promote the responsibility of the State in ensuring equal opportunities and access to services rather than place the entire burden on families or private bodies. The bill should be finalized in the first quarter of 2025, then submitted to the plenary legislative chamber.

13. The bill on social protection was ready for submission to the Council of Ministers, while the action plan should be presented in March 2025. Coordination between those instruments and the comprehensive child protection system would be ensured by the Cabinet Council on Social Affairs.

14. In cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics, a section on disability, based on the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning, would be included in the national population and housing census expected to be conducted in August and September 2025. More than 2,180 children with disabilities, of whom about 60 per cent were boys and 40 per cent were girls and many of whom were Indigenous, had received services in 2024, down from some 3,400 children with disabilities in 2023; the largest subgroup of beneficiaries was children between the ages of 6 and 12 years. The National Coordination Office for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples was formulating a plan to address discrimination against Indigenous and Afro-Honduran children and children from other vulnerable groups.

15. A census had been conducted pursuant to the *Case of the Miskito Divers (Lemoth Morris et al.) v. Honduras*, leading to the registration of 15,000 children of divers. In addition, a technical assessment of the physical condition of the homes of the divers had been completed, and their electrification was under way.

16. **A representative of Honduras** said that the purpose of the bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure and the Notary Act, as well as articles 187, 238 and 243–245 of the Family Code, was manifold. It would, among other things, make it possible for custody of children to be held by only one parent where there was agreement between the parents, where ordered by the courts or where one parent was prevented from having custody due to, inter alia, physical or mental incapacity, an absence of at least six months, establishment of residency abroad or a situation that threatened the best interests of the children and directly or indirectly hindered their development and enjoyment of their rights.

17. Another objective of the proposed amendments was to reduce the length of time that persons who had been abandoned by their spouse had to wait before filing for divorce to one year after the desertion. The time after which couples could divorce by mutual consent would also be shortened to one year after the marriage date. The reasoning behind those

amendments was that expediting the divorce process in such cases would be in the best interests of any children concerned and help to reduce the impact on their development and well-being. The amendments were currently under examination by the committee of the National Congress in charge of matters relating to children, adolescents and the family, which had already begun preparing a favourable opinion, taking into account the views of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Honduran Union of Notaries.

18. The Government was committed to moving forward with the harmonization of national laws with international standards in the area of children's rights. It had established the National Children's Congress to provide Honduran children with a forum to learn about the legislative process, freely discuss their ideas on legislative matters and submit draft laws. Pursuant to the National Children's Congress Act, the body met for one week each year and was composed of 128 children representing all 18 of the country's departments. Each child received training on the legislative process to facilitate their full participation in the body's activities. Girls had accounted for more than half the representatives in each of the three sessions held thus far. In two of the three sessions, a girl had been chosen to act as President. Efforts had been made to guarantee the participation of children from all parts of the country, and at least four departments ensured that children from ethnic minority groups were among their representatives. All three sessions had involved the participation of representatives with disabilities, who had submitted draft laws on the promotion of the rights of children with disabilities.

19. Climate change had been one of the key focuses of the 2023 session of the National Children's Congress, at which the representatives had submitted 18 draft laws aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues. Their efforts had led to the adoption by the National Congress of laws on topics such as the incorporation of content on climate change and the environment into the national curriculum and the promotion of society-wide climate action. At the 2024 session, the representatives had prepared draft laws supporting the teaching of traditional languages and art forms and promoting an anti-racist and intercultural curriculum that respected the customs and world views of ethnic, Indigenous and Afro-Honduran groups.

20. The bill on the "Aulas-Cuna" (mother and baby classrooms) programme had been presented to the National Congress at a special session held to mark the 2024 edition of International Women's Day. The objective of the programme would be to lower school dropout rates among adolescent mothers by enabling them to study while their child was cared for by a professional. The bill was currently under examination by the committee in charge of matters relating to children, adolescents and the family, which had requested input from the Supreme Court of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development.

21. **A representative of Honduras** said that a recently introduced bill was aimed at tackling all forms of obstetric and gynaecological violence against women and ensuring that they were treated with dignity and respect when receiving sexual and reproductive healthcare and giving birth. The Act on Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence had been adopted by the National Congress in March 2024 in order to ensure the financial sustainability and smooth functioning of such centres. The Act contained specific provisions on care for women migrants, returnees, refugees and victims of trafficking and guaranteed special assistance for children who had been affected by violence. Such children had the right to stay with their mothers in shelters, with measures being taken to ensure the continuation of their education.

22. Steps taken to address the issue of child mental health had included the submission of a bill that would provide for the introduction of mental health programmes in educational establishments and the development of strategies to improve children's social, communication and problem-solving skills. Another recent development had been the adoption of a law establishing a protocol on suicide prevention and care for students who presented a suicide risk.

23. Efforts would continue to be made to secure the adoption of an act on comprehensive education for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, the objective of which would be to prevent unwanted pregnancies by guaranteeing the delivery in all public and private schools of an education that promoted a responsible approach to sex and provided children with

age-appropriate scientific information. With regard to abortion access, attempts to foster an open dialogue on sexual and reproductive rights were hampered by social and cultural resistance and the persistence of various legal and political obstacles. It was not currently possible to secure the three-quarters majority required in the National Congress to amend article 67 of the Constitution in order to loosen abortion restrictions.

24. A committee tasked with reforming the Criminal Code had been set up by the National Congress. That committee was still in the process of reviewing the definitions of crimes involving children, which meant that details of any potential reforms relating to crimes against sexual freedom or integrity were not yet available. Once the committee had submitted its report, the President of the National Congress would establish a body to draft a new Criminal Code.

25. A bill on domestic workers was at the final stage of debate in the National Congress, which was also working to garner support for the adoption of a bill that would enable children in street situations to receive assistance from the Honduran Social Security Institute. The Act for the Prevention of Internal Displacement and the Protection and Care of Internally Displaced Persons had been adopted to facilitate the establishment of mechanisms that would prevent internally displaced children from falling into street and vulnerable situations by guaranteeing them access to education, mental health services and humanitarian assistance.

26. **A representative of Honduras** said that the National Protocol for the Comprehensive Care and Protection of Children in Migration Situations set out guidelines for assisting unaccompanied children, including Hondurans abroad and migrants transiting through the country. Honduran consular offices abroad had access to the national register of persons and played a crucial role in identifying any unaccompanied Honduran children present in their respective host countries. The National Institute of Migration was responsible for identifying unaccompanied migrant children in Honduras and referring them to the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family, which would then determine whether those children's rights had been violated before applying the necessary protective measures or initiating the repatriation process.

27. The Government was currently conducting the final stage of the census of residential care centres, which meant that it did not yet have statistics on the children with disabilities living in such centres. Its records, however, suggested that at least 420 children had been admitted to them. The Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family had signed agreements with four organizations to guarantee the protection of children with disabilities in institutions and provide technical assistance to improve the quality of the care provided by those institutions' staff. Ensuring that such staff had the specialist qualifications necessary to do their job remained a challenge owing to the lack of training opportunities.

28. Each of the country's seven Cities for Women Centres had a dedicated unit for adolescents, which ran workshops on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health and life skills. The units also worked to help adolescents who already had a child to avoid falling pregnant a second time. In 2024, more than 8,100 adolescents had participated in the units' activities. From 2022 to 2024, some 5,550 families had participated in sessions organized by the National Police's National Prevention and Community Safety Directorate on topics such as violence prevention, drug use, cybercrime against children and adolescents and trafficking in persons. The National Police was running a programme aimed at preventing violence among young people and stopping them from joining gangs, through which it had worked with more than 300,000 children since 2021.

29. **A representative of Honduras** said that President Castro Sarmiento had recently called on the incoming President of the United States of America to engage in frank and constructive dialogue to identify bilateral solutions to migration-related challenges. Even if those efforts proved futile, the Government was already taking the measures necessary to ensure that it would be able to handle a large number of returnees.

30. **A representative of Honduras** said that President Castro Sarmiento had proposed organizing summits of regional Heads of State and meetings of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in order to address the migration challenge. The Government continued to follow policies that guaranteed migrants' human rights and was working to strengthen ties with the authorities of the countries through which Honduran migrants

transited. The Migration Governance Council had prepared a presidential decree on assistance for Hondurans abroad, which would provide for an increase in the budget earmarked for that purpose, the opening of two consular offices in the United States, the delivery of legal assistance and official documents for the Hondurans concerned and the strengthening of the family reunification programme. Steps would also be taken to run informational campaigns and facilitate the reintegration of the more than 180,000 Hondurans who had returned to the country since 2022.

31. The National Institute of Migration was responsible for verifying the legitimacy of each document submitted by minors wishing to obtain a passport. It sought to promote safe, orderly and regular migration by ensuring that any minor who left the country had valid travel documents and had obtained permission from a parent or guardian.

32. In 2023, 97 per cent of births in the country had been registered. The National Registry Office had established outposts in 20 of the 29 hospitals nationwide. Birth registration services had continued to operate during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. While midwives were not required to declare births outside the formal health system, they did prepare an informal document containing the information needed to register the child. The deadlines for the registration of Honduran children born in the national territory and those born in border areas in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua were six months and 90 days, respectively. Parents living in border areas had been targeted by campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the time frame for registration. A project was being run to incorporate unregistered persons into the National Registry Office's database, and the transition to the new national identity card had been accompanied by the establishment of additional databases containing information on a persons' ethnicity and disability status and whether he or she wished to donate organs.

33. Mobile consular offices issued birth certificates to Hondurans born abroad for a fee of \$32.50. All such citizens over the age of 6 months had to be added to the register of Hondurans living abroad. The offices also issued passports and national identity cards, which could now be obtained by any Honduran aged 6 years and above.

34. **A representative of Honduras** said that the prevalence of the informal economy continued to hinder efforts to tackle child labour. The list of hazardous work for children, established in 2007, was set to be updated for the second time, with a particular focus on activities in the agricultural sector. On the basis of the results of the survey on child labour, the National Commission for the Gradual, Progressive Elimination of Child Labour had drawn up a road map for the eradication of child labour, which sought to facilitate cooperation among the competent institutions. Efforts had been made to ensure that the Commission had the budget needed to implement measures that were essential for achieving its goal.

35. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security operated nine day-care centres around the country that provided free childcare to women who could not afford it. Children attending the centres were provided with education, food and healthcare and were therefore less likely to engage in child labour in the informal economy.

36. The Directorate General of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security was the only body authorized to grant work permits to adolescents in accordance with the conditions set out in the Children and Adolescents' Code. The minimum age at which adolescents were permitted to work was 14 years. Under the regulations governing child labour, children aged 14 and 15 years were permitted to work for a maximum of four hours per day, while children aged 16 and 17 could work for a maximum of six hours per day. The Directorate General of Social Welfare carried out monitoring activities to ensure that the regulations were respected. Inspection units evaluated workplaces and an occupational medicine unit carried out medical examinations of adolescents to determine whether they were mentally and physically fit to work. The procedures put in place protected the labour rights of adolescents by ensuring that they worked in decent conditions for a limited number of hours and received a fair salary for their work.

37. **Mr. Pedernera Reyna** (Country Task Force), noting that children and adolescents comprised almost 40 per cent of the population of Honduras, said that the Government might consider making greater efforts to combat child pregnancy in the face of conservative groups that sought to restrict children's rights. According to a recent survey, one out of every two

women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 years had been a victim of sexual violence within the previous 12 months, and 9 out of 10 of those victims had not made a complaint because they did not trust the justice system. In view of that situation, he wished to know what measures could be taken to strengthen the justice system with a view to eradicating impunity for sexual violence.

38. It would be interesting to learn how many Honduran nationals had been returned to Honduras from the United States, why so many of those people made further attempts to enter the United States and what the Government was doing to address the problems that led people to leave Honduras. He would welcome further information on the bill on tax fairness and any obstacles that could prevent the bill from being adopted.

39. **Ms. Correa** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that it would be interesting to receive further information on the budgetary funds allocated to measures targeting older children and adolescents and the steps taken to monitor the implementation of policies relating to them. She wondered what relationship there was between the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights and the municipal children's defenders, posts which, according to some reports, no longer existed in many municipalities. She wished to know what steps were taken to ensure the independent monitoring of measures to protect children in the municipalities, what efforts had been made to investigate reports that over 20 children in Honduras had disappeared in 2024 and what the outcome of the investigations had been.

40. She would be grateful to hear about any measures taken to promote the direct participation of all children and adolescents in all forums, at all levels, and any mechanisms or strategies in place to promote such participation in schools and communities. She would like to know what steps were being taken to eradicate early pregnancy and early marriage, particularly among Indigenous girls and women, and to ensure access to justice for all residents of Honduras. It would be useful to know how the principle of the best interests of the child was defined in national law and what role the courts played in ensuring respect for that principle.

41. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** (Country Task Force) said that he wished to know how the complaints mechanism for children with disabilities worked, how children were made aware of the mechanism and what procedure was used to submit a complaint. He would like to know whether a complaints mechanism had been set up for children deprived of their liberty and, if so, whether the mechanism was accessible, how children were informed about it, how the authorities responded to complaints and how many complaints had been processed.

42. He would appreciate information on any measures to support children whose parents were in prison but who lived outside the prison, where they often experienced poverty and stigmatization. Given that adolescents could be authorized to work between four and six hours per day, depending on their age, he wondered how the State party ensured that children's right to work did not adversely affect their enjoyment of the right to education.

43. **Ms. Aho** (Country Task Force) said that she wished to know what was being done to support children who were mentally ill, to prevent suicide among children and to ensure that children did not abuse alcohol and tobacco. It would be useful to know whether hospitals employed specialized staff to care for children with mental health problems.

44. She welcomed the measures being taken to prevent second pregnancies among adolescent girls but wished to know why further efforts were not being made to prevent all early pregnancies, including by increasing the availability of the emergency contraceptive pill. She would appreciate details of any steps being taken to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

45. **Ms. Beloff** said that she wished to know whether all legal provisions relating to children and adolescents would be brought together in a single legal instrument or whether there would continue to be different laws relating to different aspects of children's rights. She wondered whether a specific strategy was in place to eradicate child domestic labour or whether the same strategy was applied to all forms of child labour.

46. **Mr. Jaffé**, noting the delegation's claim that schools were the safest places in Honduras, said that he wished to know how it squared that claim with reports that over half of children were bullied in school.

47. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he wished to know what was being done to tackle the very high levels of violence and sexual abuse to which children were subjected. In particular, he would appreciate information on any protocols established to tackle such violence and abuse. It would be interesting to learn whether it was mandatory to report the abuse of children, whether any particular agencies were responsible for receiving reports of abuse and, if so, how they dealt with such reports. He wondered whether a multi-agency or interdisciplinary approach to the problem of child abuse was taken and whether forensic interviews were conducted to gather testimonies from children that could be used in court proceedings. Information on the treatment of children in the court system would be welcome.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

48. **A representative of Honduras** said that efforts had been made for many years to tackle child sexual abuse in a coordinated manner. In that connection, the Government had developed a care pathway for child and adolescent victims of such offences. The pathway had been formulated in consultation with different agencies and forums, making it possible to identify the different institutions that facilitated access to justice for child victims. Prosecutors received training in dealing with cases of child sexual abuse to enhance their capacity to protect victims. A total of 19 Gesell chambers had been set up so that children could be interviewed in appropriate conditions.

49. At the local level, the municipal councils took account of the need to tackle sexual abuse and violations of rights in general. In 2024, the possibility of declaring a state of emergency relating to sexual abuse had been discussed. The participation of children in municipal councils was promoted and civil society organizations made efforts to set up children's councils and develop methodologies for promoting children's participation. In schools, boards of governors also examined ways of ensuring that children were represented. More than 1.5 billion lempiras had been invested in institutions that worked with children.

50. Comprehensive support units worked with the Secretariat for Women to provide sex education to all girls. The first National Policy on Children, Adolescents and the Family had been adopted in September 2024. One of the goals prioritized in the policy was the prevention of violence against children. In order to achieve that goal, all relevant institutions would be incorporated into the Comprehensive System for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Honduras. The institutions concerned had drawn up a plan for preventing and monitoring violence against children. The measures to be taken and the budgets required to implement them had been set out in guidelines. A proposal to amend the law governing adoption with a view to expediting adoption procedures had been put forward.

51. Efforts were being made to increase the participation of children in preschool education and to promote breastfeeding and vaccination. A total of 70 per cent of the staff of the Ministry for Children, Adolescents and the Family were professionals with university-level qualifications in the areas of social work, psychology, law, medicine and other areas. All staff had undergone an evaluation process to ensure their suitability for their posts. The Ministry was establishing an observatory that would be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

52. **A representative of Honduras** said that safeguarding the best interests of the child was the guiding principle of the National Children's Congress Act. The Children's Congress was an age-appropriate exercise that was designed, with the input of the Ministry of Education and civil society organizations, to facilitate children's understanding of democracy from an early stage.

53. **A representative of Honduras** said that it was in response to criticism that the most recent Criminal Code failed to criminalize certain acts and provided for excessively light penalties for others that the Government was considering either amending or replacing the Code. The committee tasked with reviewing the Criminal Code was meeting with civil society organizations, State institutions and other bodies as part of its work.

54. Psychological support services were provided in all schools and children were assisted with acquiring skills that they needed inter alia to resist the temptation of drugs and to resolve disputes with their classmates. Mental health services aimed at suicide prevention were provided in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Education.

55. **A representative of Honduras** said that of the returned migrants who were leaving Honduras again, many were people who had originally left the country as part of a major outflow of migrants during the previous 30 years as a result of events that included Hurricane Mitch in 1998, the Honduran coup d'état in 2009 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Having resided for a time in the United States and then been deported, many such people wished to return to that country in order to be reunited with their families. Others had left Honduras again because of the levels of violence, resulting inter alia from drug trafficking and drug smuggling, that they had encountered upon returning to the country or because their communities had been driven from their land so that it could be used for obtaining natural resources. The Government was taking steps to address some of the structural problems that were causing returned migrants to leave again, including combating drug trafficking and dismantling organized crime. The Government was also seeking, through a range of projects and programmes, to incentivize returned migrants to remain in Honduras.

56. In drafting its migration policy, the Government had sought the input of migrants, civil society, various international bodies present in Honduras and representatives from 20 government institutions. The policy was intended to make all stages of the migration process safe and orderly and to strengthen the network of services provided by the 20 government institutions that were involved in implementing it. The Government was working with the National Institute of Migration and a centre for migration studies to better understand migration dynamics in the country.

57. **A representative of Honduras** said that there were no prospects of a military intervention in the event of crises arising in juvenile detention centres. Efforts were instead being made to transform such centres into institutions that promoted education and protected human rights.

58. **A representative of Honduras** said that educational internment centres and six regional centres for young people who were subject to non-custodial measures made available complaints boxes to which only monitoring teams and gender units at such sites had access. Any complaints that appeared to relate to criminal acts were referred to the justice system. Alternative reporting channels included human rights organizations; in 2024 there had been 15 visits to such sites by the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights, 21 visits by the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and 4 visits from a juvenile justice oversight body. Pursuant to article 2 of the Criminal Code, staff at the aforementioned centres were obligated to report any violations.

59. Sexual and reproductive health education formed part of the core national curriculum for adolescents, while the National Institute for the Care of Juvenile Offenders had a well-being commission comprising doctors, psychologists, social workers and other specialists who delivered talks every two weeks on sexual and reproductive health and mental health, including in relation to preventing suicide and drug dependency. As part of a joint project with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, a psychological support clinic had been established at the Nuevo Jalteva Prison, and similar clinics would be established at four other educational internment centres. A laboratory had been set up at the National Institute for the Care of Juvenile Offenders which assisted in the diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases and with the conduct of drug and alcohol tests. The Institute had also worked with the Ministries of Education and Health and the Honduran Institute for the Prevention of Alcoholism, Drug Addiction and Drug Dependence to safeguard young people's health and well-being. The Victoria Project provided assistance in all cases of drug addiction among young people who were subject to non-custodial measures.

60. **A representative of Honduras** said that Honduras had ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), pursuant to which children in Honduras had been prohibited from performing any more than 14 hours of light work per week. Work authorizations for children were granted

only following rigorous checks and, in most cases, only for the holiday periods in December and January. Efforts were made in each case to ascertain that children were in formal education or vocational training. The majority of requests received were for children to work for fewer than the maximum number of hours permitted. The Government now gathered statistics on domestic work performed by children by means of a survey and was currently analysing data that it had gathered with the help of local government bodies.

61. **A representative of Honduras** said that children's recreational and leisure spaces in disadvantaged areas were regularly patrolled by the police and other security personnel so that children residing there could enjoy their rights to recreational and leisure activity. Honduras had established a system for monitoring the implementation of recommendations issued by the international and Inter-American human rights systems. It had also set up observatories in various State institutions, including a human rights observatory within the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Observatory of Youth Rights under the National Institute for Youth. The National Institute of Statistics compiled and distributed data on children, young people and families for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

62. **A representative of Honduras** said that in flagrante delicto cases of domestic violence, violence against women, sexual violence and gender-based violence were investigated by the police. A unit for emergencies responded to requests from the relevant prosecutor's office regarding crimes being committed. There were 21 specialized prosecutor's offices that handled cases of harassment of children and adolescents and cases involving young offenders, and 17 comprehensive care units for children and adolescents who were victims of crimes; 4 such units were operated in Tegucigalpa and 2 in San Pedro Sula. The Public Prosecution Service had teams that investigated deaths of minors in cooperation with homicide investigators from the National Police. Units for preventing sexual violence against children in schools had been established in coordination with the police and had developed an operational plan for caring for victims of such offences.

63. In addition to developing public policies and programmes for combating poverty and ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights in Honduras, it was essential for the Government to have the funds and resources needed to implement them. The bill on tax fairness that was intended to secure such resources was currently being blocked by individuals with political and economic vested interests. The delegation had taken note of the Committee's questions and recommendations, and would endeavour to submit any outstanding replies within 48 hours.

64. **Ms. Correa** encouraged the State party not to lose ground in its efforts to promote and protect children's rights and to seek to efficiently address the many challenges in upholding the Convention that Honduras faced.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.