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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Written statement^{*} submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 May 2009]

^{*} This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Rights of the child

In view of the technological and industrial advances today, all constituting components of society are all connected to each other, and at the top of these are economic conditions which if weakened or undermined, all sectors of society are affected greatly. The main threat in all of this is the threat against the weaker elements of society among which children can be seen as the most vulnerable.

Since the global economic conditions are worsening, and every day the unemployment rate in developed industrial countries is on the rise, families with low incomes and immigrants and ethnic and religious minorities suffering the most,

Since as well as financial problems, the unemployment of the breadwinners of families will also bring about mental and psychological pressures, and this factor directly affects their behaviours at home, particularly on children,

And since the feeding, education and recreation are all vital but costly factors in the growing up process of children,

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) expresses its deepest concern on the conditions of children whose rights may be violated or disregarded due to the aforementioned conditions, violations that include domestic violence, malnutrition, education, and recreation depravation, which cause unsuitable upbringing. The ODVV draws the attention of the Council that in view of the forecasts, following the stabilisation of the economic crisis in developed countries, a new phase of crises with stronger repercussions will begin in developing and Third World countries, and the children of these countries will face greater threats where instead of education and playtime they will only experience poverty, hunger and depravation. If caught up in the middle of this economic crisis, these countries will be faced with human catastrophes and death, therefore all governments must adopt decisions for demands and take suitable measures to prevent these disasters from taking place.

As a nongovernmental organization active in the field of human rights, the ODVV believes that under these circumstances, the protection of children's rights as the custodians of mankind's future, requires the special attention of the Council and the planning of two long and short term protection programmes: the first being the protection and support of children in developed countries (migrant, ethnic and religious minorities children), and the second support and protection for children in developing countries, are urgently required. From the infrastructure aspects both programmes seem necessary for the children of the Earth, and as well as the foreseeing needs and making an infrastructure, practical solutions must be considered to prevent children from becoming victims in difficult conditions, economic, armed conflicts and wars. One of these support mechanisms can be the financial support of developed countries, and help in expanding free education through increasing the quality and quantity of schools and teachers in all parts of the world, establish cash funds for children for financial aid during crises, the drawing up of a plan for international anti-war and non-discrimination culturisation through the facilities at the disposal of the UN, and also making these operational.

The ODVV hopes that the Human Rights Council will take necessary measures on the subject of children as a fundamental factor, so that these challenges and causes for concern will disappear in the future.

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