

The Children's Ombudsman's comments concerning
the Swedish Government's fourth periodic report to
the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

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Summary

In this report, the Children's Ombudsman provides observations on the Swedish Government's fourth report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ("the Committee"). In this statement, the Children's Ombudsman has chosen to comment on the sections in which the Government has not been sufficiently clear in its report or areas in which the Children's Ombudsman believes the Government has not taken sufficient measures regarding the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (the CRC).

Principal areas of concern

Commenting on Sweden's fourth report the Children's Ombudsman would like to specifically highlight three areas of main concern: the regional differences in Sweden regarding the implementation of the CRC, the situation for children without permanent residence permit in Sweden and the fact that children in Sweden, 20 years after the ratification of the CRC, still know very little about their rights.

Local differences in the implementation of the rights of the child in Sweden

Municipal autonomy implies that local and regional authorities themselves, to a large extent, make decisions on how they wish to draw up their activities. Consequently it is of major importance that decision-makers on a national level are able to create good conditions for municipalities, county councils and regions to implement the CRC in their activities. On a national level, it is also very important to improve on follow-ups of how the CRC is to be carried out in practice, both on a local and regional level.

The Children's Ombudsman is preoccupied with the fact that large disparities remain between municipalities, county councils and regions, concerning the implementation of the CRC. On a practical level, it signifies that the quality level in schools and health care, as well as the amount of support provided from the social services differ essentially in various parts of Sweden. It is especially disturbing when these disparities affect children in vulnerable situations, for example when parental support fails, or when children with special needs or disabled children are afflicted. For example:

- There are large variations in the level of child poverty within and between municipalities.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to ensure the eradication of variations in results between different schools and different regions.

Children without permanent residence permit

- The Government has not taken measures to ensure that undocumented children have equal rights to healthcare as all other children in Sweden.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to ensure that all children enjoy the right to education, although certain measures have been taken.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to appoint a temporary guardian within 24 hours of arrival for every unaccompanied child.

Children's and young people's knowledge about their rights

- Knowledge about the CRC is still deficient among children and young people. Schools comprise a natural arena in which the stipulations and principles of the CRC should be discussed. Accordingly, the Children's Ombudsman believes that schools should be responsible for informing each child of his or her rights under the CRC.

Other areas of concern

- The Government has not called sufficient attention to the situation of homeless children and of children in financially vulnerable situations.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to establish a standing structure for coordination at all levels comprising organisations, ministries, county councils, municipalities and NGOs.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation concerning the collection and desegregation of data concerning children with disabilities.
- The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to provide suitable assistance to children in disputes regarding custody, living arrangements and visitation.

1. General measures of implementation (articles 4, 42 and 44.6 of the CRC)

Independent monitoring

4. The Committee welcomes again the implementation of its recommendations made upon consideration of the State party's second periodic report. The Committee, however, regrets that some of the concerns and recommendations have been insufficiently addressed, particularly those contained in paragraphs 11 (discrimination against "children in hiding"), 16 (provision of family counselling services free of charge), 18 (economic disparities) and 19 (bullying).

Discrimination of undocumented children

The Government has not guaranteed that all children living in Sweden will be given the right to healthcare. Undocumented children who have not applied for asylum are still excluded from this right. On 1 July 2008, a new law came into effect that regulates the county councils' obligations to offer asylum seekers and others healthcare and dental care. The new law entails a clearer regulation of care offered to asylum seekers in accordance with special agreements between the State and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKL). Among other aspects, the law means that children, who have applied for residence permits or who are in avoidance of a decision of denial of asylum or a decision of deportation, shall be offered care to the same extent as children resident in Sweden, which is a step in the right direction. However, the law does not cover children who are undocumented, which is distressing. These children have and will only have the right to immediate care under the Health and Medical Services Act.

Homeless children and young people

The Stockholm City Mission defines homeless children and young people as children who do not have a safe and permanent home. Instead, they sometimes or in most cases spend the day at different locations –by their own volition or due to actions of parents or other guardians.¹

Young people are not considered homeless when their parents or guardians have housing, hence there are no statistics on the number of children and young people who partially or entirely lack a permanent home. Homeless children have long since gone unseen, and society takes little interest in the situation of these children.²

It is twice as common for girls to run away from home as boys. Girls with an immigrant background are strongly overrepresented. Homelessness among children and young people can also arise when they are thrown out of the house. Children and young people who are homeless for these reasons have not received as much attention as the children of the homeless. One out of three homeless adults has a child under the age of 18.³

¹ Stockholm City Mission. Unga i hemlöshet, vuxna i maktlöshet - frivilligorganisationens möjligheter (Homeless young people, powerless adults – the non-profit organisation's possibilities). 2008.

² Swärd, Hans. "Allt fler barn är hemlösa" (More and more children are homeless) on the website of the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research www.fas.forskning.se. 2007.

³ Swärd, Hans. "Allt fler barn är hemlösa" (More and more children are homeless) on the website of the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research www.fas.forskning.se. 2007.

Homelessness among children also occurs in cases where the parent has proper housing, but is not residing with the child. A preferable scenario would be the acquirement of distinct surveys, pinpointing the actual number of children who are homeless.

Child poverty

One definition of child poverty comprises children who grow up in households that have a low income standard or in families that receive sustenance support. Today, 242,000 children live in households designated as poor. This corresponds to slightly more than 12 per cent of all children in Sweden. Of these, a majority, 135,000, have a foreign background, which is the factor that most strongly contributes to economic vulnerability. Just over 47 per cent live with a lone guardian. Differences in conditions during childhood and adolescence between children of single and cohabitating parents have increased in recent years. The gaps have increased markedly during this decade.

There are large variations in the level of child poverty within and between municipalities. There is more than 27 per cent difference between the municipality with the lowest proportion of children in poverty and the municipality with the highest proportion. There are significantly more children who live in poverty in the three large cities. In Stockholm slightly more than 18 per cent, in Gothenburg approximately 20 per cent and in Malmö just over 31 per cent.⁴

Indebtedness of children

Today, there are nearly 80,000 unpaid debts that have arisen when the debtor was under the age of 18. Of the debtors, 67,000 are still children. The debts arise as a result of for example municipalities and county councils charging of fees for dental and healthcare, or due to tax debts.⁵ The Children's Ombudsman believes that children's right to avoid indebtedness must be further clarified by the Government, particularly in light of the fact that a large part of these debts originate from public operations.

7. The Committee recommends that:

- a) The State party consider providing the Children's Ombudsman with the mandate to investigate individual complaints;
- b) The annual report of the Children's Ombudsman be presented to the Parliament, together with information about measures the Government intends to take to implement the recommendations of the Children's Ombudsman.

a) The possibility for children and young people to submit complaints

In discussions with the Committee in Geneva regarding Sweden's third report, the Government representative stated that a child can turn to the Parliamentary Ombudsmen (JO) to receive review as to whether his or her rights have been provided for.

All who believe that they themselves or somebody else has been erroneously or unjustly treated by an authority or employee at an authority can submit a complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsmen. As special prosecutors, Parliamentary Ombudsmen can indict a public servant for a breach of duty or

⁴ Salonen, Tapio. Barnfattigdomen i Sverige - årsrapport 2007 (Child Poverty in Sweden – Annual Report 2007). Save the Children Sweden, 2007.

⁵ Swedish Data Inspection Board. Skuldsatta barn (Children in debt). Hantering av underåriga gäldenärer hos inkassoombuden (Processing of underage debtors at collection agents). Swedish Data Inspection Report 2008:2.

another offense of duty. The Parliamentary Ombudsmen also have the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings against a public servant for misconduct. It is most common for Parliamentary Ombudsmen to make critical, guiding and/or advisory statements as a part of their supervisory activities. A statement from the Parliamentary Ombudsmen is never legally binding.

The Parliamentary Ombudsmen receive few reports directly from children, but handle these reports with care. The Parliamentary Ombudsmen can handle some cases, where grounds exist, without contacting the guardians. Few children are aware that they can turn to the Parliamentary Ombudsmen.

One major concern is that children and young people lack real possibilities of claiming their rights. Courts are generally inaccessible to children as are supervisory authorities such as the Parliamentary Ombudsmen, county administrative boards, the Inspectorate of Schools, etc. They are either not adapted to children's needs or lack the authority to change decisions that conflict with the rights of the child. Children are expected to be represented by their guardians in most areas. The Children's Ombudsman assumes that the guardians most often have the best interests of the child in mind although this is not always the case. Consequently, the rights of the child are at risk of not being ensured. It is therefore important for supervisory authorities to adapt their activities to the needs of children.

The Children's Ombudsman investigated the conditions for municipal or regional children's representatives. In the report *Uppdrag barn och unga (2004)* (Mission Children and Young People), we proposed that the Government encourage municipalities, county councils and regions to establish children's and youth representatives. A local children's representative could coordinate efforts between various local and regional actors. The Government has not taken any initiative in this area and we would like to see an account of how the Government views this issue.

b) The annual report of the Children's Ombudsman should be presented to the Parliament

The Government has not yet complied with the Committee's recommendation to present the Children's Ombudsman's annual report to the Parliament. We seek clarity in how the Government intends to handle the Children's Ombudsman's annual reports and recommendations in the future.

Implementation, coordination, evaluation and National Plan

9. The Committee recommends that a standing structure involving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as relevant ministries, county councils and municipalities be established to coordinate actions between all actors to ensure the implementations of the CRC, including the concluding observations, at all levels.

The Government has not taken in the Committee's recommendations regarding implementation, coordination, evaluation and a national plan. Standing coordination of the work with the CRC by the actors concerned is still needed. The Children's Rights Forum (Barnrättsforum) that the Government has used and further developed does not meet the needs.

The Children's Ombudsman can itself involve actors in its work, but it is desirable that Government representatives participate and initiate coordination for the issue to gain greater weight.

The Government previously said that gathering actors from a large number of municipalities, county councils, national agencies and NGOs is unmanageable. The Children's Ombudsman believes that prioritisation is possible by turning to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, a selection of involved agencies, representatives for the Network for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the largest NGOs.

Data collection

11. The Committee recommends that the State party establish coordinated approach between all entities collecting data on children and introduce a comprehensive system of data collection incorporating all areas covered by the CRC. In particular, the Committee recommends that data on children:

- a) With disabilities be collected and disaggregated by type of disability;
- b) Victims of abuse be separated from that of adults;
- c) Victims of sexual exploitation be more precise.

a) Data on children with disabilities

The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendations to collect and categorise statistics on children with disabilities. The data on children and young people with disabilities is still deficient and should be improved. Through a good knowledge survey, deficiencies can be identified and measures taken.

The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare has designed a model to describe the living conditions of people with disabilities. The model was presented in May 2007. It is very important that resources be allocated for the development and realisation of the proposals of the National Board of Health and Welfare.⁶

⁶ National Board of Health and Welfare. *Levnadsförhållanden för personer med funktionshinder - En modell för att beskriva levnadsförhållanden för personer med funktionshinder (Living conditions for persons with disabilities - A model to describe the living conditions of persons with disabilities)*. 2007.

Training/dissemination of the CRC

13. The Committee encourages the State party to continue its efforts to provide adequate and systematic training and/or sensitization on children's rights for children and professional groups working with and for children, in particular law enforcement officials, as well as parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, health personnel, teachers, school administrators and others, as required.

Children's and young people's knowledge about their rights

Most work done for children in Swedish schools concerning the CRC is done on October 24th, United Nations Day. There is a long way to go before the CRC is a living document in Swedish classrooms. Knowledge about the CRC is still deficient among children and young people. Schools comprise a natural arena in which the stipulations and principles of the CRC should be discussed. Accordingly, the Children's Ombudsman believes that schools should be responsible for informing each child of his or her rights under the CRC. This should be regulated in the school's steering documents and apply to all types of schools for children and young people. Compulsory training on the CRC should also be included in teacher training.

Knowledge about children's rights among professions that work with and for children

Örebro University (in the Swedish Academy for the Rights of the Child) has been charged by the Government to offer tailor-made educational programmes for professionals who work with or for children. The Children's Ombudsman appreciates that the Government intends to charge the Academy to develop an educational programme for those who work in the legal system and those who are decision-makers and professionally active at the municipal and regional levels. The training programme should increase knowledge about the living conditions, special needs and rights of children.⁷

⁷ Government communiqué 2007/08:111 Barnpolitiken – en politik för barnets rättigheter (Child policy – a policy for the rights of the child).

2. General principles (articles 2, 3, 6 and 12)

Non-discrimination

19. The Committee recommends that the State party continue strengthening the measures taken to combat racism and xenophobia, including in the field of education.

Non-discrimination

The Act Prohibiting Discrimination and Other Degrading Treatment of Children and School Students entered into effect on 1 April 2006. It should promote the equal rights of children and students in the activities covered by the Education Act and combat discrimination due to gender, ethnic background, religion or other beliefs, sexual orientation or disability. A children's and students' representative was established with the same aim and is charged to review so-called equal treatment plans and cases of degrading treatment of students in schools.

The act expires at the end of 2008. The rules regarding discrimination and degrading treatment are entered into the Education Act and the new discrimination legislation. The new act not only prohibits discrimination, but also behaviour that violates a child's or a student's dignity. The party responsible for the school shall be liable for damages if a student has been violated and the school fails to investigate the matter. The student shall be compensated for the violation and damages. The period of limitation for reprisals against students is also extended.

Constitutional protection from discrimination due to age is insufficient. The regulation in Chapter 1 Section 2 of the Constitution Act is an aspiration and not an absolute right. The Government should consider if age should not be grounds for discrimination for children as well.

The Children's Ombudsman is of the opinion that discrimination legislation should be extended with rules stipulating fines if an equal treatment plan is missing in a school.

Racism and xenophobia

In the Children's Ombudsman's contact class survey of 2007 and in conversations with children and young people, it comes forth that issues of immigration, integration, racism and equal value are important to some of them. The children say that conflicts exist between children and young people of a foreign background and children and young people of a Swedish background. The National Agency for Education also reports this.

Foreign-born students and young people at middle school are those who, according to our survey, most often do not feel like they are granted equal rights. One fifth of the students in a study by the National Agency for Education have been subjected to ethnically related insults. Students of foreign backgrounds are overrepresented among those affected and the insults are most common in grade 8. Ethnically related insults affect both genders equally. Students with foreign backgrounds do not enjoy school as much.⁸

To the question in our 2007 survey as to whether there are people who feel that others are inferior, 46 per cent answered yes and 13 per cent maybe.

⁸ National Agency for Education. Delredovisning av regeringsuppdrag om diskriminering (U2006/5849/S) (Partial report on Government assignment regarding discrimination). 2007.

In the National Agency for Education report “Attityder till skolan” (Attitudes to school), 6 per cent of the students in middle school and upper secondary school say that racism often occurs at their school.⁹ Ten per cent indicate that it occurs sometimes. The responses do not vary between students of Swedish and foreign backgrounds.¹⁰

Also see section 36.

Best interests of the child

22. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate and efficient measures in order to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child form the basis and guide the process and decisions in asylum cases involving children, inter alia, by reforming the guidelines and procedures of the Swedish Migration Board.

In the appropriations documents for 2005 and 2006, the Swedish Migration Board has clear instructions regarding children and processing times. The agency shall report what steps were taken for children to be able to be heard. The appropriations documents have had an effect in the form of training in conversing with children and the development of child impact analyses. Recurring requirements in the appropriations documents are important to develop and ensure the best interests of the child in asylum proceedings.

In 2006, a new Aliens’ Act entered into effect in Sweden. The act includes the general principle of the best interests of the child. A new regulation on resident permits on the grounds of particularly distressing circumstances has replaced the rules on humanitarian grounds.

Save the Children Sweden has monitored how changes made to the asylum process in 2006 have affected the processing of and rulings on asylum cases involving children.¹¹ A survey was made of the rulings and court verdicts from the first half of 2007. The goal of the survey was to determine to the extent to which, and the ways in which, children’s reasons for seeking asylum were taken into account by the Swedish Migration Board and the migration courts.

The results of the survey show that the Swedish Migration Board only fully considered the reasons for asylum in less than half of all cases. The survey also showed that very limited use was made of information from the child’s country of origin that would have contributed to obtaining a better understanding of children’s rights in that country.

A study that treats families with children and resident permits due to particularly distressing circumstances was conducted at Malmö University in 2007.¹² The study shows that the best interests of the child are often mentioned in the court findings, but are not taken into account as often. How the best interests of the child are observed varies from a repetition of the plaintiff’s motion to the use of negating or general terms. In other cases, the court only confirms that consideration has been taken without clarifying how. In only two of the 24 judgements has a collective assessment of the

⁹ National Agency for Education. Attityder till skolan (Attitudes to school) 2006. National Agency for Education Report no. 299, 2007.

¹⁰ National Council for Crime Prevention and the Living History Forum. Intolerans, antisemitiska, homofobiska, islamofobiska och invandrarfientliga tendenser bland unga (Intolerance, anti-Semitic, homophobic, Islamophobic and anti-immigrant tendencies among the young). 2004.

¹¹ Save the Children Sweden. Nytt system gamla brister? Barns egna asylskäl efter ett år med den nya instans- och processordningen (New system old flaws? Children’s own reasons for asylum after one year with the new court and process order). 2008.

¹² Malmö University. Barnets bästa i migrationsdomstolarna (The best interests of the child in the migration courts). IMER, MR 41 -60.

best interests of the child been done based on both Chapter 1 Section 10 and Chapter 5 Section 6 of the Aliens' Act.

In only one of the judgements was the child interviewed, although the regulation in Chapter 1 Section 11 says that the child should be interviewed unless it is inappropriate. The 24 studied judgements involved 18 children in the ages 7–18 and 11 children in the ages 12–18.

The Swedish Migration Board's and the migration courts' competence regarding children's rights should be considerably improved. The Government should ensure that the requirement of "particularly distressing circumstances" for children is interpreted and applied in a manner in agreement with Article 3 of the CRC.

Respect for the views of the child

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Ensure that administrative or other decisions relevant to children contain information on how the views of the children were solicited, on the degree to which the views of the children were adopted and why;
- b) Consider providing children in very conflicting custody and visitation disputes with appropriate assistance.

a) Information on how the views of the child were solicited

Through surveys, the Children's Ombudsman has posed questions to municipalities, county councils/regions and national authorities on how they work to implement the CRC. A recurring issue is how the organisations apply Article 12 of the CRC. The most recent survey was conducted in 2007. The study shows that many municipalities have developed methods to provide children and young people influence. However, few authorities state that this is the case concerning the development of methods to provide children and young people's influence. In the county administrative boards, the views of children and young people are primarily gathered in the area of social care. There we see some positive development compared with earlier survey results.

Many actively work to give children and young people influence. But the fact that several municipalities have taken steps to create conditions to be able to provide children and young people the possibility to have an influence need not mean that children and young people themselves perceive that they have influence. In several of the Children's Ombudsman's surveys of children and young people, we see that adults have not asked children and young people what they think.

This area still does not function satisfactorily and the Government should take powerful measures for Article 12 of the CRC to have an impact within all areas of operation.

b) Assistance to children in very conflicting disputes

The Government has not implemented the Committee's recommendation to provide suitable assistance to children in disputes regarding custody, living arrangements and visitation. In May 2006, the Swedish Parliament passed a motion regarding special representatives for children in cases concerning custody, living arrangements and visitation and charged the Government to investigate the matter. The issue is currently being prepared, but no proposal for new legislation has yet been presented.

3. Civil rights and freedoms (articles 7, 8, 13–17, 19 and 37a);

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures, including by enforcing appropriate legislation, providing parental education and awareness-raising of children, to effectively protect children against violence on the Internet, television and computer games, and against the display of child pornography and encourage international cooperation in this respect.

The Government has taken some measures to protect children from portrayals of violence on the Internet, television and computer games, but these measures are insufficient.

Requirement of content declaration and labelling

More knowledge and research is needed regarding the effects of media consumption on children and young people. Each medium should be treated separately. The Internet, television/films and computer games affect children and young people to differing degrees and in different ways. Consumers should be able to place just as high requirements on media products as on other types of consumption.

Research and international cooperation

The Government should encourage research on the impact of the media on children in Sweden and support international cooperation concerning labelling. The labelling of media products should be based on research. Asking children, young people and their parents how the children are affected is not enough. The international PEGI labelling done on computer games should be reviewed and possibly further developed in cooperation with media researchers. It should be stated if the product can be harmful.

Protection from violence – child abuse (Article 19)

Corporal punishment of children has been forbidden in Sweden for nearly 30 years. However, the latest national statistical study of child abuse conducted in 2006 shows that it is still a major problem. The study consists of a parental survey and a school student survey. The student survey was conducted among students in grades 4, 6 and 9.¹³ The survey distinguishes between the attitudes of students and parents to corporal punishment and the actual occurrence of corporal punishment.¹⁴

A larger proportion of children are positive to corporal punishment than parents. Ten per cent of the students and seven per cent of the parents say that they are positive to corporal punishment.¹⁵

Those who have been hit by their parents or another adult in the home amount to 13 per cent. Those who say that they had been beaten many times amount to 1.4 per cent. Of those who were beaten, 19

13 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

14 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

15 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

per cent had been dealt powerful blows with the hand or with an object. Of the parents, 3 per cent said that they handled conflicts by hitting the child.¹⁶

Families where both parents were born abroad indicated more often that they had hit the child than families where one or both parents were born in Sweden. Foreign-born women were those who had hit their children to the furthest extent. Swedish-born men indicated significantly more often than other parents that they had pushed, grabbed hold of or shaken the child. In general, this type of punishment took place more in families where both parents were born in Sweden. Parents living in a rental apartment had hit their child more often than parents living in single-family homes. There was also a clear correlation between the occurrence of violence against the child and the parent's level of education.¹⁷

When the various background factors were analysed in relation to each other, it turns out that the differences in terms of corporal punishment between foreign-born and Swedish-born parents vanish when consideration is taken of their housing situation. Accordingly, the type of housing the family has is of greater significance than the country they come from.¹⁸

In May 2006, the Children's Ombudsman submitted a series of proposals to the Government to survey and prevent corporal punishment and violence against children. In autumn 2006, a worldwide study of violence against children was presented in the UN. The aim was to stop the violence of adults against children. No violence against children is acceptable. The UN study proposes that countries establish national strategies to prevent and react to violence against children.

16 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

17 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

18 Janson, S, Långberg, B and Svensson, B. Våld mot barn 2006-2007. En nationell kartläggning (Violence against children 2006-2007, A national survey). Allmänna Barnhuset and Karlstad University. 2007.

4. Family environment and alternative care (articles 5, 9–11, 18.1-2, 19–21, 25, 27.4 and 39)

Illicit transfer and non-return

28. The Committee recommends that the State party continue strengthening measures to prevent and combat illicit transfer and non-return of children and to solve pending cases, with due regard to the best interests of the child.

The Children's Ombudsman seeks measures from the Government to prevent and combat illicit transfer and non-return of children. Additional measures are required to solve the ongoing disputes in line with the best interests of the child. The Children's Ombudsman believes that active efforts should be conducted so that more bilateral agreements can be reached regarding children who have been taken away from a parent.

Before the Brussels II regulation entered into effect, the Children's Ombudsman was concerned that it could lead to a longer time passing between abduction and return. For the child, such a situation can entail two major moves, in part from the original home and in part from the country to which the child was transferred. If the process takes an extended period of time, the child may have acclimatised in the new country. Consequently, for the well-being of the child the process must take place rapidly to avoid acclimatisation.

Alternative care

30. The Committee recommends that:

- a) The State party take preventative measures specifically targeted at families with a foreign background, including awareness-raising within social services about the relevance of cultural background and immigrant status, so that help can be given before a situation develops that necessitates the taking of children into care;
- b) The regulation of cases where children are taken into care against their will take place under a separate umbrella from that of the National Board of Institutional Care, and that this regulation also ensure the quality of care.

a) Preventative measures

The Children's Ombudsman emphasizes the importance of the right parental support at the right time. Society must become better at informing newly immigrated parents of children's rights. All newly arrived families should receive information regarding the CRC, the Education Act and human rights and about where they can turn with questions during the children's adolescence and as they become adults. Several State commissions are working on or have recently submitted findings regarding issues of parental support, integration and the acceptance of asylum seekers. None of these commissions touch upon the need for special measures to support newly immigrated parents in their parenthood.

b) Children taken into care

To create security for children placed in foster homes for extended periods, a regulation was introduced in 2003 that means that when a child has been placed in the same foster home for three

years, the social welfare board shall consider if reason exists to apply for the transfer of custody to the foster home parents. To date, this has only been done in a few cases. The Children's Ombudsman believes that custody transfers should be used to a considerably broader extent when children have been placed in a foster home for an extended period and there appears to be little chance of return to the biological parents.

5. Basic health and welfare (articles 6, 18.3, 23, 24, 26, and 27.1–3)

Health and health services

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures:

- a) To reduce the stress level of school pupils and help them deal with its effects;
- b) To prevent suicide;
- c) To address the issue of bulimia and anorexia;
- d) To address the issue of overweight and obesity;
- e) To strengthen mental health programmes for children, both preventative and interventional.

General opinions

Today, it is unclear what decisions a child can make him or herself within healthcare. It is also unclear what obligations healthcare has to actively inform parents about the child's treatment and what insight the parents are entitled to. The Children's Ombudsman believes that legislation should be clarified in this area.

The fact that the current Education Act does not bring up school counsellors, school psychologists and special-needs educators except to say that school physicians and school nurses shall be available to pupils in all school units is a deficiency. Consequently, it is important that the future proposal of a new Education Act, which has been under preparation for a long time, contain requirements of these professions for the pupils' school healthcare/pupil health. The Children's Ombudsman also believes that the National Board of Health and Welfare should be given resources to exercise its supervision of the healthcare bodies for children and young people so that quality does not suffer.

a) Stress

Several current studies indicate that perceived stress is still a problem among young people.¹⁹ The Children's Ombudsman believes that the different situations and ways of expressing decreased well-being of boys and girls must be given more attention. Several reforms are advised in the area of education. The Children's Ombudsman considers it to be important that possibilities of calm for studying be created in schools and that the need for a good psycho-social study environment must be taken into consideration for future changes.

b) Suicide prevention

The numbers of suicide attempts that have led to admission to and treatment at hospital have increased since 1990 and girls attempt suicide more often than boys. Among 13–17 year-olds, it is about five times more common among girls than boys. Young people from homes with social assistance or with lone parents are more than twice as likely to have been cared for at hospital for self-destructive acts. Completed suicides are more common among boys.²⁰ With regard to homosexual and bisexual young people, a Swedish survey of young people ages 16–24 showed that the occurrence of suicide attempts was twice as high among homosexual and bisexual young women at 37 per cent, and three times as high among homosexual and bisexual young men at 24 per cent compared with young people in general. The average age at the time of the first suicide attempt was

¹⁹ National Agency for Education. Attityder till skolan (Attitudes to school) 2006. National Agency for Education Report no. 299, 2007.

²⁰ Children's Ombudsman and Statistics Sweden. Upp till 18 (Up to 18). 2007.

approximately 15 years.²¹ In the public health bill of June 2008, an effort to prevent suicide and suicide attempts among young people is announced, which the Children's Ombudsman welcomes.

c) Eating disorders

The number of young girls receiving hospital care for anorexia has increased for 15 years. Facts from the National Board of Health and Welfare show that 95 girls received hospital care for anorexia in 1990, compared with 299 girls admitted to hospital for care in 2005. The number of girls with other eating disorders also increased from 55 patients in 2002 to 65 patients in 2005.²² The Children's Ombudsman believes that experiences from treatment units with good results should be distributed to healthcare throughout the country.

e) Mental health

Most children and young people in Sweden are content with their lives. At the same time, psychological disorders appear to have increased in our time compared with the 1980s, mainly among girls in their upper teenage years. A rough estimate is that one out of every ten children is in the risk zone for a negative development, and that two to five per cent have more serious problems, according to the study of national psychiatric coordination.²³ The individualisation that is taking place in society, with more opportunities and thereby greater requirements on young people, is considered to be the cause of this change for the worse.²⁴ Various serious psychological problems also appear to have increased in recent years, such as self-destructive behaviour among girls, eating disorders and suicide attempts.²⁵

The Government's ambition, as expressed in the public health bill of 2008, is to shorten waiting times and queues to child and youth psychiatric services. With good and even quality in first line healthcare for children and young people, conditions improve for decreasing queues to child and youth psychiatric services. Accordingly, the Children's Ombudsman believes that it is important that sufficient resources be allocated to prenatal and postnatal care and child healthcare, pupil health/school healthcare, primary care and youth counselling centres/youth health so that these operations can function optimally throughout the country.

21 Hanner, Hans. Psykisk hälsa och ohälsa hos ungdomar 16-24 år som attraheras av personer av sitt eget kön (Mental health and illness among young people ages 16-24 who are attracted to persons of the same gender). Department of Psychology, Stockholm 2002 in Sweden belongs to the Children's Ombudsman, 2008.

22 Children's Ombudsman and Statistics Sweden. Upp till 18 (Up to 18). 2007.

23 The commission report Ambition och ansvar (Ambition and responsibility) (SOU 2006:100).

24 National Board for Youth Affairs. Fokus 07 – en analys av ungas hälsa och utsatthet (Focus 07 – an analysis of health and vulnerability of young people). 2007.

25 Children's Ombudsman and Statistics Sweden. Upp till 18 (Up to 18). 2007.

Adolescent health

34. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to promote adolescent health policies and strengthen the programme of health education in schools. It further recommends measures, including the allocation of adequate human and financial resources, to evaluate the effectiveness of training programmes in health education, in particular as regards reproductive health, and to develop youth-sensitive and confidential counselling, care and rehabilitation facilities that are accessible without parental consent when this is in the best interests of the child. It also recommends that the State party continue its efforts to prevent and combat the use of tobacco and drugs, and the abuse of alcohol.

Adolescent health

If one asks young people themselves, the vast majority believe they are in good health. Nearly 80 per cent of those who responded to survey questions from the National Board of Health and Welfare assess their general state of health to be very good or pretty good. At the same time, the same survey indicates that 40 per cent say that they have various psychosomatic ailments several times a week. Data shows that 4.6 per cent of the young women and 2.3 per cent of the young men bought anti-depressants at the pharmacy at some time during 2006. Hence, the picture of adolescent health is not unambiguous.²⁶

Different factors appear to have an effect on health, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare surveys. Being homosexual, bisexual or transsexual proves to contribute somewhat strongly to worse health among young girls, but not among boys. Being exposed to any serious violation in the form of threats, theft, physical abuse, bullying or sexual exploitation appears to contribute to a markedly worse health among young people. A poor diet contributes to worse health. Little physical exercise proves to contribute to worse self-assessed health for both genders.²⁷

Reproductive health

Chlamydia prevalence continues to increase among young people. The largest increase in the number of people infected with Chlamydia in 2007 occurred in the youngest age group. The increase in the age group of 15–19 year-olds was 60 per cent among women and 71 per cent among men.²⁸ This is a serious trend. Teenage abortions have been at a higher level during the 2000s than in the previous decade. Data from the first half of 2008 indicates however a small decrease compared with the same period of 2007; from 25.4 per 1,000 women ages 15–19 to 24.9.²⁹ In the opinion of the Children's Ombudsman, this development indicates the need for each generation of young people to be informed about the importance of the use of contraceptives and the use of protection against infection by sexually transmitted diseases.

Youth counselling centres

A virtual youth counselling centre was recently opened, which is a positive initiative by the Government.³⁰ Many municipalities in the country lack youth counselling centres in reality, however, and among those that exist, visits from young boys are still less common than from girls. The Children's Ombudsman previously said that all young people should have access to youth counselling centres regardless of where they live. This may be difficult to arrange in small municipalities, but cooperation between municipalities can solve such problems.

26 National Board for Youth Affairs. Fokus 07 – en analys av ungas hälsa och utsatthet (Focus 07 – an analysis of health and vulnerability of young people). 2007.

27 National Board for Youth Affairs. Fokus 07 – en analys av ungas hälsa och utsatthet (Focus 07 – an analysis of health and vulnerability of young people). 2007.

28 Press release from the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control on 6 March 2008.

29 National Board of Health and Welfare. Abortions during the first half of 2008.

30 www.umo.se

Tobacco

According to annual measurements taken by the Swedish Central Federation for Alcohol and Drug Information (CAN) in grade 9, tobacco use appears to remain at a level of 25–30 per cent and has done so for an extended period. The Children’s Ombudsman believes this to be an unsatisfactory situation, particularly in light of the fact that tobacco use has decreased among adults.³¹

Drugs

In 2008, six per cent of the boys and five per cent of the girls in grade 9 had tried narcotics. This is a continued decrease since the peak in 2001 according to CAN’s annual measurements. The corresponding percentage in the surveys of the second year of upper secondary school was 16 per cent.³² The Children’s Ombudsman believes that continued efforts are needed to decrease the percentage of young people who try narcotics and that particular focus must be directed at the older adolescents.

Alcohol

The number in care for acute alcohol-related injuries has increased among teenagers, especially among girls. There was little difference between girls and boys in the 1990s, but during the 2000s, it was more common for girls than boys in ages 13 to 17 to receive hospital care for negative health effects caused by alcohol abuse.³³ CAN’s surveys indicate that alcohol consumption has probably decreased among both boys and girls in grade 9 between the years 2005–2007. However, in year 2 of upper secondary school, alcohol consumption increased across these years, from 7.1 to 7.6 litres of pure alcohol per year among boys and from 4 to 4.2 litres per year among girls.³⁴

In the opinion of the Children’s Ombudsman, the trend among the older teenagers is worrying, particularly as a current knowledge compilation from the National Institute of Public Health shows that there is a connection between doing poorly psychologically and drinking large amounts of alcohol. This connection is particularly strong for boys. High alcohol consumption increases the risk of depressive disorders, self-destructive behaviour and extrovert psychological problems. The compilation also shows the inverse relationship: depressive disorders increase the risk of high alcohol consumption.³⁵

31 CAN. Skolelevers drogvanor (Drug habits of school pupils) 2008.

32 CAN. Skolelevers drogvanor (Drug habits of school pupils) 2008.

33 Children’s Ombudsman and Statistics Sweden. Upp till 18 (Up to 18). 2007.

34 CAN. Skolelevers drogvanor (Drug habits of school pupils) 2008.

35 National Institute of Public Health. Psykisk ohälsa och alkoholkonsumtion – hur hänger det ihop? (Mental illness and alcohol consumption – how are they related?) 2008.

6. Education, leisure and cultural activities (articles 28, 29 and 31)

Bullying

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to prevent and combat bullying, pay special attention to children with disabilities and of foreign origins, and that the rules for countering bullying are fully implemented in all schools and other institutions with the involvement of children.

According to the Committee against Child Abuse (SOU 2001: 72), bullying is more widespread among children with disabilities, particularly children with unseen disabilities such as ADHD and Asperger's syndrome. Schools have a special responsibility to work preventatively. Three per cent of students in middle school and four per cent of students in upper elementary school feel bullied in school. Moreover, around five per cent of the younger students feel every week that nobody wants to be with them or that other students beat them or hurt them in some other way. A total of four per cent of the students feel bullied by teachers and adults in school. This figure has remained constant since 1997.³⁶

Sweden has taken extensive steps with regard to bullying. Among other measures, the Act Prohibiting Discrimination and Other Degrading Treatment of Children and School Students entered into effect. Furthermore, the Government appointed a child and student representative for equal treatment that currently exercises supervision of compliance to the act. However, there are still weaknesses in the new legislation, such as the fact that schools and principals can not be fined when equal treatment plans are missing. In addition, there are still schools and principals who question student experiences of bullying. The problems are instead associated with the victimised child.

New discrimination legislation enters into effect on 1 January 2009 that means that schools must undertake measures as soon as the school receives information that a student felt violated. The new discrimination act also prohibits behaviour that violates a child's or a student's dignity.

Bullying not only occurs in classrooms or schoolyards. Harassment and bullying also takes place by mobile phone and in virtual meeting places of children and young people. This type of bullying cannot be stopped with current legislation.

Also see section 19.

³⁶ National Agency for Education. Attityder till skolan (Attitudes to school) 2006. National Agency for Education Report no. 299, 2007.

Education

38. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue its efforts to ensure that:

- a) All children enjoy the right to education, including children without resident permits, and “children in hiding”;
- b) Variations in results and differences between schools and regions are eradicated;
- c) Vocational training is made available and that transition from school to work is supported.

The Government Commission “Skolgång för barn som ska avvisas eller utvisas” (Education for children who are to be denied or deported) (SOU 2007:34) proposed that children who are to be denied asylum or deported shall be given the right to education on the same terms as children resident in Sweden. The Commission’s assignment had, however, been formulated so restrictively that several groups of children were not included. Above all, this was the case for children who came to Sweden and live here without applying for resident permits, so-called undocumented children. Several of the referral bodies, including the Children’s Ombudsmen, believe that the group of children covered is far too restrictively defined. The Government has announced that grounds may exist to review if the group of children to be covered by the right to education and access to preschool and pupil care should be extended further.

The Children’s Ombudsman believes that a prohibition should be introduced against the police picking up children to be refused asylum and deported from schools or preschools. Schools and preschools should be a free zone for children. Permitting police apprehension of children in schools or preschools in practice means that the child will not dare partake of the education because they would then be at risk of being picked up by the police.

b) Variations in results between schools and regions

The Government has not implemented the Committee’s recommendation to ensure the eradication of variations in results between different schools and different regions.

The Education Act regulates the right to equal education regardless of which school the student attends or where the student lives. Despite this, there are large differences in students’ results between schools.³⁷ The differences are not only due to the composition of the schools’ student bodies, even if this is a very important factor. They are also due to some schools lacking the resources and qualities needed to compensate for the factors that the student base entails. Schools with a large proportion of students of foreign backgrounds and where many students have been in the country a short time, combined with other social problems, need extra financial resources to be able to have a high personnel density and high level of expertise among the staff.

³⁷ National Board for Youth Affairs. Fokus 08. En analys av ungas utanförskap (Focus 08 – An analysis of exclusion of young people).

7. Special protection measures (articles 22, 30, 32–36, 37 b and d, 38, 39, and 40)

Unaccompanied children

40. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue its efforts in this area, in particular:

- a) To ensure a coordinated approach to the collection of information and statistics, allowing a response commensurate to the needs;
- b) To increase coordination between the different actors, in particular the police, the social services and the Swedish Board of Migration, in order to react efficiently and in a timely manner when children disappear;
- c) To consider appointing a temporary guardian within 24 hours of arrival for each unaccompanied child;
- d) To continue and strengthen training of professionals working with and for children on the rights of these children;
- e) To conduct refugee status determination procedures for children in a child-sensitive manner, in particular by giving priority to applications of children and by considering child-specific forms of persecution when assessing an asylum-seeking child's claim under the CRC relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

a) Coordinated collection of information and statistics

There is a lack of data regarding the conditions of children in the asylum process in our country. Statistics are limited to the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and children immigrated for adoption.

There is a lack of indicators for children in the asylum process. The possibility exists to find indicators that describe the through-put time in asylum cases covering children and the proportion of children in asylum-seeking families who are registered in school, but this possibility has not been realised.

c) Representative for the child

The Children's Ombudsman has long demanded that a temporary guardian for the child be appointed within 24 hours of the child arriving in Sweden and is positive to Parliament recommending such a legislative change. The Children's Ombudsman assumes that the Government will soon present a legislative change proposal in the matter.

d) Training of guardians

It is the perception of the Children's Ombudsman that there is a shortage of guardians. Many lack basic training in the needs of children, the scope of the task, the asylum process and the rights of the child. Measures are required to raise the status of the task and improve training. The chief guardians should be provided greater knowledge of the task and the requirements that should be placed on the guardian.

Moreover, interpreters, guardians and chief guardians, as well as lay assessors and judges in the migration courts should be trained in issues that concern unaccompanied children.

Family reunification

42. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the measures taken to ensure that family reunification procedures for recognized refugees are dealt with in a positive, fair, humane and expeditious manner.

The Government Commission “Försörjningskrav vid anhörlingvandring” (SOU 2008:114) (Support requirement upon relative immigration) has proposed that those who wish to be reunited with their relatives in Sweden must either work or otherwise be able to support themselves. The proposal also requires that those who wish to bring their relatives here must have a home that is large enough for the entire family.

The Children’s Ombudsman believes that a requirement on parents’ own support capacity and a housing requirement for children to be permitted to join them in Sweden should not be introduced. Excluding some children from the right to a family life is not consistent with articles 2, 9 and 10 in the CRC. In practice, this proposal means that Sweden may separate children and parents for four years or more, which is generally negative for children.

Sexual exploitation and trafficking

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Strengthen the protection measures for children who are using the Internet and the awareness-raising programmes for children about the negative aspects of the Internet, including by working with service providers, parents and teachers;
- b) Strengthen measures to reduce and prevent the occurrence of sexual exploitation and trafficking, including by sensitizing professionals and the general public to the problems of sexual abuse of children and trafficking through education, including media campaigns;
- c) Strengthen the legislation against possession and production of child pornography, including by prohibiting the display of child pornography on the Internet by service providers, and by revising the definition of the child in the Penal Code concerning child pornography, setting a clear objective age limit at 18 years;
- d) Strengthen the legislation allowing the prosecution of Swedish citizens involved in sexual exploitation of children abroad, including by prohibiting the reissuance of passports for persons freed after posting bail;

a) Strengthen protection measures

The Committee’s recommendation to strengthen the protection measures for children who use the Internet has been partially complied with by the Government. The Government has endeavoured to support schools in Internet issues and ethics on the Internet. Training in the negative aspects of the Internet should be a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

The proportion of children and young people who have come into contact with unsolicited discussions about sex and pornographic websites has decreased. Information campaigns about potential dangers may have contributed to greater awareness among children and adults.³⁸

³⁸ The Swedish Media Council. Ungar & Medier 2008 – Fakta om barns och ungas användning och upplevelse av media (Kids & Media 2008 – Facts about children’s and young people’s use and perceptions of the media).

b) Strengthen measures

The Government has proposed to introduce a new regulation regarding criminal liability for adults who contact children with a sexual intent, so-called grooming. The proposal is currently under preparation in the Government Offices. We believe that a child has an absolute right to be protected from grooming that violate his or her right to decide over his or her own body and sexuality. It is also important to develop and offer care and follow-up to adults who contact children with sexual intent.

The Government has also proposed to change the crime of trafficking to agree with the internationally accepted definition of trafficking, which is positive. The Children's Ombudsman believes that a separate crime should be introduced to penal legislation under the name of trafficking in children. In the regulation, it should be clearly stated that no use of illicit means is required for it to be trafficking in children.

The foundation Allmänna Barnhuset has been charged by the Government to distribute and survey knowledge about sexual exploitation of children and young people and to inventory the need for further knowledge development. The Children's Ombudsman encourages the Government to inform the public of the problems of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

c) Possession and production

The Children's Ombudsman welcomes the Government's proposal of more stringent legislation against child pornography and particularly the proposal that a child be defined as a person whose puberty development is not complete or a person who is under the age of 18.

d) Evaluation of legislative changes

The Government has decided to discontinue the double penal liability in the penal legislation regarding sexual crimes against children under the age of 18 that are committed by Swedish citizens abroad. However, it is of great importance that the Government evaluate the results of the legislative change to ensure that the protective intent of the law is fulfilled.

Double penal liability for crimes committed abroad should also not apply to trafficking in children or the crime of child pornography. The matter is currently being prepared in the Government Offices.

Juvenile justice

46. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation, policies and budgets to ensure the full implementation of juvenile justice standards, in particular article 37 (b) and article 40, paragraph 2 (b) (ii)-(iv) and (vii) of the CRC, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines), the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the Vienna Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, in the light of the day of general discussion on the administration of juvenile justice, held by the Committee in 1995. In this respect, it is specifically recommended that the State party:

- a) Ensure that prosecutors and judges dealing with children's issues are all appropriately trained;
- b) Ensure that punitive measures are taken only by judicial authorities, with due process and legal assistance;
- c) Strengthen preventive measures, such as supporting the role of families and communities, in order to help eliminate the social conditions leading to such problems as delinquency and crime.

a) Education and competence

There is a regulation in the Code of Judicial Procedure that requires judges and prosecutors to be particularly suited to handle matters concerning children. Nearly all of the country's public prosecutor offices have appointed special prosecutors to handle matters where the suspect is under the age of 18. However, this is not enough. The trial processes of today are created by adults for adults. The environment, the language and procedures in a court differ from the everyday that most young people live in. A trial should have a pedagogical function. The young person should feel that he or she has been understood and respectfully treated. On several occasions, the Children's Ombudsman has proposed that a new law be passed that requires judges and prosecutors to receive special training regarding children and young people in legal processes as an important stage in strengthening legal security for children and young people.

8. Optional Protocols to the CRC

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- b) Submit its initial report under the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in due time, namely on 20 March 2005.

a) Ratification of Optional Protocols

The Children's Ombudsman is critical and questioning to Sweden having issued an interpretive statement meaning that allusionary pornography shall not be covered by the definition of child pornography in Article 2 c of the UN Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The Children's Ombudsman regrets that the Government has not chosen to propose that allusionary pornography be criminalised in its legislative proposals. The criminalisation of allusionary pornography is an appropriate measure to protect and prevent children from being exploited in pornographic presentations and from being victims of abuse.

9. Follow-up and dissemination

Follow-up

49. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure full implementation of the present recommendations, inter alia, by transmitting them to the members of the Council of Ministers or the Cabinet or a similar body, the Parliament, and to provincial or State Governments and Parliaments, where applicable, for appropriate consideration and further action.

Dissemination

50. The Committee further recommends that the third periodic report and the written replies submitted by the State party and the related recommendations (concluding observations) it adopted be made widely available, including through the Internet (but not exclusively), to the public at large, civil society organizations, youth groups, professional groups, and children in order to generate debate and awareness of the CRC, its implementation and monitoring.

On its website, the Government has made the third periodic report, the State party's written response and the concluding observations available to the public, NGOs, youth groups, professional organisations and children.

The Web is a passive information channel since it presupposes an active seeker of information. Demand for information concerning the Committee's statements and Sweden's report is probably limited since too few people are aware of the process. Moreover, the information is located deep in the website's structure. Consequently, it is difficult for both children and adults to find these documents.

The Government has conducted a number of efforts to disseminate and discuss the Committee's observations and recommendations among actors concerned. This is positive, but there is no continuous dialogue to gradually move forward with the implementation of the CRC.

The Government has not fully observed the possibility of disseminating the Committee's observations and recommendations. They are worked into various committee directives and authority mandates, but in such contexts there is also reason to make visible what the Committee stated within the area concerned.