

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO INDIA – ADDENDUM 2

FINLAND

We acknowledge that the Government of India has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by undertaking research on violence against children, such as the National Study on Child Abuse released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in April 2007¹.

With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children², which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations in India. In particular, we would greatly appreciate if the Government of India could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children³.

NETHERLANDS

The different initiatives the Indian government has undertaken to protect the rights of children as described in the report can be applauded. The excellent work of the National Commission on Child Rights deserves special mentioning in this regard. Child Labour is an issue the Indian government has taken on with renewed vigour through the 2006 Child Labour Law. The Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development acknowledges in the Sub Group Report on Child Protection in the eleventh Five Year plan (2007 – 2012) that child labour remains difficult to eradicate. Could you explain where the main challenges lie in getting the Child Labour Law observed? Having companies comply with these kind of laws is not an easy task, especially in a country the size of India. Would India consider it useful to address the issue of Child Labour via (the reinforcement of) Corporate Social Responsibility (in addition to law enforcement)? Does India plan to withdraw its reservations to articles 32 and 33 to the CRC in the near future? Is it India's intention to ratify ILO conventions 138 and 182?

The review touches upon the issue of untouchability in the general chapter in paragraph 31 and beyond. Your Constitution has abolished the practice and the Protection of Civil Rights Act has provided for punishment for untouchability. In addition you have enacted several schemes to promote the socio-economic and

¹ Report (which provides information on the dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children and on progress made in the initial phase of follow-up to the study) of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/62/209, see footnote 63).

² Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).

³ Report (which provides information on the dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children and on progress made in the initial phase of follow-up to the study) of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/62/209, see footnotes 15, 26 and 58).

educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is clearly an issue that is taken on with vigour by the Indian government and acknowledged at the highest political levels. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in May 2007 made some recommendations on how to improve the situation of Scheduled Classes. Could you please elaborate how these recommendations have been taken up?

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Could you please elaborate further on the role of civil society in India in the preparation of your national report for this process?

Could you please brief us on what steps have you taken to ratify the Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol?

Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a national human rights institution in India, and its conformity with the Paris Principles?

LATVIA

According to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 59 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering the cooperation of India with the special procedures (visits of Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in 2000, Special Rapporteur on the right to food in 2005, Special Rapporteur on Myanmar in 2006, Special Rapporteur on the right to health in 2007) – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?