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In 2001 Ecuador ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182) and Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (No. 138).

The new Children's Code establishes an obligation on the part of the State to formulate policies for the eradication of child labour, defines harmful and dangerous work, establishes 15 as the minimum age for work, and provides guarantees to maintain the right of adolescent workers to education and recreation.

According to the survey of living conditions almost 1 million children between 6 and 17 years of age were working in 1999; 17 per cent of children in this age group worked and did not study, while 26 per cent studied and worked at the same time. Of these children, 63 per cent worked more than 40 hours a week, 88 per cent were compelled to work, and 40 per cent worked on the street. Approximately three out of every 10 Ecuadorians, in rural areas and in cities, began to work before the age of 14. Of the children working in 1997, 15 per cent received no remuneration, and three quarters of working children gave their way to their parents or other relatives, that is, they contributed to household income. In 1994, 1 out of 10 children gave "personal preference" as the reason for working; the remainder worked out of personal or family financial necessity (79 per cent) or because they were compelled to do so (8 per cent).

Work refers to labour or productive activities, and does not include domestic chores.

The percentage of children between 5 and 17 years of age who work can be broken down as follows, on the basis of data from 2000:

- By rural or urban area: Rural areas: 19.9 per cent, Cities: 8.8 per cent
- By region: Coast: 12.6 per cent, Sierra: 13.9 per cent, Amazon: 12.3 per cent
- By sex: Boys: 16.7 per cent, Girls: 9.7 per cent
- By place of work: Streets: 69.2 per cent, Offices: 1.1 per cent, Farms: 6.1 per cent, Shops: 8.7 per cent, Workshops: 6.3 per cent, Households: 5.6 per cent, Other: 3.1 per cent
- By type of work: Informal sales: 43.4 per cent, Sales in stores: 6.6 per cent, Workshops: 3.5 per cent, Mechanic: 3.3 per cent, Office: 3.1 per cent, Construction labourer: 1.6 per cent, Agricultural: 6.7 per cent, Watchman: 0.3 per cent, Carpenter: 1.1 per cent, Shoeshine: 14.3 per cent, Newspaper vendor: 7.4 per cent, Domestic service: 5.25 per cent, Other: 3.4 per cent
- Receipt or non-receipt of payment for work: Yes: 85.0 per cent, No: 15.0 per cent
- Duration of working day: One to three hours: 11.2 per cent, Four to six hours: 39.0 per cent, Seven to nine hours: 35.5 per cent, Over 10 hours: 13.1 per cent
- Work on Saturdays: Yes: 49.4 per cent, No: 10.6 per cent
- Work on Sundays: Yes: 62.2 per cent, No: 37.8 per cent
- Preferred alternative to premature work: Work only: 14.4 per cent, Study only: 26.7 per cent, Work and study: 56.6 per cent, None of the above: 2.2 per cent
- Major dangers encountered and suffered by child workers: Work accidents: 27.3 per cent, Traffic accidents: 28.5 per cent, Stroke: 6.1 per cent, Illness: 24.4 per cent, Theft: 12.0 per cent, Abduction: 14.3 per cent, Physical abuse: 24.5 per cent, Sexual abuse: 8.7 per cent, Sexual harassment: 4.7 per cent, Verbal abuse: 32.7 per cent, Other: 2.0 per cent
- Views of children as to who is the most danger when working: Women: 57.1 per cent, Men: 5.3 per cent, Both: 31.1 per cent, No one: 2.7 per cent

With regard to work by children and adolescents, the new Children's Code establishes the obligation of the State to formulate policies for the eradication of child labour; defines harmful and dangerous work; establishes 15 years as the minimum working age; guarantees the right to education for children who work; establishes administrative penalties for failure to comply with the Code.

Situation of indigenous children with regard to child labour:

Children are involved in agricultural work from the age of 5, and girls from the age of 4 are involved in housework. From the age of six, children work outside the home; they often travel to work and work on construction sites or help in some kind of agricultural work. Girls leave to work in houses in the cities. The money they receive for this work contributes to family income.

Adolescents and work:

In 1996, of an estimated population of 1,300,000 adolescents between 10 and 17 years of age, 847,833 worked; that number, by category 322,633 (17 per cent) only worked; 525,170 (28 per cent) worked and studied; 961,329 (50 per cent) only studied, while the remaining 51 per cent (192,443), a group that included adolescents with some disability, neither studied nor worked.

In rural areas, 41 per cent of work. The most vulnerable group consists of those who work and do not study, which in cities represents 8.6 per cent and in rural areas 28.4 per cent. In national terms, 17 per cent of children work and do not study. Sixty-one per cent of young persons who work are male, and 39 per cent are females.

Project for the eradication of child labour in mines:

The State has sought to prohibit all kinds of exploitation of children through the signature and ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, alongside other legal provisions in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Constitution, the Labour Code and the Mining Act, among others.

Of the 1 million children who work, approximately 4,000 are employed illegally in mining operations in Ponce Enriquez and Bella Vista in Azuay province, in Zaruma and Portoviejo in El Oro province, and in Nambija in Zamora Chinchipe province.

Commitment by banana producers and exporters on the employment of minors:

An agreement concluded on 23 July 2002 between the associations of banana producers and exporters, the Ministry of Labour, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, ILO, through its IPEC programme, and INFA, all coordinated by the Export Promotion Corporation (EPROM), undertook to eradicate labour by children under 15 in banana plantations within a period of 12 months.

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

The child labour issue was not discussed in the CRC meeting at all. Here is the only information mentioned in their report:

According to the provisions of the Law on Basic Employment Rights, a person under the age of 18 and who is generally in good health can be employed, but the lower age limit for employment is 15 years of age. In the Employment Law it is stipulated that the annual vacation for a worker under 18 is increased by 7 days so that it cannot be shorter than 25 working days.

According to existing rules, a worker who is under 18 is not allowed to perform difficult physical labour, labour underground or under water, nor other activities that could have harmful effects or pose an increased risk to health and life of a worker under 18 due to his/her psychophysical characteristics. According to the legislation in BiH, a worker under 18 cannot be requested to work more than full time. Furthermore, a worker who is under 18 and works in the area of industry, civil engineering or transportation cannot work at night between 22:00 and 06:00 hours and it is required in the general interest, due to difficult circumstances and under strictly determined conditions that are, for the other workers, determined by the Law on Protection at Work.

PHILIPPINES

The National Survey on Child Labour 138 in October 1997 and ILO Convention 182 in November 29, 2000.

The National Programme against Child Labour (NAPACL) was established with the Bureau of Women and Young Workers, DOLE coordinating all efforts on child labour concerns. The National Statistics Office (NSO), with support from the ILO-IPEC, conducted the first National Survey of Working Children as part of the July 1995 labor force survey. The results served as an administrative measure to create an awareness of the national situation of Filipino working children ages five to seventeen. The survey used a broad definition of child work (i.e., children who work occasionally those who work for their own parents, and those who work during school vacations and weekends).

Results of survey: Working children comprise 16 per cent of the population of 3.7 million children; 50 per cent are from ages five to fourteen years old, 65 per cent are boys. Most of them come from rural households with the highest share of working children. The highest number of working children in urban areas come from cities with high economic growth. In terms of proportion to the regional population, agricultural regions have the highest share of working children, 60 per cent of working children are engaged in unpaid family work in their own households and establishments and in the farm.

NORWAY

The issue of the child labour was not discussed during the CRC meeting. However, Norway report shortly stated this issue.

Norway has ratified ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Working hours: The Working Environment Act, which regulates the working hours of children, was amended in 1998. The amendments provided that ordinary working hours for children under 15 years of age or who must attend primary and lower secondary school must not exceed 2 hours per day or 12 hours per week. On days when school is not in session, the number of hours permitted may not exceed 4 hours per day. During school holidays of at least one week's duration, ordinary working hours must not exceed 7 hours per day and 35 hours per week. For children under 15 years of age or primary and lower secondary school and who work as part of an arrangement involving alternating theoretical and practical training, working hours and school hours must not exceed 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week. For children between the ages of 15 and 18 who are not required to attend primary and lower secondary school, ordinary working hours must not exceed 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week.

Children under 15 years of age or who must attend primary and lower secondary school must have a work free period between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. They must have an uninterrupted period of rest of at least 14 hours per day. Children aged 15 who are not required to attend primary and lower secondary school must have a work free period either between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. or between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Children who have an uninterrupted period of rest of at least 12 hours per day when children aged 15 who work within the ordinary hours for night work (p.m. 6 a.m.) are required to have a medical examination. In the event of an accident, natural disaster or the like, children aged 15 who are not required to attend primary and lower secondary school may, under specific conditions, be used for work during the period between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

NICARAGUA

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention was adopted by Decree No. 29-2000 on 9 September 2000.

In May 2002, the National Commission for the Progressive Education of Child Labour and the Protection of Child Workers, established by Decree No. 22-47, was reorganized to bring its work into line with the international agreements ratified by Nicaragua and with existing domestic legislation. The new National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Young Workers (CNEPT), attached to the Ministry of Labour, was subsequently established by Decree No. 45-2000. The aim of this body is to ensure that the legislation on the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of young workers is promoted and implemented.

The National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Child Workers for 2001-2005 was also drawn up. It often defines concrete strategies for a comprehensive approach to child labour.

persons for any type of work. Businesses, individuals and corporate bodies may not take on children aged 14. Under the Labour Code, persons aged 14 and over have the legal capacity to enter into contracts, while young people aged 14 to 15 may enter into a contract of employment only with the consent of their parents.

Article 74 of the Code on Children and Young Persons lays down that young persons may not perform any type of work in places which are unhealthy or pose a risk to their life, health or physical, mental or moral safety, such as work in mines, underground, at waste disposal sites, in night-time entertainment centres, working involving the handling of toxic or psychotropic objects or substances, and night-shift work in general. Young persons are allowed to work, but the following rules apply: they must be treated with due respect for their development and personal characteristics; they must be properly trained to do the work required of them; they must be given a medical examination at least once a year to see if the work they are doing is damaging to their health or normal development; and their continued education must be guaranteed. Work done by young persons must be supervised by the Ministry of Labour, which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the protective measures provided for them.

Problems encountered:

- There have been insufficient human and financial resources to expand the labour inspection services in rural areas and in the informal sector of the economy. There are only 92 inspectors to cover the whole country.
- The National Commission, as the body coordinating governmental and non-governmental initiatives and workers' and employers' associations, has too small a budget to effectively monitor the eradication of child labour and help implement the national strategic plan through requests at the municipal, institutional and sectoral levels.
- The strategic plan needs to be seen as an important consultation exercise and as a step towards the formulation of a specific public policy on the eradication of child labour.
- More resources are needed to enable the bodies responsible for implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Eradication and Eradication of Child Labour to make further progress in this task.

YEMEN

The Labour Act No. 5 of 1995 regulates the employment of young persons and specifies the legal age of employment for a juvenile as 15 years. The Civil Service Act No. 19 of 1991 prescribes the terms of appointment to posts in the administrative apparatus and other sectors subject to the Act; article 22, paragraph 2(a), stipulates that a candidate who seeks appointment to public office must be over 18 years of age. A person 16 years of age may be appointed to work posts and occupations for which special instruction is required at training institutes or centres or at places of work specified by the Ministry of Labour, natural disaster or the like, certificate or a certificate from the competent medical committee.

A juvenile's working hours may not exceed seven hours a day or 42 hours a week and the weekly working hours must be divided over six days, followed by a day of rest with full pay. Daily working hours must be interrupted with a period of rest of not less than one hour and juveniles must not work for longer than four hours continuously. It is prohibited to employ a young person on overtime or on night work, except in such activities as are determined by a decree from the Minister. Hours which a juvenile spends in training during daily work time shall be counted as official working hours. No overtime or night work shall be performed on rest days, official holidays or other periods of leave.

Labour Act prohibits to employ juveniles in remote and undeveloped locations, also to employ young persons in heavy work, in hazardous industries and in socially dangerous occupations. The Minister may regulate such activities and industries by decree.

Work harmful to health: The Working Environment Act contains provisions to the effect that persons under 18 years of age must not be used for work that may be harmful to their safety, health or development. More detailed specifications are given in regulations. Norway has also issued regulations under the Working Environment Act for the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour adopted in 1999.

The provisions relating to working environment in this convention are regarded as being in accordance with Norwegian legislation.

Work in private homes: New regulations regarding work in private homes were laid down in July 2002. Regulations on household, supervision and care in the home or household of a private employer cannot be requested for persons under 18 years of age that correspond to the provisions in the Working Environment Act, (i.e. above). For regulations regarding work in this convention are regarded as being in accordance with Norwegian legislation.

Information: All the rules relating to working environment are posted on the website of the Directorate of Labour Inspection, including the rules that apply to children and young people in particular. The Norwegian Federation of Labour Unions (LO) has a list of employers and employer patrols who visit workplaces where children and young people are traditionally employed in temporary summer jobs and inform both the employers and the labour patrol about their rights and duties. In the event of more serious breaches of the working environment provisions, the relevant authorities are contacted.

Admission to employment or work, including hazardous work:

The Code on Children and Young Persons bans the employment of children and young persons for any type of work. Businesses, individuals and corporate bodies may not take on children aged 14. Under the Labour Code, persons aged 14 and over have the legal capacity to enter into contracts, while young people aged 14 to 15 may enter into a contract of employment only with the consent of their parents.

Article 74 of the Code on Children and Young Persons lays down that young persons may not perform any type of work in places which are unhealthy or pose a risk to their life, health or physical, mental or moral safety, such as work in mines, underground, at waste disposal sites, in night-time entertainment centres, working involving the handling of toxic or psychotropic objects or substances, and night-shift work in general. Young persons are allowed to work, but the following rules apply: they must be treated with due respect for their development and personal characteristics; they must be properly trained to do the work required of them; they must be given a medical examination at least once a year to see if the work they are doing is damaging to their health or normal development; and their continued education must be guaranteed. Work done by young persons must be supervised by the Ministry of Labour, which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the protective measures provided for them.

SAINT LUCIA

The questions were asked by the CRC about whether there is a minimum age of work in Saint Lucia, also it was noted that, according to their report, little practice were developed concerning the work of children, especially in rural areas (i.e. in banana plantations). Also the committee was concerned how children manage to combine work and school, for there is a tendency for young boys to give up school at age 13-14 in order to get jobs.

Delegation has explained that minimum age child can start working is 15 years. Exceptions on work under 15 years old - some forms of work during school vacation, also if the work is some kind of educational process.

Delegation also assured that hazardous labour to child is not a great problem in Saint Lucia, therefore they do not have extensive policies or legislation in this issue. However, monitoring of this issue falls under the competences of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour (competences overlap).