



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
5 February 2010

Original: English

Advance unedited version

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Fifty-fourth session

25 May-11 June 2010

Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

List of issues related to the consideration of the initial report of Japan (CRC/C/OPAC/JPN/1)

The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights contained in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party. The present list of issues covers only some priority questions on which the Committee would like additional information before the dialogue.

The State party is requested to submit in written form additional and updated information, if possible, before 6 April 2010.

1. In addition to the measures referred to in paragraph 41 of the State party's report, please provide information on measures taken to disseminate information on the Optional Protocol in schools and to the general public.
2. In addition to the provisions of the Labour Standards Law and the Family Registration Law, is there a provision in the Penal Code specifically prohibiting the recruitment and use in hostilities of children under the age of 18 years by armed groups in accordance with article 4 of the Optional Protocol?
3. Please provide information as to whether the State party assumes extraterritorial jurisdiction over the war crime of conscripting or enlisting children into the armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities. Please indicate whether national courts can establish their jurisdiction in the case of forced recruitment or involvement in hostilities of a person under 15 if committed outside the State party, by or against a national of the State party. Please also clarify whether, in the case that extraterritorial jurisdiction has been assumed, there is a requirement of double criminality for such offences.

4. Please indicate whether members of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces Personnel receive training on the provisions of the Optional Protocol and on their application, in particular when they participate in UN peacekeeping operations.

5. Please provide disaggregated data, including by sex, age, and country of origin, covering the period 2005 to 2009, on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children who have arrived in Japan from areas affected by armed conflict. In this respect, please provide information on physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration programmes for asylum-seeking and refugee children who may have been used in conflicts abroad.

6. Please indicate whether the State party's legislation prohibits the trade and export of small arms and light weapons as well as military assistance to countries where children are involved in armed conflict. If not, has the State party given consideration to adopting such legislation?
