

Suva Workshop on the Implementation of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Fiji

Background:

Fiji ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 13 August 1993. Its initial report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child was considered on 25 May 1998 and recommendations (“concluding observations”) were adopted by the Committee in view of assisting Fiji in implementing the Convention at country level. Fiji’s second periodic report is overdue since 2000.

The proposed workshop’s main objective is to raise the awareness of Government officials and other stakeholders with respect to the concluding observations of the Committee of the Rights of the Child and further promote their implementation. It provides a chance to better understand the achievements and constraints in implementing child rights and the United Nations CRC recommendations at country level.

The two-day workshop will focus on four main themes identified in the 1998 recommendations: 1) independent monitoring mechanisms 2) corporal punishment, child abuse and sexual abuse 3) right to education 4) juvenile justice.

Similar CRC follow-up workshops have already been organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in partnership with UNICEF, in Damascus (sub-regional, 2003), Bangkok (sub-regional, 2004), in Hanoi (national, 2005) and in Buenos-Aires (sub-regional, 2005).

Participants:

Participants should include Governmental representatives from various concerned ministries, from the Judiciary, from NGOs, from the Fiji Human Rights Commission, from the Pacific Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) and from UN agencies. The number of active participants should not exceed 40-50.

Dates and venue:

The workshop will take place between 21 and 22 February 2006 in Suva, Fiji Islands.

Background documentation:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child
1998 concluding observations to Fiji’s initial report (CRC/C/15/Add.89)
OHCHR Fact sheets No. 10 and 30
UNICEF...