



**Convention on the  
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD  
Forty-second session  
Geneva, 15 May – 2 June 2006

WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN  
CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/UZB/Q/2) RECEIVED  
BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD RELATING  
TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF  
UZBEKISTAN (CRC/C/104/Add.6)\*

[Received on 7 April 2006]

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\*This document has not been edited.

GE.06-41230

## A. Data and statistics

1. Please provide data (by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, on the number and proportion of children under 18 living in the State party.

Reply:

Data from the State Statistical Committee are contained in the following tables:

Year	Age	Persons								
		Total population			Urban population			Rural population		
		Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
2003	0-18	11,422,7	5,824,033	5,598,745	3,666,14	1,871,11	179502	7,756,637	3,952,91	3,803,72
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,427,9</b>	<b>12,684,53</b>	<b>12,743,37</b>	<b>9,340,75</b>	<b>4,621,18</b>	<b>471956</b>	<b>16,087,15</b>	<b>8,063,34</b>	<b>8,023,81</b>
2004	0-18	11,323,0	5,778,152	5,544,930	3,605,84	1,841,96	176387	7,717,242	3,936,18	3,781,05
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25,707,4</b>	<b>12,831,36</b>	<b>12,876,05</b>	<b>9,381,26</b>	<b>4,645,25</b>	<b>473601</b>	<b>16,326,15</b>	<b>8,186,10</b>	<b>8,140,04</b>
2005	0-18	11,22,16	5,732,556	5,489,128	3,552,75	1,817,03	173571	7,668,928	3,915,51	3,753,41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,021,3</b>	<b>12,993,64</b>	<b>13,027,70</b>	<b>9,441,90</b>	<b>4,677,77</b>	<b>476413</b>	<b>16,579,44</b>	<b>8,315,87</b>	<b>8,263,57</b>

Year	Age	Proportion in %								
		Total population			Urban population			Rural population		
		Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
2003	0-18	44,9	45,9	43,9	39,2	40,5	38,0	48,2	49,0	47,4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
2004	0-18	44,0	45,0	43,1	38,4	39,7	37,2	47,3	48,1	46,5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
2005	0-18	43,1	44,1	42,1	37,6	38,8	36,4	46,3	47,1	45,4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

2. In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional data (by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for 2004-2006, on budget allocations and trends (in percentages of the national budget or GDP) regarding the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:

- a) education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education);
- b) child care services, including day care centres;
- c) health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health care services for children);
- d) programmes and services for children with disabilities;
- e) support programmes for families;
- f) protection of children in need of alternative care, including the support of care institutions;
- g) programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;

- h) juvenile justice and the rehabilitation and social reintegration of juvenile offenders;
- i) other social services.

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

Please also indicate the percentages of these allocations derived from international sources in connection with children's rights.

3. With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents, please provide data (by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) for the last three years on the number of children:

- a) separated from their parents;
- b) placed in children's institutions;
- c) placed with foster families;
- d) adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions

Reply:

According to Supreme Court statistics on civil court proceedings in the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period 2003-2005, there were 435\* decisions involving the deprivation of parental rights in 2003, 531 in 2004 and 578 in 2005.

Year	Total cases	Cases resulting in a decision	Number of children	Of whom:				
				Boys	Girls	Up to 10 years of age	From 10 to 16 years of age	From 16 to 18 years of age
2003	548	453	648	346	302	265	274	109
2004	689	531	765	396	369	325	307	133
2005	735	578	784	418	366	378	301	105

Orphan children and children and adolescents deprived of parental care are raised at special children's institutions and regular boarding schools, and their maintenance costs are borne fully by the State.

According to data from the Prosecutor's Office:

The tutorship and guardianship authorities of the Ministry of Education established that in 2003:

- a) 10, 230 children were deprived of parental support ( 9,554 in 2004 and 9,435 in 2005), of whom b) 3,648 were placed in "Mehribonlik" homes (orphanages) (3,162/3,037).
- d) 2,786 were adopted in Uzbekistan (2,902/2,828), of whom 1,379 were placed under guardianship (1,214/1,426), 2,360 were placed under tutelage (2146/2057), and 53 were placed in foster family care (123/79),
- e) Four were adopted by foreign nationals (7/8).

There are no data on sex, age or national identity since the Prosecutor's Office does not keep such disaggregated statistics.

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\* Translator's note: This figure does not correspond to the figure given in the table below.

d) In 2005 in Uzbekistan 2,828 children were adopted, 1,426 were under guardianship, 2,057 were under tutelage, 79 were in foster care and 8 were adopted by foreign citizens.

b) The number of residents in children's homes in Uzbekistan was 3,648 in 2003, 3,162 in 2004 and 3,037 in 2005.

**Ministry of Health data:**

**Children's homes in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

	2003	2004	2005
Number of children's homes	13	13	13
Number of beds in the homes	990	990	990
Number of children placed in homes at year-end	794	743	701
Including:			
0 - 12 months	119	97	149
1 – 3 years	265	265	227
3 years and older	410	381	325
Enrolments	534	507	521
Including:			
From parents	313	224	218
Orphans and children lacking parental protection	221	283	303
Children learning during the year	563	541	511
Including:			
Taken by parents	327	292	281
Taken for adoption	157	171	166
Transferred to regular educational establishments	34	23	32
Transferred to special care institutions	45	55	32

**4. Please specify the number of children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and minority group, covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005:**

- a) living with their families;
- b) in institutions;
- c) placed with foster families;
- d) attending regular schools;
- e) attending special schools;
- f) not attending any school.

**Reply:**

The Republic runs 38 “Mekhribonlik” homes (orphanages) for orphans and children lacking parental protection.

There are also 86 specialized boarding schools for children with various mental and physical disabilities.

Specialized boarding schools are provided for deaf children with serious speech impediments, children with cerebral palsy and poliomyelitis, and mentally retarded children.

Blind children are taught at specialized boarding schools using the Braille system and deaf children are taught using sign language. They are issued with special textbooks and teaching aids. Mentally retarded children are taught using a special occupational therapy programme, which provides vocational training for mentally retarded children.

**5. With reference to child abuse, please provide data (by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups and types of violations reported) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on the following:**

- a) **number of reported cases of child abuse;**
- b) **number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up;**
- c) **number and proportion of child victims who have received counseling and assistance in recovery.**

**Reply:**

According to the data of the Office of the Prosecutor and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, no cases of child abuse were registered over the period in question.

In 2006, the Ijtimoiy Fikr Public Opinion Research Centre carried out sociological research on the implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Enforcement Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan and asked the question: “How often do correctional facility staff commit wrongful acts which violate the rights of juvenile offenders?”, to which 84% of the juvenile correctional facility respondents answered “never”.

Table 23. How often do correctional facility employees commit wrongful acts which violate the rights of juvenile offenders? (% of response rate)

	Constantly	From time to time	Never	No response	Don't know
<b>Juvenile correctional facility</b>	2.8	3.8	<b>84.0</b>	7.5	1.9

**6. Please specify the criteria for ‘poverty’ and indicate the number of children living below the poverty line. Please also specify the support for children living below the poverty line.**

**Reply:**

According to World Bank specialists, household budget surveys indicate that the low-income (poverty) rate of the Republic of Uzbekistan’s population in 2001 was 27.5 per cent and 26.2 per cent in 2003. The category of low-income families mainly comprises large families with four or more children.

Child welfare provision in Uzbekistan begins long before a child is born and continues right up to the age of majority. The most common measures encountered in that area involve the payment of allowances and the provision of guarantees and benefits to mothers, children and their families.

These include:

**1. Allowances:**

- A pregnancy and childbirth benefit equivalent to total average earnings for 126 calendar days, paid out at the place of work;
- A lump-sum benefit paid on the birth of the child, which is equivalent to twice the minimum wage;
- A childcare allowance until the child reaches the age of two, which is equivalent to twice the minimum wage;
- An allowance to care for a disabled child up to 16 years of age;
- Benefits for persons who have been disabled since childhood;

**2. Tax exemptions:**

- On all income earned equivalent to four times the tax-free minimum (for single mothers with two or more children up to 16 years of age: applied to 30 per cent of all income earned);
- For widows and widowers with two or more children up to 16 years of age who do not receive a pension in the event of the death of the family's breadwinner: applied to 30 per cent of all income earned;
- For one parent raising and living with a child disabled since childhood who requires constant care: applied to 30 per cent of all income earned);

**3. Material assistance for children:**

- Free gift sets (school starter kits) are distributed each year to all first-formers;
- A set of winter clothes is distributed each year to primary schoolchildren from low-income families;

**4. Benefits for women with children:**

- Since 1999, women working in the public sector who have children up to 3 years of age have been entitled to a reduced working week without loss of wages;
- In order for large families with low incomes to receive adequate assistance, the State provides targeted support by allocating and distributing monetary allowances via citizens' self-government bodies: makhallas. The makhalla committees consider issues of how to raise the living standards and housing conditions of citizens. They also provide effective support to low-income families, the disabled and children. For the distribution of social care, a special commission is established which assesses a family's standard of living and decides whether to provide assistance and in what amount. The commission's assessment is given at a meeting of residents of a makhalla, where decision is made by means of an open vote.

Since 1 January 1997 the citizens' self-government bodies have been delegated new functions for calculating and determining the level of need and allocating and issuing allowances to families and children. These functions were formerly carried out by social welfare bodies or the workplace.

The present system of support for poor families is intended to a large extent to help families with children, primarily families with many children. Some 80 per cent of those who receive allowances are poor families with children. Allowances range between 1.5 and 3 times the minimum wage.

National and local budgetary resources are the main source for the financing of welfare assistance payments to poor and needy families with children.

The minimum wage over the past five years has changed as follows: from January to July 2,000 – 1,750 *sum*; from August 2000 to July 2001– 2,459 *sum*; from August 2001 to March 2002 – 3,430 *sum*; from April to July 2002 – 3,945 *sum*; from August 2002 to April 2003 – 4,535 *sum*; from May 2003 to July 2004 – 5,440 *sum*; from August 2004 up to the present day – 6,530 *sum*.

**7. Please provide data (including by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on:**

- a) the enrolment and completion rates in percentages of the relevant group in pre-primary schools, primary schools and secondary schools;**
- b) ratio of literacy, below 18 years;**
- c) number and percentage of drop-outs and grade repetitions;**
- d) teacher student ratio.**

**Reply:**

In Uzbekistan the aim of pre-school education is to form a healthy and integrated personality that prepares a child for school. Pre-school education lasts until the age of 6 or 7 in the family, in kindergartens and in other educational establishments, irrespective of form of ownership (State or private).

In Uzbekistan there are 6,565 active pre-school institutions catering for 571,147 children. Over 59,600 educational workers are engaged in their tuition and pastoral care.

In accordance with the regulations on pre-school education, new types of pre-school institutions have been established: kindergartens, home kindergartens, child development centres, and kindergartens with a special focus (economic education, music and choreography, environmental education, sports-oriented and others).

There are currently more than 800 foreign language groups in the pre-school establishments, in which children learn English, French, German, Chinese, Arabic and other languages.

The main focus in pre-school institutions is on improving children's health. All pre-school institutions have sets of physical exercise equipment. In specific towns and districts the health care budget has been expanded and supplementary rates introduced for medical workers and physical education instructors.

The following data show the number of children in pre-school education:

Year	Educational indicators	Total		Urban areas		Rural areas	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
2003	Enrolment rate (total number) of children in pre-school institutions, %	48.9	51.1	48.2	51.8	49.8	50.2
2004	Enrolment rate (total number) of children in pre-school institutions, %	48.2	51.8	47.5	52.5	49.1	50.9
2005	Enrolment rate (total number) of children in pre-school institutions, %	48.3	51.7	47.9	52.1	48.9	51.9

General secondary education provides the required level of knowledge, develops independent thinking, organizational ability and practical skills, and facilitates initial career counselling and the choice of the next stage of education.

Uzbekistan currently has 9,748 general education schools with a total of 5,926,860 pupils. These schools comprise 171 primary schools, 3,103 nine-grade schools, 6,474 secondary schools and 86 special schools and boarding schools for children with physical and learning disabilities.

General education schools in Uzbekistan currently teach pupils in seven languages: Uzbek, Russian, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Turkmen, Tajik and Kyrgyz. Children belonging to a national minority can learn their native language in areas densely populated by that minority.

Supplementary education for children and adolescents is an important part of the younger generation's education. Uzbekistan has a total of 553 extracurricular institutions with 34,000 groups and 15,700 teachers. The total number of children attending them is 539,500. There are also 372 sports schools and 311 music schools.

Extracurricular institutions operate in four main types of premises:

- Students' homes and residential complexes;
- Technical creativity centres and young technical specialist stations;
- Natural studies and environmental research centres and stations;
- Regional studies and youth tourism research centres and stations.



Year	Indicators	Total		Urban areas		Rural areas	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
2003	Proportion of pupils graduating after 11 grades, %	48.4	51.6	44.2	55.8	49.8	50.2
2004	Proportion of pupils graduating after 11 grades, %	48.1	51.9	44.1	55.9	49.4	50.6
2005	Proportion of pupils graduating after 11 grades, %	47.9	52.1	43.9	56.1	48.9	51.1

Uzbekistan has a high literacy rate, which remains one of the highest in the world (99.34%). There are no statistics on literacy among children under 18 years of age.

Year	Indicators	Total		Urban areas		Rural areas	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
2003	Total number of pupils repeating a grade	748	1,677	366	948	382	729
2004	Total number of pupils repeating a grade	537	1,078	298	695	239	383
2005	Total number of pupils repeating a grade	655	1,078	397	634	258	444

Year	Ratio of teachers to pupils:	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2003	In grades 1-4	20	27	18
	In grades 5-11	13	15	12
2004	In grades 1-4	20	26	18
	In grades 5-11	13	14	12
2005	In grades 1-4	19	27	17
	In grades 5-11	12	15	11

Uzbekistan has more than 500,000 teachers working in the national education system, including 451,600 teachers in general education schools, 59,300 in pre-schools and 15,700 in extracurricular institutions.

The total number of educational workers is 451,567, and of those 308,200 working in schools have completed higher education studies. The remainder mainly hold secondary-level teaching qualifications.

Each year the Republic's five teacher-training colleges alone turn out 32,000 young specialists. Highly qualified educational workers receive training in 21 specialist fields.

**8. Please provide statistical data (by sex, age, ethnic groups and other minorities, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on:**

- a) rates of infant and child mortality;
- b) rates of immunization;
- c) rates of malnutrition;
- d) children infected with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- e) early pregnancies, abortions, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), mental health problems, tobacco use, alcohol and drug abuse; and
- f) the percentage of health professionals working in health care services for children.

**Infant and child mortality in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

	Infant mortality (from 0 to 1 year)			Child mortality up to 14 years		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Republic of Uzbekistan	16.4	15.2	14.3	1.61	1.54	1.39

**Incidence of gonorrhoea in 2005**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
6,131	23.7	2,973	18.1	43	0.49	12	0.20	989	27.1	429	17.9

**Incidence of gonorrhoea in 2004**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population	Abs.No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
6,319	24.4	2,846	17.3	44	0.5	15	0.25	1,112	30.5	389	16.2

**Incidence of gonorrhoea in 2003**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
6,752	26.4	2,977	18.4	54	0.6	19	0.3	1,080	30.3	383	30.5

**Incidence of syphilis in 2003**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
5,593	21.9	2,202	13.6	20	0.22	11	0.18	534	15.0	176	14.0

**Incidence of syphilis in 2004**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
4,836	18.7	1,916	11.6	24	0.27	13	0.21	375	10.3	124	5.2
855	40.0			4	0.77			62	23.8		

**Incidence of syphilis in 2005**

Total		Including villagers		Children		Including villagers		Adolescents (15-20 years)		Including villagers	
Absolute number	Per 100,000 of population	Absolute No.	Per 100,000 of population	Absolute No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 0-14 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age	Abs. No.	Per 100,000 of population 15-20 years of age
4,113	15.9	1,735	10.5	16	0.18	8	0.13	274	7.5	82	3.4

**Incidence of malnourishment per 1,000 children up to 1 year of age**

2003		2004		2005	
51,693	100.6	51,669	99.8	48,529	93.7

**Incidence of mental illnesses and behavioural disorders in 2003**

2003															
Cases registered during year								Including rural cases							
Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population
33,808	132.2	13,699	106.9	13,799	155.2	3,390	179.1	19,882	122.7	7,171	88.7	6,781	111.2	2,379	189.7

**Incidence of mental illnesses and behavioural disorders in 2004**

2004															
Cases registered during year								Including rural cases							
Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population
34,358	132.8	14,328	110.6	14,347	159.5	3,272	170.9	18,893	114.8	8,021	97.8	6,893	114.4	2,192	173.7

**Incidence of mental illnesses and behavioural disorders in 2005**

2005															
Cases registered during year								Including rural cases							
Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	Total	Per 100,000 of population	Of whom women	Per 100,000 of population	0-14 years of age	Per 100,000 of population	15-17 years of age	Per 100,000 of population
34,041	130.1	14,814	114.4	13,672	148.9	3,560	186.0	19,910	119.2	8,864	108.1	7,012	116.4	2,433	192.9

**2003**

Early pregnancies		Abortions					
		Age			Including rural population		
Up to 15 years of age	16-19 years of age	Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years	Age		
					Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years
27	24,298	1	2,617	45,818		1,015	19,062

**2004**

Early pregnancies		Abortions					
		Age			Including rural population		
Up to 15 years of age	16-19 years of age	Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years	Age		
					Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years
42	21,505	10	2,299	43,206	1	839	19,343

**2005**

Early pregnancies		Abortions					
		Age			Including rural population		
Up to 15 years of age	16-19 years of age	Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years	Age		
					Up to 15 years	15-19 years	20-50 years
33	19,533	4	1,992	39,958	2	918	18,330

**Number of persons first diagnosed with chronic alcoholism, by age group, between 2003 and 2005**  
(in absolute figures)

0-14			15-17			18-19		
2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
-	1	-	26	19	7	95	88	42

**Number of persons diagnosed with drug addiction, by age group, between 2003 and 2005**  
(in absolute figures)

0-14			15-17			18-19		
2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
2	2	-	5	10	6	15	17	34

**Breakdown of paediatric doctors in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

All doctors	2003					2004					2005						
	Paediatric doctors		All rural doctors	Paediatric doctors		All doctors	Paediatric doctors		All rural doctors	Paediatric doctors		All doctors	Paediatric doctors		All rural doctors	Paediatric doctors	
	Total	%		Total	%		Total	%		Total	%		Total	%		Total	%
71,623	14,943	20.9	34,119	6,894	20.2	70,958	14,672	20.7	33,894	7,303	21.5	70,564	14,453	20.5	33,077	6,848	20.7

9. Please provide appropriate data (including by, sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, and type of crime) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, in particular on the number of:

- persons below 18 who have allegedly committed a crime, reported to the police;
- persons below 18 who have been sentenced and type of punishment or sanctions related to offences, including length of deprivation of liberty;
- persons below 18 who have been tried as adults;
- detention centres for juvenile offenders (under 18) and their capacity;
- persons below 18 detained in these facilities and minors detained in adult facilities;
- persons below 18 kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;
- reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of children which occurred during their arrest and detention.

**Reply:**

a) The number of criminal cases brought against minors was 2,571 in 2003, 2,471 in 2004 and 2,373 in 2005, respectively.

b) In 2005, out of a total number of 2,425 criminal cases investigated in relation to minors, convictions were secured in court in 1,629 cases (or 67.2 per cent of cases). In the same year, 254 cases (10.4 per cent) referred to the courts resulted in reconciliation between the parties.

The Central Investigation Department does not keep statistical data on juvenile offences by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas, and type of crime.

**Data on offences committed by minors from 2003 to 2005**

Periods	Number of offences committed by minors	Increase (+), decrease (-), in percentages (%)	Number of minors who acted as accomplices	Including		
				Employed	Pupils	
					Schools	Vocational colleges and academic lyceums
<b>2003</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>2,974</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>-9.4</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>186</b>

**Information on types of offences committed by minors from 2003 to 2005**

Periods	Number of offences committed by minors	Increase (+), decrease (-), in percentage (%)	Types of offences							
			Intentional homicide	Grievous bodily harm	Rape and attempted rape	Armed robbery	Robbery	Theft	Hooliganism	Drug-related crimes
<b>2003</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>2,428</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>45</b>

**Information on minors who acted as accomplices according to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs Information Centre**

Year	Number of minors who acted as accomplices	Number of minors prosecuted	13-15 years old	16-17 years old	Pupils		Employed	Neither employed nor studying	Recidivist minors	Intoxicated
					School	Vocational colleges and academic lyceums				
2003	2,074	2,577	624	2,350	906	243	229	1,165	278	157
2004	2,837	2,502	614	2,223	925	183	146	1,174	254	156
2005	2,727	2,384	582	2,145	734	186	132	1,224	233	151



The number of persons below 18 who have been sentenced and who have served sentences in juvenile correctional facilities, as at 1 January 2003, is as follows: 19 in 2003, 90 in 2004, 210 in 2005, and 204 in 2006.

Analysis shows the following offences to have been committed by minors:

No.	Articles of the Criminal Code	2003	2004	2005	2006
1.	Article 97 – Intentional homicide	15	18	35	32
2.	Article 118 - Rape; Article 119- Gratification of unnatural sexual desires by force	12	10	15	26
3.	Article 164 - Robbery	17	8	27	40
4.	Article 166 – Armed robbery	2	2	12	6
5.	Article 169 - Theft	82	47	106	92
6.	Article. 227 - Theft, destruction, damage to or concealment of documents, stamps, seals and forms	-	-	-	1
7.	Article. 267 – Vehicle theft	1	1	5	4
8.	Article. 273 -Unlawful preparation, acquisition, possession and other actions for the purpose of sale of narcotic or psychotropic substances, including their sale.	2	1	1	1
9.	Article 250 – Violation of regulations for handling explosives or fireworks	-	-	-	1
10.	Article 104 - Intentional grievous bodily harm	5	3	5	-
11.	Article 165 – Extortion	1	-	1	1
12.	Article 246 – Smuggling	2	-	3	-

The total number of girls below 18 who have been sentenced and who have served sentences, at year-end, is as follows: 4 in 2003, 5 in 2004 and 3 in 2005.

(a) In accordance with article 558 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a minor can be placed in pre-trial detention only on the basis of the grounds set out in article 246 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and then only in exceptional cases, when the minor is charged with intentionally having committed an offence entailing a penalty of more than five years' deprivation of liberty and other preventive measures are not likely to ensure that the defendant will engage in appropriate conduct.

The number of minors under 18 years of age who were placed in pre-trial detention centres of the penal correction system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and were awaiting court decisions is as follows: 229 persons in 2003, 253 persons in 2004, 215 persons in 2005 and 194 persons in 2006.

(b) The administrations of penal institutions do not acknowledge any cases of maltreatment or actions aimed at violating the lawful rights of convicted minors (or minors held in pre-trial detention) during the period of their sentence.

c) There are no cases of persons below 18 years of age being tried as adults since under the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure no specific procedure is provided for emancipated minors.

d) Uzbekistan has specialized centres for holding minors in custody.

In accordance with article 228 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, once a detained minor has been delivered to a special penal institution, he or she is segregated from adult offenders in official premises that are not in prison quarters, or is held in a temporary isolation cell.

e) In the course of preliminary investigations in 2003, 403 minors were arrested (357/266); 68 (46/26) of these minors were subsequently released and awarded other non-custodial preventive measures.

In 2003, preventive measures were used in relation to 335 (311/240) detained minors through their placement in pre-trial detention and there were no recorded cases of release from detention; however, in 2004 and in 2005, one minor and five minors, respectively, were released from detention and other preventive measures applied to them.

f) Prior to the courts rendering their decisions, there were 229 minors in 2003 (253 in 2004/215 in 2005) detained in the pre-trial detention centres of the Ministry of Internal Affairs penal correction system.

There are no data on sex, age or ethnic group since the Prosecutor's Office does not keep such records.

In accordance with article 245 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, detention in custody during the investigation of a crime may not exceed two months. However, there are no data on the average length of detention in custody of minors since the Prosecutor's Office does not keep such records.

During the reporting period there were no recorded cases of abuse and maltreatment of children occurring during their arrest and detention.

The Central Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has no data on cases of abuse and maltreatment of children occurring during their arrest and detention between 2003 and 2005.

Almost every year since gaining its independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has issued amnesty acts which have also applied to minors irrespective of the gravity of the offences committed.

Following the last act of amnesty alone, dated 2 December 2005, criminal cases were dismissed against 125 accused minors, and criminal cases were rejected against 23 minors in 19 cases in which preliminary inquiries had been instituted.

**10. With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by sex, age, minority and ethnic groups, urban and rural areas) covering the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 on:**

- a) **the number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking; and the number of them who received recovery and/or reintegration support;**
- b) **the number of unaccompanied minors and asylum-seeking and refugee children, as well as the number of children awaiting expulsion;**
- c) **the number of children involved in labour who are under 16;**
- d) **the number of street children;**

**Reply:**

a) To prevent the sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and trafficking in children, pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 2 of 26 February 2004 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs central administrative board, crime prevention units have been established within the crime prevention service of the internal affairs authorities to combat the recruitment of persons for purposes of exploitation and sex crimes.

Work is under way to improve the legislative basis governing penalties for offences involving trafficking in persons:

1. Draft regulatory documents have been prepared on the establishment of an interdepartmental State commission to prevent the recruitment and illegal smuggling (trafficking) of persons across borders for the purposes of sexual or other exploitation, on the creation of a working group to develop draft legislative acts combating illicit trafficking in persons and on the rights of victims of trafficking in persons.

2. Proposals to amend the legislative acts in force in the Republic of Uzbekistan have been prepared and submitted for consideration in order to strengthen the measures to combat illicit trafficking in persons (on the revised version of article 135 of the Criminal Code: "Recruitment of persons for exploitation").

The status of criminality with respect to article 135 of the Criminal Code (Recruitment of persons for exploitation) is as follows: the internal affairs authorities registered 79 offences under this article in 2003, 201 in 2004 and 229 in 2005.

According to 2005 results, the greatest number of offences under this article took place in the Tashkent (56), Samarkand (38), Namangan (23), Surkhandarya (19) and Navoi (18) oblasts.

As at 1 January 2006, 40 girls were placed under preventive supervision by the internal affairs authorities for violations in the area of public morality, including 13 for engaging in prostitution and 27 for loose sexual morality.

The Central Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs keeps no records either on children who are victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking between 2003 and 2005.

#### **Information on minors who were victims of offences in 2003**

	Sex		Nationality of victim (minor)								
	Male	Female	Uzbek	Russian	Karakalpak	Turkmen	Korean	Kyrgyz	Kazakh	Tatar	Others
Article 118 - Rape; Article 119 - Gratification of unnatural sexual desires by force	60	18	67	6			1			1	3
Article 128 - Having sexual relations with minors under the age of 16	61	2	43	6			1		1	3	9
Article 129 - Sexual abuse of minors under the age of 16	5	2	5	2							



Article 135 (second part, paragraph (c)) - Recruitment of persons for the exploitation of minors	1		1								
Others	18 1	32 4	458	10		3	1	2	3	2	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 9</b>	<b>35 7</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>

**Information on minors who were victims of crimes committed in 2005**

	Sex		Nationality of victim (minor)								
	Male	Female	Uzbek	Russian	Karakalpak	Turkmen	Korean	Kyrgyz	Kazakh	Tatar	Others
Article 118 - Rape; Article 119 - Gratification of unnatural sexual desires by force	62	24	70	8	2		1		1	3	2
Article 128 - Having sexual relations with minors under the age of 16	52		37	6		1				2	5
Article 129 - Sexual abuse of minors under the age of 16	7	2	7	1	1						
Article 130 - Preparation and distribution of pornographic materials											
Article 131 (second part) - The keeping of establishments of ill-repute and procurement involving minors	13		8	4		1					
Article 135 (second part, paragraph (c)) - Recruitment of persons for the exploitation of minors	2	3	4	1							
Others	21 7	34 0	469	13	20	5			8	2	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 3</b>	<b>36 9</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>47</b>

b) Information from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the number of children with refugee status (up to 18 years of age) in the Republic of Uzbekistan is as follows:

At the end of 2003 there were 1,180 refugee children in Uzbekistan from Afghanistan, comprising 559 girls and 621 boys. Out of the total number of refugee children, 1,046 live in Tashkent, 16 in Samarkand and 104 in Termez.

At the end of 2004 there were 1,008 refugee children in Uzbekistan, including 559 [sic] girls and 621 [sic] boys. Out of the total number of refugee children, 1,006 arrived from Afghanistan, one from China, and one from Turkmenistan. Out of the total number of refugee children, 879 live in Tashkent, 103 in Termez and 26 in Samarkand.

At the end of 2005 there were 762 refugee children in Uzbekistan: 366 girls and 396 boys from Afghanistan; 24 of those children live in Samarkand, 629 in Tashkent and 109 in Termez.

d) [sic] During the course of 2005, some 46,147 children and adolescents were turned over to the internal affairs authorities for vagrancy and various offences. In the case of 7,176 of these, tax inspectors transmitted their case files to the juvenile affairs commission for review and follow-up. 7,381 children and adolescents were placed under supervision at the juvenile delinquency prevention units of the internal affairs authorities. During the same period, 2,699 parents whose conduct was harmful to their children's upbringing were also placed under supervision.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a transit centre for social and legal aid to minors was established in Tashkent within the Department of Internal Affairs.

During 2005, some 6,951 children and adolescents without parental care were placed in the centres for social and legal aid to minors (formerly reception and distribution centres for minors) of the internal affairs authorities.

**Information on minors turned over to the offices of the juvenile delinquency prevention units of the internal affairs authorities for offences and vagrancy in the period from 2003 to 2005**

Year	Number of minors turned over to the internal affairs authorities	Pupils		Neither employed nor studying	Number of minors detained for consumption of spirits	Number who voluntarily left home or special educational establishments
		Schools	Vocational colleges and academic lyceums			
2003	47,297	25,840	2,566	11,414	422	4,541
2004	48,565	27,207	2,734	12,577	462	4,272
2005	46,147	28,590	3,893	10,884	314	5,394

**Information on minors in the care of the juvenile delinquency prevention units of the internal affairs authorities for offences and vagrancy in the period from 2003 to 2005**

Year	Number of minors in the care of the internal affairs authorities at the start of the reporting period	Number of minors placed in the care of the internal affairs authorities during the reporting period	Number of minors in the care of the internal affairs authorities at the end of the reporting period	Number of schoolchildren in the care of the internal affairs authorities	Number of pupils at vocational colleges and academic lyceums in the care of the internal affairs authorities	Not employed or studying
<b>2003</b>	6,447	7,351	6,323	3,979	460	1,254
<b>2004</b>	6,292	7,410	6,375	4,054	568	1,156
<b>2005</b>	6,331	7,381	6,262	4,173	596	1,092

**Information on parents exerting a negative influence on their children and placed under the preventive supervision of the juvenile delinquency prevention units of the internal affairs authorities for offences and vagrancy in the period from 2003 to 2005.**

Year	Number of parents in the care of the internal affairs authorities at the start of the reporting period	Number of parents placed in the care of the internal affairs authorities during the reporting period	Number of parents released from the care of the internal affairs authorities during the reporting period	Number of parents in the care of the internal affairs authorities at the end of the reporting period	Case files on parents transmitted for consideration to the juvenile affairs commission
<b>2003</b>	2,893	2,624	2,692	2,723	2,702
<b>2004</b>	2,898	2,513	2,600	2,811	2,893
<b>2005</b>	2,802	2,699	2,714	2,787	2,948

**Information on minors placed in the children's social and legal aid centres of the internal affairs authorities of Uzbekistan between 2003 and 2005**

Year	Number of minors placed in the centres in the reporting period	Pupils		Not working or studying	Number who voluntarily left home or special educational establishments
		Schools	Vocational schools and academic lyceums		
<b>2003</b>	6,953	3,156	83	3,676	5,554
<b>2004</b>	6,908	3,118	118	3,610	5,370
<b>2005</b>	6,951	3,126	150	3,772	4,191

## B. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. **The Committee notes with appreciation that a national plan of action has been adopted to implement the recommendations of the Committee contained in its previous concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.167). Please provide specific information about the results of the implementation of this national plan of action; which recommendations have been implemented, which recommendations are in process of implementation and which ones have not been implemented and if so, why?**

2. **Please indicate whether the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been invoked directly in domestic courts, and if so, please provide examples of such cases.**

**Reply:**

Most of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law have been implemented in Uzbek national legislation as in other countries. The adoption of domestic legislation is necessary to meet international obligations in the area of the rights of the child. A court, invoking the international text, applies the provisions of national law, in accordance with the Law on Courts of 14 December 2000. The courts are guided by the national law alone. In judicial practice the application of international law occurs without direct reference in the court decision to a specific legal act. Court decisions set out the content and scope of the relevant national legal provisions which are essentially the same as or very similar to particular international legal texts.

The decisions of the national courts do not contain any references to the Convention on the Rights of the Child because these norms are fully reproduced in national legislation.

Since international instruments do not indicate how they are to be implemented in national legislation and government activities, the technical legal aspects of applying international law are determined by States themselves.

Courts in Uzbekistan apply the norms of international law according to the procedure established by the national legal system and in so doing they use routine procedure.

In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, if international agreements to which Uzbekistan is a party establish regulations different from those contained in its legislation, the regulations contained in the international agreement shall apply.

3. **Please provide information on the status of the ambitious bills prepared by the National Human Rights Centre on guarantees for children's rights and social protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care. Which bills have been submitted to the Parliament? In particular, please provide specific information on the content of the bills, whether they have been approved by the Parliament and entered into force.**

**Reply:**

The National Human Rights Centre has prepared enterprising bills on guarantees for children's rights and the social protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care, which have been included in the bills scheduled for consideration by the Parliament.

The need to develop and adopt a separate Law on Guarantees for Children's Rights is based on the fact that article 4 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges States Parties to undertake all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights of the child. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, in



its recommendations on the outcome of the consideration of the initial report of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, pointed to the possibility of a single codified Act fully enshrining the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Furthermore, the role and significance of legal regulations guaranteeing and protecting the rights of the child have been strengthened by the radical socio-economic reforms carried out in the country, the developments in the State legal framework, the establishment of the rule of law and the creation of a civil society. The rights of the child are protected and guaranteed in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan by a whole series of laws and regulations. These cover various branches of law and are applied by various State bodies and non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, which sometimes fail to coordinate or collaborate with each other in any systematic way. There is an urgent need to develop a single legal regulatory mechanism bringing together different areas of legislation, each with its own specific characteristics.

The adoption of a Law on Guarantees for Children's Rights is also advisable given the deteriorating guarantees of children's rights provided around the world amid ever worsening global problems and the negative effects of globalization.

The aim of adopting a Law on Guarantees for Children's Rights in Uzbekistan is to define the legal status of the child in society and to establish clear mechanisms for protecting and guaranteeing the rights of the child. The purpose of such a law is also to implement the main principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Its tasks include the following:

- Strengthening the set of fundamental rights of the child provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strengthening the guarantees of their application in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Defining the aims and main thrusts of State policy in the interests of children;
- Defining the main areas of activity of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities related to guaranteeing the rights of the child;
- Establishing the principles for the organization of the work of government agencies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of the child;
- Defining the competencies and areas of activity of central and local government agencies in this field;
- Establishing priority areas for the protection of the rights of the child;
- Strengthening government and public scrutiny of the observance of the rights of the child;
- Defining the involvement of civil society institutions in the protection of the rights of the child and defining State mechanisms to support this activity.
- Defining specific mechanisms and procedures to protect socially vulnerable children;
- Defining the legal status and role of the Children's Ombudsman.

The Law on Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care defines State support for this category of children and sets forth the general principles guiding the provision of support, the types of support provided and the measures to be established.

The law defines the terms "orphans", "children deprived of parental care", "tutorship and guardianship" and "foster family" and regulates the procedure for providing additional guarantees to orphans and children deprived of parental care in areas such as education, medical care and property, housing and labour rights. The law provides judicial protection for the rights of this category of children.

**4. Please provide additional information on measures taken to improve the system for collection of data on children under 18 in all areas under the Convention.**

**5. Please further elaborate on how the Convention's implementation is coordinated across the action of different relevant ministries, including at State and local levels.**

**Reply:**

The provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are being implemented in Uzbekistan on the basis of the National Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Plan, which has been adopted by the Government, defines the main mandates and functions of State bodies at various levels and non-governmental entities in implementing the Plan

The organ coordinating the activities of the relevant State bodies implementing the National Action Plan is the Cabinet of Ministers Unit for the Social Protection of Families, Mothers and Children.

The National Human Rights Centre monitor compliance with the provisions of this instrument and assists the government agencies responsible for implementing the relevant parts of the Plan by providing information on international child protection standards; holding training sessions (seminars, conferences) for government officials and NGO representatives; and publishing international instruments and literature on the rights of the child in the national language and in other languages of the peoples living in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Parliament and the Ombudsman are actively involved in the implementation of the National Action Plan. The chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan carry out legislative and oversight activities related to children's rights.

In 2005, two committees of the legislative chamber exercised their function of parliamentary oversight by examining compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Kashkadarya oblast.

The legislative chamber has now begun work to draft a bill on guarantees for children's rights, taking into account parliamentary oversight of compliance with Convention provisions in the country's regions. The Plenipotentiary of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights (Ombudsman) examines reports of violations of children's rights, monitors legislation and carries out law enforcement activities in this field.

The activities of the Government's executive bodies, regulated by the Cabinet of Ministers, are aimed at creating the conditions and mechanisms for protecting children's rights under the law by addressing issues related to children's health care and protection of children's labour, education and other rights. It should be noted that these activities are carried out in close contact with children's and women's NGOs, the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Centre and local self-government agencies.

**6. Please clarify to the Committee the role and mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman with regard to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular whether this institution is empowered to receive and address individual complaints from children.**

**Reply:**

Protecting the most socially vulnerable sectors of the population, first and foremost children and young people, is one of the main areas of activity of the Plenipotentiary of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights (the Ombudsman).

Every report to the Ombudsman concerning violations of the rights of minors is processed. During the period 2002-2005, the Ombudsman received more than 100 reports containing complaints about violations of various categories of minors' rights. Reports received by post or statements based on personal interviews are considered and followed up. The reports are made directly by the children themselves (insofar as they possess legal capacity), or persons representing their interests (parents, other relatives, guardians, neighbours, teachers, etc.) and organizations (Soglom Avlod Uchun, Mehr Tayanchi, local self-government bodies, UNICEF, etc.) on a range of issues.

A study of these reports suggests that the most frequent violations of adolescents' rights occur in the context of referrals to medical institutions, prosecution for crimes, sentencing, cooperation with law enforcement agencies, and education.

In the consideration of reports relating to violations of children's rights, the Parliamentary Ombudsman uses his fully panoply of resources, ranging from lodging of complaints to the conduct of investigations and disclosure of the findings, and, in exceptional circumstances, referral to Parliament during the presentation of his annual report. Following interventions of the Office of the Ombudsman (Human Rights Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis) in connection with complaints relating to violations of children's rights, a number of public servants have been found guilty of administrative and criminal offences, compensation has been paid, financial resources have been collected in a special account and material assets have been transferred to families, among other actions taken.

The parliamentary scrutiny of effective compliance with current legislation on the rights of children is carried out by the Ombudsman in accordance with the Law on the Plenipotentiary of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights (Ombudsman).

The Ombudsman's monitoring activities are carried out with the assistance of the regional representatives of the Ombudsman, representatives of national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, legal specialists, sociologists, journalists and officials at all levels.

Over the reporting period the Ombudsman has carried out 10 investigations to monitor compliance with various categories of civil rights, including the rights of minors, in several regions of Uzbekistan. For example, in 2000 the Ombudsman considered pre-school institutions, schools, boarding schools, colleges and lyceums in Tashkent oblast with regard to access to education. In 2001 respect for the rights of children, mothers and low-income families to obtain social benefits was monitored in the Syr-Dara oblast. In April 2002 the monitoring investigations addressed the issue of safeguarding children's right to receive specialized vocational secondary education in the Khorezm oblast.

The causes and conditions encouraging the growth of juvenile crime were defined in juvenile crime prevention studies carried out in Fergana oblast in 2000 and in 2003 studies on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of minors on completion of custodial sentences served in Tashkent oblast.

The problems faced by health care facilities in realizing the right to qualified medical care were revealed by a study of juvenile patients in the Samarkand oblast in 2003.

Respect for the rights of children with disabilities in State institutions in the Republic of Karakalpakstan was an issue monitored in 2004.

In cooperation with the committees of the legislative chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Ombudsman conducted a study of compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Kashkadarya oblast in 2005.

The analytical reports on the findings of this study were considered at meetings of the Commission on Observance of Citizens' Constitutional Rights and Freedoms and sessions of the oblast councils and in the relevant ministries and departments, as a result of which plans were drawn up for implementing the Ombudsman's recommendations.

Considerable attention is paid by the Ombudsman to the protection of children's rights by the law enforcement authorities. The Ombudsman meets with accused juveniles when visiting the Tashkent women's detention centre and Zangiatinsk juvenile reformatory. In addition, a computer science classroom has been equipped at the Zangiatinsk juvenile reformatory with the assistance of the Konrad Adenauer Fund.

The Ombudsman holds regular meetings with children and young people in educational institutions and labour collectives and he also meets minors in conflict with the law. Meetings have been held with the students of the Tashkent State Institute of Law, the University of World Economics and Diplomacy, the Agrarian University, the National University and the Tashkent Islamic University.

Ombudsmen's offices have been set up in Tashkent Agrarian University and the National University. The Ombudsman participated in and presented a paper at the Children's Parliament.

The Secretariat of the Ombudsman also provides placements and internships for students of the College of Law and masters degree candidates from the Tashkent State Institute of Law.

**7. Please provide updated information on the dissemination of the Convention and the State party report and on efforts made to provide training and raise awareness regarding the Convention and human rights in general, to children, parents, teachers, social workers and other professionals working with and for children in all parts of the State party.**

**Reply:**

Since acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Uzbekistan has carried out wide-ranging educational work to inform the public about its provisions. Work in this area has also continued in recent years with the assistance of the National Human Rights Centre and NGOs.

As is known, one of the tasks of the National Human Rights Centre is to disseminate information on human rights and international instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2003 the Centre, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Uzbek Children's Fund, published 1,000 copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with a commentary, in the Uzbek language (with 500 of those copies in the Latin script). In the same year 150 copies were published of a compendium of materials from a national seminar entitled "Juvenile Justice in Uzbekistan: current situation and outlook".

Three thousand copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were published in the Uzbek language in 2004. In the same year, the National Human Rights Centre and UNICEF published a presentation book entitled "Facts for Life" in the Uzbek language. In addition, assistance was provided by the UNICEF office for the purchase of the 2004 third edition of the newspaper *Demokratizatsia i Prava Cheloveka v Uzbekistane* (Democratization and Human Rights in Uzbekistan), containing materials from the International Conference on the Social Protection of Orphans, for its subsequent courtesy distribution to State bodies, international organizations and institutions of higher education in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This edition also included commentaries on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the National Human Rights Centre, in cooperation with the UNICEF office in Uzbekistan and the editorial office of the newspaper *Klass*, organized a children's competition: "The world of your rights: kindness and mercy for children».

In 2004 and 2005, international forums were held by Uzbekistan's "You are not alone" Children's Foundation and National Human Rights Centre on the topic "Effective ways of helping socially vulnerable children." The proceedings of these forums have been published in a single volume.

In 2005 the National Human Rights Centre and UNICEF published 2,000 copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Uzbek language (in the Cyrillic and Latin scripts).

Representatives of Uzbekistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs have participated UNICEF-organized seminars on the following topics: "The reform of legislation relating to minors, and the protection of children, and the judicial system as it applies to minors"; "The prevention and treatment of drug addiction, including among minors and young people"; "Juvenile justice problems"; "Young people on the labour market in Uzbekistan"; and "Child labour in Uzbekistan" – seminars at which UNICEF projects relating to children in need of special protection and to the juvenile justice system and child protection have been discussed.

Within the framework of cooperation between UNICEF and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a pilot project was developed and implemented entitled "Monitoring the situation of children and adolescents who have infringed the law and the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile delinquents, especially risk groups in 2003".

On the basis of this joint pilot project, in September-October 2003 training seminars were held in Tashkent, Nukus and all provincial centres for staff from the juvenile delinquency prevention units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to familiarize them with the law, the fundamental principles of juvenile (children's) justice and with the Ministry's orders governing juvenile delinquency prevention.

At these seminars, 789 juvenile delinquency prevention inspectors and staff members of children's social and legal aid centres of the Ministry of Internal Affairs received training.

Officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in a two-day international forum (5-6 May 2005), organized by Uzbekistan's "You are not alone" Children's Foundation and the Centre for the Social Adaptation of Children, on "Effective ways of helping socially vulnerable children".

To encourage minors to adopt a healthy lifestyle and law-abiding behaviour and to make the public aware of the results of efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency, much use has been made of the opportunities afforded by the mass media: television, radio and the press, including the television programmes "From the Ministry of Internal Affairs Press Centre" and "Frequency 02", the Ministry's newspapers *Na Postu* and *Postda*, and the magazines *Shchit* and *Kalkan*.

Furthermore, a special human rights course dealing with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is included in the study programmes of the National Centre for the Further Training of Legal Specialists, the Centre for the Promotion of Observance of the Law and for the Further Training of Public Prosecutor's Departmental Officials, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Academy of National Social Construction.

**8. Please indicate the role of non-governmental organizations in the process of preparation of the State party report, as well as in the implementation of the Convention**

**Reply:**

In preparing national reports on the fulfilment of international human rights obligations, including implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Human Rights Centre uses official data provided both by State bodies and by NGOs. Fifteen not-for-profit NGOs in particular provided invaluable assistance with the preparation of Uzbekistan's second periodic report:

the Children's Fund of Uzbekistan, the International Cultural Centre of Uzbekistan, the Uzbekistan Women's Committee, the Soglom Avlod Uchun International Voluntary Foundation, the ECOSAN International Foundation, the "You are not alone Children's Foundation, the Council of the Federation of Uzbek Trade Unions, the Umidvorlik Centre for Children with Limited Opportunities, SOS-Kinderdorf International, the Mehr Tayanchi Centre, the Ijtimoiy Fikr Public Opinion Research Centre, the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Manaviyat va Marifat Centre, the Council of Elders of Uzbekistan and the Makhalla Foundation.

These NGOs have significant information about the promotion of children's rights in Uzbekistan since they are involved in the implementation of the National Action Plan for implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In particular, the Children's Fund is participating in activities provided for by the National Action Plan, including the monitoring of compliance with children's rights legislation; the drafting of a bill on guarantees for children's rights; the organization of permanently running seminars for State officials on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the establishment of special trust points and anonymous telephone services for children with the assistance of psychologists, lawyers and health professionals; and the publication and dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Ijtimoiy Fikr Public Opinion Research Centre conducts sociological research relating to the rights of children and young people and the realization of their rights to work and education. For example, in 2003 the Centre carried out sociological studies of the following topics: "Children and their rights", "Women and violence", "Young people and health", and "Children and labour".

In 2006, NGOs in Uzbekistan became involved in implementing a State programme entitled "The year of charitable assistance and medical workers", providing additional support to socially vulnerable sectors of the population, including children, identifying and developing the creative abilities of children with disabilities, organizing free visits by orphans to cultural institutions, and participating in the drafting of a bill on charitable assistance.

In accordance with the State programme, the Soglom Avlod Uchun International Voluntary Foundation, the "You are not alone" Foundation and the Children's Fund will: provide targeted humanitarian assistance to 31 Mehribonlik homes and to boarding schools for children with special needs; organize free visits by 3,500 orphans to zoos, to the Botanical Gardens and to museums; organize sporting games events, including the "Olympic Games" for disabled children living in Muruvvat homes; organize medical assistance for children with congenital developmental anomalies; and promote the ideas of charitable assistance through the mass media.

**9. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.**

**Reply:**

Since Uzbekistan gained independence, the President and Government have given priority to the problem of the legal, economic and social protection of mothers and children, creating the conditions for comprehensive and harmonious development and education of children and youth in a spirit of universal human values.

Taking into account the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the principle of the best interests of the child is reflected in virtually all new codes and laws adopted in Uzbekistan.

Considerable attention is currently being paid to the question of social partnership between State bodies and the non-State, non-governmental sector in joint undertakings.

The Government of Uzbekistan encourages the elaboration of principles to protect children from information and materials that may be harmful to their well-being. In particular, the use of the mass media to foment war or incite violence, cruelty or ethnic, racial or religious hatred is prohibited by law.

Under article 7 of the Advertising Act, restrictions are placed on advertisements aimed at minors. In particular, advertisements that use images of minors consuming or using products not intended for them or products whose acquisition or consumption by minors is prohibited, or contain appeals to minors to obtain products or images of third parties asking them to use such products, or that use actual or toy weapons are prohibited. The Act also prohibits the dissemination of free samples of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages for the purpose of advertising them to persons who are under the legal age, or the placement of print advertisements for tobacco products or alcoholic beverages in publications intended for minors (art. 23).

Uzbekistan devotes significant attention to the issue of ensuring the right of the child to freedom of conscience and religious belief. Minors may not be recruited by religious organizations, nor may they be taught religion against their will or the will of their parents or persons acting in their stead. The Act stipulates that the Uzbek education system shall be separate from religion. Religious subjects may not be included in educational syllabuses.

Particular importance is attached to the participation of children in various children's organizations. As at 1 January 2005 there were 452 cultural, public health, sports and social protection organizations registered in the Republic of Uzbekistan that have children and young people among their members. The growing number of such organizations includes the Kamalot Youth Movement, the Uzbekistan Children's Fund, the Fund for the Development of Children's Sport, the Sen Yolgiz Emassan Children's Foundation, the Soglom Avlod Uchun foundation and others. It should be noted that the Uzbekistan Children's Fund seeks to familiarize children with the rights of the child and the principles and provisions of the Convention through the "Children's Parliament", which was established in 2002.

Particularly noteworthy among the Government's priority tasks are efforts to improve child rearing and development, which are entrusted to parents under the Family Code. It is the parents who are required to look after their children's health and physical, psychological, spiritual and moral development and protect their rights and legitimate interests. Accordingly, national legislation stipulates that parental rights may not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with the interests of the child.

The State provides support to families in the raising of their children. Thus, in order to create conditions conducive to family health and prevent the birth of children with inherited or congenital diseases, on 25 August 2003 the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Decision No. 365 approving the Regulations governing premarital medical examinations. This measure recommended that the makhalla and Soglom Avlod Uchun foundations, together with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Manaviyat va Marifat Centre and other public associations, should strengthen their work with families and young people contemplating marriage with regard to problems of forming a healthy family, childbirth and the raising of healthy children.

One of the priorities in implementing the Convention is preventing disabilities in children and providing disabled children with socio-medical rehabilitation. The work done with orphans and disabled children being cared for in children's homes and residential facilities is particularly important.

Follow-up to the implementation of State social policy in relation to children has taken the form of the elaboration of a programme for the medical and social rehabilitation of disabled children for the period 2001-2005, which seeks to address the problems of disabled children and their parents.

The State and the non-governmental sector pay considerable attention to the social protection of orphans. Successful action in this regard will depend on:

- The development of a unified strategy for the social and legal protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care and support for alternative forms of care for such children;
- Improvement of the legislative and regulatory basis for the protection of and social support for orphans and children deprived of parental care;
- Expansion of the network of educational and rehabilitation facilities providing the conditions necessary for the raising, development and education of orphans and children deprived of parental care;
- The regular monitoring of efforts to protect the rights of orphans, children deprived of parental care and others.

As a result of the work carried out, the number of children raised in Mehribonlik orphanages during the past four years has fallen from 4,050 to 3,193.

Social support for disabled children and children living in Mehribonlik orphanages is a major concern of a number of NGOs and charitable organizations, with whose assistance these institutions have been able to obtain modern educational technology, medical equipment and wheelchairs.

The Sen Yolgiz Emassan Foundation is active in the social protection of children living in orphanages and helps with special training and job creation.

Thus the system of social protection for Uzbek children who do not live with their parents includes a procedure whereby such children are identified and placed in the care of the State in specialized educational facilities or under alternative forms of care

To improve women's reproductive health, various State programmes are being implemented, including Healthy Children (2000), Mother and Child (2001), Additional Measures to Enhance the Health of Women and the Rising Generation (2002), and measures for implementation of the priorities in enhancing a culture of health in the family, improvement of women's health, and the production and upbringing of healthy children (2002).

A noteworthy priority of the Government is the adoption of measures to protect the environmental rights of children. Since 1995 the international non-governmental organization ECOSAN has been carrying out a special programme on the environment, maternity and childhood, undertaking a series of complex measures to improve the socio-environmental situation and create favourable health, hygiene and environmental conditions for the lives of mothers and children. Mothers and children living in environmentally disadvantaged areas of the country are given medical check-ups in ECOSAN health trains. Various projects are being implemented with a view to reducing the potential impact of worsening environmental conditions on the health and well-being of women and children, and introducing changes into society, the economy and infrastructure that may help to raise their standard of living.

The Manaviyat va Marifat Centre, working with the provincial offices, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Makhalla Foundation and the Uzbekistan Women's Committee, is waging an information campaign on the following themes: "The Family - Our Future"; "A Healthy Family - A Healthy Generation"; "A Healthy Generation - Guarantee of A Great Future" and "A Model Family". Cultural events are organized with a view to preparing young people for family life and introducing them to a healthy lifestyle.



Likewise, pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 32 of 25 January 2002, setting out additional measures for improving the health of women and the rising generation, the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education introduced a new programme of study lasting two to three years in secondary schools in 2002-2004. This programme contains a module entitled "Family health and marriage: creation and education of a healthy generation". Medical workers teach special optional courses lasting 16 hours on the topic "Basis for a healthy lifestyle and family", which is offered during the first semester of the academic year

Considerable attention has been paid recently to the development of children's sport. On 24 October 2002, seeking to improve children's physical fitness, the President of the Republic issued Decree No. UP-3154 establishing the Fund for the Development of Children's Sport in Uzbekistan; on 31 October 2002, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Decision No. 374, setting out the Fund's activities.

The Ministry of Health has taken a number of steps to promote the mass involvement of children and adolescents in physical education; recommendations based on medical and scientific plans were developed for the playing of various sports by children, taking into account their age and sex, in the first to fourth years of school, in the fifth through ninth years and in the makhallas, taking account also of the climate in the various parts of the country.

Each year more than 5,000 children from all over Uzbekistan enrolled in general education schools, lyceums and colleges regularly take part in competitions organized by the State Sports Committee, chiefly in such sports as basketball, volleyball, handball, swimming, tennis, table tennis, *kurash* (Uzbek wrestling) and *belbog'li kurash* (Uzbek belted wrestling).

Improving legislation on the rights of children and developing mechanisms and procedures for the realization of their rights in various spheres of life are important priorities for ensuring the rights of the child in Uzbekistan

### Part III

**Under this section, the State party is invited to briefly (3 pages maximum) update the information provided in its report with regard to:**

- **New bills or enacted legislation**
- **New institutions**
- **Newly implemented policies**
- **Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.**

**Reply:**

In 2005, Uzbekistan continued to enact legislation designed to create the legal and socio-economic conditions necessary for the protection of children's rights. The following texts in particular were adopted during this period:

- On 25 January 2005 the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision on a State programme for the "Year of health", providing for the implementation of measures to protect mothers and children, to improve the health of the mother and the child, to improve reproductive health, to promote a medical culture and a healthy lifestyle within the family, and to ensure that children are strong and well balanced from birth.
- On 10 March 2005 a Presidential Decision was adopted on a programme for democratizing and rejuvenating society and reforming and modernizing the country. This decision is aimed at improving the legal basis of State construction and management, further liberalizing the judicial system, democratizing the mass media and deepening the ongoing market reforms.
- On 1 August 2005 a Presidential Decision was adopted on the abolition of the death penalty in the Republic of Uzbekistan, with effect from 1 January, 2008, providing for the death penalty as a punishment to be replaced by life imprisonment, or lengthy terms of deprivation of liberty.

- On 8 August 2005 a Presidential Decree was adopted on transferring to courts the right to issue sanctions for arrest. This Decree is aimed at ensuring the effective protection of human rights in the administration of justice, and above all in connection with the criminal prosecution both of adults and of children and with interference in their private lives.
- On 28 September 2005 a Presidential Decision was adopted on the establishment in Uzbekistan of a public education information network drawing on youth-oriented information and using the national communications system to bring together information materials for educational, scientific, young people's and children's institutions and organizations. The network is providing children and young people with extensive access to different kinds of information and helping to introduce into the national education system distance learning methods and a wide range of information services for pupils and other young people.
- On 5 November 2005 a Presidential Decision was adopted on measures to improve the pay system and strengthen financial incentives for employees in the national education system. This is aimed at establishing the necessary incentive mechanisms for teachers and at enhancing their contribution to raising a well balanced growing generation.
- On 1 December 2005 a Presidential Decision was adopted on improving the pay system for medical workers. This is aimed at providing incentives for medical workers, on whom a comprehensive improvement in the health of women and children depends.

In 2005 improvements continued to be made to the institutional basis for guaranteeing human rights and freedoms, including the rights of the child, the following bodies and structures being established to monitor compliance with human rights legislation:

1. The Institute for Monitoring Current Legislative Activities, reporting to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was established by Presidential Decree on 2 April 2005. This is a scientific institute whose main task is conducting comprehensive legal reviews of draft laws for their compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and to international standards in the field of human rights and freedoms, and monitoring the practical implementation of laws.

2. The Centre for Monitoring the Implementation of Regulations was established by Presidential Decision on 15 December 2005. The Centre was established under the Ministry of Justice to monitor efforts to ensure that the evolving legal basis and law enforcement practices comply with the goals and objectives of reforming and modernizing the country.

The year 2006 has been declared "The year of charitable assistance and medical workers" in Uzbekistan. For the purpose of implementing a range of measures designed to bolster and expand charitable activities, to increase the support of not-for-profit organizations and of businesses for socially vulnerable sectors of the population and to improve the working conditions of medical workers, a State programme has been adopted for assistance to the disabled, to the very elderly and to poor families and children.

Under this programme, a whole range of measures will be carried out to improve the situation of orphans, of children with disabilities and of children being raised in low-income families. The measures will include the provision of material assistance in obtaining an education, improving their health and becoming familiar with cultural values, etc.