



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/WG.6/6/ALB/2
5 August 2009

Original: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Sixth session
Geneva, 30 November-11 December 2009

**COMPILATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE ANNEX
TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1**

Albania

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations¹

| <i>Core universal human rights treaties²</i> | <i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i> | <i>Declarations /reservations</i> | <i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i> |
|---|--|--|---|
| ICERD | 11 May 1994 a | None | Individual complaints (art. 14): No |
| ICESCR | 4 Oct. 1991 a | None | - |
| ICCPR | 4 Oct. 1991 a | None | Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | 4 Oct. 2007 a | None | - |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | 17 Oct. 2007 a | None | - |
| CEDAW | 11 May 1994 a | None | - |
| OP-CEDAW | 23 June 2003 a | None | Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes |
| CAT | 11 May 1994 a | None | Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No Individual complaints (art. 22): No Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes |
| OP-CAT | 1 Oct. 2003 a | None | - |
| CRC | 27 Feb. 1992 | None | - |
| OP-CRC-AC | 9 Dec. 2008 a | Binding declaration under art. 3: 19 years | - |
| OP-CRC-SC | 5 Feb. 2008 a | None | - |
| ICRMW | 5 June 2007 a | None | Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No Individual complaints (art. 77): No |
| CED | 8 Nov. 2007 | None | Individual complaints (art. 31): Yes Inter-State complaints (art. 32): Yes |

Core treaties to which Albania is not a party: OP-ICESCR,³ CPRD, and CPRD-OP.

| <i>Other main relevant international instruments⁴</i> | <i>Ratification, accession or succession</i> |
|--|--|
| Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide | Yes |
| Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court | Yes |
| Palermo Protocol ⁵ | Yes |
| Refugees and stateless persons ⁶ | Yes |
| Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁷ | Yes |
| ILO fundamental conventions ⁸ | Yes |
| UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education | Yes |

1. The Committee against Torture (CAT) noted with appreciation the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2002,⁹ and recommended that Albania consider making the declarations under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention.¹⁰

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) welcomed the ratification of ILO (International Labour Organization) Conventions Nos. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment in 1998, and 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2001.¹¹

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. In 2004, the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) welcomed the adoption of new legislation, inter alia, the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. CAT recommended that the Criminal Code should be amended in order to adopt a definition of torture that covers all the elements contained in article 1 of the Convention.¹² The HR Committee¹³ and CRC¹⁴ in 2005 welcomed the adoption of the new Family Code in 2003. The HR Committee also commended Albania for having abolished the death penalty in 2000.¹⁵

4. The HR Committee¹⁶ and CAT in 2005 noted with appreciation the adoption of a Constitution in 1998 enhancing protection of human rights through, inter alia, the direct applicability of ratified international treaties and their superiority over domestic laws.¹⁷

5. In 2006, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) noted with satisfaction the enactment of a law aimed at strengthening the authority of the People's Advocate (the Ombudsman) in May 2005.¹⁸

6. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) stated that the Law on Gender Equality was adopted in 2008 and that the new Electoral Code Law includes temporary special measures, such as a 30 per cent quota for women candidates by political parties to increase women's participation in decision-making.¹⁹ Other recent legal developments included the entry into force of the Domestic Violence Law in 2007 and the passing of secondary legislation on domestic violence in 2008.²⁰

7. CRC recommended that Albania take all necessary measures to clarify the definition of the child in Albania and that existing legislation be reviewed to ensure that all children receive the protection they need.²¹ In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children) stated that the legal framework lacks a definition of the crimes of sale of children and child pornography.²² He noted that prostitution is a crime in Albania.²³

8. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) noted the adoption of amendments to the Penal Code provisions on trafficking in human beings.²⁴

9. UNCT stated that Parliament had adopted the Law on the Organization of the Judiciary, which includes salary scales as well as merit-based criteria for the appointment of judges. The Law on Free Legal Assistance, adopted in December 2008, provides for free legal services to juveniles, witnesses and vulnerable persons.²⁵

10. UNCT noted that, in March 2009, Parliament adopted the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Agency for Supporting Civil Society, which will support activities aimed at encouraging the sustainable development of civil society.²⁶

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

11. The People's Advocate was accredited with "A" status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) in 2004, which was reconfirmed in 2008.²⁷ The HR Committee,²⁸ the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),²⁹ CRC³⁰ and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (the Special

Representative on human rights defenders)³¹ welcomed the establishment of the People's Advocate. In 2003, CEDAW welcomed the early establishment of a national machinery for the advancement of women and gender equality.³²

12. CRC also welcomed the establishment of the Sub-Section on Child Rights within the office of the People's Advocate,³³ and recommended that it allow for reporting on developments in the implementation of child rights.³⁴

13. CRC noted that a multitude of actors are involved in the implementation of the Convention at the national and local level,³⁵ and urged Albania to ensure effective coordination among them. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Rights of the Child should be provided with adequate means for its efficient functioning.³⁶

14. UNCT noted that, included among its powers, the Constitutional Court reviews the compatibility of laws with the Constitution and international treaties, and provides final adjudication of individual complaints of violations of constitutional rights.³⁷

D. Policy measures

15. The HR Committee,³⁸ CESCR,³⁹ CERD⁴⁰ and the Special Representative on human rights defenders⁴¹ welcomed the establishment of a State Council of Minorities, a National Strategy for the Improvement of the Living Conditions of the Roma and a Committee for Equal Opportunity. UNCT noted that, in 2008, Albania joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015).⁴² CESCR also welcomed the adoption of the National Education Action Plan 2005-2015 on pre-University Education in 2004.⁴³

16. CRC recommended that Albania ensure that the revision of the National Strategy on Children 2006-2010 takes account of all areas of the Convention, that adequate financial and human resources are provided for its implementation, and that monitoring and coordination mechanisms are ensured.⁴⁴

17. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children welcomed the fact that the National Strategy on Children 2006-2010 was designed on the basis of CRC's recommendations and that a child specialist had been appointed in the Policy department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.⁴⁵ UNCT stated that, in response to CRC's concluding observations in relation to Albania's initial report and dialogue through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Government significantly revised the National Strategy on Children.⁴⁶ The National Strategy for Fighting Child Trafficking 2008-2011 was approved in 2008 with a view to assisting and integrating child victims of trafficking as well as to protecting children in poor families.⁴⁷

18. UNCT noted that the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2007-2013 provides the framework to improve policy development and coordination, of particular relevance to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights.⁴⁸

19. To implement the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing), Albania has officially included human rights education in the teaching curricula of basic and secondary education as part of various subjects, including extra-curricular activities.⁴⁹

20. UNCT noted that a cross-cutting Anti-Corruption Strategy was adopted in 2008.⁵⁰ The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children welcomed the Government's stand against corruption

at all levels,⁵¹ and noted that corruption impacts more heavily on disadvantaged groups and reinforces their exclusion.⁵²

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

| <i>Treaty body</i> ⁵³ | <i>Latest report submitted and considered</i> | <i>Latest concluding observations</i> | <i>Follow-up response</i> | <i>Reporting status</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| CERD | 2002 | Aug. 2003 | | Fifth to seventh reports overdue since 2007 |
| CESCR | 2005 | Nov. 2006 | | Combined second and third reports due in 2009 |
| HR Committee | 2004 | Oct. 2004 | Jan. 2007 | Second report overdue since 2008 |
| CEDAW | 2002 | Jan. 2003 | | Third report received in 2008 |
| CAT | 2003 | May 2005 | Aug. 2006 | Second report received in 2009 |
| CRC | 2003 | Jan. 2005 | | Combined second and third reports due in 2009 |
| OP-CRC-AC | | | | Initial report due in 2010 |
| OP-CRC-SC | | | | Initial report due in 2010 |
| CMW | None | None | | Initial report overdue since 2008 |

2. Cooperation with special procedures

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Standing invitation issued</i> | No |
| <i>Latest visits or mission reports</i> | Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (31 Oct.-7 Nov. 2005). |
| <i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i> | - |
| <i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i> | Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, requested in 2008. |
| <i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i> | Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography thanked Albania for allowing him to undertake a fruitful visit. ⁵⁴ |
| <i>Follow-up to visits</i> | - |
| <i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i> | - |
| <i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i> ⁵⁵ | Albania responded to three of the 15 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders, ⁵⁶ within the deadlines. ⁵⁷ |

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

21. Albania contributed financially to OHCHR in 2009.⁵⁸ In the context of the Delivering as One pilot programme in Albania, a Human Rights Adviser from the Action 2 Global Programme was deployed to UNCT in 2009.⁵⁹

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

22. The HR Committee,⁶⁰ CESCR⁶¹ and CEDAW⁶² were concerned that women continue to face discrimination under customary law and traditional codes (*Kanun*). CESCR recommended that Albania step up necessary measures to promote equality between men and women⁶³ and invited Albania to consider establishing an independent mechanism for the coordination and evaluation of activities relating to gender equality.⁶⁴ CEDAW urged Albania to implement measures to eliminate the practice of customary law and traditional codes of conduct discriminating against women.⁶⁵

23. The HR Committee was concerned that the Roma community continues to suffer prejudice and discrimination, in particular with regard to access to health services, social assistance, education and employment.⁶⁶ CESCR made the same comments.⁶⁷ The HR Committee urged Albania to ensure that all members of ethnic and linguistic minorities, whether or not they are recognized as national minorities, are protected against discrimination.⁶⁸ CESCR called on Albania to intensify its efforts to promote ethnic tolerance and to adopt a strategy for the integration of persons of a different ethnic origin.⁶⁹ In 2003, CERD made similar comments.⁷⁰

24. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children highlighted the fact that Roma and Egyptian communities are discriminated against in all spheres of life and the accumulation of disadvantages results in multiple forms of exclusion and marginalization.⁷¹

25. CRC was concerned, as highlighted also by UNHCR,⁷² that discrimination persists in particular with respect to ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and children living in remote areas.⁷³ CRC urged Albania, as highlighted also by UNHCR,⁷⁴ to develop and implement policies aimed at countering the various forms of discrimination.⁷⁵

26. The 2004 Common Country Assessment (CCA) report noted that children with disabilities have no access to education and employment in conformity with their type and level of disability.⁷⁶ They are not included in the compulsory schooling, and there is a very low level of integration of them in preschool education.⁷⁷

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

27. CESCR⁷⁸, the HR Committee⁷⁹ and CRC⁸⁰ were concerned at the impact of the legacy of the *Kanun* (customary law) and the persistence of vendetta or honour killings. CESCR recommended that Albania strengthen its efforts to eliminate the practice of vendetta killings and other forms of violence which originate from the *Kanun*.⁸¹ CRC made similar comments.⁸²

28. CESCR⁸³ and CAT⁸⁴ were concerned about the pervasiveness of domestic violence, abuse and ill-treatment against women and children. CESCR urged Albania to provide training to law enforcement officials and judges.⁸⁵ CAT recommended that Albania adopt measures to combat sexual violence and violence against women, including domestic violence.⁸⁶ The HR Committee,⁸⁷ CRC⁸⁸ and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children made similar comments.⁸⁹

29. The HR Committee⁹⁰ and CRC⁹¹ were concerned at allegations of arbitrary arrests and detention, excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, ill-treatment of detainees in police custody and the use of torture to extract confessions from suspects. The HR Committee regretted

that acts of torture by law enforcement officials are considered as “arbitrary acts” only, and treated accordingly.⁹² CESCR was seriously concerned about the reports of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, vis-à-vis the Roma and Egyptian communities.⁹³

30. The HR Committee was concerned about inhumane conditions of detention, the number of persons on remand and conditions of detention, the condition of juvenile and female detainees as well as the lack of compensation for unlawful arrest or detention.⁹⁴ CAT expressed concern at the conditions of detention and pretrial detention periods of up to three years.⁹⁵ The HR Committee⁹⁶ and CAT⁹⁷ urged Albania to improve the conditions of detention for those held on remand and for convicted persons.

31. The 2004 CCA report noted that Albania is both a conduit and a source country for human trafficking, including trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of forced prostitution.⁹⁸ The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children expressed similar concerns⁹⁹ noting that many children are trafficked with some form of consent of their parents and family,¹⁰⁰ including trafficking of newborn children for illegal adoption.¹⁰¹ He also noted that child trafficking hits more severely the Roma and Egyptian communities.¹⁰² He called attention to the problem of re-trafficking, mainly due to the failure to provide adequate support to reintegration and the strong ties between the victims and their traffickers.¹⁰³

32. The HR Committee expressed concern at reports on the involvement of police and government officials in trafficking, and about the lack of effective witness and victim protection mechanisms.¹⁰⁴ CESCR¹⁰⁵ and CEDAW¹⁰⁶ made similar comments. In 2007, the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to take necessary measures to secure the prohibition of the use, procuring or offering of both boys and girls under 18 years of age for prostitution.¹⁰⁷

33. CRC recommended, inter alia, in accordance with article 32 of the Convention, and ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182, that Albania pursue measures, at the national and international level, to dismantle trafficking and exploitation networks, and establish control mechanisms to monitor the extent of child labour.¹⁰⁸

34. CESCR noted with concern the high percentage of children below the age of 16 who work, sometimes in hazardous conditions. Children, many of them Roma, work in the streets and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.¹⁰⁹ Albania was urged to take measures to ensure that legislation protecting minors against economic and social exploitation and their right to education are rigorously enforced.¹¹⁰ The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to indicate the measures taken or envisaged to prohibit the use of children for illicit activities,¹¹¹ and to provide information on the measures taken to protect persons under 18 years of age living in the streets from the worst forms of child labour.¹¹² The HR Committee expressed similar concerns.¹¹³

35. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children stated that a large number of children are employed in the formal sector but work in hazardous occupations under dangerous conditions.¹¹⁴

36. CRC was concerned that corporal punishment continued to be used as a disciplinary method,¹¹⁵ and urged Albania to prohibit it by law.¹¹⁶

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

37. The 2004 CCA report noted that the rule of law is weak despite efforts to improve the function of the judicial system.¹¹⁷ The lack of transparency and impartiality affects important aspects of judicial operations.¹¹⁸ The HR Committee remained concerned about alleged cases of executive pressure on the judiciary and persistent problems of corruption, lack of access to counsel and legal aid, and undue delay of trials.¹¹⁹ CESCR was concerned about the reported lack of independence, security and training of the judiciary,¹²⁰ and strongly urged Albania to take measures on these issues.¹²¹

38. CESCR urged Albania to provide specific training to law enforcement officers to ensure that they respect and protect human rights without distinction. Incidents of police violence should be thoroughly investigated and perpetrators promptly brought to justice.¹²²

39. The HR Committee¹²³ and CRC¹²⁴ were concerned that, despite several cases of investigations and punishment of those responsible for ill-treatment, many cases have not been investigated properly. CAT expressed concern that a climate of de facto impunity prevails for law enforcement personnel who commit acts of torture or ill-treatment,¹²⁵ and recommended that Albania investigate all allegations of torture or ill-treatment with a view to prosecuting those responsible.¹²⁶

40. CESCR recommended that Albania take rigorous measures to prosecute those who engage or collaborate in vendetta or honour killings and other forms of violence.¹²⁷

41. CRC was concerned at the lack of an effective juvenile justice system of specialized police prosecutors, judges and social workers.¹²⁸ UNCT noted that interventions on legislative reform in the area of juvenile justice remain fragmented.¹²⁹

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

42. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children was concerned at the way the media portray children: without respecting the children's right to privacy, the media disclose or make recognizable the identity of victims of trafficking.¹³⁰

5. Freedom of expression and right to participate in public and political life

43. The 2004 CCA report noted that true respect for freedom of expression in Albania requires changes in practices and legislative reforms.¹³¹ The Special Representative on human rights defenders shared the concerns expressed by the HR Committee, in particular with regard to "instances of harassment and physical violence against journalists as well as about threats of defamation suits against them" and asked for information on this issue.¹³²

44. The HR Committee was concerned about the low level of participation of women in public affairs, and in the political and economic life, particularly in senior positions of public administration.¹³³ CEDAW¹³⁴ expressed similar concerns in 2003.¹³⁵

45. In 2007, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that persons who have served or have been candidates in bodies or functions of the previous regime were excluded from the right to serve in certain public functions and engage in certain professions. The Committee considered that the criteria for exclusion were not sufficiently well defined and delimited to ensure that they do not lead to discrimination in employment and occupation based on political opinion.¹³⁶ UNCT noted

that, in February 2009, the Constitutional Court suspended the implementation of the Lustration Law, a law passed on 22 December 2008, which prohibits people who worked during the communist era in the areas of the secret police, the judiciary or as prosecutors from government employment.¹³⁷

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

46. CESCR expressed concern about the high levels of unemployment that continue to persist, especially in rural areas and among members of ethnic minorities, including the Roma and the Egyptian communities.¹³⁸ The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children highlighted that the high unemployment rate affects the Roma disproportionately.¹³⁹ CESCR urged Albania to increase its efforts to combat unemployment through special targeted programmes and recommended taking measures to stimulate rural development.¹⁴⁰

47. CESCR was concerned that the current minimum wage, and its absence in the private sector, was insufficient to provide an adequate standard of living,¹⁴¹ and invited Albania to consider introducing a legal minimum wage that is applicable to all workers.¹⁴² A 2008 International Monetary Fund (IMF) report indicated that men earned around double the hourly earnings of women in the agriculture and mining sector.¹⁴³ CESCR recommended taking appropriate measures to amend the Labour Code so as to liberalize the existing limitations on the right to strike.¹⁴⁴

48. In 2007 the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to provide information on the measures taken or envisaged to ensure that self-employed workers under 18 years of age are protected against types of work which are likely to harm their health, safety or morals.¹⁴⁵

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

49. UNCT stated that data from the most recent Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) show that the overall poverty rate declined from 25.4 per cent in 2002 to 18.5 per cent in 2005, and 12.4 per cent 2008. However, there has been a slowdown in the reduction of poverty in mountainous areas where poverty tends to be highest with little change since 2005.¹⁴⁶ The 2004 CCA report noted that unequal access to basic social services is an issue to be emphasized, especially between rural and urban regions.¹⁴⁷ CESCR urged Albania to take remedial measures to address the regional disparities that affect the equal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.¹⁴⁸

50. A 2006 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report stated that poverty rates among Roma are particularly high (78 per cent), especially in relation to the majority (22 per cent).¹⁴⁹ CESCR remained concerned about the extent of poverty, especially in rural areas and among the Roma and members of other ethnic minorities.¹⁵⁰ The Special Rapporteur expressed similar views.¹⁵¹

51. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children urged the Government to adopt measures to facilitate procedures for birth registration.¹⁵² CRC recommended that Albania, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹⁵³ take appropriate measures to promote the registration of all children, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.¹⁵⁴

52. CESCR recommended that Albania consider enacting legislation that ensures the right to housing and adopting a national plan of action on housing. CESCR also encouraged taking necessary steps to legalize the existing Roma and Egyptian settlements.¹⁵⁵

53. CRC noted that, despite marked improvement in infant mortality rates, these remained very high, and marked disparities in health services between different regions of the country exist.¹⁵⁶ CRC recommended that Albania strengthen its efforts to ensure allocation of resources, including training of sufficient numbers of health-care professionals, and investments in health-care infrastructure, especially in the most disadvantaged areas.¹⁵⁷ UNCT notes that psychiatric institutions provide poor standards of care to persons with disabilities.¹⁵⁸

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

54. The 2004 CCA report noted that the present educational system is not able to fulfil everybody's right to access to different levels of education.¹⁵⁹ A 2006 UNDP report noted that while 87 per cent of urban children in Albania complete the fifth grade, only 77 per cent of rural children do so.¹⁶⁰ UNCT noted that in areas densely populated by Roma communities, access to education can be as low as 13 per cent.¹⁶¹ CESCR urged Albania to continue to take effective measures to increase school attendance by Roma children, especially girls, including, inter alia, through the grant of scholarships.¹⁶²

55. CRC noted that it is widely acknowledged that children in Albania work in the streets, within the family, or elsewhere in exploitative situations or to such an extent that regular school attendance is impeded.¹⁶³ The 2004 CCA report noted that water and sanitation facilities in public schools are quite problematic especially in rural areas.¹⁶⁴ CRC urged Albania to, inter alia, strengthen its ongoing efforts to address the problems relating to the training of teachers and to increase budget allocations with a view to improving the quality of education and physical conditions in schools.¹⁶⁵

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

56. The 2004 CCA report indicated that Roma children are the most deprived cultural and ethnic group from the point of view of educational attainment.¹⁶⁶

57. CESCR remained concerned that Albania has not granted the Egyptian community the status of a minority group, thus denying them the same guarantees and protective measures enjoyed by other minority groups.¹⁶⁷ CESCR invited Albania to reconsider its position with regard to the recognition of the Egyptian community in accordance with recognized international standards.¹⁶⁸

58. The HR Committee urged Albania to ensure that all members of ethnic and linguistic minorities, whether or not they are recognized as national minorities, may enjoy their own culture and use their own language, have access to all social rights, participate in public affairs, and are provided with effective remedies against discrimination.¹⁶⁹

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

59. CRC welcomed, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹⁷⁰ the progress made in establishing a clearer legal framework governing the treatment of refugees and the prevention of statelessness. CRC recommended that pre-screening procedures of foreigners be extended to the border points

with a view to guaranteeing maximum protection to child asylum-seekers and trafficked children.¹⁷¹

60. CRC noted, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹⁷² that the departure of children from Albania to neighbouring countries is a significant problem, and recommended that Albania, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹⁷³ strengthen its efforts to, inter alia, determine and address the causes of such large-scale departure of unaccompanied children and introduce safeguards to reduce the phenomenon.¹⁷⁴

61. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children was particularly concerned at the situation of unaccompanied children who are returned to Albania,¹⁷⁵ and the lack of infrastructure to host children at the border.¹⁷⁶

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

62. The HR Committee welcomed the progress accomplished in legislative and institutional reform, notably the restoration of the freedom of conscience and belief.¹⁷⁷ The Special Representative on human rights defenders¹⁷⁸ and CAT noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening human rights in Albania.¹⁷⁹

63. UNCT noted that one of the key achievements of Albania has been the level of ratifications of United Nations and regional human rights treaties, as well as the introduction of laws and strategies aimed at implementing international standards within national law and policy. Another achievement has been the work of the People's Advocate, which has maintained its "A" status" before the ICC and continues to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.¹⁸⁰

64. The Special Representative on human rights defenders noted that cooperation between the State and civil society has improved, allowing the human rights community to offer and provide legal assistance, and to be consulted on draft law and law implementation.¹⁸¹ NGOs have the right to file complaints before the Constitutional Court for violations of rights in legal proceedings.¹⁸²

65. CRC noted that Albania continues to face economic, social and political challenges, including high rates of unemployment and poverty, and the brain drain depriving the country of active young people.¹⁸³

66. UNCT and UNICEF submitted that, despite the broad legislative reform related to children's rights, the existing mechanisms of social policy were inadequate to significantly reduce social exclusion among vulnerable and marginalized children.¹⁸⁴ UNICEF stated that a comprehensive system of data collection that allows for disaggregation by income level, geographic location, ethnicity, and gender has to be established.¹⁸⁵

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

A. Pledges by the State

67. In 2006, Albania pledged to advance human rights both at the national and international level, including by: increasing public awareness of human rights; continuing to promote a human rights-based approach; prioritizing respect for and promotion of minority human rights; and establishing a National Committee on Minorities under the Prime Minister, with the objective of observing the protection and respect of human rights of minorities.¹⁸⁶

68. UNCT noted that the National Committee on Minorities has been established. Albania also pledged: to ratify the Optional Protocol to ICCPR and the Optional Protocols to CRC as well as amendments to CAT, CEDAW and CRC; to support strongly the efforts to strengthen OHCHR, and to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and its special procedures. Notably, since making the pledges, Albania has ratified the Optional Protocols to ICCPR and the Optional Protocols to CRC.¹⁸⁷

B. Specific recommendations for follow-up

69. CESCR requested Albania to provide in its next periodic report detailed information on the extent of domestic violence, and the legislative measures and policies adopted to address that phenomenon, including facilities and remedies provided for victims.¹⁸⁸

70. The HR Committee requested Albania to provide, within one year, information on the assessment of the situation and the implementation of the Committee's recommendations related to the low representation of women in public and political life; to the arbitrary detentions and excessive use of force by police officers; the conditions of detention and the lack of compensation for the victims of unlawful arrest and detention.¹⁸⁹ In its response, Albania stated that administrative measures have been taken to overcome violence and maltreatment and to safeguard the constitutional rights of persons pre-detained.¹⁹⁰ Albania also stated that it has taken measures to improve the living conditions of inmates, in particular, the separation of minors from adult inmates, and that, with regard to pre-detention situations, legal proceedings and guarantees are respected.¹⁹¹

71. Replying to CAT's request,¹⁹² Albania stated that cases have been brought to evidence concerning the use of violence on inmates, and that recommendations were made by the Ombudsman to the Prosecution Office concerning claims of maltreatment for the initiation of criminal proceedings. In addition, a mechanism was set up to guarantee the protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty and prison visits by different organizations are allowed without any authorization.¹⁹³

72. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children recommended that the Government give priority to the implementation of the national strategies on children and on combating child trafficking, to allocate adequate resources, and to establish a monitoring system.¹⁹⁴

73. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children recommended that Albania consider the possibility of decriminalizing prostitution, defining the crimes of the sale of children and child pornography, and adopting a law on accessible procedures enabling victims of trafficking to obtain compensation.¹⁹⁵

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

74. With regard to education, CRC urged Albania to consider seeking technical assistance from UNICEF.¹⁹⁶ On refugees and asylum-seekers, CRC recommended that Albania consider seeking assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.¹⁹⁷ Regarding the economic exploitation of children, CRC recommended continuing ongoing cooperation with ILO-IPEC.¹⁹⁸ On juvenile justice, CRC recommended seeking technical assistance from, among others, OHCHR and UNICEF.¹⁹⁹

75. Significant steps have been undertaken, with international support, to systematize the training and capacity-building processes required to strengthen Albania's skills in implementing the Gender Equality Law and the Domestic Violence Law.²⁰⁰ Albania's One UN Programme incorporates the principles of gender equality and the development of national capacity throughout.²⁰¹

76. The 2006-2010 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) focuses on, inter alia, assistance to the Government in respect of policies, standards and guidelines that will achieve the Millennium Development Goals and child rights.²⁰²

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006* (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>.

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

| | |
|------------|---|
| ICERD | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination |
| ICESCR | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| OP-ICESCR | Optional Protocol to ICESCR |
| ICCPR | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| OP-CEDAW | Optional Protocol to CEDAW |
| CAT | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment |
| OP-CAT | Optional Protocol to CAT |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| OP-CRC-AC | Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict |
| OP-CRC-SC | Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography |
| ICRMW | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| OP-CRPD | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| CED | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. |

³ Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that "The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant".

⁴ Information relating to other relevant international human rights instruments, including regional instruments, may be found in the pledges and commitments undertaken by Albania before the Human Rights Council, as contained in the note verbale dated 18 April 2006 sent by the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly.

⁵ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁶ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁷ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional

to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

⁸ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

⁹ Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/CR/34/ALB), para. 5 (c) (ii).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 8 (s).

¹¹ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.249), para. 4 (c).

¹² CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 8 (a).

¹³ Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/CO/82/ALB), para. 6.

¹⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 4 (a).

¹⁵ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 7.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹⁷ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 5 (a).

¹⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/ALB/CO/1), para. 6.

¹⁹ UNCT submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 5.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²¹ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 22.

²² E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 69.

²³ *Ibid.*, para. 68.

²⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), 2008, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092008ALB029, para. 1.

²⁵ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 8.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

²⁷ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex 1.

²⁸ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 8.

²⁹ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/58/38 (Part I)), para. 56.

³⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 13.

³¹ E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5, para. 38.

³² A/58/38 (Part I), para. 56.

³³ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 13.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 14.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 8.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

- ³⁷ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 3.
- ³⁸ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 5 (a), (b) and (c).
- ³⁹ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 8.
- ⁴⁰ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/63/CO/1), para. 8.
- ⁴¹ E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5, para. 37.
- ⁴² UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 6.
- ⁴³ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 9.
- ⁴⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 12.
- ⁴⁵ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, paras. 79-80.
- ⁴⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 3.
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 9.
- ⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- ⁴⁹ Letter from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania of 8 December 2008, in response to the questionnaire of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the issue of the United Nations draft declaration on human rights education and training, see www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee/HR_education_training.htm, and letters from the High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 9 January 2006 and 10 December 2007, see www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/Summary-national-initiatives2005-2009.htm. See also resolution 6/10 of the Human Rights Council of 28 September 2007, recommendation 1/1 of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council of 14 August 2008, General Assembly resolution A/RES/59/113B of 14 July 2005, and Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/6/24 of 28 September 2007.
- ⁵⁰ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 8.
- ⁵¹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 62.
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, para. 61.
- ⁵³ The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| CERD | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination |
| CESCR | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee |
| CEDAW | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CAT | Committee against Torture |
| CRC | Committee on the Rights of the Child |
| CMW | Committee on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. |
- ⁵⁴ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 1.
- ⁵⁵ The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder.
- ⁵⁶ See (a) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006; (b) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (E/CN.4/2006/95 and Add.5), questionnaire on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms sent in June 2005; (e) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people sent in August 2007; (f) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July

2005; (g) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/2006/45), questionnaire on the right to education for girls sent in 2005; (h) report of the Working Group on mercenaries (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005; (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children's organs sent in July 2006; (j) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/7/8), questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation sent in July 2007; (k) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices; (l) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007; (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/8), questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention; (n) report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to the eleventh session of the HRC (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/9), questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes sent in October 2008; (o) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (June 2009) A/HRC/11/6, questionnaire on violence against women and political economy.

⁵⁷ The questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention; the questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes and the questionnaire on violence against women and political economy.

⁵⁸ OHCHR 2009 Report on Activities and Results (forthcoming).

⁵⁹ OHCHR 2008 Report on Activities and Results.

⁶⁰ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 10.

⁶¹ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 22.

⁶² A/58/38 (Part I), para. 68.

⁶³ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 51.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ A/58/38 (Part I), para. 69.

⁶⁶ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 21.

⁶⁷ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 20.

⁶⁸ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 22.

⁶⁹ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 49.

⁷⁰ CERD/C/63/CO/1, para. 21.

⁷¹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, paras. 46-47.

⁷² UNHCR submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 1, citing CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 23.

⁷³ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 23.

⁷⁴ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 1, citing CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 24.

⁷⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 24.

⁷⁶ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 17, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.

⁷⁷ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 21, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.

⁷⁸ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 29.

⁷⁹ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 12.

⁸⁰ CRC, CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 28.

⁸¹ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 58.

⁸² CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 29.

- ⁸³ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 28.
- ⁸⁴ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 7 (o).
- ⁸⁵ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 57.
- ⁸⁶ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 8 (o)
- ⁸⁷ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 10.
- ⁸⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.249, paras. 48-49.
- ⁸⁹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, paras. 39-40.
- ⁹⁰ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 13.
- ⁹¹ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 40.
- ⁹² CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 13.
- ⁹³ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 20.
- ⁹⁴ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 16.
- ⁹⁵ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 7 (j).
- ⁹⁶ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 16.
- ⁹⁷ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 8 (j).
- ⁹⁸ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 10, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.
- ⁹⁹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 10.
- ¹⁰⁰ Ibid., para. 16.
- ¹⁰¹ Ibid., paras. 17-18.
- ¹⁰² Ibid., paras. 52-53.
- ¹⁰³ Ibid., para. 20.
- ¹⁰⁴ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 15.
- ¹⁰⁵ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, paras. 30 and 59.
- ¹⁰⁶ A/58/38 (Part I), paras. 70-71.
- ¹⁰⁷ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2007, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092007ALB182.
- ¹⁰⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 69 (b) and (c).
- ¹⁰⁹ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 25.
- ¹¹⁰ Ibid., para. 54.
- ¹¹¹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2007, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092007ALB182.
- ¹¹² Ibid.
- ¹¹³ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 20.
- ¹¹⁴ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 57.
- ¹¹⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 50.
- ¹¹⁶ Ibid., para. 51.

¹¹⁷ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 9, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.

¹¹⁸ Ibid., p. 42.

¹¹⁹ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 18.

¹²⁰ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 16.

¹²¹ Ibid., para. 45.

¹²² Ibid., para. 49.

¹²³ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 13.

¹²⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 40.

¹²⁵ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 7 (c).

¹²⁶ Ibid., para. 8 (c).

¹²⁷ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 58.

¹²⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 76.

¹²⁹ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 10.

¹³⁰ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, paras. 59-60.

¹³¹ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 10, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.

¹³² E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5, para. 43, and CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 19.

¹³³ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 11.

¹³⁴ A/58/38 (Part I), para. 78.

¹³⁵ Ibid., para. 79.

¹³⁶ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958, (No. 111), 2007, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092007ALB111, paras. 2-3.

¹³⁷ UNCT submission to the UPR p. 8.

¹³⁸ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 23.

¹³⁹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 47.

¹⁴⁰ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 52.

¹⁴¹ Ibid., para. 24.

¹⁴² Ibid., para. 53.

¹⁴³ IMF, Global Monitoring Report 2008, Washington DC, 2008, p. 278, see www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gmr/2008/eng/gmr.pdf.

¹⁴⁴ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 55.

¹⁴⁵ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Convention and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2007, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092007ALB182.

¹⁴⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 5.

¹⁴⁷ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, pp. 25-26, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.

¹⁴⁸ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 60.

- ¹⁴⁹ UNDP, *At Risk: Roma and the Displaced in Southeast Europe*, Bratislava, 2006, p. 18, see http://europeandcis.undp.org/uploads/public/File/rbec_web/vgr/vuln_rep_all.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁰ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 31.
- ¹⁵¹ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 47.
- ¹⁵² *Ibid.*, para. 125.
- ¹⁵³ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 2, citing CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 35.
- ¹⁵⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 35.
- ¹⁵⁵ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 61.
- ¹⁵⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 54.
- ¹⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 55 (a).
- ¹⁵⁸ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 7.
- ¹⁵⁹ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 21, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.
- ¹⁶⁰ UNDP, *Europe and the CIS Regional MDG Report, National Millennium Development Goals: A framework for action*, Bratislava, 2006, p. 50, see <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/EAB43C00-F203-1EE9-B6945B73B400C40F>.
- ¹⁶¹ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 10.
- ¹⁶² E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 68.
- ¹⁶³ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 68.
- ¹⁶⁴ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 37, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.
- ¹⁶⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 61 (a).
- ¹⁶⁶ Albania Common Country Assessment 2004, p. 21, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.
- ¹⁶⁷ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 21.
- ¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 50.
- ¹⁶⁹ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 22.
- ¹⁷⁰ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 2, citing CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 64.
- ¹⁷¹ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 65.
- ¹⁷² UNHCR submission to the UPR on Albania, pp. 2-3, citing CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 66.
- ¹⁷³ *Ibid.*, para. 67.
- ¹⁷⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 67 (a).
- ¹⁷⁵ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, paras. 32-33.
- ¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 38.
- ¹⁷⁷ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 3.
- ¹⁷⁸ E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5, para. 37.
- ¹⁷⁹ CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 5.
- ¹⁸⁰ UNCT submission to the UPR, pp. 10-11.
- ¹⁸¹ E/CN.4/2006/95/Add.5, para. 39.
- ¹⁸² *Ibid.*, para. 40.

¹⁸³ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 5.

¹⁸⁴ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Albania, p. 3.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹⁸⁶ Pledges and commitments undertaken by Albania before the Human Rights Council, as contained in the note verbale dated 18 April 2006 sent by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, pp. 2-3, available at www.un.org/ga/60/elect/hrc/albania.pdf.

¹⁸⁷ UNCT submission to the UPR, pp. 11-12.

¹⁸⁸ E/C.12/ALB/CO/1, para. 57.

¹⁸⁹ CCPR/CO/82/ALB, para. 25.

¹⁹⁰ Comments by the Government of Albania on the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/CO/82/ALB/Add.1), pp. 2-4.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-6.

¹⁹² CAT/C/CR/34/ALB, para. 10.

¹⁹³ Comments by the Government of Albania to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/ALB/CO/1/Add.1), pp. 2-4.

¹⁹⁴ E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.2, para. 116 (a).

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 119 (b), (c) and (e).

¹⁹⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.249, para. 61 (e).

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 65.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 69 (d).

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 77 (d).

²⁰⁰ UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 8.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

²⁰² Albania UNDAF 2006-2010, pp. 11-12, see www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=ALB.
