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**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**

**United Arab Emirates**

This 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 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 periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, most documents are dated after 1 January 2004. 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of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated.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 obligations<sup>1</sup>

| <i>Core universal human rights treaties<sup>2</sup></i> | <i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i> | <i>Declarations /reservations</i>        | <i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i> |
|---|--|--|---|
| ICERD   | 20 June 1974   | Yes <sup>3</sup>                         | Individual complaints (art. 14): No                         |
| CRC   | 3 Jan. 1997  | Yes (Arts. 7, 14, 17 and 21)             | -   |
| CEDAW   | 6 Oct. 2004  | Yes (Arts: 2(f), 9, 15(2), 16 and 29(1)) |   |

*Core treaties to which United Arab Emirates is not a party:* ICESCR, ICCPR, ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, CEDAW, OP-CEDAW, CAT, OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC, ICRMW, CPD (signature, 2008), CPD-OP (signature, 2008), and CED.

| <i>Other main relevant international instruments</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                                   | No   |
| Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup>  | No   |
| Refugees and stateless persons <sup>5</sup>  | No   |
| Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto <sup>6</sup> | Yes, except Additional Protocol III          |
| ILO fundamental conventions <sup>7</sup>   | Yes, except Conventions No. 87 and 98        |
| UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education                              | No   |

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was concerned about the remaining reservations entered, particularly that the exercise of the rights in articles 7 and 17 were subject to their compatibility with domestic law; and that the broad and imprecise nature of the reservation to article 14 potentially gives rise to infringements of the freedoms of thought, conscience and religion. The Committee recommended that the Emirates: withdraw its reservations to articles 7 and 21; and study its reservation to article 14 with a view to narrowing it and in the long term, to withdraw it.<sup>8</sup> CRC encouraged the Emirates to ratify OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC,<sup>9</sup> and to consider ratifying ICRMW.<sup>10</sup>

### B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. CRC was concerned that several rights contained in the Convention (such as non-discrimination) were not adequately reflected in domestic law. In particular, the Committee was concerned that: gaps in federal and local legislation might result in irregularities and disparities in the outcomes of the judicial process; discrepancies might occur between Shariah judges' and court decisions, and decisions of other types of courts in the Emirates; personal status law remained uncodified; Shariah courts were not regulated by uniform procedural rules, including in the area of criminal matters; and in Shariah courts federal and local laws were considered as secondary sources, and Shariah judges allegedly did not follow Supreme Court interpretation of Emirates law.<sup>11</sup>

3. CRC observed that the Emirates' narrow interpretations of Islamic texts, particularly in areas relating to personal status law, might impede the enjoyment of some human rights protected under the Convention.<sup>12</sup>

### C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

4. CRC recommended that the Emirates establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, empowered to receive and investigate complaints of violations of child rights in a child-sensitive manner and to address them effectively.<sup>13</sup> It further recommended that a central mechanism be established by strengthening the role of the national committee for the Convention in intersectoral coordination and cooperation at and between national and local levels of government.<sup>14</sup>

### D. Policy measures

5. CRC recommended that the United Arab Emirates ensure the preparation and implementation of a national plan of action for children.<sup>15</sup> It further recommended the strengthening of efforts to allocate resources for programmes and policies to promote the civil and political rights of children; and the systematic assessment of the impact of budgetary allocations on the implementation of child rights.<sup>16</sup>

## II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

### A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

#### 1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

| <i>Treaty body<sup>17</sup></i> | <i>Latest report considered</i> | <i>Latest concluding observations</i> | <i>Follow-up response</i>  | <i>Reporting status</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| CERD                            | February 1995                   | Aug. 1995                             | - Twelfth to seventeenth reports overdue from 1997 to 2007 respectively and received in June 2008. |                         |
| CRC                             | April 2000                      | May 2002                              | - Second report overdue since 2004   |                         |
| CEDAW                           |                                 |                                       | Initial report overdue since November 2005 and received in August 2008.                            |                         |

#### 2. Cooperation with special procedures

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Standing invitation issued</i>                                  | No   |
| <i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>                            | None   |
| <i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>                             | None   |
| <i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>                    | Special Rapporteurs on the right to education(requested in 2005); and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (requested in 2005)   |
| <i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>                    | N/A  |
| <i>Follow-up to visits</i>   | N/A  |
| <i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>      | Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2008 a total of 19 communications were sent to the Government. In addition to particular groups, these communications concerned 30 individuals, including 2 women. In the same period, the Emirates replied to five communications(26 per cent). |
| <i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues<sup>18</sup></i> | The United Arab Emirates responded to 1 of the 12 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders <sup>19</sup> between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2008, within the deadlines. <sup>20</sup>  |

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

6. The Emirates is covered by the Middle East Regional Office in Beirut, Lebanon.<sup>21</sup> The first training course for the Arab police was organized in Dubai in April 2004. In 2005, OHCHR, in cooperation with the General Commander of the Dubai Police and Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates, organized a second regional training course on human rights in Dubai for police officers from various Arab countries. It has been recommended that this training be conducted in Dubai annually.<sup>22</sup> The United Arab Emirates made financial contributions to the work of the office in 2004 and in 2008. In July 2008, at the request of the Department of Justice of the Emirate of Abu-Dhabi a group of 29 prosecutors-to-be from Abu-Dhabi received a training on human rights and the judiciary at OHCHR in Geneva.<sup>23</sup>

## **B. Implementation of international human rights obligations**

### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

7. According to the ILO Committee of Experts in 2008, the Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, colour and sex, nor does it apply to acts of discrimination by a private employer,. The Committee noted the Government's statement that a new section has been proposed to Federal Act No. 8 (1980) providing a general prohibition of discrimination. The Committee requested the Government to take the opportunity in amending the law to ensure that there is a specific prohibition of both direct and indirect discrimination at all stages of employment and occupation, and on all the grounds set out in the Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.<sup>24</sup>

8. Noting the significant achievements in the status of women, CRC was nevertheless concerned that discrimination persisted, particularly discrimination against girls and women, and children born out of wedlock under existing personal status law (e.g. inheritance, custody and guardianship). It recommended that the Emirates take appropriate and effective measures, including enacting or rescinding legislation where necessary: to prevent and eliminate discrimination on grounds of sex and birth in all fields; to reconcile the interpretation of Islamic texts with fundamental human rights; to prevent and combat negative societal attitudes in this regard, particularly within the family, such as through comprehensive public education campaigns; and to train members of the legal profession, especially the judiciary, to be gender sensitive. Religious leaders should be mobilized to support such efforts; and to continue and strengthen efforts to address these issues at the regional level, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council.<sup>25</sup>

9. CRC was concerned that the nationality law did not grant citizenship status to children of a woman citizen married to a non-national, as it did where the father was a national and recommended that the Emirates ensure the right of a child to a nationality without discriminating on the basis of his or her parent's sex.<sup>26</sup> The Committee was also concerned at the disparities in the enjoyment of economic and social rights, particularly health and education, experienced by non-national children and recommended that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction enjoy all rights set out in the Convention without discrimination.<sup>27</sup>

10. In 2002, CRC requested that specific information be included in the next periodic report on the measures and programmes relevant to the Convention undertaken by the Emirates to follow up on the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and taking account of general comment No. 1 on article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention (aims of education).<sup>28</sup>

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

11. In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions sent an urgent appeal on the question of death penalty in relation to a foreign national, who has been sentenced to death by stoning by a Shari'a court in the Emirate of Fujairah on 10 June 2006. This married man was sentenced for committing adultery. No response was provided by the authorities to the Special Rapporteur.<sup>29</sup>

12. The Special Rapporteur on torture, other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment sent an urgent appeal in 2005 jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers as well as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention regarding allegations of abuse by police and imprisonment on charges relating to homosexuality and obscenity under a Sharia-based law. The alleged confessions from the victims, which were presented as evidence, were extracted under invasive forensic examinations which could amount to torture or ill-treatment.<sup>30</sup> No response to this communication was received from the Government.<sup>31</sup>

13. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health brought to the Government's attention the situation concerning nationals of third countries, both of whom were, at the time of the communication, detained in Guantanamo Bay. According to the information received one of the victims was arrested in Dubai, and detained for over eight months and subjected to spatial and temporal disorientation, before being transferred to the custody of another country.<sup>32</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the right to health regrets that the Government had not transmitted any reply to his communication.<sup>33</sup>

14. CRC was concerned that there was insufficient information and awareness of the ill-treatment of children, including corporal punishment, within the family, schools and institutions, and recommended, inter alia, that the Emirates: take legislative measures to prohibit all forms of physical and mental violence, including corporal punishment and sexual abuse of children in the family, schools and in institutions; carry out public education campaigns; train relevant professionals; and establish effective remedial measures, including care, recovery and reintegration for victims.<sup>34</sup>

15. In 2006, the ILO Committee of Experts noted the Government's reply to comments made by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in 2003 on the issue of the trafficking of women for the purposes of forced prostitution. The ICFTU had referred to a 2002 report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which documented cases indicating that trafficked women were subjected to violence, forced prostitution and restrictions on their freedom of movement and communication. The IOM report noted in its conclusions that the authorities in the Emirates make no distinction between prostitutes and victims of trafficking, all of whom bear equal criminal responsibility for involvement in prostitution; as a result, trafficked persons are not treated as crime victims and are not supported and protected. The Committee noted that in its reply the Government expressed its concern about this phenomenon and willingness to address it through collaboration with the international and regional bodies concerned. It also noted the Government's indications concerning the measures taken to discourage potential traffickers and to give extensive training to officials in naturalization and residency administration.<sup>35</sup>

16. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts reiterated previous comments and requested the Government to indicate whether the existing legislation prohibits the forced or compulsory recruitment of children under 18 years of age for use in armed conflict.<sup>36</sup>

### **3. Administration of justice and the rule of law**

17. While CRC noted with appreciation measures to reform the administration of juvenile justice, it was nevertheless concerned that the age of criminal responsibility of seven years was too low, and that persons under 18 might be prosecuted for crimes in the same manner as adults and be subjected to the same penalties as adults. CRC recommended that the Emirates: raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention; ensure that its system of juvenile justice includes the establishment of juvenile courts and that it fully integrates the provisions of the Convention, as well as with other relevant international standards in this area; expedite the promulgation of the draft juvenile justice law, ensuring that it is applicable to all persons under 18 and that adequate resources are allocated for its effective implementation; ensure that deprivation of liberty is only used as a measure of last resort, for the shortest possible time, is authorized by the court, and that persons under 18 are not detained with adults; ensure that children have access to legal aid and independent and effective complaints mechanisms; consider alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, such as probation, community service or suspended sentences; train professionals in the area of rehabilitation and social recovery of children.<sup>37</sup>

18. The 2006 Secretary-General report on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances noted, as reported by the Government, that there was no law regulating the situation in which a state of emergency is declared. However, a draft law has been transmitted to the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation at the Ministry of Justice defining safeguards to be provided for persons who are arrested following the declaration of a state of emergency and the measures to be taken in such a situation.<sup>38</sup>

### **4. Right to marriage and family life**

19. UNDP-POGAR informed that the personal status of women is determined by Islamic law. Muslim women are prohibited from marrying non-Muslim men. Muslim men are allowed to marry non-Muslim women. Muslim women are prohibited from leaving the country without permission from a male guardian.<sup>39</sup>

### **5. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

20. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, jointly with the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, sent an urgent appeal concerning three members of an NGO based in the Emirates. These three persons were reportedly arrested without presentation of an arrest warrant, their homes searched, belongings confiscated, nor were they charged with any offence, all allegedly due to their political and legal reform activities. They were also reportedly held incommunicado, and concern was expressed that they might have been at risk of torture or other cruel and inhuman treatment.<sup>40</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression regretted not having received a reply to his communication.<sup>41</sup>

21. In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, sent a communication to the Government concerning criminal charges against a woman human rights activist. Concerns were expressed that these charges and the possible closure of the shelter may be in retaliation for her activities in defense of women's rights since

the shelter's work is reportedly viewed as a threat to the traditional culture and family values of the country and its continued operation largely depends on the victim's work.<sup>42</sup> The Government responded to the letter and enclosed the report of the Public Prosecutor of Dubai.<sup>43</sup>

22. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers sent a joint urgent appeal in 2006 together with the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders regarding two individuals, who were lawyers and human rights activists of the Jurist's Association. Allegedly, one was arrested for "insulting the Prosecutor", but the reported real motive was to silence him for criticizing the human rights situation in the country. The other was detained, for reasons still unknown. Both lawyers have allegedly been banned for a number of years from giving interviews or writing articles for the media. In September 2005, the authorities of Fujairah allegedly banned a conference on civil rights, women's rights and democracy organized by the Jurists' Association, without giving any reasons. Serious concerns have been expressed that these lawyers may be detained on account of their peaceful activities in defense of human rights, and that their detention may form part of a campaign of harassment and intimidation against defenders of human rights in the United Arab Emirates.<sup>44</sup>

23. A 2007 UNIFEM report noted that the United Arab Emirates was the first Gulf State to appoint a woman as president of the Arabian Gulf University; a woman Minister of the Economy, and a woman Minister of Social Affairs, and a number of Assistant Secretary Generals.<sup>45</sup>

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

24. In 2008 the ILO Committee of Experts reiterated previous concerns and urged the United Arab Emirates to amend its employment legislation to include the concept of "work for equal value."<sup>46</sup> It noted the Government's indication that the relevant section is under review, and that in this process, consideration will be given to widening the concept in line with the Committee of Experts' comments.<sup>47</sup>

25. In 2008 the ILO Committee of Experts noted that it had previously raised the issue of women having to obtain permission from their husbands in order to take up employment outside the home. The Government stated that there is no such legal provision, but that there is a relevant administrative procedure in the context of employing non-nationals. The Committee requested that steps be taken to ensure that no such requirement is applied in law or in practice, either to nationals or non-nationals.<sup>48</sup>

26. UNDP-POGAR informed that the Emirates actively promoted the presence of women in the workplace. Women comprised 15 per cent of the labour force in 2000. To encourage employment, the Government guarantees public sector employment for all women who apply. In education and health care, women are the majority of public employees. In recent years, the Government encouraged women to become police officers and volunteers in the military. The first female taxi drivers in the Gulf region began service in the Emirates in 2000. Female citizens are able to fully own private businesses in the country, a fact that facilitated their visible participation in the private sector.<sup>49</sup>

27. A 2007 UNIFEM report noted that women's attraction to employment in the private sector in general and the banking sector in particular may be the result of structural changes in the economies of the Gulf countries and the increasing role of the private sector on one hand, and

the fact that opportunities in the government sector are not sufficiently available to new graduates from both genders on the other, in addition to women's increasing awareness of the importance of their societal and economic participation, and the establishment of a council for businesswomen, which played an important role in organizing women employment at the private sector level and providing them with the necessary experience and advice.<sup>50</sup>

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

28. According to a 2006 WHO report, the comprehensive health strategy needs revision and updating due to the political reforms under way in the country.. The biggest change in policy is the withdrawal of the Ministry of Health from direct health care delivery.<sup>51</sup> The report noted also that the United Arab Emirates has among the lowest number of reported HIV/AIDS cases in the world, perhaps due to cultural, social and behavioral norms. However, another contributing factor is the AIDS control programme, one of the first of its kind in the Region.<sup>52</sup> A 2006 report of the Secretary-General noted, as reported by the Government, a ministerial decision under which all tests and drugs required to identify and treat HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (among other diseases), are to be provided free of charge to nationals and non-nationals.<sup>53</sup> The 2006 WHO report noted that low infant, neo-natal, under-five and maternal mortality rates are mainly due to excellent maternal health services and facilities and attendance of 98 per cent of deliveries by trained health personnel.<sup>54</sup>

29. CRC recommended that the Emirates ensure that adolescents have access to and are provided with education on reproductive health and other adolescent health issues, as well as with child-sensitive and confidential counselling services; and strengthen efforts in the area of adolescent health education within the school system.<sup>55</sup>

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

30. CRC was concerned that the aims of education presented in the Emirates' report did not adequately reflect the aims outlined in the Convention. The Committee recommended that the Emirates undertake a process of curriculum and teaching methodology reform - with the full participation of children - which stresses the importance of critical thinking and problem-solving skills development; direct education towards the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential; include human rights education, including children's rights, in the curricula, particularly with respect to the development of and respect for human rights, tolerance and equality of the sexes and of religious and ethnic minorities.<sup>56</sup>

31. CRC noted information on the existence of a children's parliament in Sharjah, student councils at secondary schools, as well as social service units, which deal with complaints about student behaviour. However, it was concerned that traditional attitudes towards children in society might limit the respect for their views, especially within the family and in schools. CRC recommended that the Emirates: continue to promote and facilitate, within the family, the school, institutions, the courts, and administrative bodies, respect for the views of children and their participation in all matters affecting them; strengthen the mandate of the social service units to allow students to submit complaints about violations of their rights in the school setting; develop skills-training programmes in community settings for parents, teachers, social workers and local officials to support children to express their informed views and opinions and to have them taken into consideration.<sup>57</sup>

32. As noted by a 2006 WHO report, the Emirates is recognized for its great emphasis on and remarkable programme for the abolishment of illiteracy for all citizens in general, and the elderly in particular.<sup>58</sup> It further noted that the Government allocated all necessary funds to ensure good education for all citizens.<sup>59</sup>

33. The pre-school enrolment rate reached 70 per cent, as noted in a 2006 UNDP report.<sup>60</sup> According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the female rate of primary school age children out of school decreased from 11 per cent in 2004 to 5 per cent in 2006, whereas the male rate decreased from 10 per cent in 2004 to 5 per cent in 2006.<sup>61</sup> A 2006 WHO report noted that dropouts from school still represent a problem; nonetheless, the number of dropouts decreased from 3.7 per cent in 1995 to 1.9 per cent in 2000.<sup>62</sup>

34. The gender gap at secondary levels is smaller than it is at primary levels, as noted by a 2008 World Bank report.<sup>63</sup> A 2005 UNESCO report informed that the Emirates achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education in 2002.<sup>64</sup> With the provision of education to all citizens of the Emirates from both genders, opportunities were now available for women to excel in all sectors, according to a 2007 UNIFEM report.<sup>65</sup>

35. The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government in 2008 to indicate whether secondary education, which lasts until the age of 15 years, is compulsory. The Committee also requested the Government to provide updated statistical information on school attendance and on school enrolment and drop-out rates, especially with regard to children aged 13 to 15 years.<sup>66</sup>

## 9. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

36. On 5 April 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants sent an allegation letter regarding the situation of migrant workers. According to the information received, migrant workers are often victims of abusive work and living conditions, including extended non-payment of wages, denial of proper medical care and squalid living conditions. These abusive conditions are frequently the result of, among others: inadequate protection provided by the law; insufficient monitoring of migrants' living and work conditions; the ineffectiveness of existing complaints mechanisms. According to the information received, migrant workers are only allowed into the country under the so-called "sponsorship" system, which allegedly renders workers vulnerable to abuse as their permits are linked to one employer and they cannot, generally, change jobs. Moreover, this system largely relies on the activities of recruitment agencies that often charge high placement fees leading workers to frequently incur loans that take, on average, at least a year to repay. The result is described as equivalent to debt bondage. Migrant workers reportedly comprise nearly 90 per cent of the workforce in the private sector in the UAE. The majority of migrant workers in the country are reported to be South Asian.<sup>67</sup>

37. In 2003, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants had sent a communication to the Government regarding an alleged case of rape of a female migrant domestic worker, stating that during the court hearing her lawyer did not appear in court, nor was she assisted by a translator, and that the victim allegedly admitted to untrue accusations.<sup>68</sup>

38. A 2007 UNHCR report informed that in October 2006, the Emirates issued directives aimed at finding solutions for the *Bidoon* migrant group. The Supreme Federal Council gave the green light for the naturalization of the first group of 1,294 people. A total of around 10,000 *Bidoon* should benefit by the time the process is completed.<sup>69</sup>

## 10. Human rights and counter-terrorism

39. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) informed that a national workshop on the universal legal framework against terrorism took place in November 2007 for Dubai police. UNODC also informed of the mission held in Abu Dhabi to train officials from the Emirates on the legal requirements of the international legal regime against terrorism, on combating the financing of terrorism, and on jurisdictional and international cooperation mechanisms under the anti-terrorism and organized crime conventions and protocols.<sup>70</sup>

### III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

40. A 2006 UNICEF fact sheet noted that in 2005, UNICEF and the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement to return children involved in camel racing, many of them victims of trafficking, back to their countries. According to recent statistics, more than 1,000 child camel jockeys have been sent home and many have been reunited with their families.<sup>71</sup>

41. A 2008 UNODC report noted the generous grant from the United Arab Emirates which made possible the launching in March 2007 of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), a partnership between UNODC, ILO, IOM, UNICEF, OHCHR and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.<sup>72</sup>

### IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

N/A.

### V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

42. CRC recommended that the Emirates seek technical assistance from, inter alia; OHCHR and UNICEF in regard to the establishment of an independent national human rights institution;<sup>73</sup> UNICEF in regard to promoting respect for the views of the child;<sup>74</sup> UNICEF and WHO in regard to address ill-treatment of children, including corporal punishment<sup>75</sup> and in regard to reproductive health and other adolescent health issues;<sup>76</sup> OHCHR, the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the International Network on Juvenile Justice and UNICEF, through the Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance on Juvenile Justice, in regard to juvenile justice;<sup>77</sup> OHCHR and UNICEF in regard to awareness-raising and training activities on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;<sup>78</sup> and UNICEF and UNESCO in regard to the aims of education.<sup>79</sup>

43. UNODC provided information regarding their capacity-building activities and technical assistance.<sup>80</sup>

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> 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://untreaty.un.org/>.

<sup>2</sup> 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                    |
| ICCPR  | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights                              |

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|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| ICCPR-OP1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR  |
| ICCPR-OP2 | 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 |
| CPD       | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities   |
| OP-CPD    | Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities                                    |
| CED       | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance                        |

<sup>3</sup> “The accession of the United Arab Emirates to this Convention shall in no way amount to recognition of nor the establishment of any treaty relations with Israel.”

<sup>4</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).

<sup>7</sup> 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 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.

<sup>8</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.183), paras. 5 and 6.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., para. 44.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., see paras. 23 and 24.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., see paras. 7 and 8.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., para. 4.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, see paras. 13 and 14.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., see paras. 9 and 10.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., see paras 9. and 10.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., see paras. 15-16.

<sup>17</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

|       |  |
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| CERD  | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination        |
| CEDAW | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CRC   | Committee on the Rights of the Child                         |

<sup>18</sup> The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder.

<sup>19</sup> 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 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 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 on July 2006; (j) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2005/78), questionnaire on child pornography on the Internet sent in July 2004; (k) 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; (l) 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.

<sup>20</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, questionnaire on the sale of children's organs (A/HRC/4/31), para. 24.

<sup>21</sup> High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan 2008-2009, p. 78.

<sup>22</sup> OHCHR Annual Report 2005, p. 169.

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/UsefulTraining.aspx>.

<sup>24</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, Doc. No. 092008ARE111, para. 1

<sup>25</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.183, paras. 21 and 22.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 30 and 31.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 23 and 24.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.

<sup>29</sup> A/HRC/4/20/Add.1, p. 337

<sup>30</sup> A/HRC/4/33/Add.1, para. 317.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> A/HRC/7/11/ Add.1, paras 57 and 58.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, para 60.

<sup>34</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.183, paras. 34 - 35.

<sup>35</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, Doc. No. 092006ARE029, paras. 1-3.

<sup>36</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, Doc. No. 092008ARE182, para. 2.

<sup>37</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.183, paras. 42-43.

<sup>38</sup> A/61/289, para. 58.

<sup>39</sup> See the UNDP – POGAR, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region Gender and Citizenship Initiative website, available at <http://gender.pogar.org/countries/country.asp?cid=21> (accessed on 11 August 2008).

<sup>40</sup> E/CN.4/2006/ 55 Add.1, para 1055.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, para 1056.

<sup>42</sup> A/HRC/7/6/Add.1, para 526.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, para 527.

<sup>44</sup> A/HRC/4/25/Add.1, para. 376

<sup>45</sup> UNIFEM, Women and Political Participation in the United Arab Emirates, A Diagnosis of the Reality and the Drive towards More Effective Participation, Amman, 2007, p. 18.

<sup>46</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, Doc. No. 092008ARE100, para. 1.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 1.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>49</sup> See the UNDP – POGAR, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region Gender and Citizenship Initiative website, available at <http://gender.pogar.org/countries/country.asp?cid=21> (accessed on 11 August 2008).

<sup>50</sup> UNIFEM, Women and Political Participation in the United Arab Emirates, A Diagnosis of the Reality and the Drive towards More Effective Participation, Amman, 2007, p. 21.

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- <sup>51</sup> WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the United Arab Emirates 2005-2009, Cairo, 2006, pp. 17-18
- <sup>52</sup> Ibid., p. 20.
- <sup>53</sup> E/CN.4/2006/39/Add.1, para. 5.
- <sup>54</sup> WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the United Arab Emirates 2005-2009, Cairo, 2006, p. 18.
- <sup>55</sup> See CRC/C/15/Add.183, paras. 36-37.
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid., paras. 38-39.
- <sup>57</sup> Ibid., paras. 28 and 29.
- <sup>58</sup> WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the United Arab Emirates 2005-2009, Cairo, 2006, p. 17.
- <sup>59</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>60</sup> UNDP, Arab Human Development Report 2005, New York, 2006, pp. 74-6.
- <sup>61</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, available at [http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=136&IF\\_Language=eng&BR\\_Topic=0](http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=136&IF_Language=eng&BR_Topic=0) (accessed 8 July 2008).
- <sup>62</sup> WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the United Arab Emirates 2005-2009, Cairo, 2006, p. 17.
- <sup>63</sup> World Bank, Mena Development Report, Washington D.C., 2008, p. 29.
- <sup>64</sup> UNESCO, Education for all Global Monitoring Report 2006, Paris, 2005, p. 72.
- <sup>65</sup> UNIFEM, Women and Political Participation in the United Arab Emirates, A Diagnosis of the Reality and the Drive towards More Effective Participation, Amman, 2007, p. 19.
- <sup>66</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, 2008, Geneva, Doc. No. 092008ARE138, para. 3.
- <sup>67</sup> A/HRC/4/24/Add.1, paras. 372-382.
- <sup>68</sup> E/CN.4/2004/76/Add.1, para 270.
- <sup>69</sup> UNHCR submission to UPR on the United Arab Emirates; Refugees, Special Report, The strange hidden world of statelessness, No. 147, issue 3, Geneva, 2007, p. 15.
- <sup>70</sup> UNODC submission to UPR on the United Arab Emirates, pp. 9-11.
- <sup>71</sup> UNICEF, Child Protection Information Sheet, Trafficking, New York, 2006, p. 2, available at <http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/knowledge/trafficking.pdf>
- <sup>72</sup> UNODC, An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action, Background Paper, New York, 2008, pp. 1-2.
- <sup>73</sup> See CRC/C/15/Add.183 paras 13 and 14.
- <sup>74</sup> Ibid paras. 28 and 29.
- <sup>75</sup> Ibid., paras. 36-37.
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid paras. 34-35.
- <sup>77</sup> Ibid paras. 42-43.
- <sup>78</sup> Ibid paras. 19-20.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid., paras. 38-39.
- <sup>80</sup> UNODC submission to UPR on the United Arab Emirates, pp. 9-11.

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