

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

42nd session (Geneva, 15 May to 2 June 2006)

Reports of States

Marshall Islands (second periodic report)

Information submitted to the Committee

The Marshall Islands submitted its second periodic report¹ on its implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) in December 2004. Although a list of issues² was submitted to the State in February 2006, the State did not submit any reply.

The report focuses largely on the initiatives promoted by the State, such as the harmonisation of the national laws with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (the Convention). It also describes in detail the structural changes to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including the creation of a Child Rights Office. This Office has become a "focal point" for issues relating to children. Unfortunately, the report tends to put greater emphasis on these initiatives at the expense of providing adequate statistical analysis. Thus, while the report details the legislation and programs that aim to assist children, there is little data to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts.

Themes and Issues

The delegation for the Marshall Islands did not appear before the Committee and did not offer any advance warning for their absence.

The Committee discussed the various options available to them and concluded that they were not in a position to provide concluding observations without further questioning. The Committee postponed consideration of the second periodic report and decided that a letter would be drafted to encourage the Marshall Islands to provide both written answers to their list of issues and assurances that a delegation would appear before the next session.

If the State neglects to respond to this letter or indicates that they will not be in a position to provide a delegation then the Committee will consider the report in absentia.

Conclusions and next steps

The consideration of the report has been postponed until the next session of the Committee, which is currently scheduled for 11 to 29 September 2006.

¹ CRC/C/93/Add.8. See [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.93.Add.8.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.93.Add.8.En?OpenDocument).

² CRC/C/MHL/Q/2. See [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.MHL.Q.2.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.MHL.Q.2.En?OpenDocument).