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Oman

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of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated.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>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	2 January 2003	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
CEDAW	7 February 2006	Reservation (General, arts. 9, 15, 16, 29)	–
CRC	9 December 1996	Reservation (General, arts. 9, 21, 7, 14)	–
OP-CRC-AC	17 September 2004	Same reservations as CRC Binding declaration under art. 3: 18 years	–
OP-CRC-SC	17 September 2004	Same reservations as CRC	–
CRPD	6 January 2009	None	–

Treaties to which Oman is not a party: ICESCR, OP-ICESCR, ICCPR, ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CEDAW, CAT, OP-CAT, ICRMW, OP-CRPD, 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	No
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	No (Signatory)
Palermo Protocol ³	Yes
Refugees and stateless persons ⁴	No
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁵	Yes, except AP III
ILO fundamental conventions ⁶	Yes, except 87, 98, 100, 111
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	No

1. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) regretted Oman's reservations to articles 7, 9, and 30 of the Convention.⁷ The joint United Nations submission on Oman (joint submission)⁸ indicated that Oman had made broad reservations to CEDAW and CRC, making their applicability subject to conformity with the Omani Basic Law and Sharia.⁹ The joint submission encouraged Oman to remove these reservations.¹⁰
2. The joint submission encouraged Oman to accede to ICESCR and ICCPR.¹¹ CRC encouraged Oman to accede to ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT.¹²
3. The Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) urged Oman to consider making the optional declaration under article 14 of the Convention.¹³
4. CRC recommended that Oman consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.¹⁴
5. CRC encouraged Oman to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967).¹⁵ CERD recommended that Oman accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹⁶
6. CERD and CRC recommended that Oman consider acceding to ICRMW.¹⁷
7. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons recommended ratification of ICRMW and relevant ILO conventions, including Conventions Nos. 97 and 143.¹⁸
8. The joint submission encouraged Oman to ratify ICRMW as well as ILO Conventions Nos. 87, 97, 98, 100, 111, 143 and 169.¹⁹

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

9. The joint United Nations submission noted that the Basic Law of 1996 set out civil liberties for Omani citizens and prohibited discrimination. A number of political reforms had gradually increased elected representation in the Government. The legislative branch was comprised of the Council of State (Majlis al-Dawla) and the Consultative Council (Majlis al-Shura), which did not hold independent legislative authority, but functioned as advisory entities to the Sultan. While members of the Majlis al-Dawla were appointed by the Sultan, members of the Majlis al-Shura were elected by universal suffrage every three years. Laws, decrees and accession to international treaties were authorized and approved by the Sultan.²⁰
10. CRC noted with appreciation that Oman, in cooperation with UNICEF and other competent experts, had conducted a comparative study of legislation in relation to the provisions of the Convention. Some legislative measures had been taken or proposed to strengthen the legal protection of children, such as a bill for the care and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and the draft act on juveniles.²¹ CRC noted that an Act on Human Trafficking had been adopted in 2008,²² but recommended that Oman revise its Penal Code to bring it in full compliance with the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.²³ It also recommended that Oman promptly adopt the Children's Act and ensure that it is in conformity with the Convention and its Protocols.²⁴
11. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons recommended that domestic legislation be meticulously brought in line with the Palermo Protocol and that all elements in the definition of trafficking be thoroughly reflected, and that labour laws be amended with a view to also making them applicable to domestic workers.²⁵

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

12. As of 1 October 2010, Oman did not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).²⁶

13. CRC noted that a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had been established in 2008, which had yet to become operational. It recommended that Oman ensure its independence and compliance with the Paris Principles, and that it establish a designated children's unit.²⁷ The joint United Nations submission indicated that the names of the 14 members of the NHRC had been announced in January 2010.²⁸

14. The joint submission noted that the 2010 decision of the State Council to establish a committee for women and children affairs which was to assess the impact of State Council legislation and policies on women and children was a step in the right direction, but had yet to be implemented.²⁹ Oman was also encouraged to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Committee on Disabilities, with the establishment of a secretariat, allocation of a budget and rules of procedure for the work of the Committee.³⁰

15. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, following a visit to Oman in November 2006, recommended that Oman establish an independent national mechanism to coordinate inter-governmental discussions and enact measures to combat trafficking in persons and provide for the protection of trafficked persons.³¹ The joint submission noted that Oman had established a National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons³² in 2009.

D. Policy measures

16. The joint United Nations submission encouraged Oman to continue its efforts to undertake a national human rights education campaign and develop a National Human Rights Plan of Action.³³ In 2005, Oman had adopted the United Nations Plan of Action (2005–2009) for the World Programme for Human Rights Education, focusing on the national school system and integrating human rights and the right to education concepts as a cross-curricular issue in all school subjects.³⁴

17. The joint submission noted that progress had been made in the past two years in developing a National Child Strategy.³⁵ CRC recommended that Oman strengthen its efforts to develop, adopt and implement, in consultation and cooperation with relevant partners, including civil society, a comprehensive national plan of action for children, with concrete and time bound targets. It further recommended that Oman provide a specific budget allocation and adequate follow-up mechanisms for its full implementation.³⁶

18. In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons noted that Oman did not have a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons nor did it have a coordinating mechanism to oversee anti-trafficking efforts.³⁷ CRC noted with concern the lack of data and research on the prevalence of national and cross-border trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography.³⁸ In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts similarly expressed concern at the lack of data available on the trafficking of children.³⁹

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body⁴⁰</i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	2005	August 2006	Overdue since 2007	Second to fourth reports overdue since 2010
CEDAW	–	–	–	Initial report received in 2009
CRC	2005	September 2006	–	Third and fourth reports due 2012
OP-CRC-AC	2007	June 2009	–	–
OP-CRC-SC	2007	June 2009	–	–
CRPD	–	–	–	Initial report due 2011

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons (November 2006)
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography (2009)
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, one communication was sent. The Government replied to this communication.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i>	Oman responded to 10 of the 23 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders. ⁴¹

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

19. Oman contributed financially to OHCHR in 2004, 2005 and 2008.⁴² The High Commissioner for Human Rights paid a visit to Oman in April 2010, as part of her visit to the six Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

20. The joint United Nations submission noted that challenges remained with regard to discrimination on the basis of gender, race, descent and nationality.⁴³ CERD recommended that Oman review the definition of discrimination set out in article 17 of the Basic Law of the State with a view to extending the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination in accordance with the Convention.⁴⁴

21. The joint submission noted that women continued to face inequality in areas such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody.⁴⁵ It also indicated that the rate of unemployment among young educated women was very high, although the participation of women in the workforce had considerably increased. Women were more likely to be employed in the public sector, where they were mostly concentrated in lower job categories than men. Women's participation in informal economic activities, such as handicrafts and traditional industries, was reportedly high.⁴⁶

22. While noting that Oman had taken measures to promote equality between women and men, CRC was concerned about persisting de facto discrimination against women and girls in society. It encouraged Oman to create a supportive environment promoting equal rights of girls to participate in the family, at school, in local communities and in society in general.⁴⁷ The joint submission encouraged Oman to conduct a review of the Personal Status Law and the Labour Law with a view to revising articles that discriminate against women.⁴⁸

23. CERD and CRC were concerned that children of Omani women married to non-nationals were not granted citizenship under the Nationality Law, which might lead to a situation of statelessness. Oman was urged to review its legislation in order to ensure that both parents were equally allowed to transmit their citizenship to their children.⁴⁹ This issue was also highlighted in the joint submission.⁵⁰

24. CERD took note of information that the population included various ethnic groups, including Swahili-speaking Omanis born in Zanzibar or other regions of East Africa, as well as Balochi, Liwadiyah and Jibalis, in addition to a large number of migrant workers from the Indian subcontinent, the Philippines and other Asian countries. It requested statistics on the ethnic composition of the population and information on measures taken to ensure the equal enjoyment of rights by members of the various groups living in its territory.⁵¹

25. The joint submission raised concerns with regard to rights violations against the expatriate workforce.⁵² It indicated that civil rights enshrined in the Basic Law applied only to citizens, leaving the country's large population of foreign workers vulnerable to discrimination.⁵³ CERD was similarly concerned that the provisions of article 17 of the Basic Law, which provide for equality before the law and the right to exercise public rights without any discrimination based on gender, origin, colour, language, religion, sect, domicile or social status, applied only to citizens. It recommended that Oman revise its legislation in order to guarantee equality between citizens and non-citizens in the enjoyment of rights to the extent recognized under international law.⁵⁴ CRC was concerned about discrimination against children of migrant workers in terms of social benefits, health, education and housing.⁵⁵

26. The joint submission noted that the tribes of Al Tawayya and the Al Khalifayn (Al-Balushi tribes) continued to express grievances following the decision by the Ministry of the Interior in 2006 to change their name and thereby changing their status into *Akhdam*, that is, servants of the Al-Harithi tribe. Although the Government had stated in 2009 that

the situation of the two tribes had been resolved, reports indicated that the tribes continued to face difficulties in accessing basic social and economic rights.⁵⁶

27. CRC noted ongoing efforts to provide equal opportunities for children with disabilities, including through community-based support and services, but observed that a charity-based approach still prevailed.⁵⁷ CRC noted with appreciation the draft bill on the care and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities but regretted the lack of a national strategy in this regard and the insufficient data on disabilities and their possible causes. It also noted with concern that a very limited number of children with disabilities was included in mainstream education.⁵⁸

28. CRC recommended that Oman adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate de facto discrimination on any grounds, paying particular attention to girls, children with disabilities, children born out of wedlock and children of migrant workers. Social and health services and equal opportunities to education for children belonging to the most vulnerable groups should be prioritized.⁵⁹

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

29. The joint United Nations submission noted that gender-based crimes were rarely reported as female victims risked being treated as offenders and criminalized together with the perpetrator. It was also noted that there were no confidential reporting mechanisms for complaints, nor any facilities, such as shelters, for women seeking refuge from violence. The joint submission further indicated that articles 109 and 252 of the Penal Code granted men substantially reduced sentences in the case of so-called “honour crimes.” It encouraged Oman to revisit those articles with a view to removing them. Furthermore, it was noted that there was no specific legislation criminalizing domestic violence. Nevertheless, there had been some efforts towards addressing the issue, including the establishment of a family counselling hotline.⁶⁰

30. The joint submission noted that there was evidence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in some regions of the Sultanate. It encouraged Oman to ensure awareness-raising at the national and local community levels. Oman had addressed the issue in 2001, in a survey of secondary school students, in which the majority of enrolled boys and girls had described the practice as “important” and “necessary.”⁶¹ CRC had made similar observations and emphasized that the practice was incompatible with the principles and provisions of the Convention. It urged Oman to continue its efforts to end the practice, and for this purpose to involve and mobilize partners at the local level, including teachers, midwives, traditional health practitioners, religious and community leaders.⁶²

31. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons as well as the joint United Nations submission noted that Oman was a country of destination for trafficking in persons for forced labour and sexual exploitation. The main victims were women recruited as domestic workers and entertainers, often from Southern Asia.⁶³ The Special Rapporteur expressed concern that the sponsorship (*kafala*) system increased the vulnerability of foreign migrant workers and therefore fostered the demand for trafficking. Migrant domestic workers, in particular, were in need of stronger protection. The Special Rapporteur supported the adoption of the Guiding Principles of the Gulf Cooperation Council on combating trafficking and the stronger regional cooperation that this would encourage, but urged concrete implementation of anti-trafficking and labour legislation.⁶⁴ According to the joint submission, the law on trafficking adopted in 2008 (Royal Decree No. 126) was an important advancement, although the definition of trafficking was less comprehensive than that of the Palermo Protocols and no distinction was made between illegal immigrants and trafficked persons. Several trafficking cases had been tried under the new law and resulted in a number of convictions. The joint submission encouraged Oman to continue its efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance its cooperation with states in the region.⁶⁵

32. CRC was concerned that children continued to be victims of violence and abuse in the home, and that professionals working with and for children were not fully trained to report cases of sexual abuse. It urged Oman to review domestic laws and other regulations in order to ensure that children were protected against physical, sexual and mental violence and abuse, establish effective procedures and mechanisms to receive and investigate complaints and to prosecute cases of abuse and ill-treatment.⁶⁶

33. Noting that measures were being taken to address corporal punishment in schools, CRC urged Oman to review its legislation with a view to preventing and ending the use of all forms of corporal punishment of children, introduce public education, awareness-raising and social mobilization campaigns on alternative non-violent forms of discipline in order to change public attitudes to corporal punishment.⁶⁷

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

34. The joint United Nations submission noted that a Juvenile Law had been adopted in 2006, and that a number of reforms had been introduced to the juvenile justice system. Juvenile offenders were now dealt with by the juvenile unit of the police and appeared in front of a juvenile court. Juveniles awaiting trial were placed in the newly established "Home for observation of juveniles". If convicted, they were placed in a juvenile correction institute and enrolled in vocational training or community services. It was noted, however, that more emphasis should be placed on the rehabilitation of both victims and young offenders.⁶⁸

35. The joint submission further noted that the draft Child Law included provisions contained in the Juvenile Law issued in 2008, which had established the minimum age of criminal responsibility at only 9 years of age, with sentences of imprisonment being imposed from the age of 13. Oman was urged to ensure that the Child Law would provide for a higher minimum age for criminal responsibility, in accordance with international standards.⁶⁹

36. The joint submission encouraged Oman to strengthen the prosecution of offenders engaged in any form of exploitation of children.⁷⁰

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

37. CRC noted with concern that the right to identity, including nationality, name and family relations, of children born out of wedlock was not fully protected. It recommended that Oman ensure the respect of the right of all children in this regard.⁷¹

38. CRC noted information on the establishment of a Child Care Home providing institutional care for orphaned children and children placed in care due to other reasons. It recommended that an effective evaluation mechanism be established for alternative care, including care provided by the Child Care Home and through foster care.⁷²

39. CRC regretted that many children born out of wedlock lacked parental care as pregnancies outside marriage were considered illegal, and mothers were "corrected" for their behaviour by having their children placed in alternative care. CRC recommended that Oman take measures to abolish this practice.⁷³

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the right to participate in cultural and political life

40. The joint submission indicated that freedom of expression remained limited, and that the Press and Publication Law enabled the government to censor publications if they were perceived to be politically, culturally or sexually offensive. In 2009, the Press Law had been amended to further tighten these restrictions and to extend criminal liability to persons

operating communication facilities. Courts had interpreted these laws to mean that it was illegal to criticize any public official. Defamation laws and national security concerns had also been used as grounds to suppress criticism of government figures and politically objectionable views. Reports of harassment of journalists and writers for criticizing government policies and public services had surfaced frequently in recent years. The joint submission encouraged Oman to revise the Press Law with a view to removing criminal liability for activities that constitute the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression and to adopt safeguards to ensure freedom of expression.⁷⁴

41. The joint submission noted that the Law of Association did not allow associations to join international coalitions without the approval of the Ministry of Social Development. Moreover, associations needed prior approval for public events if participants or experts were invited from abroad. It also noted that international non-governmental organizations could not operate in the Sultanate.⁷⁵

42. CRC recommended that Oman continue and strengthen its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and involve them systematically at all stages in the implementation of the Convention, as well as in policy formulation.⁷⁶

43. The joint United Nations submission noted that there were no recognized political parties in Oman.⁷⁷

44. The joint submission noted that although Oman had taken efforts to promote the political participation of women, the rate of women's participation in the political process had nonetheless remained low. While women had continuously been represented in the Shura Council from 2004 to 2007, no female candidates had been successful during the elections in 2007, although 21 women out of a total of 631 candidates ran for office. By executive order, 14 women were appointed to the State Council (Majlis al-Dawla). Several women had been appointed to higher office or senior positions in recent years and three women held the position of Minister at present.⁷⁸

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

45. CERD noted with satisfaction that the Labour Code affirmed the equality of all workers, without any discrimination based on nationality, gender, religion or any other distinction⁷⁹. The joint submission noted that the Labour Law offered protection to Omani citizens and non-Omani employees working in the public sector, but did not cover domestic servants or temporary workers. It further noted that claims of abuse against workers, including domestic workers, were investigated by the Ministry of Manpower, which employed 160 labour inspectors.⁸⁰

46. The joint submission noted that employees were allowed to engage in collective bargaining on the terms and conditions of employment. Workers were required to give three weeks' notice of intent to strike, which had to be supported by an absolute majority of the workforce. Trade Unions had been permitted in Oman since 2006 and there were currently 72 trade unions, organized under the umbrella of the General Federation of Oman Trade Unions, established in February 2010. All trade unions were required to register with the Ministry of Manpower. The law prohibited unions from accepting grants or financial assistance from any source without the Ministry's prior approval. Foreign migrant workers had recently been allowed to join trade unions, with certain limitations regarding their election to executive functions. Domestic workers, government and security personnel as well as members of the armed forces remained excluded from the right to join a union.⁸¹

47. The joint submission noted that the Labour Law had been amended to prohibit child labour, setting the minimum age for employment at 15 years and for hazardous work at 18 years.⁸² In 2010, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations expressed its hope that Oman would adopt as soon as possible a list of

hazardous occupations prohibited for children under 18 years of age.⁸³ CRC appreciated the efforts to prohibit the use of child labour in the formal sector but noted with concern that some children worked in the informal sector, for example in agriculture, fishing and small family businesses. It recommended that Oman strengthen the labour inspectorate to monitor the extent of child labour, including unregulated work.⁸⁴ CRC noted with appreciation that the use of child camel jockeys had been banned and recommended that Oman share its good practices through cooperation in the Gulf region.⁸⁵

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

48. In 2010, WHO stated that infant and under-five mortality rates had dropped to less than one tenth of their values in just 38 years. This was the fastest decline in under-five mortality ever recorded globally.⁸⁶ In its submission, UNICEF commended Oman for its continued commitment to promote child development. Nevertheless, further initiatives were needed to promote behaviour change to address nutritional deficiencies, as well as emerging issues such as obesity. Given Oman's classification as a high human development country, more resources should be mobilized for this purpose.⁸⁷

49. CRC commended the quality of health care services available in Oman and noted efforts to extend health care services to the remote areas of the country. It recommended that Oman continue to prioritize the allocation of financial and human resources to the health sector, in order to ensure equal access to quality health services for all children, including children of migrant workers.⁸⁸

50. CRC recommended that Oman continue to take measures to raise living standards, particularly among the rural population, and provide well coordinated financial assistance for all economically disadvantaged families.⁸⁹

8. Right to education

51. While noting with appreciation that primary school education was free for all children, including non-citizens, CRC was concerned that primary education was not yet compulsory by law. It noted as positive that girls and boys had equal enrolment rates in primary education but regretted that not all children were enrolled and that not all enrolled children completed a full course of primary education. While noting a slight increase in the enrolment rate of secondary education, it regretted the lack of updated information on vocational education and training.⁹⁰ The joint United Nations submission noted that high dropout rates were increasingly an issue of concern.⁹¹

52. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that while the minimum age for admission to employment was 15 years, the age for completion of basic education was 16 years. The Committee encouraged Oman to raise the minimum age for admission to employment in order to link it with the age of completion of basic education.⁹²

53. UNICEF noted that measures had been taken to raise awareness on the need to increase the number of pre-schools in Oman, but observed that standards for pre-school education still needed to be established.⁹³

54. CRC recommended that Oman further strengthen its efforts to provide human rights education in school and train teachers with respect to including these themes in children's education.⁹⁴

9. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

55. With regard to the employment of migrant workers, the joint UN submission noted that the sponsorship (*kafala*) system was prevalent. Under this system, migrant workers were not allowed to change employers without the consent of their sponsors. Despite

prohibition by law, migrant workers generally had their passports confiscated by employers. Migrant domestic workers, in particular, routinely encountered exploitative working conditions, including excessively long working hours, lack of rest days or rest periods, poor living accommodations and restrictions on freedom of movement and association.⁹⁵

56. Although migrant domestic workers were excluded from the scope of the Labour Law, some protective measures had been adopted, including a ministerial decree outlining their rights and work conditions. In addition, there was a unified contract for both domestic and commercial migrant workers. However, while migrant workers could file a complaint against their employers for illegal practices, most were either unaware of their rights or fearful of losing their jobs and being deported.⁹⁶

57. The joint United Nations submission recommended that Oman consider abolishing the *kafala* system and introduce an updated Labour Law to ensure respect for the rights and duties of both employers and foreign workers. Oman was urged to include migrant domestic workers in the scope of its Labour Law.⁹⁷

58. CRC noted with concern that the children of migrant workers were often vulnerable to violations of their human rights. It recommended that Oman develop and implement policies and practices that will better protect and provide basic services for children of migrant workers⁹⁸.

III. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

Specific recommendations for follow-up

59. In its concluding observations adopted in 2006, CERD requested Oman to provide information within a year on its follow-up on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (ethnic composition of the population) and 15 (organizations inciting racial discrimination).⁹⁹ No response to this request was received by the Committee.

60. Following a visit to the region in October/November 2006, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons recommended, inter alia, the following: the sponsorship system be abolished and migrant workers be allowed to change employers more easily; the Government inspect migrant workers' contracts with a view to ensuring that conditions therein are not conducive to abuse; bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements be established with countries of origin and transit to prevent trafficking; screening and identification procedures of trafficked persons in detention facilities be applied systematically; arrangements other than detention and deportation be considered to safely house trafficked persons; and the Government fulfil its international obligations by acting with due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish trafficking in persons.¹⁰⁰

IV. Capacity-building and technical assistance

61. In 2006, CRC recommended that Oman seek international technical assistance on the issue of corporal punishment from UNICEF;¹⁰¹ on child abuse from UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO);¹⁰² and on child labour from the International Labour Organization and UNICEF.¹⁰³

62. In 2009, CRC recommended that Oman continue and strengthen international cooperation in relation to the implementation of the provisions of OP-CRC-SC, and conduct research to examine cross-border protection issues between Oman and its

neighbouring countries. Oman is encouraged to seek technical support from UNICEF and ILO for the above purpose.¹⁰⁴

63. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons recommended that the Government seek assistance from and collaborate with OHCHR, UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and ILO to obtain expert advice on matters relevant to addressing trafficking in persons, particularly the human rights aspects of trafficked persons.¹⁰⁵

V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

N/A

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 1 April 2009* (ST/LEG/SER.E.26), 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 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

- 6 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 Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise 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.
- + 7 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 7.
- 8 This submission, specifically prepared for the tenth UPR session, was jointly drafted by United Nations field presences at both country and regional level, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Arab States, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Middle East Regional Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre in Cairo, and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- 9 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 7.
- 10 Ibid., para. 7 box.
- 11 Ibid., para. 7 box.
- 12 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 11.
- 13 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, paras. 21–22.
- 14 CRC/C/OPAC/OMN/CO/1, paras. 13–14.
- 15 Ibid., para. 16.
- 16 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 18.
- 17 Ibid., para. 23; CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 59–60.
- 18 A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, para. 95(a).
- 19 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, paras. 7, 36.
- 20 Ibid., paras. 2, 3, 24.
- 21 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 9–10.
- 22 CRC/C/OPSC/OMN/CO/1, para. 5.
- 23 Ibid., para. 23.
- 24 Ibid., para. 25.
- 25 A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, paras. 95 (b) and (c).
- 26 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/13/45, Annex.
- 27 CRC/C/OPSC/OMN/CO/1, paras. 18–19.
- 28 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 11.
- 29 Ibid., para. 26.
- 30 Ibid., para. 33 box.
- 31 A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, para. 95 (l).
- 32 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 37.
- 33 Ibid., para. 11 box.
- 34 See General Assembly resolution 59/113B and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/24, 10/3 and 12/4. See also letters from the High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 9 January 2006 and 10 December 2007 at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/Summary-national-initiatives2005-2009.htm>, and the evaluation questionnaire from the Ministry of Education of Oman dated 31 March 2010 at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/evaluationWPHRE.htm>.
- 35 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 26.
- 36 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 13.
- 37 A/HRC/4/23, Add.2, para. 31.
- 38 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 65.
- 39 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual

Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010OMN182, 5th para.

40 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

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
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

41 The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2006 and 30 June 2010. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, and referred to in the following documents:

a) E/CN.4/2006/62, para. 24 and E/CN.4/2006/67, para. 22; b) A/HRC/4/23, para. 14; c) A/HRC/4/24, para. 9; d) A/HRC/4/29, para. 47; e) A/HRC/4/31, para. 24; f) A/HRC/4/35/Add.3, para. 7; g) A/HRC/6/15, para. 7; h) A/HRC/7/6, Annex; i) A/HRC/7/8, para. 35; j) A/HRC/8/10, para. 120, footnote 48; k) A/62/301, paras. 27, 32, 38, 44 and 51; l) A/HRC/10/16 and Corr. 1, footnote 29; m) A/HRC/11/6, Annex; n) A/HRC/11/8, para. 56; o) A/HRC/11/9, para. 8, footnote 1; p) A/HRC/12/21, para. 2, footnote 1; q) A/HRC/12/23, para. 12; r) A/HRC/12/31, para. 1, footnote 2; s) A/HRC/13/22/Add.4; t) A/HRC/13/30, para. 49; u) A/HRC/13/42, Annex I; v) A/HRC/14/25, para. 6, footnote 1; w) A/HRC/14/31, para. 5, footnote 2.

42 OHCHR 2008 Report, p. 200.

43 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 4.

44 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 12.

45 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 22.

46 Ibid., para. 20.

47 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 24–25.

48 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 24 box.

49 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 18; CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 31–32.

50 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 24.

51 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, paras. 11 and 17.

52 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 4.

53 Ibid., para. 24.

54 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 16.

55 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 24–25.

56 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 32.

57 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 24–25.

58 Ibid., para. 43.

59 Ibid., paras. 24–25.

60 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, paras. 22 and 24 box.

61 Ibid., para. 23.

62 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 51–52.

63 A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, paras. 89–94; Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 37.

64 Ibid., p. 2 and paras. 89–94.

65 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, paras. 37 and 38 box.

66 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 39–40.

67 Ibid., paras. 33–34; Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, pp. 7 and 10.

68 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 29.

69 Ibid., paras. 26, 29; see also CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 67.

70 Ibid., para. 29 box.

71 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 31–32.

72 Ibid., paras. 36–37.

73 Ibid., paras. 36–37.

74 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, paras. 12–14 and box.

75 Ibid., paras. 15–16.

76 CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, para. 21.

77 Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 2.

78 Ibid., para. 19.

79 CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, 19 October 2006, para. 8.

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- ⁸⁰ Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 34.
⁸¹ *Ibid.*, para. 17.
⁸² *Ibid.*, para. 30.
⁸³ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010OMN182, 1st para.
⁸⁴ CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 63–64.
⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 61–62.
⁸⁶ WHO, Oman, Country Cooperation Strategy at a glance, p. 1, available at http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_omn_en.pdf.
⁸⁷ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Oman, p. 4.
⁸⁸ CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 45–46.
⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 54.
⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 55.
⁹¹ Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 28.
⁹² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 092010OMN138, 2nd-3rd paras.; also Joint UN submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 30 box.
⁹³ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Oman, p. 5.
⁹⁴ CRC/C/OPAC/OMN/CO/1, para. 12.
⁹⁵ Joint United Nations submission to the UPR on Oman, para. 35.
⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 36.
⁹⁷ *Ibid.* Oman, para. 36 box.
⁹⁸ CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 59–60.
⁹⁹ CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 27.
¹⁰⁰ A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, para. 95 (g).
¹⁰¹ CRC/C/OMN/CO/2, paras. 33–34.
¹⁰² *Ibid.*, paras. 39–40.
¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, paras. 63–64.
¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 38.
¹⁰⁵ A/HRC/4/23/Add.2, para. 95 (g).
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