RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN THE ARAB WORLD: NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

THE UN-CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE REPORTING PROCEDURES


ARC, Arab Resource Collective       Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children)
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Summary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1- Introduction</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2- The Convention:</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a- An arab perspective: * Dr. Huda Badran</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b- A global reading: * Inger Ostergren</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c- What others do: * Per Tamm</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d- Integrated Approach: * Khaled Nabris</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3- Reporting and NGOs:</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a- Government Reports: * Dr. Huda Badran</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b- NGO and Reporting: * Inger Ostergren</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4- The Convention, NGOs and Arab Societies:</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a- The Reality of the Arab Child's situation: * Touma Hazou</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b- Presentations on the Convention in Arab Countries</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c- Tasks of NGOs: What difficulties? What can they do?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5- Supporting Tools:</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a- Children's Participation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b- Networking &amp; Coalitions: Inger Ostergren</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c- Resources &amp; Children's Rights: Ghanem Bibi</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6- Recommendations</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7- Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8- Annexes:</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a- Agenda</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b- List of participants</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c- Resources and Documents distributed during the workshop</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THE UN-CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE REPORTING PROCEDURES TO THE CHILD’S RIGHTS COMMITTEE IN GENEVA

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: REALITIES, NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL ARAB NGOs
(Ayia Napa/ Cyprus; 9-11/5/1994)

Summary:

Participants came from 6 Arab countries and some regional and international organizations.

For 3 long days, the workshop focussed on two essential items:
- the historical background of the Convention Rights of the Child, its main aspects, how it works and the role of NGOs.
- an Arab reading into the Convention: children's rights in Arab societies and how the Convention relates to local culture and traditions.

Presentations and discussions covered:
- Role of NGOs in implementing the Convention: difficulties and tasks.
- How to work towards transforming the Convention into realities and binding laws;
- The Integrated Approach of the Convention and its implication for both policies and programmes.
- Reporting to the UN-CR Committee: its importance, the procedures, NGO's role and contribution, alternative and complementary reports by NGOs "National Coalitions";
- Coordination and networking among NGOs as important working tools.

Participants agreed on a set of practical recommendations and identified five sets of tasks in 5 complementary categories: advocacy and awareness; implementation; transforming the Convention into laws; coordination and networking, information and follow-up.

An exhibition of relevant resources was organized and many documents and resources were distributed and exchanged.

A total of 32 participants from Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco and the Sudan took part in addition to representatives of Radda Barnen, BvL Foundation, UNICEF, MECC and the Arab Resource Collective (ARC). The workshop was also attended by Dr. Huda Badran, chairperson of the UN-CR Committee. There were 23 women and 9 men. Most participants were from NGOs.

(Following the workshop, both Radda Barnen and ARC agreed on a programme of cooperation based on the recommendations. This includes publishing this report in Arabic and English in addition to two basic resources. A part-time programme assistant is to be appointed in order to help with the implementation of regional activities and in supporting local needs, as well).
1. Introduction:

The initiative to organize this workshop came from RB through their representatives in Yemen. They approached ARC as a regional organization, and both developed together the objectives and drafted the agenda. They also consulted with several local and international organizations active in the region as well as with UNICEF. As a result, it was agreed that the workshop should address both NGOs working in advocacy and "reporting" as well as those involved directly in child care and education. They also took into consideration the relatively modest involvement of Arab NGOs in advocating and implementing the Convention.

Participants were invited according to the following rationale and objectives:

RATIONALE:

The workshop will discuss and try to overcome problems related to the implementation of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child in the Arab countries, since:

- The Convention deals with most matters related to Children's development.
- The Convention applies an integrated approach.
- Most Arab countries have by now signed and/or ratified the Convention.
- Some Arab countries are already involved in the reporting and follow-up process.

In the implementation process NGOs should and will play a major role. The impact will to a large extent depend on the support the Convention will get from the non-governmental community:

- What should the role of NGOs be in the implementation process?
- What can be done to strengthen the impact of the NGO community?
- How can the reporting process be utilized to advocate the Convention and assist in the implementation? What role do NGOs have in the Reporting Process?
- How can NGOs facilitate the participation of children in the advocacy and implementation process?

OBJECTIVES:

1- Introduction of the Convention on the Rights of the Child seen:
   a) from the Arab perspective; and
   b) from the "Global perspective"
      - Historical background;
      - main aspects;
      - the integrated approach;
      - implementation and prospects;
      - follow-up and reporting procedures.

2- Briefing on how the UN Convention relates to facts of life in each represented community/country:
   - The state of the Convention in the community: responses to the questionnaire (enclosed)
3- Reflect on the *integrated approach* of the Convention to all aspects on children's life:

- the workshop would bring together NGOs advocating and promoting the Convention together with other NGOs working on the survival, health, education, development, care, protection and social and emotional well-being of children in order to further the implementation of the convention in a complementary manner.

4- Study guidelines for reporting and study the complementary roles of both governments, NGOs and inter-governmental organisations (CRC/Geneva, UNICEF ... etc)

5- Discuss relevant *forms, mechanisms and resources* for future follow-up and co-ordination - both on the national and regional levels, including Children's participation and appropriate resources for and by children.
2- The Convention:

A - In her reading of the Convention from an Arab perspective, Dr. Huda Badran highlighted its main elements and compared it to previous charts: The Convention transformed the concept of child care and linked it to development and rights rather than "services". In the Arab World the Convention has been accepted and signed by Arab governments but its implementation is still hindered. The Convention needs to be transformed into binding laws, and there still exist conflicting legislations that need to be revised.

Dr. Badran stressed that the Convention is in harmony with Islamic "Sharia" and Arab tradition and culture. The reservation concerning "adoption" has been taken into consideration and relevant Islamic spiritual authorities found no items in the Convention that would contradict with Sharia. "In any case no reservations justify any reluctance in implementing the Convention".

Reality in Arab societies still tell of big gaps and discriminations. Legislations need to be based on the "Child's Best Interest". Arab NGOs have an essential role to play in advocating the Convention and in lobbying policy makers, as well as in its implementation and in the reporting process.

B- A global reading and the historical development of the Convention were presented by Inger Ostergren of Radda Barnen. In contrast to the first (1924) and the second declaration (1959) on then rights of the child, the present Convention is binding. Four factors helped in concluding the Convention and in securing its approval by 157 countries (by May 1994):

1- Politicians realized the significant political returns of signing the Convention and of being supportive of Children's rights.
2- Careful preparations and wide consultations including NGOs.
3- Article 45 mentions the international cooperation. This gave the impression that rich countries were willing to provide aid for implementation.
4- NGOs contribution to wide dissemination of information about the Convention.

The Convention emphasizes the interconnected trilateral responsibility for implementing the Child's Rights thus involving the family, the child and the government. However, the main responsibility rests with the governments. NGOs work is essential for making this trilateral relationship effective.

A basic instrument that can facilitate the work of NGOs is the formation of a "National Coalition" that can bring together groups working in advocacy, child care and education, social and professional groups, judges ... etc. Coalitions are very important for campaigns, building pressure groups and facilitating the implementing and monitoring process.

C- What others do: Per Tamm of Radda Barnen informed participants about his long field experience in Central America, against a background of civil wars, bankrupt economies, unemployment, street children ... etc. NGOs are very active there. They use the Convention as a legitimate mean to act and influence. A diversity of inspiring programmes and creative projects were presented.
The discussions that followed brought comparisons with models in the Arab World and underlined the need for resources, training, innovative forms of work, exchange of information about existing projects. They also made clear that experience of others could be very useful and should be made available to Arab NGOs through contacts and resources.

D- Khaled Nabris (UNICEF) presented the **Integrated Approach** as being one of the most essential features of the Convention. He stressed:

- Child's rights are interrelated and complementary. They are holistic and their implementation should be holistic too, covering all aspects.

- Specialized care should be part of a comprehensive vision: no real and lasting achievements are possible without building on all the basic rights.

- Programmes should be based on the "totality" of the rights and the totality of the Convention in its implementation.

In practice, Nabris sees the following challenges and needs in the Arab World:

- A democratic approach allowing for:
  * participation, positive change and collective and complementary responsibilities by state and society;
  * an environment supportive of the child by providing services, structural changes and cooperation by all;
  * involvement of children and their participation by developing awareness and changing attitudes among adults;
  * holistic programmes;
  * positive NGO intervention by creating successful models that encourage people and governments.
3- Reporting and NGOs

Reporting to the UN Committee in Geneva was covered well through keynotes, interventions, plenary discussions of models both in and outside the Arab World.

A- Government reports: Dr. Huda Badran informed the workshop of:
- How the UN Committee is elected, how it functions, the mechanisms and guidelines of reporting and follow up.
- The gap between signing / ratifying and reality: transforming the Convention into binding legislation.
- The gap in many cases between the situation of children's rights in a country as depicted by the government's report depicts and reality of those rights. These points triggered vivid interventions by participants reflecting on their own situations. Among other problems and "gaps" they cited: the definition of a child; civil and political rights; the "nationality" of the child; the real meaning of " the Right to health, education, leisure, family care, parents duties, participation, freedom of expression and information, respecting the child; children's employment, the rights of working children (conflicting laws), sexual abuse ... etc.

B- NGOs and Reporting was addressed by Inger Ostergren:
- what makes the role of NGOs important in all aspects and stages of reporting,
- complementary and /or "alternative" reporting to the CRC;
- How can NGOs best be involved in the "reporting process", the monitoring of implementing the Convention and in the follow up.

Many models of NGO involvement were quoted by participants who then studied in country-based groups five points related to the reporting process. The following chart summarizes the outcome of the group work that was presented to the plenary:

A full translation of Radda Barnen's booklet: " NGO Work for the Implementation of the Rights of the Child" was made available to all participants. The full text in Arabic shall appear in a forthcoming publication by ARC and RB.
4- The Convention, NGOs and Arab Societies

A - What rights to which child: the reality of the Arab Child's situation.

This background report was presented by Touma Hazou, Information Director of UNICEF's Regional Office. He provided some basic figures and information. Among other things he mentioned that:

- one million Arab children under five die annually for health reasons;
- poverty leads to thousands of drop-outs from schools and enormous numbers of illiterates;
- high mortality rate among delivering mothers (despite drop in children’s mortality rates) due to early pregnancy, lack of prenatal services or lack of immunization against tetanus.
- rehydration programs led to a drop in children's mortality, while respiratory diseases pose a more serious threat on life than dehydration.

Mr. Hazou reviewed the major goals of the Arab Plan (Tunis 1992) and UNICEF’s Mid-decade targets. Among the challenges he cites: Ratifying the Convention and issuing the required legislations; caring for "street children"; dealing with social problems and health awareness.

B - Presentations on the Convention in Arab Countries:

- A number of participants had prepared written reports that were distributed to all.

- All Participants had received a questionnaire in order to help them define the situation, identify needs and establish a basis for discussions throughout the workshop. The responses were to determine a framework for programming and follow-up after the workshop.
  The responses proved useful also for comparison purposes and sharing expertise and initiatives.

Participants were divided into groups according to country in order to formulate their responses. Presentations by groups provided for useful discussions and conclusions about approaches and tasks.

The following charts comprises the responses. They also provide good basis for follow up:
Notes:

1- The above tables do not provide detailed information (and are not, at all an alternative to comprehensive "country reports", but they contain important indicators that can be used, by analogy, to reflect on the situation of children's right in other Arab countries not represented). Some of these indicators are:
   - the Convention has not yet become a binding legislation.
   - the Convention is available in Arabic, but it is not widely known or used. A variety of efforts is required in order to introduce it at several appropriate levels.
   - there is no independent "Ombudsman" for the Children's rights in any country.
   - Participation of NGOs in "reporting" to the UN - Committee on Child's Rights is either minimal or does not exist at all.
   - Coordination between governments and NGOs is either limited or does not exist (or not desired).
   - The charts reveal the urging need for training, workshops, varied resources, technical and financial support, coordination of efforts and projects both at the official and NGO levels.
   - However, significant pioneering efforts and initiatives by the NGOs (and their potentials) reveal themselves.

2- As a result of special transitional conditions in Palestine, and the diversity of regulations under which Palestinian children live, it was practically difficult for the country group to follow the questionnaire in probing the situation. Palestinian participants from W.Bank, Gaza strip and Israel worked in one group and wrote explanatory notes and set goals instead of individual responses.

3- As for the Palestinian participants from Lebanon, who worked in a joint group with Lebanese participants, most of their replies were either negative, or void due to the absence of an authority that formally represents them, or any other authority that could be considered responsible for the conditions of Palestinian children there. Palestinian children in Lebanon and the Lebanese children share the effects of wars, violence and displacement which have swept the country. However, there are differences regarding the opportunities and expectations.

Thus we have added following notes that help explain the current situation. Needless to say that this dual situation prompts the development of a common view of the problems and rights of both Palestinian and Lebanese (as well as all other) children in Lebanon. Cooperation between Lebanese and Palestinian NGOs is a necessity. The following notes are based on a paper on Palestinian children in Lebanon that was presented by Hanan Al-Masri:

- Only 17 "Licensed" NGOs work among Palestinians. Generally, Palestinian NGOs are not permitted officially but rather register as Lebanese NGOs. No coordination exists between those NGOs and the government bodies concerned. Coordination with UNRWA and UNICEF is limited. Palestinian NGOs are not represented at the National Committee for the Rights of the Child. No reporting to the
UN Committee for the Child's Rights.
- Palestinian refugee camps and other centres of displaced persons suffer from all forms of deprivation, overcrowding, poor sanitation as well as psychological problems, related to family disintegration, insecurity and deterioration in the educational system.
- Palestinian Children were exposed to blatant violence as a result of consecutive wars, but also because of their involvement in military activities at an early age. This resulted in an increase in drop-outs from schools and psychological distortions. Mixing with adult fighters encouraged early smoking, alcohol and drug addiction and sexual abuse. Palestinian NGOs lack any experience in dealing with drug addiction. Ambiguity regarding the near future prevails.
- Educational services are deteriorating, and nursery and day-care services are offered by a handful of NGOs to a small proportion of young children. Services for the disabled are extremely limited. The living conditions inside the camps do not provide any opportunity neither for recreation and entertainment, nor for cultural and creative activities.

The paper suggests:
- assisting Palestinian children (and institutions) to integrate with neighbouring communities.
- the government should include the Palestinian children in its services and care (education/health/disabled, etc...) and enable them to practise their rights as children,
- incorporating the rights of the child in the academic curriculum,
- urging the NGOs to broaden their perspective so as to have the "community" as a whole in mind, rather than restricting their efforts to the risk group they address.
- Cooperation and coordination between Palestinian NGOs and the National Committee for the Child's Rights.
C- Tasks of NGOs: What difficulties? What can they do?

Role and tasks of NGOs in implementing the rights of the children - and the Convention - were explored by the participants in 4 small groups along the following 3 questions:
- Difficulties and problems and how to overcome them?
- What role the NGOs in the implementation process?
- What can they do?

Problems and difficulties: Participants identified a long list of problems and obstacles in dealing with Convention.

This is a summary of the group presentations:

- Non ratification of the Convention and not transforming it into binding legislations.
- NGOs poor awareness of the integrated contents of the Convention.
- Lack of coordination among NGOs
- Lack of complementary strategies in advocating the Convention
- Non involvement of NGOs in the National Committees for Child's Rights and in the Reporting to the CRC.
- Lack of information and necessary data and surveys for planning, reporting and follow-up.
- Inadequate human and material resources
- Poor methods of the voluntary work
- Negative competition among NGOs leading to obstacles and duplication.
- Poor awareness on behalf of the authorities of how important non-governmental work can be. This leads sometimes to official intervention in the work of NGOs or even banning them.
- Government reports are not published, or they are made difficult to obtain
- Lack of awareness that the Convention as such exists and poor knowledge of its contents.

On the third day the workshop discussed 3 tools that support NGO efforts: Children's participation, coordination, networking and coalitions and resources - see chapter 5.

Tasks: In a joint session, Dr. Huda Badran helped rearrange the tasks suggested by participants into the following five categories:
5- **Supporting Tools: Children's Participation; Networking and Coalition; Resources**

These three activities were presented as useful tools for NGO work:

**A - Children's involvement and participation:**

In addition to being a basic right, children's participation could be instrumental in promoting their right to be actively involved in implementing the Convention and in shaping their development and lives.

Based on their discussions of NGO tasks (see ch.4) participants shared existing models of children's involvement in the Arab world. Examples: "Children's Parliament", workshops for risk groups, children illustrating their rights. "Children's Councils", etc...

Following guidelines were developed (summary):

1. Participation should be active and contributing to change.
2. Avoid prompting and creating dependency. Carefully examine "*Who leads the activity?*
3. Train in participation skills
4. Work towards a balance between the role of the "Specialist" and that of the child, taking his resources and priorities into consideration
5. Participation should be gradual, accumulating according to experience
6. Make relevant and appropriate resources available
7. Involve parents, the school and other relevant parties
8. The Convention should become part of academic curricula.

Several organizations have expertise and resources that can be tapped: Radda Barnen, UNESCO, UNICEF, SCF, BvLF, the Consultative Group, etc. The Child-to-Child "programme is a very useful resource for participation.

**B - Cooperation, Coordination, Networking and the "Coalition":**

Cooperation and coordination among NGOs were one theme that was underlined across the whole agenda of the workshop. Inger Ostergren presented ideas on the subject and on the following guidelines:

1. Cooperation in data exchange, networking (informal and formal) involving all smaller NGOs.
2. Training and awareness starting inside each NGO and then fanning to relevant parties and to the national coalition.
3. Monitoring on both NGO and coalition levels
4. Work towards legislative and administrative changes on both levels.

Problems on the *coalition* level: participants discussed coordination and networking out of their own experience. Following problems and recommendations were identified:

- NGOs might be afraid of risking their "identity". But Coordination and networking allow for better and broader achievements. Priority should be for ideas, concepts and tasks rather than establishing premature new formal structures.
- Start with a simple agenda, one or two objectives, then expand if successful

- Moving towards coalitions and formal relations requires: good understanding, shared objectives and orientations ...

- All concerned groups should be included, not just selected ones.

Participants presented some of the existing models of "informal coalitions" (Morocco, Gaza ... etc).

The discussions underlined the importance and urgency of coordination / networking among Arab NGOs. There are difficulties, sensitivities and numerous obstacles. Efforts to implement the rights of the child offer an excellent opportunity to suggest alternatives to existing divisions among NGOs. Effective and on-going coordination also requires a mental acceptance of the concept and skills in collective thinking, planning and follow up.

C- Resources and Children’s Rights:

The third supporting tool was presented by G.Bibi along the following outline:

1- Resources are a necessity for acquiring, transferring and disseminating knowledge and experience.

2- Transfer and dissemination are important for: enabling, communications, feedback, creating a "ripple effect", integration...

3- Resources and children's rights: human and material resources are needed to: advocate the Convention, training, networking, producing other relevant resources ... etc.

4- Models and forms of resources can be co-produced, suggested and created by users themselves, especially children. There are many resources that can be adapted from other countries and cultures. Resources should be made available to a variety of concerned groups: informal programmes, parents, children (specially marginalized groups), teachers, ECED workers, the media, policy-makers, illiterate persons ... etc.

Those resources should be complementary, contributing towards making the Convention a part and parcel of the community life.

5- Ideas to start from:
   a- Do you have models of resources produced by others?
   b- Do you have the possibility and the plans to make use of them (by translating/adapting ... etc)
   c- Are supporting resources available at your organization or at other places?
   d- Are there plans to train persons?

6- The Child-to-Child programme was suggested as one relevant model.
6- **Recommendations:**

1- To seek the formation of *parliamentary committees* entrusted with the transformation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into legislations;

2- To work towards the formation of *alliances and national coalitions* of NGOs;

3- That NGOs revise their programmes to *harmonise* with the philosophy of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to be *consistent* with its integrated approach;

4- That following this workshop, participants and other interested organisations *disseminate* the outcome and resources among as many relevant local NGOs as possible, also organising *workshops* at local and national level;

5- That based on the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, NGOs formulate *slogans* to be used in children's festivals, activities and programmes;

6- To *integrate* the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into all training and *rehabilitation* programmes, for example through the academic and educational curricula for teachers and others working in schools, pre-schools and kindergartens, and in rehabilitation and disability programmes;

7- That the Arab Resource Collective (ARC) becomes a "*Focal Point*" for coordination in the region, collecting the different experiences and materials, and making them accessible to all. The relevant international organisations and NGOs are particularly asked to support ARC in this task;

8- To *document* and distribute the deliberations and results of this workshop to participants and other interested organisations in the region;

9- To emphasise working towards *community* and - particularly - *children's participation* in advocating the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its implementation. Relevant local experiences and expertise should be documented and made available throughout the region;

10- To follow up on the implementation of these recommendations and outcome, by every country or participant NGO presenting a *summary report* of work done, within the coming six months;

11- To hold a second *regional workshop* for follow up, in 1995;

12- To make efforts towards *involving* social, civil and human rights groups, such as trades unions, women's groups, and organisations of artists, writers and journalists, in NGO coalitions and groupings working for Children's Rights, or at least to seek their cooperation and support;

13- To give special attention to *vulnerable groups* of children, and those in difficult circumstances: for example, children in conflicts, war and natural disasters, under occupation or siege, street children, and so on.
Amended Agenda:

Day 1: 9/5/94

9.00 - 11.00 Opening / Introduction

11.30 - 13.00 CR Convention:
- An Arab perspective: Dr. Huda Badran / UN-CRC, Geneva
- A Global perspective: Inger Ostergren / Radda Barnen
- An experience from Central America: Per Tamm / Radda Barnen
- General Discussion

15.00 - 17.00 Working groups (country based) to respond to the questionnaire on the state of the Convention and Reporting in each country.

17.30 - 19.30 - Situation of the Arab Child / UNICEF (Regional Office)
- Presentations by groups (Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan)

Day 2: 10/5/94

9.00 - 11.00 - Summary of day 1
- Presentations continued (Sudan, Morocco, Egypt)
- Discussion

- Working groups: NGOs work - Tasks and difficulties.

15.00 - 17.00 Groups reporting

17.30 - 19.30 - Reporting to the CR Committee
  * Government's Report - Dr. Huda Badran
  * Reporting & NGOs: Inger Ostergren

  - A brief presentation on UNICEF's workshop on the Convention (Dec.93) / Touma Hazou

(After dinner: video films)

Day 3: 11/5/94

9.00 - 11.00 - Summary of day 2
- Collective reading into the work of the groups on the tasks of NGOs: conclusions in 5 categories

11.30 - 13.30 - Children's involvement and participation: means, forms and mechanisms.

15.00 - 17.00 - Coordination & networking: Inger Ostergren / RB

17.30 - 19.00 - Resources: Their role and importance and how to utilize them:
  G. Bibi / ARC
- Recommendations and evaluation.
- Closing session

20.30 - Farewell dinner
Reports: Estimates for writing up, printing and distribution of the reports on the Workshop on Children's Rights, Ayia Napa, 9-11/5/94

Reports were not included in the estimated budget agreed with Staffan Engblom (23/2/94).

Here are some estimates (in US$):
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: REALITIES, NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

A report on a regional Workshop for Arab NGOs on the UN-Convention on Child's Rights.
Published by Radda Barnen - Sweden and the Arab Resource Collective (ARC)

Radda Barnen - RB (Swedish Save the children) and the Arab Resource Collective - ARC have the pleasure of presenting this report on the regional workshop for Arab NGOs on the implementation of the UN-Convention in the Arab countries, Reporting to the UN-Child's Rights Committee and the role of NGOs.

A more detailed version of this report is published in Arabic.

The report has the objective of helping participants, NGOs, partners and others in the follow up process, especially in the implementation of the recommendation.

As a working tool, the report could support communication and networking among NGOs and their partners.

ARC & RB will appreciate any feedback and or proposals on ways of implementing the recommendations, following up, and on any specific needs leading to strengthening the local and regional efforts involved in implementing Children's Rights.

We encourage all parties concerned to help promote this report by making it available to their partners, relevant programmes and to the media.

Based on the recommendations, both RB and ARC have concluded an agreement of cooperation that among - other things - provides for:
- Publishing this report in two languages
- Publishing two basic resources:
  1. NGOs and Child's Rights: Role of NGOs in the implementation, reporting and follow up.
  2. A general resource on the background, basic principles of the UN-Convention with a reading of the Convention from Arab perspective. It will also include helpful material on Children's "Ombudsman".
- Engaging a Child's Rights Program Officer
- Supporting local programs and activities.

This English report is published in a limited edition. For any other copies, information or for the Arabic report please contact either:
ARC at their Nicosia address (below) or,
Radda Barnen at: Radda Barnen, P.O.Box. 10376, Sana'a - Yemen.
Tel: (967-1) 201915/ 201265; Fax: (967-1) 201263
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>writing</th>
<th>editing</th>
<th>typesetting</th>
<th>communication with RB on the report</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>600</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) 100 photo-copies</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) 100 photo-copies</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) booklet form: 500 copies</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* covered by original overhead of workshop.

**Please:** choose the options RB tends to fund. Our preference is for b&e since they allow for sufficient quantities for participants and for follow up demand, better utilization of the report and better presentation (printing quality).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Sudan</th>
<th>Jordan</th>
<th>Lebanon</th>
<th>Palestine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- What do you know about your country's Report?</td>
<td>The report was written by the government, NGOs were neither informed nor participated</td>
<td>A government / NGO conference shall be held for reporting and project evaluation</td>
<td>report submitted</td>
<td>We were informed by chance. The government did not publish it.</td>
<td>The date was June 93, the Government set up the National Council for Childhood who pledged to present it in June 94. - Palestinians in Lebanon: no Governmental report</td>
<td>W.B: “We know that Israel was going to prepare a report about Palestinian children... we do not know whether it would cover the new Palestinian situation”. There are different reports (DCI, Beit S’Leim, M.E.Watch) but all need collecting and coordinating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Is there a possibility or an arrangement for a joint government - NGO Report?</td>
<td>Local committees including NGOs were supposed to write reports that would be combined in one. This did not happen. There is no distribution of work or roles.</td>
<td>See above. Government still preparing report. NGOs are informed and are participating. The report will be a joint one.</td>
<td>NGOs can participate in the next report</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, after the new council starts operating</td>
<td>W.B &amp; Gaza: There will be no cooperation with the Israeli authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- If yes, how are roles and tasks distributed?</td>
<td>No distribution</td>
<td>Not clear yet</td>
<td>Follow-up is the Council’s (1) responsibility. NGOs can participate in collecting information writing and revising. Some NGOs may have a consultative role and may be represented in technical committees of the Council</td>
<td>The government may prepare the report first, and NGOs may fill any possible gaps, if any.</td>
<td>Through the participation of NGOs in the &quot;National Council for Childhood&quot;</td>
<td>See above. We are preparing for an alternative report (see 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Is there any possibility for an &quot;Alternative Report&quot;?</td>
<td>Probably not</td>
<td></td>
<td>If any gaps exist. But the results are not guaranteed</td>
<td>Yes, if the government’s report was not comprehensive</td>
<td>Yes, in case NGOs were not actually involved in preparing the gov’tal report. - Palestinians in Lebanon: in case we were not invited to participate, then we will prepare an alternative report.</td>
<td>Gaza &amp; W.B: “yes, but not in response to the Israeli report, rather as a result of the process of promoting the convention and in commitment to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- If yes, what are resources and support needed?</td>
<td>- Support in how to report and to train NGO leaders - Support at the government’s level, urging it to encourage the participation of NGOs - Material support</td>
<td>Training on collective work, networking and exchange of expertise in the region.</td>
<td>Developing material and human resources in the field of training, monitoring, report writing and networking. - Developing abilities in communication, information collection and analysis of data.</td>
<td>- Material and technical assistance in the field of research and statistical information - Pal in Lebanon: “support from the Lebanese govt by facilitating acquiring and carrying out the necessary surveys. - Material and technical assistance from UNRWA, UNICEF, UNESCO and all concerned foreign institutes and concerned Lebanese NGOs</td>
<td>- We need copies of the Convention - Gathering information from a Palestinian point of view, and affirming the credibility of available data. - Retaining contacts among the group present here. - Coordination among different groups that are concerned with the conditions of children and the Convention. - Material support that will facilitate preparing the report in a scientific &amp; professional way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A - GENERAL QUESTIONS</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>MOROCCO</td>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>JORDAN</td>
<td>LEBANON</td>
<td>PALESTINE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1- Has the present Convention been translated into the language(s) of your country (including any minority language(s))?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, into Arabic and French and in part to Berberic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No minorities</td>
<td>- No minorities</td>
<td>- Yes a press Conference by the President of the Republic following the ratification</td>
<td>- No</td>
<td>- No</td>
<td>- No, it is being set.</td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Has your government made any pronouncements or made any important statement concerning this Convention?</td>
<td>Yes the Declaration of the Decade of the Arab Child, 89</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Alexandria Declaration on the Rights of the Child, 89</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>(1) there is a peculiarity for the situation (occupation rather than a national government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Does your country have a “children’s ombudsman”, in other words a person employed by the state to safeguard the rights of children?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No, but close to</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>(2) Most questions are inapplicable in the Palestinian case due to the absence of a Palestinian authority/government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If so, what is the role of this person and what actual mandate does this person have?</td>
<td>The National Council for Motherhood and Childhood</td>
<td>The National Council</td>
<td>The Higher Council for Childhood, but it needs activation</td>
<td>The Natl Council for Childhood headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee for the Rights of Children</td>
<td>The Nat Council for Childhood headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee for the Rights of Children</td>
<td>(3) Israel, as an occupation authority, neither applies, nor recognizes the Convention when application concerns the Occupied Palestinian land, nor any international agreements stated by the U.N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Are there any authorities whose explicit role it is to safeguard the rights of the child?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The National Council for Childhood Care</td>
<td>1- National Council for Childhood Care 2- The Human Rights committee, which belongs</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(4) Israel implements laws over the Israeli society differently, and there is discrimination in implementing the Convention inside Israel itself between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- To what extent does your government/ your authorities inform the general public about the Convention? - If they do, is this done via the media, via brochures or in any other way?</td>
<td>To a certain extent through the radio and television</td>
<td>Through mass media</td>
<td>A governmental information plan “but what has been achieved is less that satisfactory”</td>
<td>- In a limited and seasonal way</td>
<td>- Some interviews and programs</td>
<td>(5) Although Israel has ratified the Convention, nevertheless it has not taken practical steps towards transforming it into a legal legislation, not even inside Israel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- Are staff and others working with children in various sections of society informed / educated about what rights children have, and furthermore, about their own specific role in safeguarding their rights according to the present Convention?</td>
<td>General education but not specifically on the basis of the Convention</td>
<td>Yes training courses for different institutions, including NGOs</td>
<td>Yes one training seminar for parliamentarians, lawyers and media workers</td>
<td>- In a limited and indirect way</td>
<td>- Yes, mostly</td>
<td>(6) in the W.B and Gaza there are several activities and attempts made by Palestinian Institute/active in the Occupied Territories that aim at enhancing the implementation of the Convention. But these activities are not comprehensive. They need coordination, cooperation and strengthening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7- Will this Convention become an integral part of the legislation of your country as soon as your country ratifies it - or is it necessary to introduce new laws or maybe change certain laws, before the stipulations of the Convention can be enforced? If there is a need for laws to be changed - has this work started / been carried out? Have the new / amended laws come into force? What are the obstacles, if any? Who does what?</td>
<td>A general review has started, but no amendments yet. It has not been presented to the Legislative body</td>
<td>Some laws are either being introduced or amended, and shall become effective gradually</td>
<td>- Yes as a “general convention”. - There is no need for new laws. - A committee for revising the laws: will it be successful with the Convention</td>
<td>- No, there is a need for change, and there are no serious steps yet. - The “conservative mentality - Weak NGO influence - NGOs: a variety of activities</td>
<td>Drafts for laws are being prepared</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Palestinian participants from the W.B, Gaza and Israel formulated their responses in the following notes, thus reflecting the complexity of their situation (see note 2 below).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>B- THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE</strong></th>
<th><strong>EGYPT</strong></th>
<th><strong>MOROCCO</strong></th>
<th><strong>SUDAN</strong></th>
<th><strong>JORDAN</strong></th>
<th><strong>LEBANON</strong></th>
<th><strong>PALESTINE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1- Is there a national committee/council/government agency whose object it is to supervise the implementation of the present Convention?</td>
<td>Yes, the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood (governmental).</td>
<td>To be established</td>
<td>Yes, the National Council for Childhood Care</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>- National Committee for Childhood - The Parliamentary Committee for the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>(see note 13 following these tables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Was this committee set up by the government? - If not, by whom was it set up? What is its role?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, with the consent of the NGOs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>- Ministry of Foreign affairs: &quot;individual effort&quot;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Is this committee to report to the United Nations Commission? - If not, who is to do this?</td>
<td>The Council presented the report in Jan. 93</td>
<td>Under implementation. We will do that in the future.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The ministry of Social Affairs pledged to prepare and present it</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- What parties make up the committee?</td>
<td>The Concerned ministers as an Administration Board headed by the Prime Minister. Includes a technical committee headed by the &quot;first lady&quot;</td>
<td>Concerned ministries, NGOs and international Os.</td>
<td>The president, governors and ministers concerned and the Council’s general secretary.</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Minister and Director of Social Affairs and representatives of NGOs</td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Are there several persons/authorities/organisations involved in this reporting?</td>
<td>The parties comprising the Council participated in this</td>
<td>In the future</td>
<td>A committee for writing the report including officials and voluntary parties as well as personalities has been established</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The ministry and NGOs</td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6- How far has the work of reporting proceeded?</td>
<td>see question 3</td>
<td>see question3</td>
<td>see question3</td>
<td>see question3</td>
<td>see question3</td>
<td>(7) the Convention has provided the Palestinian institutes inside the “Green Line” with the tool for advocating the child's rights and enhancing the struggle towards eliminating discrimination between the Arab and Jewish societies through cooperation among them and with some Israeli Institutes concerned with the implementation of the Convention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>it is being accomplished by different parties</td>
<td>The report was sent in Jan. 92. Later, more information was sent in response to the Committee’s observations.</td>
<td>The government submitted the first report in May 93. The UN-Committee issued its recommendations, one person from the NGOs participated in discussing the report.</td>
<td>Under preparation</td>
<td>Questions 1-5: There is an official presence for Palestinian’s at this level.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

(7) the Convention has provided the Palestinian institutes inside the “Green Line” with the tool for advocating the child's rights and enhancing the struggle towards eliminating discrimination between the Arab and Jewish societies through cooperation among them and with some Israeli Institutes concerned with the implementation of the Convention.

(8) the Palestinian Institutes work on gathering information and coordinating efforts in order to clarify the situation and challenge the Israeli report submitted to the International Committee.

(9) The Palestinian NGOs work on coordinating efforts towards encouraging the Palestinian National Authority to adopt legislations that are supportive of the Convention and to benefit from the new situation where new legislation shall be drafted in Gaza and Jericho.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>EGYPT</th>
<th>MOROCCO</th>
<th>SUDAN</th>
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<th>PALESTINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C- THE ROLE OF NGOs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1- Do NGOs participated in the work of the national committee? - If so, in what capacity?</td>
<td>They do not.</td>
<td>Soon. They participate in the preparations for its establishment.</td>
<td>Yes, in a consultative capacity: in a technical committee that belongs to the Council.</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- Are there any NGO-group/s or any network-groups who supervise the work of implementing the Convention and of reporting on its progress?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>A national conference is to be held soon to determine who implements the Convention and reports.</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>The NGO group for the protection of the Child’s Rights. Its goals and means have not been established yet.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- Do NGOs intend to provide alternative reports to the national committee/ the UN Committee on how the Convention is being enforced in your country?</td>
<td>Did not provide</td>
<td>Not clear yet. Awaiting the outcome of the conference.</td>
<td>Not at present</td>
<td>There is an intention to do so</td>
<td>Yes, in the future</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- Has any NGO undertaken to report on a special children at risk-group?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not yet.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>There are some intentions regarding refugees, homeless and minors (Juveniel delinquents)</td>
<td>Yes: the Union for the Protection of Minors and JAD institute (Youth Against Drugs)</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5- Is there any cooperation between international NGOs (for example the ISCA) to follow up and supervise the work of implementing the Convention?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>With UNICEF</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>MOROCCO</td>
<td>SUDAN</td>
<td>JORDAN</td>
<td>LEBANON</td>
<td>PALESTINE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Was your government represented at the World Summit Meeting on Children in New York in 1990? What measures has your government taken following the Declaration and Program set up at the summit meeting?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (Palestinians in Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Has the government of your country produced its “National Program of Action”?</td>
<td>Yes, a working plan</td>
<td>Yes, a national program</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Can you briefly describe this program?</td>
<td>Reducing mortality through vaccinations, rehydration solution, and prevention of respiratory diseases/literacy especially among females/child labour/ disabled children</td>
<td>Health/education/literacy/family and development/amending articles in the law of Personal Status/Social Protection/ incorporation of the Convention in the school curriculum/the disabled/studies on children’s conditions</td>
<td>The goals of the World Declaration, in accordance with the country’s priorities and conditions</td>
<td>No, there is a general framework only.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Are the children at risk-groups prioritized by Radda Barnen included?</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Does the program clearly point to ways of giving priority to children? such as:</td>
<td>- A special chapter on Childhood in the five year plan was introduced</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- more resources to the public sector</td>
<td>- The childhood services budget was increased by 2%</td>
<td>- Allowance for workers according to number of children and social allowance for the married</td>
<td>No, just unspecified approaches towards amending the legislations.</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
<td>- No</td>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- changes in legislation</td>
<td>- The National Council (with the cooperation of UNICEF)</td>
<td>The government, the NGOs and the UNICEF</td>
<td>By the National Council and the Population Council</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>By the public sector.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. How, and by whom, is this Program to be supervised - both nationally and internationally?</td>
<td>- The Society for Health Advancement, Advancement of early childhood under the supervision of the National Council</td>
<td>NGOs do field-work which is indispensable for implementing and for informing the public</td>
<td>- There is no national programme</td>
<td>- Yes, NGOs have their programmes.</td>
<td>Each organization has its own programme</td>
<td>No agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Which will be the role of NGOs in enforcing various parts of the program? and in supervising the implementation? - are there individual NGO programmes according to their field of interest?</td>
<td>The programs do not take into consideration the vital role of parents</td>
<td>- Through audio-visual media</td>
<td>- Yes, through seminars and participation with children in workshops</td>
<td>a- through questionnaires addressed to fathers, mothers &amp; children b- seasonal and limited resources c- the Conference of Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>a- through introducing the child’s Rights into Educational programs b- in a limited way c- the Conference of Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Do these programmes take into consideration the vital role of parents: a) educating the parents about the Convention? How? b) enabling the parents to respond to the rights of children? How?</td>
<td>a- No</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Do these programmes take into consideration: - including the Children’s Rights into the curriculum? How? - making available varied relevant resources and media programmes - Programmes and activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WHAT CAN NGOs DO?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1- Advocacy and awareness</th>
<th>2- Participating in implementing the convention</th>
<th>3- Translating the Convention into Laws</th>
<th>4- Coordination and Networking</th>
<th>5- Information and Follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- NGOs should fully and understand the Convention, then promote it to all groups of the community, through:</td>
<td>- Make short and long term plans or developing new strategies based on the Convention and its Integrated Approach</td>
<td>- Revise prevailing legislations</td>
<td>- There are tasks that individual NGOs can perform. However coordination and networking are necessary to ensure realizing most objectives. This includes:</td>
<td>- Establish contacts with all relevant sources of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Making - and using varied and appropriate resources and means</td>
<td>* Plans should have time schedules, budgets and distribution of roles and tasks</td>
<td>- Ensure that the Convention is transformed into binding legislations through promotion and lobbying</td>
<td>* Exchanging information and reports</td>
<td>- Update data continuously so that programmes would be scientific and realistic. Updating helps in predicting future problems and prospects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Making human resources available</td>
<td>- Revise current programmes and services in order to make them in harmony with the Convention and complementary to other programmes in the community.</td>
<td>- Form &quot;Pressure Groups&quot; or a lobby and a coalition that would give NGOs the power and the weight needed for change and continuity. Lobbying means:</td>
<td>* Creating &quot;Networks&quot;</td>
<td>- Help in the reporting to the UN-CRC and/or prepare complementary or alternative reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Develop action programmes that involve the community (parents/ school ... etc).</td>
<td>* gain new supporters and start dialogue with legislators</td>
<td>* Creating joint committees and national coalitions</td>
<td>- react to urgent events in the interest of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* rally supporters</td>
<td>* Planning and implementing joint programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>