

**„Plus 5“ Review of the
2002 Special Session on Children and World Fit for Children
Report of Austria**

1. Introduction

With its four general principles establishing civil and political, economic and social as well as cultural rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the most comprehensive human rights document. Therefore, the implementation of this convention, being a goal of the Austrian children's rights policy, represents a typical cross cutting task. The actors involved in its implementation are determined by the Federal Constitution, they contribute to meeting the general political requirements for a child-friendly country.

This report includes strategies and measures, which have been adopted by the Federal Government since the "2002 Special Session on Children and World Fit for Children" in order to accelerate the implementation of the CRC in Austria. The Austrian reports pursuant to Art. 44 of the CRC (1999, 2002) also contain important information on the Länder policy and performances; they give a good impression of Austria's efforts to implement the CRC on the different institutional levels and to keep its spirit alive.

2. Major National Actions taken for Children and towards the WFFC Targets since 2002

As stated in the discussion of Austria's 2nd State party report pursuant to Art. 44 CRC on 14 January 2005, Austria has implemented the recommendations made in the Concluding Observations to the 1st report to a large extent. The Federal Government has reacted appropriately to the recommendations made by the Committee for the Rights of the Child by adopting new family support measures for the prevention of child poverty, adaptations to the treatment of immigrant and refugee children and by revising the sexual criminal law.

2.1 National Plan of Action for the Rights of the Child and Youth

Following the 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children, the Federal Government immediately set out to develop a National Plan of Action (NAP) for the Rights of the Child and Youth. In a very open, inclusive process under participation of all national and federal institutions as well as of social partners, representatives of civil society and scientists, special focus was put on the involvement of children.

The issues of the NAP have been prepared in working groups following the CRC's main issues – Principles, Participation, Provision and Protection. The open process, lasting for more than a year, was steered by the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection. On 22 November 2004, the Federal Government adopted the Plan of Action "Ein kindgerechtes Österreich" (A child-friendly Austria), based on the values of the CRC, by a resolution of the Council of Ministers. The corresponding parliamentary discussion took place on 30 November 2005.

2.2 Education and Training

In order to avoid poverty and social exclusion and to increase equal opportunities for all children, measures with a specific emphasis on facilitating equal access to education and training for educationally disadvantaged children were implemented during the report period.

2.2.1 Education

Over the last year, the Austrian education policy adopted two packages of education measures enhancing opportunities for children (in particular also for those living in households at risk of poverty). Its principal measures are the expansion of school care facilities as well as linguistic support for children who do not have an adequate command of the language of instruction (German).

2.2.1.1 After-School Care

In order to provide every child with the possibility to attend after-school care facilities, the offer will be further increased according to the demand. The number of children attending such facilities has increased by 70% over the past five years: in 2006, 10% of all pupils took advantage of this opportunity. From the school year 2006-2007 onwards, parents have to be informed of after-school care possibilities. A compulsory survey of demand has to be carried out as well. In order to speed up the expansion of after-school care facilities, the Federal State finances the costs for ten hours per week per 15 children.

2.2.1.2 Early Linguistic Support in Kindergarten and Primary School

Good command of the language is a prerequisite for quick integration, a successful school career and better career prospects. The following two measures have been taken in order to enhance all children's abilities to understand the language of instruction (German):

1. The initiative „Frühe Sprachförderung“ (Early Linguistic Support) in kindergarten: In order to be able to evaluate the language level prior to entering school and to initiate a linguistic support programme already in kindergarten, the school-enrolment procedure now starts one year earlier.

The Federal State supports the responsible Länder and municipalities by providing € 80 per child in order to strengthen their ongoing support activities and to ensure that – if possible – all children with insufficient German language skills are given the opportunity to receive support. In the last few months, approximately 8.000 children have already received this type of linguistic support.

2. Remedial language instruction in primary schools: children who could not attend classes of early linguistic support in kindergarten are provided with this opportunity in primary school. The second package of education measures („Schulpaket II“) provides eleven lessons devoted to special tuition courses in German for children with insufficient German language skills, set apart from regular lessons; they comprise eight to twelve pupils. The social integration process is not affected as the pupils do not leave their class for the rest of the lessons. After the increase of teachers by 330 for the school year 2006-2007, 1.964 compulsory school teachers will now be allocated by the Federal State as support teachers for the integration of school children.

2.2.1.3 Promoting Reading Competence

In 2002, the support programme „Lesefit“ (Fit to Read) was launched and enhanced by the initiative “Lesen fördern” (Encourage Reading). The promotion of reading competences is based on the screening in 3rd and 5th grade. Accompanying research, teaching material and resources are designed to foster the initiatives.

2.2.2 Training

Providing adolescents with job opportunities in order to enhance their prospects in our society is one of the central concerns of the Federal Government. In addition to efforts in the area of education policy, a series of measures concerning the labour market with the aim to help adolescents enter the labour market and secure employment have been taken.

Austria is thus obliged to provide every adolescent with a work or training place within six months (until 2007) and within 100 days as from 2010.

2.2.2.1 Integration of Disadvantaged Adolescents into the Labour Market via the Dual Training System

The integrative vocational training (“integrative Berufsausbildung” IBA) offers two options: an extension of the statutory apprenticeship period or a partial qualification by restricting training to certain parts of the vocational profile. Since its adoption in September 2003, a total of 2.639 persons have been trained in the IBA (1.863 in extended apprenticeship period and 776 in partial qualification).

2.2.2.2 Information and Advisory Services

The Labour Market Service (AMS) as well as career information centres provide enhanced support regarding the choice of future training and profession by making available a number of information and advisory services as well as brochures (e.g. the vocational aptitude test “Job Compass”, the “Qualification Barometer”, indicating which professional sectors are seeking labour and informing on the required qualifications, online job exchange, reference publication on the “AMS”-vocational information system etc.).

2.2.2.3 Quality Assurance of Vocational Education

The quality of the vocational education should be assured by taking the following measures: the modularisation of the vocational education (in 3 modules) as from 1 January 2006, the establishment of new apprenticed professions, support programmes for gifted youths, mobility support programmes during training (e.g. “Leonardo da Vinci” project), the programme “Ausbildung der Ausbilder” (Train the Trainer) with a “platform for trainers” set up by the Austrian Institute of Educational Research for the Economy on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour (BMWA) including the new website <http://www.ausbilder.at> .

2.2.2.4 Measures of the Youth Training Consolidation Act (Jugendausbildungs-Sicherungsgesetz JASG)

Expansion of youth support services in the context of JASG-measures by providing additional apprenticeship training positions in the form of JASG training courses (i.e. training courses for the acquisition of skills and knowledge for an apprenticed profession which is in demand in the respective Land) and by projects for a concerted preparation for vocational training and orientation (in particular also for girls in non-traditional, promising professions).

2.2.2.5 Training and Reintegration Measures

Training and reintegration measures of the Labour Market Service (AMS) for adolescents who are unemployed or difficult to place: for instance, measures of the special programme “Jugendliche” (Youth) such as “Jobs4You(th)”, “Projekt 06” (Blum Bonus) and measures to enable them to catch up on their lower secondary school graduation.

Enhancing preparatory education and apprenticeship programmes for disadvantaged children and youth and making them more interesting by providing an integrative vocational training (see above): these measures are ensured by the vocational training support (consisting of 1 representative of the Government of the Land and 1 representative of the Board of Education).

2.3 Health

2.3.1 Contribution to Mother and Child Health Care:

Since 1974 the continually improved Mother-Child Card Programme is accessible to all expectant mothers and children up to the age of five and constitutes an indispensable preventive health care instrument for expectant mothers and their children.

In September 2004, a multi-disciplinary breastfeeding commission was set up. The commission dealt with the scientific concerns of breastfeeding and tried to find practical implementation measures for promoting breastfeeding.

2.3.2 Promoting a Healthy Life:

Children and young people are the main target group of the Federal Government's health promotion campaign. Various initiatives mainly aim at the improvement of public health awareness:

In cooperation with numerous experts, the Ministries for Health and Education elaborated Health Cards for pupils in grades one and eight. These Health Cards are distributed together with a comprehensive information booklet on health and an international vaccination card.

The GIVE-service point for health education founded in 1998 is a documentation and information centre with low-threshold access for teaching staff all over Austria. Thus, the GIVE-service point, whose contract has been extended until 2009, has great impact on the sustainable establishment of health promotion in schools.

Furthermore, the Austrian Network of Health-promoting Schools,¹ refounded as the Platform of Health-promoting Schools,² is being subsidised.

The expert workshop “Seelische Gesundheit im schulischen Setting“ (Mental Health in School Settings) is used to analyse the efficiency of health promotion and prevention activities in schools, to ensure the exchange of experiences and developing recommendations on the topic of mental health. The education programme “Eigenständig werden” (Becoming independent) supports general health promotion and prevention of addictive behaviour for pupils in grades one through to four.

¹ „Netzwerk gesundheitsfördernder Schulen in Österreich“

² „Plattform gesundheitsfördernder Schulen“

2.3.3 „Combating HIV/AIDS“:

On the occasion of the World AIDS Day 2006, the “Zentrum polis“ was assigned the publication of a 16-page booklet on HIV and AIDS³ by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The booklet includes comprehensive information for interdisciplinary teaching activities.

The initiative “The Congress at School – Pupils at the Congress“⁴ was launched in cooperation with the Austrian AIDS Society. Pupils are invited to develop projects on the topic “anders denken” (think differently) to be presented at the 2007 AIDS Congress in Frankfurt/Main.

Granting support to further education of teachers e.g. via “LOVE talks“: specialised mediators accompany groups of parents, pupils and teachers on five evenings and assist in planning projects dealing with sexual relations.

Within the scope of the Education Promotion Fund for Health and Sustainable Development, the Federal Ministry subsidises school projects on the topic of HIV/AIDS as well as a pilot project initiated by the non-profit association “AIDS-Hilfe Wien” with boys as its main target group.

2.4 Violence against Children

2.4.1 Prevention of Violence

2.4.1.1 *Raising Awareness in Schools*

The Ministry of Education subsidises the project “Mein Körper gehört mir” (My body is mine) which is an interactive play for primary schools. It tries to give pupils an understanding of the topic of “sexual violence” in a child-oriented way. Accompanying events – parents’ evenings and teachers’ conferences – complement the project.

~“info-blatt“ (info folder) 2/2003 on domestic violence: The information focuses on men’s violence against women and the involvement of children as well as on parental violence against children. The topic is thoroughly examined by determining different forms of violence, motives and strategies of the perpetrators, by outlining the possible impact on the victims and by explaining the legal situation.

2.4.1.2 *Raising Awareness in Professional Groups*

Preventive action against sexual offences is undertaken by specially trained police officers who train educationists (kindergarten workers and teachers) for their work with children. In Vienna, police officers (trained social workers) also work directly with children in schools, kindergartens etc.

Special booklets entitled “Darüber reden – Erziehung zu Mut und Zivilcourage” (Talk about it! – Teaching children (moral) courage) were issued by the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

The travelling exhibition “Hinter der Fassade” (Behind the Curtain) confronts adults and school classes (above 10 years of age) with victims and perpetrators of “day-to-day” violence in families. Employees of intervention centres for violence against women and children, of advisory offices for women and of youth welfare authorities as well as police officers are in charge of the exhibition.

³ Zentrum polis: „Politik lernen in der Schule“, Heft 9/2006

⁴ „Der Kongress an der Schule – SchülerInnen auf dem Kongress“

2.4.1.3 Platform against Violence in the Family

The platform was established and is being subsidised by the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection. Within the reporting period the platform strengthened the networking between agencies concerned with violence against children and young people and developed subject-related standards and new models and possibilities of violence prevention including physical, psychological and sexual violence against children. In terms of awareness raising and public relations, conferences and workshops as well as training courses and further education measures for occupational groups working with children and young people are offered.

2.4.1.4 Implementation of the Project "OUT – the Outsiders" by the Federal Ministry of the Interior

The critical examination of the topic "violence and aggression" is crucial to combating youth criminality. Consulting officers in criminal investigation matters and youth contact officers in schools and meeting places for adolescents give legal advice to young people aged between 13 and 15. The prevention program "OUT – the Outsiders" develops strategies of how to work constructively and how to live together, it enhances the social competences of pupils, shows how to handle conflicts positively and increases young people's awareness of injustice.

2.4.1.5 Psychological Care for Children in Women's Refuges

In order to prevent violence, children coming to women's refuges with their mothers receive psychological care, which helps them to reappraise their experiences.

2.4.2 Legal Reforms

2.4.2.1 Criminal Law on Sexual Offences

The criminal law on sexual offences has been reformed several times in recent years: The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2002, Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 134/2002, repealed Section 209 of the Austrian Penal Code (StGB) and replaced it with the new criminal provision of Section 207b StGB. Therefore sexual acts with girls or boys under 16 years of age are liable to prosecution, if the older partner exploits individual developmental immaturity and a situation of distress (e.g. drug addiction, illegal stay, homelessness) or he or she sexually acts with girls or boys under the age of 18 if this sexual contact is performed for remuneration (prostitution of minors).

The reformation of the Austrian penal law with regard to sexual offences has been continued by enacting the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2004 (Federal Law Gazette I No. 15/2004). This Act attaches particular importance to the protection of minors against sexual exploitation and provides for the broadening of the scope of offences relating to child pornography and abuse of a position of authority as well as penal provisions against encouraging the prostitution of minors and the involvement of minors in the production of pornographic materials. With Section 104a StGB a new general criminal provision against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, exploitation by removal of organs and exploitation of labour was created. As an accompanying measure, Section 194 StGB ("Prohibition of Arrangement of Adoption") provides for criminal sanctions for the arrangement of adoptions in the course of which the child is "bought" from the person entitled to consent. Section 201 StGB ("Rape") was amended by abolishing the former distinction between rape involving severe violence and/or threatening of a serious danger for the victim's life

and limb and rape involving non-severe violence, deprivation of freedom and/or threatening of danger to the victim's life and limb. This Law Amendment extended the criminal elements constituting an offence pursuant to Section 207a StGB ("Pornographic representations of minors"): Anyone who produces or imports, transports or exports for the purpose of dissemination or offers, procures, leaves for use, presents or otherwise makes accessible to a third party pornographic material involving a minor, shall be sentenced. Section 212 StGB ("criminal sanctions for the abuse of a position of authority") was generally extended to relatives in ascending line and includes now practicing physicians, psychotherapists and healthcare and nursing personnel, if they exploit their position of authority for the performance of sexual acts. With Section 215a StGB a new criminal provision combating the promotion of prostitution and pornographic representations involving minors was introduced. It prohibits the recruiting, offering and procuring for such purposes and/or the exploitation of minor prostitutes and/or porn actors. Section 58 StGB ("statute of limitations") provides now that in the case of certain sexual offences committed to children and adolescents, the period of limitation shall begin to run when the victim attains majority. Therefore, such criminal offences against minors can still be prosecuted for a sufficiently long period of time after the minor victims of the criminal offence have reached adulthood. According to Section 64 StGB certain criminal offences committed abroad can, under certain conditions, be prosecuted by Austrian courts even if they are not punishable in the country in which they were committed.

2.4.2.2 Federal Act on Protection Against Violence in the Family

With the 2003 amendment to the Execution of Orders Act (Federal Law Gazette I No. 31/2003), which came into effect on 1 Jan 2004, the provisions regarding injunctions for protection against domestic violence (Section 382, letters b) and d) EO) have also been improved, based on the experiences made with the existing legislation.

2.4.2.3 Procedural Rights

The Criminal Procedure Reform Act, Federal Law Gazette Vol. I No. 19/2004, grants all victims the right to be actively informed about the proceedings and the right to participate and request in the proceedings for taking of evidence. Victims, who might have been exposed to violence, dangerous threat or infringement of their sexual integrity by a criminal offence, have a special standing in the proceedings: They are entitled to psycho-social and legal assistance during the proceedings in order to make the stresses and strains of the proceedings bear-able. Many of these improvements like the provision on psycho-social and legal assistance, have already been incorporated in the current Code of Criminal Procedure, which entered into force 1 Jan 2006.

2.4.2.4 Costs

As domestic violence in the form of bodily, mental and sexual assaults does not only cause pain to the individual, but has also an economic dimension, the Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of Justice assigned to assess the economic costs of domestic violence, namely as a result of violence of men against women as well as of domestic violence against children.

2.4.3 Protection of Victims

2.4.3.1 *Free Psycho-Social and Legal Support in Court Proceedings*

Since 1 January 2006, victims of physical or sexualised violence as well as victims of dangerous threats are entitled to claim free psycho-social and legal support in court proceedings.

Thus, victims of child trafficking, maltreated or sexually abused children and adolescents (but also adults) are entitled to claim these services. Thereby, the distress caused by criminal proceedings and by giving evidence against the offender shall be decisively reduced. Furthermore, secondary traumatisation can be counterbalanced and the victim's rights in criminal proceedings can be asserted more easily.

2.4.3.2 *Considerate Interrogation in Court*

An interministerial task group (Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Ministry of Justice, Federal Ministry of Health and Women) works on the improvement of measures for a considerate treatment of child- and adolescent-witnesses in court. The cooperation of different professional groups in an "integral system" is designed to develop and implement measures of psycho-social assistance for all victims of sexual abuse: preparation of the report, preparation of the contradictory examination as well as preparation of the main trial. The victim will be personally accompanied to the police and to the trials and provided with aftercare services. The project has been promoted by public relations activities and by setting up networks between the Youth Welfare Office, the youth police and the prosecution.

2.4.3.3 *Video Questioning of Under-Age Victims of Sexual Abuse*

In September 2006, the Ministry of the Interior set up a task group which focuses on the introduction of video-questioning techniques for child victims of sexual abuse all over Austria. The aim is to question the abused child by specially trained police officers or authorised experts at the earliest possible moment in order to spare the child the distress caused by multiple questionings.

2.4.3.4 *Training of Police Prevention Officers*

The training of police prevention officers is increasingly being fostered in the area of „psychology and violence“. The main focus lies – inter alia – on the transfer of knowledge regarding the stages of the child's psychological development in order to gain a better understanding of his/her (delinquent) behaviour and to be able to react adequately.

2.4.4 Fight against „Harmful Traditional Practices“

The measures taken against „Harmful Traditional Practices“ aim at the “promotion of a healthy life” as well as at the “protection against abuse, exploitation and violence”:

From 2005 onwards, several expert talks and meetings dealing with forced marriage and genital mutilation have been held at interministerial level (Federal Ministry of Health and Women, Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Security and Generations). The purpose was to exchange information in a comprehensive way, to work out cross-cutting measures, to provide further information and to facilitate discussions with multipliers. The brochure informing about measures against traditional violence, indicating concrete activities on national level, is used for public information purposes.

This initiative has been presented in the framework of an EU conference in Brussels. The meeting of EU Ministers for Equality of Opportunities and their colleagues from candidate countries was held under the title "Joint Action of Member States against Harmful Traditional Practices". It has been documented and published in the "HTP" volume 3 "Joint Action of Member States against Harmful Traditions".

By setting up a network against harmful traditions (NAHT), an international platform for representatives of NGOs and CBOs with the objective to extend networking and to connect science and politics was established. NAHT is defined by the exchange of information, the transfer and publication of know-how and by the promotion of "good practices" on European Community level, as well as by the initiation of potential and necessary legal steps in the EU and in Member States.

A survey on genital mutilation in Austria was conducted in cooperation with the Austrian Chamber of Physicians and UNICEF Austria. Its results were presented in the brochure "Genital Mutilation in Austria – a poll among gynecologists, pediatricians and hospitals".

Physicians, educationists, social workers, police officers, prosecutors and other multipliers have been requested to report cases of forced marriage and genital mutilation to a database set up in the Ministry of Health and Women. The anonymised data are used to analyse the phenomenon, to sensitise and inform the public and to give instructions on the further approach to this issue.

The provisions on the beginning of the period of limitation in cases of genital mutilation as well as the provisions applying to forced marriages have been revised by an amendment to the Criminal Law, which entered into force on 1 July 2006.

2.4.5 Fight against Trafficking in Children

2.4.5.1 *Ratification of Protocols and Conventions*

Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 6 May 2004 (1st report to be submitted in Dec 2006).

Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in October 2006, as the first EU Member State doing so. Austria has begun working on a National Action Plan on human trafficking in October 2006, which is to be finalised at the beginning of 2007.

2.4.5.2 *Criminal Act „Trafficking in Human Beings“*

As stated under 2.4.2., „Trafficking in Human Beings“ is a criminal act. The qualification as a criminal act, which formally only applied to international trade in prostitution, was extended on 1 May 2004 by an amendment to the criminal code to encompass national trade with the purpose of sexual exploitation, exploitation by removal of organs and exploitation of labour.

2.4.5.3 *Intervention Centre*

The intervention centre for victims of trafficking in women has been operating in Vienna since 1998, based on one-year sponsorship contracts. If necessary, the centre also provides intensified care for minors of at least 15 years of age in their respective apartments – if this is in the interest of the minor's well-being and only after consultation with the responsible youth welfare institution. For the first time, the long-term operation of the centre is ensured by the signature of a five-year contract on 1 January 2006.

2.4.5.4 Training for Law Enforcement Authorities

In cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vienna, the Ministry of the Interior ran a comprehensive project dealing with „Comprehensive Training for Law Enforcement Authorities Responsible for Trafficking in Children/Minors“ from 1 June 2005 until 31 May 2006.

Europol, the Belgian Law Enforcement Authorities, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE have participated in this project and contributed to strengthening the cooperation and the transfer of know-how between the respective police authorities in the fight against the international trafficking in children/minors.

Particular focus was put on the consolidation of relevant know-how in the following issues: questioning techniques (establishing first contacts with the victim, identification of the victim, witness protection, etc.), investigation methods (evaluation of threats, bi-national and international cooperation), methods for age determination of victims as well as cooperation between law enforcement authorities, NGOs and welfare institutions.

All the results – „Best Practice“ – have been documented in a “Resource Book” used as a basic paper for an international workshop (14 – 17 March 2006), attended by 110 participants from 39 countries. In-depth training courses, which were held in small working parties, were based on this “Resource Book” as well. On the occasion of an OSCE conference, its issues were also presented on the international scale.

2.4.6 Report Centre for Child Pornography

In March 1997, the Federal Ministry of the Interior established a report centre for child pornography in order to react to the growing phenomenon of pornographic representations of children - especially on the internet.

The report centre, located in the Federal Criminal Police Office, collects information on child pornography material from national and international law enforcement authorities as well as from internet users and conducts corresponding criminal investigations which can result in a charge submitted to the prosecutor.

Over the last 3 years, the authorities have particularly focused on establishing and extending contacts to similar organizational units in other EU Member States. Increased efforts have been made in order to establish contacts to the candidate countries in terms of organizing information meetings and participating in international workshops. The intensified cooperation has also resulted in clues which pointed to Austrian perpetrators, provided by foreign police authorities. Furthermore, the constant exchange of information has contributed to obtain a more precise picture of the international situation.

The investigators involved participate in programmes for further training on a regular basis. Special focus is put on training programmes provided by INTERPOL and EUROPOL, as they offer the opportunity to acquire expertise and, even more so, to exchange information with foreign law enforcement representatives on an international level. The report centre for child pornography is putting all its efforts in strengthening international contacts and cooperation, especially in the context of an enlarged European Union and the Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes against Children. Collaboration in identifying victims of abuse related to child pornography has proved to be an efficient measure.

The report centre for child pornography in the Federal Criminal Police Office has been cooperating for years with the Internet Services Providers' Association (ISPA),

which is operating the hotline STOPLINE. Users who have come across child pornography materials in the internet can report this to STOPLINE which will forward the information to the report centre.

Furthermore, the Federal Criminal Police Office is represented in the hotline advisory council and participates in board's meetings on a regular basis. In the last years, contacts to national and international NGOs have been strengthened as well.

2.4.7 Awareness-raising against sexual exploitation of children in tourism

In 2002 the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Economy and Labour established a bi-annual Round-Table with representatives of Austrian tourism stakeholders (Associations of Travel agents, Chamber of Commerce, Federal Ministry for Social Affairs) in order to raise awareness on the topic of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. Two projects on the implementation of the "Code of Conduct for the Travel - and Tourism industry" (Thailand and Kenya) were financed by the Federal Government.

The exhibition "Hinschauen statt wegschauen (Don't avoid it – Face it)" by ECPAT Austria, which brings attention to sexual exploitation of children by tourists and offers strategies to take action was promoted and subsidised. First presented at Vienna Airport, the exhibition is now shown in schools and at much-frequented places in Austria.

2.5 Children affected by armed conflict (CAAC)

2.5.1 Mainstreaming the Issue of CAAC

Austria has been very committed to mainstreaming the issue of CAAC into all areas of Austrian foreign policy, promoting the topic on EU and UN level, integrating it into Austrian development cooperation and advocating an active approach in the framework of the Human Security Network (HSN). Some of the activities undertaken by Austria in this regard are listed below:

- Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the involvement of children in armed conflicts on 1 February 2002; first state report in 2004, examined in 2005.
- Active contribution to the adoption and implementation of the EU Guidelines on CAAC. The situation of children affected by armed conflict was one of the prioritised topics under the Austrian EU-Presidency: Austria developed and adopted an implementation strategy for the review of the EU Guidelines on CAAC to succeed in further mainstreaming the issue throughout the EU system and in strengthening the role of local Head of Missions. One concrete outcome was the adoption of a checklist for the integration of the protection of children in EU crisis management and post-conflict operations.
- In close cooperation with the Special Representative for children affected by armed conflict of the UN-Secretary General, a compendium of existing standards in the field of children and armed conflict (Children and Armed Conflict - International Standards for Action) was established, which is being used for military operations.
- Within the framework of the Human Security Network (HSN), Austria has been actively involved in the promotion of child's rights and especially of the rights of CAAC. A "support strategy for children in armed conflict", enhancing the UN-

Monitoring mechanism, and the “Child Rights Training Curriculum” have been developed under Austrian HSN chairmanship in 2002/2003. Violence against children is supported by Austria as one of the upcoming focal topics within the HSN.

- In the context of promoting human security, Austria – together with the HSN partners Slovenia and Jordan – is funding “train the trainer” courses for Iraqi personnel dealing with the psycho-social rehabilitation of children in Iraq.
- Austria also funds a HSN-Follow-up project on child-protection in Bosnia and Kosovo, aiming for support of traumatised children in BiH and Kosovo and for further development and institutionalizing of local municipality-centres. Another example of Austria’s involvement in programmes to support children is the Austrian Centre for Social Services in East Jerusalem, which provides care and mental rehabilitation through play therapy.
- Besides, Austria has been effectuating several successful demarches against juvenile death penalty in Iran and Yemen and concerning the recruitment of child soldiers in the DRC during its EU presidency.
- Efforts to train Austrian military and field personnel, who are about to be sent on missions abroad, in the field of child’s rights. Every soldier, policeman or -woman and civilian expert sent to a conflict or crisis zone is provided with knowledge on the rights of children and their special needs. Training on child’s rights in April 2005 preceding the envoy of 4 Austrian military to UNMIS; seminar on legal, humanitarian and socio-psychological aspects of the protection of children in conflict situations.

2.5.2 Austrian Mine Action Programme

The regional focus of the Austrian mine action mission has focused on Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Namibia (2000), Cambodia, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Uganda (since 2001). In implementing the Austrian anti-mines action programme measures in the field of mine clearance, awareness-raising, assistance to victims of mines and reintegration are supported. The Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs mandated a study to give an overview and analysis of the existing technical and organizational potential for the implementation of and participation in mine action programmes.

The new Austrian initiative regarding the establishment of a legally binding instrument on the use of cluster munitions is highly linked to the protection of children as they range most prominently amongst the victims of cluster munitions.

2.6 Contributions to Child Projects within the Austrian Official Development Aid (ODA)

Promotion of human rights is one of the main goals in Austrian development co-operation; the rights of the child are mainstreamed throughout all processes, focusing on child issues and their systematic integration is a constant factor within ODA. The Guidelines on Good Governance, on Human Rights and on Conflict Prevention & Peace-Keeping are valuable tools being used since 2005/2006 in this regard.

In total, approximately € 3,650 million have been contributed by the MFA and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) within the framework of Austrian ODA to

projects concerning children in 2005. € 1,1 million have been disbursed to UNICEF in the context of multilateral ODA in 2005.

Some examples for promoted/funded projects:

- € 233.000 were used in 2005 to fund the UNICEF-Project "Strengthening national institutions to end impunity for violations of children's rights" in Cape Verde, € 65.000 to co-finance a project to end violence against women, children and juveniles.
- Particular importance has been attached to demobilization and reintegration programmes, corresponding with the Austrian focus on CAAC. In this context, the integrative human rights components contained in the country programmes for Mozambique and Rwanda for 2002 to 2003 are to be mentioned.
- Furthermore, Austria is involved in the promotion of violence-free conflict resolution strategies in Palestinian schools in the Palestinian Administered Areas and in the Haburas Labarik- Promotion of child's rights and capacity building in Timor.
- Austria also carries out 5 projects in Northern Uganda, improving living conditions of children and youth in the conflict affected areas of Kitgum and Pader; support to ex-child soldiers and child mothers in Pader community; enhancing Programmes of SOS Gulu Social Centre; reintegration of War-affected Children and Youth; Rehabilitation and reintegration of former LRA child soldiers in Northern Uganda. In total, approx € 220.000 haven been spent in 2005 on projects concerning CAAC.
- Major support to the development of an integrated juvenile justice system in Rwanda and Namibia. Concrete measures include an integrated policy development in the area of juvenile justice, the development of standards for promoting the legal protection of children, the establishment of a juvenile penal system, specific care measures for juvenile offenders and the legal training of prison officials, police, prosecutors and judges.

3. Resource Trends for Children:

Since public expenditures for policies relevant to children have to be booked in the budgets of several ministries, governments of the Länder and municipalities, it is not possible to provide exact figures regarding the respective amounts spent on children's issues. Increases in the education and health budget are partly due to cost increases, partly to new services.

There have been increases in expenditures in the labour market budget devoted to a key project for the fight against youth unemployment as well as increases in the Family Burdens Equalisation Fund with regard to services provided by the family policy: in 2002, € 4.5 billion were spent on children. In 2005, this total amounted to € 5.4 billion.

Since 2003, the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection has been providing a yearly budget of € 70.000 for purposes of public relations for the rights of the child.

4. Development and Use of Monitoring Instruments to track WFFC/MDG Targets:

In order to speed up the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Rights of the Child and Youth, the Federal Government has established an interinstitutional support group. Representatives of Federal Ministries, of Länder and municipalities as well as of NGOs dealing with children's rights (National Coalition) are cooperating in this group in order to inform about the implementation of the scheduled projects and to prepare a report for the Federal Government by autumn 2007.

Sub-working groups have so far discussed strategies on how to implement and evaluate measures regarding the following issues: awareness-raising for the rights of the child, education and training as well as health and sustainable development.

In order to determine the child poverty rate, defined instruments have been set up for different indicators. Research and regular surveys regarding various topics are regularly taken into account with regard to the situation of children.

5. Enhancing Partnerships, Alliances for Children and Participation:

Besides representatives of the Federal Government, the Governments of the Länder and municipalities, the Federal Government has also invited the civil society to participate in the creation and implementation process of the National Plan of Action for the Rights of the Child and Youth. Civil society is called upon to contribute to the analysis of children's rights in Austria and to the definition of measures designed to counterbalance deficiencies.

All NGOs engaged in the area of children's rights have been requested to involve children in projects subsidised by the Ministry of Social Security and to include the children's notions regarding their rights in the development of the NAP. Nearly 25.000 child opinions have been collected by the participating NGOs in a self-determined procedure.

Thanks to an open invitation (3.500 invitations were sent out) to participate in the creation of the National Plan of Action for the Rights of the Child and Youth, an active and comprehensive discussion on the children's rights policy could take place all over Austria.

One of the targets of the support group (see 4.) for the implementation of the NAP is the advancement of the coordination regarding child's rights policy in Austria. Thus, the criticism of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child, describing the cooperation as merely selective, should be addressed; cooperation should be improved and should take place on a continuous basis. Cooperation between institutions and NGOs was facilitated by nominating contact persons for children's rights issues.

An interinstitutional working group (representatives of Ministries and NGOs) was established in order to accompany the implementation of the European Youth Pact. Measures for the implementation of the European agenda „DG EAC's Communication on European policies concerning youth participation and information“ are being designed in a structured dialogue.

The Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection provided the communities with the audit “child and family friendly community”. It is a

well-established counselling instrument used to analyze and enhance children's living conditions in a participatory manner.

6. Achievement of the WFFC Plan of Action and Related MDG Targets:

As a result of an inclusive creation process (all Ministries participated), the plan of action includes measures for all areas of the CRC. To a large extent the more than 200 measures are already implemented or are currently being implemented, other measures are currently being planned. The responsible Ministries have allocated corresponding budgetary funds or will do so in the near future.

6.1 Public Relations regarding Rights of the Child

Another central target of the NAP is to raise awareness regarding the values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child of everyone who is responsible for children and youth on the political and administrative level as well as of those who are working and living with children. For that purpose the Federal Government (Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection) has provided a yearly budget of € 70.000. For a start, a series of awareness-raising projects have been launched (drawing competitions in schools, discussions on the issue "Kindern zuhören" (Listen to Children) all over Austria, setup of a website (www.kinderrechte.gv.at) providing manifold information on child's right to multipliers), which are mainly addressing school children and professional groups (administration officials, educationists).

6.2 The Fight against Child Poverty is a Priority

In the 2006 report on strategies for social security and integration, the fight against child poverty and the promotion of opportunities for disadvantaged children and adolescents are part of the four central challenges.

As a reaction to the 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children and the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Austria has undertaken great efforts to ensure and to promote the status of children in society. In doing so, the responsible decision makers are aware of the fact that it is a continuous obligation to live up to these concerns for the benefit of children in Austria.

6.3 Further Legal Processes

Adoption of the amendment to article 43 para 2 CRC, regarding the increase of the number of members in the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18.

Ongoing ratification process of the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights.