



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

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Finland's questions and recommendations to Ecuador 21 May 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Ecuador for the national report and its presentation today.

Finland recognises the important steps taken in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in the 2008 Constitution. Ecuador has established policies and programs on birth registration. However, in practice 10 per cent of children under the age of five remain unregistered. This generates violations of other human rights, and increases these children's vulnerability for poverty and becoming victims of human trafficking. The greatest numbers of non-registration are found among the indigenous peoples and the afro-descendant people as well as migrant families. Girls are less likely to be registered than boys. What measures has the Government taken to ensure universal birth registration? How is the Government addressing especially the situation of girls, indigenous and afro-descendant children as well as children of migrant families?

Finland recommends Ecuador to strengthen its efforts to achieve universal birth registration, including by establishing permanent and automated birth registration services in all pre- and post-natal healthcare institutions. These services should be accessible to all people throughout the whole country, including in rural areas.

Finland also recommends Ecuador to take targeted measures to address the situation of girls and the challenge of ensuring the accessibility to registration for indigenous peoples and people of African descent as well as for migrant families. The right of every child to a name and nationality should be guaranteed.

Thank you.