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Annex III

Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

Name and first name: Puras Dainius

Date and place of birth: February 7, 1958, Vilnius, Lithuania

Working languages: Lithuanian (native), English (fluent), Russian (fluent), German (fair)

Current position/function: Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, elected for the period of 2007-2011. An independent expert in the field of human rights, health policy, public health, developmental disabilities and child mental health and well-being. Head and Associate Professor of the Centre of Child Psychiatry and Social Paediatrics at Vilnius University, Lithuania; also Head of Clinic, Child Development Center, Vilnius University Children's Hospital.

Main professional activities: Experience in academic, clinical, managerial and policy-making activities and leadership in the following fields: health policy, medical education, development of child and adolescent mental health services; parental training, prevention of violence against children and suicidal behavior among children and youth; transition from institutional care to community-based and family-focused services for children with disabilities and other groups of children and families at risk. Leadership in development of modern policies and services for children and families at risk in Lithuania and in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Dainius Puras is a founder (1989) and honorary chairman of Lithuanian Society of Families with Children with Intellectual Disabilities. He initiated a helpline for children and a network of early intervention services for children with disabilities in Lithuania.

Educational background: Graduate of Vilnius University, 1981, with the diploma of physician (medical doctor). Specialisation in child and adolescent psychiatry (1981-1983). Doctoral thesis „Moderate and severe mental retardation among children in urban population“ (1988). Postgraduate training courses and study visits in the areas of health policy, public health, mental health, human rights and special education (1990-2009).

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned: As a member and expert of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Dr. Puras attended the Committee sessions, starting from 45th session in 2007. Dr. Puras represented the Committee in the Day on the Rights of the Child of UN Human Rights Council (Geneva, March 11, 2009), 9th (June 30-July 2, 2009) and 10th Inter-committee meetings November 30 -December 2, 2009) of UN Treaty Bodies, French-Russian Round Table meeting on Juvenile Justice (Moscow, September 11, 2009). Dr. Puras is Chairman of the Board of Human Rights Monitoring Institute (NGO based in Vilnius, Lithuania); Chairman of the Board of Global Initiative on Psychiatry (NGO based in Vilnius, Lithuania). He was a scientific leader of an EU-funded public health project „Child and adolescent mental health in enlarged European Union (CAMHEE)“

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(2007-2009); President of International Conference of the European Academy of Childhood Disability (Vilnius, June 2009); Rapporteur for a conference „Mental health in youth and education“ organised by Sweden during its EU presidency (Stockholm, September 2009); keynote speaker in several international conferences on human rights, child rights, children with disabilities, child mental health; temporary expert and consultant for WHO, UNICEF and other organizations on related issues. He has consulted governmental, nongovernmental and intergovernmental organisations in 12 countries.

In 2008 Dainius Puras received Award of International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (IACAPAP) and was appointed IACAPAP Ambassador for the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Dainius Puras had previously served as President of Lithuanian Psychiatric Association (1990-1992), President of Baltic Association for Rehabilitation (1995-1997), Dean of Medical Faculty of Vilnius university (2000-2002).

List of most recent publications in the field:

Puras D., Povilaitis R. Development of child mental health services in Central and Eastern Europe. In: Increasing awareness of child and adolescent mental health. Eds.: Garralda M., Raynaud J-P., Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, inc. 2010: p. 253-279.

Puras D. Developmental disabilities: challenges for research practices and policies in the 21st century// Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology, 2009, 51, 6, p.415.

Khandeval S., Avode G., Bagnana F., Puras D. et al. Mental and neurological health research priorities setting in developing countries // Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology, published online: 10 July, 2009.

Tomov T., van Voren R., Keukens R., Puras D. Mental health policy in former eastern block countries. In: Mental health policy and practice across Europe. Eds.: Knapp M., McDaid M., Mossialos E., Thornicroft G. Open University Press, 2007, p.397-425.

Puras D., Germanavicius A., Povilaitis R., Veniute M., Janulionis D. Lithuania mental health country profile // International Review of Psychiatry, 2004, vol.16, N.1-2, p.117-125.

Puras D. Psychiatry and learning disabilities in post-communist countries – Experience from Lithuania // Learning Disability Psychiatry, 2004, vol.6, N.1, p.4-5.

Puras D. Changing the system of services for children at risk – the Lithuanian experience. In: Advocating for children and families in an emerging democracy. Eds.: Kugelmass J.W., Ritchie D.J. Information Age Publishing inc. 2003: p.43-62.