



REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

**ALTERNATIVE REPORT OF THE INITIAL REPORT
OF THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE OF CHILD RIGHTS
IN GENEVA**

**PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY THE GUINEAN
COALITION FOR THE CHILD RIGHTS (COGUIDE)**

APRIL 1997

CONTENT

- PREFACE

- GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

■ GENERAL MEASURES FOR THE APPLICATIONS OF THE COVENTION OF
THE CHILD RIGHTS IN GUINEA

- FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROTECTION

- EDUCATION - ENTERTAINMENT- CUTURAL ACTIVITIES

- HEALTH AND WELL BEING

- CONCLUSION

The Guinean coalition for the child rights (COGUIDE) is created according to the law No.072/PRG/85 of March 5, 1985 on the freedom of association in Guinea and the clear will of some national NGOs intervening in the domain of childhood to regroup as competent bodies living on the field, the realities of the Guinean's child, in order to express complementary opinions as technical as possible on the initial report of the Guinean government sent to the convention of the experts committee in Geneva.

The main objective of this coalition is to contribute to the follow-up and to the effective application of the child rights in Guinea, in Africa and in the World, and for immediate objective, research and the supply of complementary technical information for the Writing up of each national report to be communicated first to the Guinean State to refine its different reports and then to the Geneva committee in its alternating /complementary reports.

It is then purposely and even for that matter in conformity with the dispositions of article 45 of the said convention enacting on the application and the enforcement that requires specialists opinions on the realities received by children in the States parties, that it decides to give its opinion on the initial report of the Guinean Government which was finalised since September 1996.

It then expresses its agreement on the majority of the points of this report, but is bound to raise some interrogations on certain points that appeared to be quite pertinent for a document of that extent.

Also it is proper to underline it, this alternative report although has taken into account the field established fact of the first NGOs. In place in this field, does not pretend to cover, like the one of the Government in this matter, all the problematical aspects of childhood in Guinea, essentially due to the complexity, to the diversity and to the precariousness of national resources of all kinds for the implementation of this universal document.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE REPORT

The Guinean coalition for the child rights is informed with great attention and interest of the Guinean Government report to the child rights committee, on the implementation of the convention in the Republic of Guinea.

This report has the great merit of establishing a very critical official report of the situation of the Guinean child and especially to have shown the initiatives envisaged by the State to effectively carry out the implementation of the convention in the Republic of Guinea.

The COGUIDE appreciates the signifying adhesion of Guinea since the first hours of the child rights convention and the promises to respect its dispositions done both by the National Action Plan (PNA) and the interim Action Plan (PIA), after the conference of heads of States in New York in 1990.

However, given the vocation of the COGUIDE, to follow the effective efforts achieved on the child rights in Guinea, to know and to let know the weaknesses and to suggest improvements, it only deplores then in that respect that the report could not seize this ultimate opportunity to better explain the situation of the Guinean child in its globality.

It is from this official Statement that appeared that many achievements in favour of the child at the national level have not been taken into account , such as :

- The national policy in favour of the Guinean child ,
- The family code ,

That are of course non published documents yet , but completely finalised and which are unquestionably instruments for the qualification of infant aid Governmental policy in the country .

In this report ,COGUIDE notices also that , although it presents evident political will of the State , but it has not been able to do sharp diagnostic of the state of the Guinean child ,especially in relation with the level of the application of the convention ,as a universal document compelling the Government to do all it can to make the said convention applicable.

So ,for this first report , we NGOs parties of COGUIDE accept to that fact that this one has become as from now a working tool of great importance on a common reference for all , therefore express our total satisfaction to the public Authorities for their courageous auto critic contained in the document .

Nevertheless , considering the complementary character of the field bodies report which are the NGOs of COGUIDE , some passages of the report interpellate in order to better democratise the debate around the applicability of the child rights convention in the Republic of Guinea and its only within that frame work that we are making the following remarks .

GENERAL APPLICATIONS MEASURES (pages13-17)

The report in this rubric shows the different dispositions initiated by the Guinean State for the effective application of the Convention in Guinea .

COGUIDE is happy to realise that the Government has taken quick and practical dispositions at the time , between the date of ratification (March 17, 1998) and the update of the promulgation instruments (April 10,1990) but that in its application on the field ,some weaknesses have been registered : .

- In the Writing up of the report in question ,a considerable delay was made that's why today the country has reached the date for the elaboration of the second report , taken into account its date of ratification ;
- The Guinean committee of the follow up, the protection and the defence of child rights , in addition that it stops in its structure at the prefectoral level (prefectoral committees) are not operational until now .

It's for this reason that COGUIDE suggests to make it more efficient and especially functional :

- Its decentralisation to the lowest possible level, in the sub prefectures and districts ,closer to the beneficiaring population
- Equip the committee with means of its policy ,in applying effectively the dispositions of the decree of its creation .

Concerning the equity committee for egalitarian education girl/boy , COGUIDE welcome the existence of that structure , but regret that in the part reserved for it ,there's no mention of data statistic on the number of schools and children who have benefited from this disposition .

For COGUIDE , to better evaluate the impact positive/negative the objectives of this committee since its creation , it would be imperious to present in this report statistics , that can solely facilitate the denying of the system and especially to take adjustments dispositions ,in order to achieve the main purpose aimed at by the procedure, knowing that the number of girls out of school remain yet very high .

In addition the report notifies the weakness of the financial rate of the social sector activities in general and the one of infant in particular , COGUIDE support that declaration entirely and wish ,not only the rise of the budget allocated to an acceptable level, but requires insistently rigour in the management of the resources put at the disposal of this so delicate domain .

Also while wishing the creation of easy pay out terms for the so mobilised funds , to satisfy within the time allowed to the for which they are destined ,COGUIDE asks for support to credible NGOs in this domain .

Concerning the transmitting of the Convention's content and the one of this report ,COGUIDE deplores that little has been done in this framework and it's the simple reason for which these » two documents are very badly known at the national level.

It is deplorable to notify that many NGOs members of COGUIDE has come into contact with the convention of child rights and the initial report on its application in Guinea , only at the creation of this regroupement , on January 31st 1995 .

That is why it is urgent and COGUIDE , subscripts sharply to that ,to carry out the simplification of the convention ,in order to make it more accessible to the public and its translation into Arabic Language , which is large spread in the Republic of Guinea .

It also appears necessary after the simplification , to organise a concerted national campaign of sensitisation and transmitting of the convention , implying all the field partners up to the parents .

COGUIDE highly appreciate the Guinean position on the definition of child and its age « 0-18 » and the content of law number 072/PRG /SGG/0 of July 26th 1990 fixing from 18 -25 years the age for every citizen to commit himself in the Guinean army .

Nevertheless , while wishing that these dispositions don't remain only on paper ,COGUIDE would like to inform the public about these dispositions . Concerning information and advertising as career of transmitting the convention and the participation of the child to this crenel , its regrettable that the broadcasting which was mentioned in the report and which was realised in favour of the infant in Guinea called « petit a petit et le coin des enfants »(little by little and the children's corner) are not any more parts of the radio and television programmes .

Due first to lack of material and financial support and then of specialised staff , that broadcasting when it was realised ,could only reach a small part of the Guinean children and was especially prerogative of groups of children of well off parents , with out any possibility for the bigger number of children who are under privileged to have access to this facility .

That is why COGUIDE while wishing for this broadcasting to go on again ,privileges its reorganisation in order to make it :

- More varied and especially according to the principle of the higher interest of the child , who should participate in its realisation all along the process,
- Accessible to all the children without any discrimination,
- and in priority facilitate the training of specialists in this domain of the media, in order to have in the media conscious and consequent partners for the cause of the child .

Concerning the advertising , COGUIDE requires the systematic imposition of barn on all advertising of alcohol and tobacco within the entire national territory . But if economic reasons wins over the higher interest of the child in this matter ,COGUIDE wish that the following mention be required on all advertising of alcohol and tobacco « alcohol and tobacco kill » in addition indicate the percentage of deaths due to their consumption in Guinea .

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROTECTION **(pages 28-43)**

In this domain, the Republic of Guinea is equip with a legislation which takes into account the needs of the child articles 16 and 17 of the constitution. The content of these articles, seem to be in conformity with the spirit of article 03 of the convention of child rights .

Nevertheless, some points of these dispositions interpellate some content remarks . Within the frame work of social reinsertion of children in open surroundings , COGUIDE notifies that in spite of the liberalisation of private initiatives in this domain by the Government , the number of salvation centres mentioned in the report, remains short of the needs expressed for such activity yet in priority .

It is especially deplorable to see that the State has no centre of this category of its own and in addition, as one might say it doesn't support those created by the NGOs neither in terms of

technical nor in terms of financial. Something which precarises the everlastingness of these accompanying structures and the lightening of the effect of the socio-economic reforms.

Besides concerning the motives of the separation of the child with his parents namely his mother, COGUIDE has noticed that in the Government report does not point out the obligation that a contractual mistress working in rural areas, as family mother to abandon her home to look for such occupation in order to contribute to the balance of her house.

To realise the reunification of such a family, with the father who might also because of lack of choice, has other engagements elsewhere different from his wife's, creates a problem, the Government report well informed that such situation perturb the integrity of the child, does not envisage any where the solution to this kind of disappointment. In that context of children deprived from their familial environment COGUIDE is very happy to see that several NGOs invest efficiently in to it but regrets that the Government as one might say does not manage any support in favour of them, they that, in spite of the increasing weight of such demand, suffering from lack of logistics and specialists, using the maximum of their weak resources to continue to create hope for this mass of the population.

The negative impact determining the divorces of life and the higher interest of the child has not been mentioned by the report of the Government nevertheless, it is established that it remains one of the main causes of the disfunctioning of the familial unit.

Facing then this anxious situation, COGUIDE request the Guinean Government :

- to set up coercive devices against any divorce which would not take into account its negative impact on the life of the child.
- that if the divorce is nevertheless accomplished, that reception and lightening structures be instituted for the sufferings of children from that marriage between the age of 0 to 18 years,
- to ensure the effective application of the dispositions of the penal code in the matter of divorce,
- to do all it can to preserve in the first place the higher interest of the child in divorce and that the foster parents be assisted by it,
- to train social assistance and specialised magistrates in taking care of children from divorced couples,
- to ensure free primary education to the most underprivileged,
- - to ensure care to the most underprivileged by finding adoption homes for them at the national and international level, to find reception families responsible to ensure their development.

Concerning children who are in conflict with the Guinean law, one have to realise that in spite of the setting up of a jurisdiction in the country, authorised by law No.022/AL/78, its application on the field raises serious interrogations, both for the magistrates themselves, for the parents and especially for the children in question.

However, one of the main reasons for this situation, is the lack of specialists to make the courts for children function, doubled by a general laxism in the follow up of the application of the judiciary decisions.

In spite of the existence of these courts, the children are continued to be judged by the magistrate's courts for adults, places where, the infancy excuse is not taken into account, however conceded to the delinquent child by the law.

In addition to this bitter established fact, it happens that concerning logistics, the jailed children continue to clear their punishment in the same room as the adults hardened by crimes of every kind, especially without any internal regulation defining the modalities of their reformatory prison stay.

It is however happy to notice that private initiatives are starting to invest themselves in this, in spite of the fact that the report of the Government does not provide any measure of support to these voluntary structures. It is within this frame work that one of the NGOs parties of COGUIDE, called SAMARITAINE-GUINEE, acts directly in favour these children since 5 good years without any external support.

For this part, COGUIDE wish for more interest from the children's justice community in general and from the Guinean Government in particular, to make possible at first the separation of the jailed children from the adults criminals and to support the alternatives measures proposed in this domain by LA SAMARITAINE- GUINEE and any other voluntary structure.

Concerning the labour of children in Guinea, the report mentions it and COGUIDE notices that it is essentially because of the weakness of the control of the existing laws in the matter, that is now installed, pure exploitation of children by the labour.

For a preparatory work of the child, to become a responsible adult and consequent in the future and privileging his higher interest, COGUIDE subscribe totally to it. For that to be then, COGUIDE would like the creation of a labour inspection solely en charge of the control of children's labour within the Guinean territory and the strict application of the laws regulating this type of occupation.

Concerning the point on the use of drug, it is deplorable to notice that for Guinea that has ratified all the conventions relating to the abusive usage of psycho-active substances, of the United Nations, of Africa, of the sub region and the existence of an interministerial struggle against drug, this phenomenon continues to spread out within its territory.

Becoming more and more a problem of public health, the consumption of drug affect children in the first place, by own use and by the use of their immediate environment, which are the parents.

Facing then that situation, COGUIDE, deplores :

- The lack of health policy for the medical and psycho-social taking in charge of the drug addict ,
- The lack of national prevention policy of drug -addiction, of socio-professional rehabilitation and reinsertion of drug addicts,
- The lack of legal severe measures of repression of the traffic, the production of drug, capable of destroying the material goods and finance of the dealers and producers of these prohibited substances,

- The lack of doctors, specialised social educators in the medico-psychosocial taken in charge,
- The lack of specialised reeducation centre for drug addicts.

Convinced that the satisfaction of these needs /lacks implies the mobilisation of substantial financial resources, COGUIDE suggest for not to leave this multisectorial phenomenon to spread, that the Guinean Government careworn ,also look for ways and means in its power to :

- To make function the interministerial committee of struggle against drug, equipping it with all the means of its policy.
- To look for multilateral /bilateral crenel for the training of specialists in the domain of drug, as well for doctors, social workers and for the public forces for the repressive part of the traffic and the production,
- To improve the sub regional collaboration in the matter of prevention and repression of drug,
- To support the non Governmental structures engaged in this domain. Such as LA SAMARITAINE GUINEE and L'AGRETO.

Concerning the part to do with sexual exploitation and sexual violation, the Government recognise in its report that many parents sacrifice their daughters in interest marriages and in a very precocious way generally, therefore admits that the law in that matter is systematically violated.

COGUIDE as for it, thinks that the lack of alternatives for these many families facing these kind of marriages and almost and especially the laws in general are badly known by the population in the Republic of Guinea should be pointed out.

However COGUIDE appreciates once more again the courage of the Government to reveal these weaknesses, and request the simplification of the laws enacting on the life of the Guinean child, to make them more accessible to the general public, the most concerned with them :

To end this chapter, COGUIDE deplores the fact that the Government report did not tackle the subject on sexual exploitation through prostitution, which is becoming more and more important than precocious marriages that girls victim, themselves are starting to reject, already without bright promising future according to themselves .

Daily realities at this time of difficulties of all kinds, COGUIDE wish that the Government be cautious ,especially because of the risks of sexual transmitting sicknesses including AIDS, by putting in place adequate information structures and sensitisation specifically on the question of the prostitution of young girls.

EDUCATION -ENTERTAINMENT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (pages 43-52)

A- EDUCATION

Due to importance of this part for the training and the blooming of the child, COGUIDE thinks that it could be the most detailed possible.

The constitution in its article 16- paragraph stipulate that « the parents have the rights and duty to ensure the education, moral and physical health of their children and in return the latter owe

care and assistance to their parents » a bit like a textual adhesion to article 18 of the convention of child rights ;

In spite of these article on this tricky question their application suffers from severe lack of follow up and evaluation .

In this initial report, it would be useful to expose the educational policy of the Guinean Government and what are its priorities facing the pressing imperatives that are :to raise the level of instruction and culture and to taken into account the place reserved for the under privileged. This to demonstrate that the efforts of Guinea remain vain until now, making this country the one in the sub region which has the weakest school attendance and literacy indicators, short medium and long term measures have already been envisaged in order to reverse this position.

According to the 1995 survey, the school attendance rate is 47.5% and the illiteracy rate of the population aged of more than 15 years has been estimated at 69% . The democratic and health survey (E D S) 47% of the population under 15 years. This youth has the rights to have good training and education, article 28 of the convention.

By the way, great importance seem to have been accorded to the educational sector, with well defined future insertion objectives. But in practice, this educational policy has not yet allow to reach the objectives so fixed.

For COGUIDE, to make these objectives achievable timely it is imperative to wish for :

- An strong increment of the school attendance rate passing obligatorily though the lightening of the cost attached to it,
- An increment of the school infrastructures and equipment,
- An equitable sharing of the teaching personnel between cities and rural areas,
- A specific increment of girls school attendance rate,
- a sound training of the teaching personnel who will for that matter take into account the convention of the child rights
- To encourage informal literacy by supporting the NGOs involved in this domain such as L'ANAH .

Especially facing this bitter fact which is that many children of under privileged families can't benefit from education and a good training because of precarious harmful and inadapted life environment

- the effect of the unemployment of their parents,
- situation which has as consequence : school failures, leaving without qualification.

For COGUIDE, now every thing should be done to direct the Government attention to the children of under privileged areas, to at last hasten the solutions to the problems of their school failures, because they also need to have access to knowledge and ability, like any child of Guinea especially that their represent the majority of this mass of the population.

As for the pre school, it is recognised that infant education, is imperative for the harmonious passage of the child to elementary school and it is for this well precise reason, that State intervention in this sector appears to be a priority, for :

- the construction and equipment of schools of this type in the whole territory,
- the production in sufficient number of teaching materials for these schools the strict application of the national programme for pre school education, already elaborated and non published.
- -The creation of a training school for basic education educators.
- The specialisation of teachers for infant education.

B ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

COGUIDE, while well coming the liberalisation of energies for the creation of schools, deplore the total abandon in which private schools are developing in the country .

That's it wishes :

- that the private educational system takes into account the higher interest of the children,
- -that the commercial spirit of these structures, that privileges the earning of money to the education of children , be modified, if not severely reprimanded, without it been replaced by laxism and corruption.

For COGUIDE, even with many good initiatives from time to time on behalf of these schools in the pedagogical innovations, the State must assume its role of harmonising the educational actions of all the interveners in order to ensure the training sought after to the children.

Concerning the NAFA centres, COGUIDE while well coming their advent, wishes that the higher interest of the child be the most respected and especially taken in to account before and in the course of that training.

Because as its name shows, « school of the second chance », if it fails, there will be no other chance for these children, in majority all of them under privileged in addition.

It then the privileged place for the child to participate in his own child training, that is to say the place where no school dropout could be accepted, if the procedure takes in to account the daily pre occupations of the child, which the orthodox school has failed to apprehend.

Also, the informal education that NGOs offer, such as :les Anges gardiens, AGFRIS and LA SAMRITAINE GUINEE, must be supported by the Government in a more concrete and encouraged manner, and especially taken in to account in the educational evaluation in the Republic of Guinea, specially in literacy and in socio- professional training.

While appreciating the efforts of the Government in the rising the level of education in Guinea, COGUIDE wish that these efforts be more sustained in favour of the zones in the country showing a deficit and for the children of underprivileged parents, while continuing also to supply sufficiently the children and their teachers teaching materials.

C- SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Facing all the problems mentioned in the report concerning this cycle of training of the child, at the adolescence age, the insufficiency noted should not remain unsolved, for the simple reason that at this phase of education starts the constitution the child's personality. The

Government should then, do all it can to calmly ensure this last part of the formal education of the child, even if it has to appeal to sub-regional, regional or even international collaboration.

D-TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

In this concrete domain of the training of the child/youth, COGUIDE thinks/wishes for it to be realised without major difficulty, the State of Guinea must :

- revalorise the content of professional training programmes,
- valorise the solid professions, by providing grants and firm sub transactions contracts,
- diversify the training branches, by building better equipped centres,
- respect the adequation training-job criterion, to avoid training for training while taking into account the realities of the market,
- arrange more efficient crenels for post professional training while encouraging, entrepreneurship at the beginning of the training,
- avoid training young job seekers, privileging their taking in charge by themselves, privately or in co-operative.
- encourage the training of competent and integrated trainers.

In the report, the part dealing with the training of the guiding personnel is insufficiently developed, this explains the particular importance of the training of the trainer, escape or at least is not apprehended by the State in this document.

Yet, if the training of trainers fails, the failure of the part of professional education will only be effective. This the reason for the preoccupation of COGUIDE, to see a particular emphasis on this part, for better guaranty to be given to the professional training of workers capable of taking themselves in charge, in front of any kind of competition.

Also, COGUIDE wishes that in addition to the professional and academic training the teaching personnel must know the judiciary enacting terms engaging the States and the Convention, because the cultural, political, social, economic and judicial message of the Convention is addressed to all educators in the first place, before even the parents.

That's why, COGUIDE suggests the introduction the contents of the Convention in the initial and in service training programmes of all the teachers and other training institutions, whatever may be their administrative tutelage..

- Concerning the Associations of the parents of pupils and friends of school (APEAE), mentioned in the report, COGUIDE welcomes the initiative and praises all the efforts already deployed in favour of the schools by these structures. But deplores that it stops systematically at the primary level, the secondary, the professional and the higher levels are unfortunately not concerned by this innovation, of which the positive impact on the schools in all respects need not to be proved.

For COGUIDE, like in other domains, the true established fact is that here again the texts of creation of such structure are not applied entirely and that is why it wishes :

- the installation of the APEAE at all levels of the guiding of children, that is at the primary secondary and professional levels,

- that be avoided to use them for personal purposes of directions,
- that these associations be developed exclusively in the safeguarding of the higher interest of the child.

E-ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The time of school (6 hours/day) whatever its impact on the occupation of the child, is too little considered to rest of his time in a day, especially that the part of the time that the parents should devote to them becomes more and more rare, mainly because of the research activities for the daily bread.

After school then, the child is left with his free time (18 hours/day), which is the one for relaxing, of exchange and socio-familial participation, as it can also be the one of emptiness, loneliness, passivity or other occupations that would lead the child to small delinquency.

Unfortunately one has to notice that the organisation of entertainment and recreational and cultural activities are not subject to legal dispositions and or regulations (report p.51).

That's why one should go and imagine, the possible differences that could exist between the time of well off parents children and the one of those of under privileged, especially the accessibility to recreation places where they exist is very difficult for under privileged.

Since 1990, the Government has declared the month of June, the month of the Guinean child, a good decision of itself, but the established fact by COGUIDE is that during the commemorative ceremonies of these months, the children of the majority, those of poor families don't benefit from these festivities.

In the course of the month the cause of under privileged child can be discussed from time to time, but from that time, they still don't see the impact of these discussions that have taken place in their favour. Clearly, COGUIDE understand that the Government certainly attend to the problems of its children, but the concrete actions are delaying to arrive.

That's why COGUIDE, wishes for the years to come, that the Guinean Government brood over more concretely the situation of abandoned children both by their parents and by themselves. That the months of June to come rather serve as stepping stone to carry out project directly elaborated to solve urgent problems of children in difficult situation, such as :

- To facilitate the access to primary health care and to vaccination broaden programmes to treat children whether they are workers or not,
- To facilitate their access to free professional training, as envisaged and executed by the national NGOs : LA SAMARITAINE- GUINEE and L'AGFRIS,
- -To facilitate their access to equitable judgements -those in prison, to benefit from the assistance of free lawyer,
- - To create entertainment and recreations centres in all the prefectures of the country, to well equip them in taking in to account the higher interest of the children, by introducing programmes that favour their harmonious development, free from every imported system, such as advertisements of producing alcohol and tobacco companies which often give their support to this kind of investment.

- -To support the actions of the NGOs evaluating in the domain such as AGVIE, AGPE, AGRETTO.

F-HEALTH AND WELL BEING (52-71)

COGUIDE appreciate that the report includes a detailed presentation of the different types of assistance offered to families in general and to children in particular in the domain of health and well being.

However the question remains to what type of child this assistance is given, to children of the well off, certainly, even if they can provide health grants and other advantages to their children- the Government assistance again goes to them by rights.

This action in itself is certainly not reproachable because it concerns Guinean children, but it would have been more beneficial to those who cant not have access to it by any other means.

The Bamako initiative based on the community participation has surely contributed to the improvement the health state of the Guinean population, but to this coverage it remains the easy access to essential medecines to almost all the families, especially in urban zones, where they do not have other alter natives than the synthesis pharmaceutical products.

Other not less important problems of the Guinean heath system are :

- the under or over equipment of the health centres both in the urban zones where the demand is very high and in the rural zones, where the is relatively low or even inexistant sometimes, because of indigenous alternatives,
- the high price of pharmaceutical products in the cities,
- the lack of doctors in those centres, especially in rural zones and the contrary in the urban zones where the overabundance is very accentuated.

In retaining the height of the socio- health objective of Guinean Government, which consist of improving the health of the whole population through the reduction of the morbidity and the mortality namely of children, that COGUIDE wishes however, that to fully reach them :

- that a free taking in charge be conceded to children from underprivileged areas, for the most frequent and most dangerous illnesses, such as malaria, diarrhoea sicknesses, breathing infections and toxicomania.

In addition, COGUIDE regrets that in the Guinean State report, that the problem of the Sexual Transmitting Sicknesses including AIDS which are spreading in Guinea has not been mentioned in the report and that it suggests for AIDS that an integral taking in charge of those suffering AIDS be ensured and especially a permanent assistance and a support for orphans from couples victim of the sickness.

Also, COGUIDE wishes in addition to this procedure in favour of this world phenomenon, that a large diffusion of the misdeed of the sickness in the country, through publication of statistics concerning it, be carried out in a permanent way.

Coming back to the tricky problem of the prices of medicines in the pharmacies in Guinea, COGUIDE wishes the elaboration and the application of a policy of price and distribution of pharmaceutical products in taking into account the financial capacity of the guinean and the vulnerability of the children.

This policy would also decide on the extinction of the pharmacies in the open air, not by repression, but through dissuasion and proposals by the State of the best alternatives to those, which constitute a real danger for the population but especially for the children that are very fragile and always the first victims of such practices.

The different alimentary deficiencies displayed on children, constituting a halt to their physical and psychical development make that COGUIDE approves the Government in this domain, because having already envisaged appropriate solutions although still not at the disposal of children of under privileged families:

G- SOCIAL SECURITY

COGUIDE wishes for the integrated application of the texts of the social security code promulgated in 1960 in favour of the guinean child and the mother.

Concerning family allowances COGUIDE suggests :

- that they were also given to mothers head of families,
- that their amount be raised to 2500 GF instead of 1500GF currently,
- that the age of the beneficiary child be maintained at 18 years, to be conform with the dispositions of article 1 of the Convention of child rights,
- that a taking in charge of be set up for the children of peasants workers and merchants, while leaving to the State the definition of modalities of that taking in charge by a social coverage, to which these beneficiaries would subscribe..

H- THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Nowadays the elaboration and the application of a taking in charge of handicapped children in particular, appears to be one of the procedures the most adequate to prove the will of the Government not to marginalise this vulnerable group of the population, but also as the means the most sure to limit the whole dimension of the phenomenon.

This will privilege, the realisation of the censors of all the handicapped children and the cause of their handicap, in other to be able to propose a better strategy and of taking them in charge in terms of health, schooling and of their parents when they are underprivileged. To elaborate this policy and the realisation of the censors, COGUIDE offers a valuable partnership and especially at less cost.

Also, it appears as one of the solutions to the problems of handicapped children in Guinea, the total application of the law No.85/CTRN ratifying and promulgating the Convention No. 159 relating to the professional readaptation and the employment of handicapped people including children.

The insufficiency of infrastructure and of guide for the handicapped children, complicates their situation, this why COGUIDE wishes for :

- the training of specialised workers in the domain of handicapped infancy,
- the building of entertainment and training centre for handicapped children,
- and support for the national NGOs taking care of handicapped children.

CONCLUSION

In all these pages, the Guinean Coalition for the Child Rights has tried to present its view on the application of the Convention in Guinea, its stumbling-block, its opportunities, as a structure regrouping the first NGOs taking care of the child in this Country.

Acknowledging the political will of the Guinean Government to do all it can for the effective application of this universal document in Guinea, in spite of precarious resources of all kind at its level, one must point out that some points of the initial report have been voluntarily occulted, because of this difficult position.

However, if the Report in the rubric « general measures for the application of the Convention » an important place has been accorded to legal dispositions proposed in the constitution in favour of the guinean child, it has been noticed by COGUIDE that these laws apply to citizens over 18 years of age, therefore elector and eligible according to politics only, practice that excludes the children.

That is why, it wishes, rather the harmonisation of the national legal dispositions with the content of the Convention, in order to avoid loosing the interest of the child in political considerations that he does not control at all in the daily practice.

COGUIDE, reaffirm that the guinean State is the first guarantor of the child rights and that it has an obligation to ensure the respect of these rights in conformity with the convention relating to the child rights and to the African charter of child rights and well being (Addis-Ababa July 20, 1990) and of man and the people (June 29, 1989).

To respect that engagement, COGUIDE reminds that any action in favour of the full exercise the child rights supposes, the promotion, the protection and the participation of the Guinean child .

For that reason, of this initial report, COGUIDE was expecting the sharing of the tasks by the State to all those intervening, as well of the Governmental structure, and the non Governmental especially about their responsibility on the field in order to make application of this convention a reality in Guinea, as this expectation has not been fulfilled by the report, COGUIDE therefore as far as it is concerned thinks that because of the precarious of the sources of all kind for the implementation of this convention, that the concrete actions in favour of the most vulnerable of this mass of children in Guinea should be prioritised.

It is then only at that time that measure indicators of the level of application of this document could be given, allowing at last to make concrete projects namely in :

-The situation of street children (assistance, protection and censorship for better taking in charge)

- The domain of children in conflict with the law (assistance of lawyer, separation with adults in the cells , food support and alternative proposals to imprisonment, support to structures intervening in this frame work).
- The domain of handicapped children (elaboration of a national legislation of aid for their socio-familial insertion, aid for education and support for the families)
- The domain of abandoned babies by their underprivileged mothers (taking in charge of food, health etc ...)

After this list of priorities, it will be developed in common agreement with other interveners including UNICEF / GUINEE, a thematic programme on these priorities at the national level, while defining the ways and means of implementing them and provide /find in the community of investors, the necessary investment ;

At last, one must point out that this alternative report to the initial one of the Government on the application in the Republic of Guinea of the convention of child rights, all along its elaboration has wanted to be non political and less contradictory, but complementary aiming essentially at demonstrating all the interest that the community of the NGOs parties of COGUIDE, attaches to the effective application of :

- The promises made by the Guinean State in its national action plan and its interim action plan (1992-93), that have suffered in their realisation and have not made any progress up till now, in order to find out their impact on the life of the Guinean child,
- Support of the UNITED NATIONS Development Agencies and of any other Agencies in Guinea in conformity with article 4 of the convention in question
- And its duty to be credible in front of its other partners that are the children themselves, the investors and the Government.

To solve definitely the problem of agency to execute action plans of the Government or any other financier at the basic level, COGUIDE offers its close services and wishes to be the only structure representing the NGOs intervening in the domain of the child in Guinea, to avoid waste of resources that are in the end very rare at this time.

CONAKRY APRIL 1997