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Brazil's Adhesion to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: A Step towards Abolition of Child Abuse



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Mortality measures are used internationally as indicators of the health situation and in the evaluation and planning of health policies and programs. Among these measures, the infant mortality rate is one of the most widely accepted to measure the health status of the population [1]. In Brazil, the marked inequality in income distribution, access to health resources, basic sanitation, education and other constituents of the population's standard of living has been revealed through profound differences in the risk of illness of the various social stratification [2].

The Brazilian mortality rate declined from 47 to 20 per thousand live births from 1990 to 2007, with regional disparities declining, but with a slowdown in the rate of decline after the 2000s [3]. In the year 2016, according to data from the Brazilian Ministry of Health, 35,216 children died [4]. This reality runs counter to the Four Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations Assembly, of which Brazil is a signatory, which foresee a reduction of two-thirds of child mortality between 1990 and 2015 in children fewer than five years of age,

corresponding to an annual decrease of 4.4% in the Brazilian indicators for the period [5].

In this context, the Plenary of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies approved on Thursday (June 8, 2017) the country's accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, signed at the United Nations in 2011 (PDS 27/2017). In practice, the agreement gives the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC):

- a) The power to investigate cases of serious and systematic violations of children's rights, including through visits;
- b) Ability to receive petitions dealing with violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

However, petitions must be reported by people, groups of people, or someone representing them (in the latter case, since

under the jurisdiction of a country), and claiming to be victims of violations committed by the state. The importance of this act translates into increased visibility to the International Children's Law and reinforces the need, in a country developing, create ways to better serve and resolve claims involving child abuse. Thus, Brazilian children and their caregivers gain the right to speak in internationally recognized bodies and, therefore, one more way is possible to appeal in cases of attacks on their physical or moral integrity.

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