



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Seventy-fifth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2194th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 15 May 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Mezmur
later: Ms. Winter

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the seventy-fifth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Mr. Salama** (Chief, Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that, although progress had been made in the fields of health and education, Governments still had a lot of work to do to ensure that no child was left behind. Statistics showed, for example, that around 124 million children and adolescents worldwide did not attend school and that up to 1 billion children had experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence. The Committee had a crucial role to play in helping States parties to improve the situation of children under their jurisdiction, including by mainstreaming children's rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as discussed at the most recent annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child, held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council on 6 March 2017.
3. A number of activities had been organized to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft joint general comment on children in the context of migration, which was being drawn up in collaboration with the Committee on Migrant Workers. The activities included multi-stakeholder consultations held in Madrid for the Mediterranean region. Further regional consultations, for South-East Asia and Latin America, and an expert meeting were scheduled to take place shortly.
4. An increasing number of communications had been submitted to the Committee under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. So far, 15 communications had been registered, 3 of which had been examined and declared inadmissible by the Committee. The further 80 communications that had been received but not yet registered showed that there was growing interest in the procedure. A list of pending cases would be published on the Committee's website, without disclosing the authors' names, to encourage third parties to submit information.
5. A high-level working group on the health and human rights of women, children and adolescents had been established by OHCHR and the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2016, as part of wider efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to health. The Committee would be able to discuss the working group's relevance to its own work at a meeting of the Treaty Body Members' Platform hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights on 8 June 2017.
6. The independent expert for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty had convened an expert meeting in March 2017. The funding required for implementation of the study had not yet been obtained. Further fundraising efforts were under way and next steps would be discussed once the necessary funds had been raised.
7. In 2018, the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child would be devoted to children in the context of humanitarian emergencies. Lastly, an expert meeting on applying a human rights-based approach to preventing child mortality would be held by OHCHR, in collaboration with WHO, on 27 and 28 June 2017; Ms. Aho Assouma would participate on behalf of the Committee.

Statement by the Chair

8. **The Chair** said that the Committee had achieved a great deal over the previous two years. It had, inter alia, considered 72 State party reports, developed a communications procedure, completed three general comments and made significant efforts to comply with General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. He was honoured to have had the opportunity to serve as Chair and grateful to the Committee members for their strong commitment, in the face of growing challenges, to building a world that was fit for children.

Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee

9. **The Chair** invited the newly elected members of the Committee to make the solemn declaration contained in rule 15 of the Committee's rules of procedure.

10. **Mr. Lumina, Ms. Skelton, Ms. Otani, Mr. Pedernera Reyna and Ms. Todorova** solemnly declared that they would perform their duties and exercise their powers as members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.

Election of officers

11. **The Chair** recalled that, under rule 17 of the provisional rules of procedure the Committee would elect from among its members a Chairperson and the other officers of the Committee. He announced that it would continue its consideration of the agenda item in a closed meeting, in accordance with rule 19.

The public part of the meeting was suspended at 10.23 a.m. and resumed at 12 p.m.

12. *Ms. Winter took the Chair.*

13. **The Chair** announced that Ms. Aho Assouma, Ms. Khazova, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Rodríguez Reyes had been elected Vice-Chairs and that Mr. Gastaud had been elected Rapporteur.

Submission of reports by States parties

14. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee), giving an overview of developments since the previous session, said that the number of States that had ratified the Convention remained at 196 and that two reports had been submitted under the Convention: the combined third to sixth periodic reports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of El Salvador. A total of 58 reports were pending consideration; that figure would fall to 47 by the end of the seventy-fifth session. Two initial reports under the Convention, those of Tonga and the State of Palestine, were overdue.

15. The number of States that had ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict remained at 166, while the number of States that had ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had not risen from 173 since the seventy-second session. No reports had been received under those instruments. The number of signatories to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure remained at 50; five countries, namely Croatia, Liechtenstein, Panama, Paraguay and Switzerland, had ratified or acceded to that instrument since the seventy-third session, bringing the total number of ratifications to 34.

Organization of work

16. **The Chair**, reviewing the items on the agenda, said that 11 reports from eight States parties would be considered by the Committee during the session. He welcomed the many partners who contributed to the Committee's work. Discussions would continue on the Committee's methods of work, especially in connection with the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, and on the treaty body strengthening process, particularly the simplified reporting procedure. Any communications or information received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure would be considered. The Committee would start reviewing possible topics for the next day of general discussion, which was to be held in September 2018. It would continue to work on the draft joint general comment on children in the context of migration and would discuss any other matters relating to its work.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/75/1)

17. *The agenda was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 12.12 p.m.