



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixty-first session

Summary record (partial)* of the 1726th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 17 September 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Zermatten

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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 10.10 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the sixty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Mr. Magazzeni** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that a number of important developments in the field of human rights had taken place since the Committee's last session. On 22 June 2012 the High Commissioner had released her report on the treaty body strengthening process. The report provided a coherent framework for future action and included costing for each proposal. At their twenty-fourth annual meeting, held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 29 June 2012, the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies had expressed support for the proposals in the report and had recommended that each body should determine how to best integrate those proposals into its working methods. The Secretariat would soon provide all committees with an implementation chart to enable the chairpersons to review progress in implementing the proposals.

3. During the Addis Ababa meeting the chairpersons had held a videoconference with the two co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The chairpersons had stressed that representatives of the treaty bodies should participate as resource persons in deliberations on the issue and that States should make arrangements to that effect. The chairpersons had also endorsed the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies and had recommended their prompt adoption by the various treaty bodies, inter alia through inclusion in their respective rules of procedure. The chairpersons had reaffirmed the importance of human rights law in ensuring the independence and impartiality of treaty body members and the powers of treaty bodies to decide on their own working methods and rules of procedure and guarantee their independence as defined in the respective treaties. Several treaty bodies had already reviewed the guidelines at recent sessions, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child would have an opportunity to do so at the current session.

4. During their meeting the chairpersons had also held a dialogue with representatives of African human rights mechanisms, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the East African Court of Justice and the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, as well as representatives of various groups of stakeholders. The meeting had adopted joint recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation between human rights treaty bodies and African human rights mechanisms.

5. With regard to the intergovernmental process, which was taking place in New York, he said it was certain that the drastic diminishing of financial resources available to the Organization would affect the treaty body system. As the High Commissioner's proposals required actions and in some cases additional resources, he encouraged the Committee to join other treaty bodies in issuing a statement supporting the proposals.

6. OHCHR was preparing a report on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as requested in Human Rights Council resolution 19/37, paragraph 70 (e), to inform the next annual day of discussion on the rights of the child, which would focus on children's right to health. Two reports, one on the rights of

children deprived of liberty and the other on the prevention of violence in the juvenile justice system, had been submitted to the Council at its current session, and the second report, prepared jointly by OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, would be launched at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

7. Turning to child-related technical cooperation activities undertaken by OHCHR in the Americas, Europe and Central Asia, he said that on 25 May 2012 OHCHR Moscow had organized a presentation on the 15 global juvenile justice indicators as adapted to the Russian context. In Panama, the OHCHR country team had collaborated with the Committee during its consideration of the country's report, while in El Salvador OHCHR and the regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had worked with several national institutions to promote follow-up to the Committee's recommendations. The OHCHR country team in Guatemala had conducted training modules to enhance the knowledge of persons working in the judicial system of the rights of the child; as a result, international human rights standards were now being used to substantiate decisions by the Constitutional Court in cases concerning international adoptions. In Colombia OHCHR and UNICEF had participated in various activities to promote implementation of the Committee's recommendations, in particular those relating to the protection of children in armed conflict. The OHCHR Regional Office for Europe had organized an event with UNICEF in Prague in November 2011 at which participating Central and Eastern European countries had been urged to follow up the call by the Committee and UNICEF to end the placement of children under age 3 in institutions. In May 2012 the Regional Office for Central Asia had joined UNICEF in supporting a round table at which a draft shadow report on Kyrgyzstan had been presented to the public and discussed with representatives of the Government and civil society.

Submission of reports by States parties

8. **Ms. Rinaldi** (Acting Secretary of the Committee) said that since its sixtieth session the Committee had received the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Switzerland, the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Morocco, the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Hungary and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Jordan and Mexico and the fifth periodic report of Sweden. The initial reports of Nauru and Tonga were overdue.

9. The Committee had also received the initial reports of Hungary under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

10. The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict had received 147 ratifications, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had received 158 ratifications, and the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure had been signed by 26 countries.

Organizational matters

11. **The Chairperson** announced that the Committee's sixty-second session would be held in Geneva from 14 January to 1 February 2013, followed by a meeting of the pre-session working group in Geneva from 4 to 9 February 2013.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/61/1)

12. *The agenda was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.45 a.m.