



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixty-ninth session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 1984th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 18 May 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Sandberg

Temporary Chairperson: Ms. Winter

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CRC/C/SR.1984/Add.1.

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

Opening of the session

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

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Mr. Heenan** (Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that he welcomed the newly elected members of the Committee: Ms. Aho Assouma, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Rodríguez Reyes.
3. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been celebrated in 2014 and 2015 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. South Sudan had become party to the Convention in 2015 and Somalia would soon follow in that regard. The goal of universal ratification of the Convention was almost achieved. Moreover, 159 Member States had become party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 169 had become party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. There were currently 17 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, under which the Committee had begun to receive individual communications.
4. However, one third (52) of initial reports under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and almost half (78) of initial reports under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography were overdue. Although that situation gave cause for concern, it was to be hoped that advocacy and technical assistance, including through the newly established OHCHR capacity-building programme, would go a long way towards addressing it.
5. In the light of a request by the Committee in 2014 and General Assembly resolution 69/157 on the rights of the child, the Secretary-General was currently considering how best to conduct an in-depth international study on children deprived of their liberty. Such a study would raise the visibility and help reduce the number of those children through the identification of best practices relating to non-custodial measures.
6. Despite those advances, the scale of violations of children's rights worldwide remained depressingly high. Present in the minds of all were the hundreds of children who had lost their lives or their parents and families in the Mediterranean Sea in recent months and the crisis currently affecting members of the Rohingya community in the Andaman Sea.
7. Work was under way to implement General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, including the enforcement of limitations on documentation, the creation of technical assistance capacity within OHCHR to promote reporting and the grant of additional meeting time to each Committee. Thanks to the extra meeting time allocated to it, the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be able to continue the work of reducing its backlog. From 2016 onwards, dual chambers sessions would take place in January, while the pre-sessional working group for the dual chambers session would be held directly after the May–June session.

8. OHCHR would work to help the Committee reach its targets in terms of lists of issues, lists of issues prior to reporting and concluding observations, while also supporting the harmonization of working methods across the treaty bodies.

9. In March 2015, the Human Rights Council had adopted resolution 28/19 on the rights of the child, in which it had invited the High Commissioner to prepare a follow-up report in that regard. The Council had also decided to focus its next annual full-day meeting dedicated to children's rights on the theme of "Information and communication technology and the sale and sexual exploitation of children", requesting OHCHR to prepare a report on that issue.

10. He said that OHCHR was organizing a meeting on the right of the child to health on 29 and 30 June 2015 in the United Republic of Tanzania, as a part of activities to implement the Technical Guidance on the application of a human-rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age.

11. He praised the quality of the work of the outgoing Bureau and thanked the Chairperson for her tireless efforts to promote and protect children's rights.

Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee

Ms. Winter took the Chair.

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

13. **Ms. Aho Assouma, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** 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.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.25 a.m.