



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child Seventy-sixth session

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 2251st meeting\*\*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 29 September 2017, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Winter

## Contents

Closure of the session

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- \* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
  - \*\* No summary records were issued for the 2245th to 2250th meetings.

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*The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.05 p.m.*

### **Closure of the session**

1. **The Chair** said that, as at 29 September 2017, there were 196 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As at the same date, a total of 167 States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, one more — namely the Central African Republic — than at the beginning of the session. The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified or acceded to by 173 States. Thirty-five States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, one more — Cyprus — than at the beginning of the session.

2. During the session, the Committee had considered 13 reports from eight countries: 6 under the Convention (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Vanuatu); 4 under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Cyprus, Guinea, Tajikistan and Vanuatu); and 3 under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Guinea, Tajikistan and Vanuatu). She took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drawn up for those States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had reviewed the information it had received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. In the context of the outcome of the treaty-body strengthening process, it had continued its consideration of its working methods, including the use of the simplified reporting procedure.

5. The Committee had decided that the topic for its next day of general discussion, to be held in September 2018, would be "Protecting and empowering children human rights defenders". She wished to thank the Committee's many partners, including United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and, of course, children, for all their valuable support to the Committee's work.

6. The next session would take place from 15 January to 2 February 2018. The programme of work for the session would be posted on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the coming weeks.

7. **Mr. Gastaud** (Rapporteur) said that Committee members had taken part in a number of events since the closure of the previous session. The Chair had participated in meetings in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on topics such as the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the use of alternative measures and mediation to divert children's cases from the justice system, coordination of judicial authorities and civil society, judicial reform and measures to prevent torture and impunity. She had also participated in a round table in Cairo on the role of the Committee and children's rights and had taken part in side events in Geneva during the current session on corruption and the rights of the child, national best practices and the situation of street children.

8. Ms. Aho Assouma had taken part in two events in Togo: the first, in July, had been devoted to midwife care of newborns, and the second, in August, had involved the distribution of 200 school supply kits and awareness-raising activities on the importance of schooling, in particular for girls, trafficking in children and birth registration. She had also participated in a meeting of experts held in Geneva on health, mortality and morbidity among newborns and children under the age of 5 years.

9. Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi had delivered a presentation to a conference on the role of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in defending the rights of migrant children with disabilities. Mr. Cardona Llorens had visited Uruguay in response to an invitation from the Government, civil society organizations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to follow up on the Committee's concluding observations and to visit several places of deprivation of liberty of children in conflict with the law. With members of other treaty bodies, he had also taken part in a seminar in Spain organized by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

10. Ms. Khazova had delivered a presentation on the Committee's work at a summer university course in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation, devoted to the human rights of vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities, migrant children and refugee children. She had also presented a paper on children and the family at the World Conference of the International Society of Family Law, held in the Netherlands.

11. Mr. Kotrane had delivered a presentation on the sustainable development goals and children's rights during a regional workshop held in Beirut and had taken part in a round table in Amman on a draft children's rights code. He had also taken part in several meetings in Tunisia, including with the children's parliament and non-governmental organizations, in the context of the preparation of that country's periodic reports to the Committee.

12. Mr. Madi had represented the Committee during the regional consultation on the drafting of the joint general comment on the rights of the child in the context of international migration, held in Beirut. Mr. Mezmur had given a talk in Nairobi on violence against children at health institutions. He had taken part in panels and experts' groups in Geneva on climate change and the rights of the child and on the situation of unaccompanied migrant children, as well as in events addressing sexual exploitation of children in tourism and children's rights in the context of international migration. He had also contributed to consultations held by OHCHR on draft guidelines for ensuring public participation.

13. Ms. Otani had delivered numerous talks and presentations in New York, Bangkok, Mexico City, Tokyo and Sendai, Japan, on children's rights and the sustainable development goals; the draft joint general comment on children in international migration; the prevention of violence against children; the Committee's general comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence; the elimination of poverty among children in the context of the sustainable development goals; the Convention's treatment of family rights; the rights of the child in cases of divorce or separation; and the sharing of parental responsibilities in cases of divorce or separation.

14. Mr. Pedernera Reyna had been invited by UNICEF to visit Honduras, where he had met with the President of the Supreme Court, cabinet ministers, the representative of OHCHR and representatives of children's organizations to discuss a draft law that would lower the age of criminal responsibility to 8 years and increase the allowable length of detention without the possibility of parole of children over 16. He had taken part in the seminar held by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities in Madrid for members of the treaty bodies, and, at the invitation of UNICEF, he had visited Argentina, where he had held meetings with members of the judicial and executive branches and with civil society organizations in three provinces.

15. In June, Ms. Sandberg had taken part in a meeting of experts on children and the environment, organized in Geneva by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, and had participated in a workshop held at Stockholm University on corporal punishment, presenting the Committee's position as reflected in its comments and concluding observations. In August and September, she had taken part in events in the United States of America, Czechia and Norway, including one organized by the Council of Europe, addressing topics such as sexual abuse by Catholic priests; the best interests of the child and child participation in national preventive mechanisms; participation of children and best practices for implementation of children's rights; and the detention of migrant children.

16. In June, Ms. Skelton had delivered a speech on the achievements of the Committee at a seminar held at the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow, the United Kingdom, and had attended a ceremony bestowing an honorary doctorate on Mr. Nigel Cantwell for his contribution to the drafting of the Convention. In August, she had participated in a meeting of public opinion makers in New York devoted to a re-evaluation of the rights of the child and protection of children in a troubled world.

17. In June, Ms. Todorova had delivered a presentation on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations in Bulgaria and on the drafting and adoption of a relevant plan of action, and, in July, she had taken part in a workshop organized by the Ombudsperson in Bulgaria, where she had spoken about the relationship between States parties and the Committee and had addressed the role of national human rights institutions

in treaty bodies' monitoring activities. She had also presented a paper on the challenge of providing care for children in the context of migration at the World Conference of the International Society of Family Law, in the Netherlands.

18. In June, he himself had taken part in the Global Conference on Children on the Move, in Berlin, and had delivered a presentation on the draft joint general comment on children in the context of international migration. During the current session, he had delivered a speech at a side event to promote general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations.

19. During the session, members of the Committee had taken part in working meetings with the Child Rights International Network (CRIN), the Global Network and the Accountability Project, World Vision, the Child Rights Now Initiative, and the former Chair of the Committee, Mr. Jean Zermatten. They had participated in a side event during the session devoted to the promotion of general comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, and, in the context of their working groups, had held meetings on the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, the rules of procedure, methods of work, the simplified reporting procedure, guidelines relating to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the drafting of a joint general comment with the Committee on Migrant Workers on children in the context of international migration. The Chair had also held a working meeting with representatives of UNICEF and Child Rights Connect.

20. **The Chair** said she took it that Committee members wished to adopt the report on the Committee's seventy-sixth session.

21. *It was so decided.*

22. After expressing her thanks on behalf of the Committee to those in the secretariat who had contributed to the work of the session, **the Chair** declared closed the seventy-sixth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.*