



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Eighty-seventh session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2534th meeting**

Held via videoconference on Friday, 4 June 2021, at 3 p.m. Central European Summer Time

Chair: Ms. Otani

Contents

Closure of the session

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

** No summary record was issued for the 2533rd meeting.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 4.05 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that on 4 June 2021, the date of the closure of the Committee's eighty-seventh session, there were 196 States parties to the Convention, 171 to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 177 to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Forty-seven States were parties to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.
2. The session had been held online owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Because of time differences and technical problems, not all Committee members had been able to attend all the meetings. There had been a quorum for each meeting, however.
3. Interactive dialogues had been held with only two States parties – namely, Luxembourg and Tunisia. If there were no further comments, she would take it that Committee members wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drafted for those two States parties.
4. *It was so decided.*
5. The Committee had reviewed 15 communications and made decisions concerning seven of them. In one of those seven cases, it had found that Spain had committed violations of Convention rights, while in another, concerning Switzerland, it had found no such violations. Another communication concerning Switzerland had been found admissible, whereas one concerning Germany had been found inadmissible. The consideration of 11 communications against Spain had been discontinued.
6. The Committee had held oral hearings on communications submitted by 16 children who alleged that their rights had been violated as a result of inadequate climate policies. It had also discussed three cases under article 13 of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.
7. As part of its ongoing discussion of the review of the measures taken to strengthen the treaty body system in the wake of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee had focused on its working methods, particularly those relating to individual communications. In addition, it had continued to prepare for its next day of general discussion, which would address the rights of children in alternative care and be held online on 16 and 17 September 2021, and had decided to start work on a new general comment that would address children's rights and the environment, with a focus on climate change. The Committee's eighty-eighth session would be held from 6 to 24 September 2021.
8. **Ms. Marshall-Harris** (Rapporteur) said that, during the intersessional period, many Committee members, including the Chair, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, Mr. Gudbrandsson, Mr. Jaffé, Ms. Kiladze, Mr. Madi, Mr. Mezmur, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Pedernera Reyna, Ms. Sidikou, Ms. Skelton, Ms. Todorova, Mr. Van Keirsbilck and she herself, had taken part in a number of conferences, seminars and meetings relevant to the mandate of the Committee.
9. The Committee's working groups had also been active since the closure of the previous session. The working group on working methods, coordinated by the Chair, had organized an online induction course for new members and reviewed the draft procedures for online dialogues with States parties.
10. More than 800 people had followed the online launch of general comment No. 25 (2021), and members of the working group on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, coordinated by Mr. Jaffé, had been invited to present the general comment at several other events. Members of the working group on the draft general comment on children's rights and the environment, also coordinated by Mr. Jaffé, had held several meetings, including one with outside experts to discuss the scope of the draft general comment, and had participated in a webinar to examine how the Committee could address climate change in its activities. The decision to draft a new general comment had been announced on the Committee's website and social media.
11. In February, the Committee had launched its unofficial Twitter account. The account, which had almost 700 followers and had had more than 12,000 visitors, was maintained by

the Committee's media focal points, Mr. Jaffé and Mr. Van Keirsbilck. The working group on the Sustainable Development Goals, coordinated by Mr. Mezmur, had commented on the draft of a statement to be made by the treaty bodies at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The statement concerned sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and had been endorsed by the Committee.

12. Ms. Skelton and Mr. Gudbrandsson, the coordinators of the working group on the day of general discussion, regretted that the event would have to be held online but were of the view that that format would allow for broader and more inclusive participation. The draft agenda, prepared with the input of a task force of civil society organizations and children, would soon be made public. Two regional meetings – one for Africa and the other for Europe – had been held.

13. The working group on the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, coordinated by Ms. Skelton, welcomed the ratification by Armenia of the Optional Protocol. The Committee had registered 11 cases since January 2021 and had asked the States parties concerned to take interim measures in five of them. The Committee had approved amendments to its working methods for handling individual communications. On 9 June 2021, it would hold an informal event for States parties on the progress made under the Optional Protocol.

14. The joint working group of members of both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, coordinated by Ms. Todorova, had made proposals on the draft statement on children in the justice system and had received comments from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

15. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report on its eighty-seventh session.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. She declared closed the eighty-seventh session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.