



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixtieth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 1698th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 29 May 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 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the sixtieth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Ms. Kran** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that since the new Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure had been opened for signature on 28 February 2012, more than 20 signatures had been obtained and it was hoped that the 10 ratifications needed for entry into force would soon be reached, making children full-fledged rights-holders and empowering them to bring their complaints for rights violations before an international body.

3. The treaty body strengthening process would shortly be entering its critical and final stage, with the High Commissioner expected to release her report on 22 June 2012. While the responsibility for allocating the necessary resources to implement her vision would lie with Member States, the report would also include recommendations to the treaty bodies. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had been the first to endorse the Dublin II Outcome Document and was actively applying the document's recommendations in its work. Fruitful consultations on the treaty body system, facilitated by the High Commissioner, had been held in Geneva on 7–8 February 2012 and in New York on 2–3 April 2012. On 23 February 2012, the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted resolution 66/254 to launch an intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The President of the General Assembly had appointed the permanent representatives of Iceland and Indonesia as co-facilitators. The intergovernmental process was poised to begin its work immediately following the release of the High Commissioner's report.

4. The High Commissioner's report on the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street had been presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2012. It urged the Committee to consider drafting a general comment on non-discrimination and children in street situations, with a view to providing more detailed guidance to States parties on the adoption of a rights-based approach to supporting children in street situations. A meeting would be held on 13 June 2012 with the Consortium for Street Children and Aviva to define follow-up activities. During its nineteenth session, the Human Rights Council had adopted resolution 19/37 on the rights of the child, suggesting that the next full-day meeting on the rights of the child should focus on the child's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and inviting OHCHR to prepare a report to guide the discussions of the Council.

5. Committee member Mr. Cardona Llorens had represented the Committee at the Human Rights Council's annual day of discussion, which had been on the subject of children and the administration of justice. The Council had commissioned two reports for its session in September 2012: the first on violence in the juvenile justice system, to be prepared jointly by OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; and the second on protecting the rights of juveniles deprived of liberty, to be prepared by OHCHR. Furthermore, the Special Representative would present a tool comprising practical strategies for the prevention of violence in the juvenile justice system to the General Assembly in October 2012. A number of expert discussions had been held in that connection, in Vienna in January 2012 and in Geneva in May 2012, in which the Chairperson of the Committee and Ms. Sandberg had taken part.

6. With a view to strengthening the relationship between the Committee's work and the intergovernmental process under way in the Human Rights Council, an adviser on child rights and a juvenile justice specialist had been added to the team of thematic advisers in the Research and Right to Development Division.

7. Owing to budgetary constraints compounded by an ever growing workload, the Documents Management Section had informed OHCHR that replies to lists of issues submitted in French or Spanish would no longer be translated into English. Even as OHCHR was striving to solve the problem, it was grateful to colleagues at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who had once again helped with the informal translation of documentation for the session.

8. In the context of the United Nations greening policy, the secretariat hoped that the Committee's sessions would soon be paperless, and urged Committee members to turn to its Extranet rather than rely on paper documents.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/60/1)

9. *The agenda was adopted.*

Submission of reports by States parties

10. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) updated the Committee on the submission of reports under the Convention and its optional protocols. The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict had now reached 147 ratifications, the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography stood at 157 ratifications and the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure had been signed by 22 countries.

Organizational matters

11. **The Chairperson** announced that the Committee would be holding a retreat on 16–17 June at the International Institute for the Rights of the Child in Sion, Switzerland, to discuss its methods of work. The next day of general discussion would be held on 28 September 2012 and would address the issue of children's rights and international migration.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.40 a.m.