



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixty-second session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 1784th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 1 February 2013, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Zermatten

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Closure of the session

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- * No summary record was prepared for the first part (closed) of the meeting.
 - ** No summary records were prepared for the 1772nd to 1783rd meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The second part (public) of the meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chairperson** said that, to date, 193 States had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 150 had ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 163 had ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The Optional Protocol on a communications procedure had already been ratified by two States and signed by another 35. He recalled that, since its establishment, the Committee had received 567 reports under the Convention, 100 under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and 83 under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

2. At its sixty-second session, the Committee had examined four reports under the Convention (Guinea, Guyana, Malta and Niue), four reports under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Slovakia and the United States of America) and three reports under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Burkina Faso, Slovakia and the United States of America). The Committee had adopted concluding observations for each of the reports. The work of the Committee had been enhanced by the presence of representatives of various United Nations bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), and of many NGOs and national and international associations. Consideration of the initial periodic report of Niue via videoconference had been successful, an experience that might inform the future working methods of all treaty bodies.

3. In addition, the Committee had adopted rules of procedure for the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and had continued to consider its working methods with a view to revising its own rules of procedure. It had also adopted general comments No. 14 on article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention, No. 15 on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, No. 16 on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights and No. 17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts. The Committee would continue working on its general comment regarding the elimination of harmful practices, which it was preparing jointly with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

4. The pre-sessional working group would be meeting from 4 to 8 February 2013, ahead of the sixty-fourth session of the Committee. The sixty-third session would take place at the Palais des Nations from 27 May to 14 June 2013.

5. The next day of general discussion, on the theme of "media, social networks and children", would take place at the Palais des Nations during the Committee's sixty-seventh session in September 2014.

6. **Ms. Aidoo** (Rapporteur for the Committee) said that on 24 January 2013, the Committee had met with the executive committee of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child to discuss ways of reducing the backlog of reports and the organization of days of general discussion. On 28 January 2013, the Committee had attended a presentation by Professor Mohamed Mattar of the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University in Washington about the child protection issues examined in a recent publication entitled "Child Protection Model Law: Best Practices – Protection of Children from Neglect, Abuse, Maltreatment, and Exploitation".

7. As usual, several members of the Committee had taken part in expert meetings and conferences before and during the sixty-second session. Mr. Zermatten had presented the

Committee's report before the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 October 2012 and had requested authorization for the Committee to sit in two chambers in an effort to clear the backlog of reports. Between October and December 2012, he had taken part in activities for the promotion of children's rights in Argentina, Brazil, Benin, Burkina Faso and Senegal; from 12 to 14 December 2012, he had represented the Committee at the workshop on enhancing cooperation between United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and, on 22 January 2013, he had taken part in a parallel event of the Human Rights Council on abolishing corporal punishment. Ms. Nores de García had attended the Fifth World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, in San Juan, Argentina. The speaker had represented the Committee at the Sixth International Consultation on Child Helplines in Durban, South Africa and at the world Conference on Child Protection Systems, organized in Delhi by UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children and World Vision. Ms. Herczog had taken part in the expert consultation of the Council of Europe on the participation of children, held in Strasbourg, France, and in UNHCR expert consultation on children's right to health. Ms. Sandberg had represented the Committee at the Annual Conference of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children in Cyprus, while Mr. Mahdi had taken part in a round table on prohibiting the use of education facilities for military purposes during conflicts, held in Lucens, Switzerland.

8. She thanked, on the Committee's behalf, the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva for making possible a working retreat in Saillon-les-Bains, Switzerland, from 1 to 3 February 2013.

9. **The Chairperson**, speaking on his own behalf and that of other members of the Committee whose mandates would expire on 28 February 2013, expressed his commitment to the Committee's work and thanked all of his colleagues. He declared closed the sixty-second session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.