



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child Sixty-seventh session

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 1902nd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 1 September 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Sandberg

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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 10.10 a.m.*

**Opening of the session**

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the sixty-seventh 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)) welcomed the Committee members on behalf of the new High Commissioner, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, whose four-year term had begun that day. He said that, as part of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee would be devoting 24 September to an Internet dialogue with children from 16 different countries. Other children would also be able to take part by sending their questions, comments and concerns to the Committee live, using social media. A video of the dialogue would then be produced and aired at the General Assembly's high-level meeting on the actual day of the anniversary, in November. Given that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons worldwide had, for the first time since the Second World War, exceeded 50 million people — half of whom were children — he hoped that the anniversary celebrations would be the opportunity for States to step up their efforts to end violations of children's rights.
3. In addition to the historic dialogue with children, the Committee would also be holding a day of general discussion on children's rights and digital media. The impact of digital communication technologies on children's enjoyment of their rights remained largely unexplored; thus, the purpose of the day of general discussion was to better understand the phenomenon and develop rights-based strategies to maximize children's online opportunities while shielding them from harm.
4. As a result of General Assembly resolutions 67/167 and 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, the Committee had been granted an additional five and a half weeks of meetings in dual chambers in 2015 in order to reduce, as much as possible, the backlog of periodic reports. He commended the Committee on its exemplary contribution to the most recent meeting of chairpersons. One of the main recommendations adopted at the meeting had been that committees should consider offering the simplified reporting procedure to States parties as of 1 January 2015.
5. Turning to OHCHR activities of relevance to the Committee, he said that a document entitled "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" (A/HRC/27/31) had been produced in collaboration with the World Health Organization. It would be launched on 18 September during an event at which the Committee would be represented by Ms. Wijemanne. The hope was that the Human Rights Council would adopt a resolution on the national implementation of the technical guidance at its forthcoming September session.
6. At the same session of the Council, OHCHR would present a report on birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law (A/HRC/27/22), which drew extensively on the Committee's work and contained examples of good practices and recommendations for the universal implementation of that right. On 23 September, the Council would be holding a panel discussion on ending violence against children, with a particular focus on how to better prevent violence and protect children as a global priority. The Committee would be represented by Mr. Mezmur, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children would also participate.

**Submission of reports by States parties**

7. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) said that five reports had been received by the secretariat of the Committee since the sixty-sixth session, bringing the number of reports pending consideration to 96. Three reports had been received under the Convention, from Antigua and Barbuda, Estonia and Pakistan, and the initial reports of Nauru and Tonga were still pending. The secretariat had received initial reports on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography from Luxembourg and New Zealand.

8. Since the sixty-sixth session, no more countries had ratified the Convention, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict or the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. However, Belgium had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure, bringing the number of ratifications to 11.

**Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/67/1)**

9. **The Chairperson** outlined the programme of work for the session, which included: the consideration of 11 reports on the Convention and optional protocols submitted by 6 States parties; the continued discussion of the Committee's methods of work in relation to treaty body strengthening; the completion of the general comment on harmful practices, which the Committee was preparing jointly with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and the resumption of work on two general comments, the first on public spending to realize children's rights and, the other, on adolescents. She said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the agenda.

10. *It was so decided.*

*The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.30 a.m.*