



Economic and Social  
Council

Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1999/L.10/Add.13  
29 April 1999

Original: ENGLISH

---

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-fifth session  
Agenda item 21 (b)

REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Raouf CHATY

CONTENTS\*

Chapter

XIII. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

---

\* Documents E/CN.4/1999/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1999/L.11 and addenda.

XIII. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. The Commission considered agenda item 13 at its 32nd meeting, on 14 April, at its 34th to 37th meetings, on 15 April, and at its 55th meeting, on 26 April, and at its 59th to 60th meetings, on 28 April 1999. 1/
2. For the documents issued under agenda item 13, see annex VI to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.
3. At its 32nd meeting, on 14 April 1999, the Commission held a special debate on child rights under the theme: "Children: risks of marginalization and exclusion". The Chairperson, Ms. Anne Anderson, opened the discussion. The debate was introduced by a panel of five key speakers: Ms. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization, subsequently replaced by Mr. Assefa Beguele, Director, Working Conditions and Environment Department of the International Labour Organization; Mr. Stephen Lewis, Deputy-Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, subsequently replaced by Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Director, Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning of the United Nations Children's Fund; Mr. Jim Tulloch, Director of the Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development of the World Health Organization; and Ms. Susan Askelof, Secretary-General of Rädä Barnen.
4. During the special debate on children, a statement was made by Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of Human Rights in Cambodia.
5. Statements were also made by members of the Commission, observers and non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III.
6. In an interactive dialogue, the panel of speakers made remarks and responded to statements made.
7. At the 34th meeting, on 15 April 1999, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts,

Ms. Catherine von Heidenstam, and the Chairman-Rapporteur of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Mr. Jorge Iván Mora Godoy, introduced the reports of the working groups on their fifth sessions (E/CN.4/1999/73 and E/CN.4/1999/74, respectively).

8. Also at the 34th meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, introduced her report (E/CN.4/1999/71 and Add.1).

9. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children, Mr. Olara A. Otunnu, made a statement.

10. In the general debate on agenda item 13, statements were made by members of the Commission, observers and non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III.

Abduction of children from northern Uganda

11. At the 55th meeting, on 26 April 1999, the observer for Uganda introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.50, sponsored by Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Burundi, Kenya and Zimbabwe subsequently joined the sponsors.

12. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the representative of the Sudan.

13. The proposed amendments to draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.50 (E/CN.4/1999/L.86), submitted by the Sudan, were withdrawn by the representative of the Sudan.

14. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba, India, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan and Peru.

15. At the request of the representative of the Sudan, a roll-call vote was taken on draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.50, which was adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 24 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Sudan.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Cape Verde, China, Congo, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Japan, Latvia, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela.

16. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/43.

Rights of the child

17. At the 60th meeting, on 28 April 1999, the representative of Germany introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.39 and the proposed revisions thereto (E/CN.4/1999/L.103), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela. Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Israel, Japan, Monaco, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe subsequently joined the sponsors.

18. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

19. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United States of America.

20. The draft resolution, as revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/80.

21. In view of the adoption of resolution 1999/80, the Commission took no action on draft decision 3 recommended by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for adoption by the Commission (see E/CN.4/1999/4-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45, chap. I).

-----