



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child Eighty-eighth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2562nd meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 24 September 2021, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Otani

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Closure of the session

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- * No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 2555th to 2561st meetings.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.20 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that on 24 September 2021, the date of the closure of the Committee's eighty-eighth 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-eight States were parties to the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

2. During the session, the first to be held in Geneva since the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, the Committee had considered reports from Czechia, Eswatini, Poland and Switzerland. The delegations of Czechia and Poland had participated in the dialogues with the Committee via video link, while the delegations of Eswatini and Switzerland had participated in person. If there were no further comments, she would take it that Committee members wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drafted for the four States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had adopted decisions on six individual communications, five of which, involving claims made against Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey, dealt with the impact of climate change. The sixth, involving claims made against Switzerland, concerned the principle of non-refoulement. The Committee had also discussed proceedings under article 13 of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

5. As part of its follow-up to General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the Committee had continued its discussions on how to improve its working methods, particularly in relation to individual communications and inquiries under the Optional Protocol.

6. During the session, the Committee had held a day of general discussion on children's rights and alternative care, the first day of general discussion to be held online. The Committee had also continued work on its new general comment, which would address children's rights and the environment and have a special focus on climate change. A concept note for the general comment had been released and was available on the Committee's website. Given the large number of reports of States parties pending review by the Committee, the Committee had decided to increase the number of reports that it would consider at its next session, to be held from 17 January to 4 February 2022.

7. **Ms. Marshall-Harris** (Rapporteur) said that, during the intersessional period, many Committee members, including the Chair, Ms. Aho, Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, Mr. Jaffé, Ms. Kiladze, Mr. Mezmur, 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.

8. Since the closure of the previous session, the working group on working methods, coordinated by Mr. Pedernera Reyna, had held discussions on amending the Committee's reporting guidelines, developing follow-up procedures for concluding observations and working through the backlog of reports of States parties. The members of the working group on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, coordinated by Mr. Jaffé, had taken part in several events related to the general comment during the intersessional period. The working group had since been disbanded, however, as the general comment had been adopted. The working group on the draft general comment on children's rights and the environment, coordinated by Mr. Jaffé and Ms. Todorova, had released a concept note on the draft general comment and had held meetings with the German office of Terre des hommes fédération internationale, which would assist in the preparation of the draft.

9. The working group on the day of general discussion, coordinated by Ms. Skelton and Mr. Gudbrandsson, had, together with civil society and other partners and the children and young people on the Children's and Youth Advisory Teams, done significant work during the intersessional period to prepare for the event. It would now prepare a report on the outcome of the event. A subgroup on inquiries, coordinated by Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi and Mr. Van Keirsbilck, had been set up under the working group on the Optional Protocol on a

communications procedure, coordinated by Ms. Skelton. The working group on the draft statement on the rights of children with disabilities had exchanged comments on the draft with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the statement's co-author.

10. The Committee's media focal points, Mr. Jaffé and Mr. Van Keirsbilck, continued to maintain the Committee's Twitter account, which now had more than a thousand followers. Thanks to the efforts of the Committee's focal points for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe – Ms. Kiladze, Mr. Rodríguez Reyes and Mr. Gudbrandsson, respectively – representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union would meet with Committee members during the Committee's eighty-ninth session to discuss how the Union and the Committee could work together, and Committee members had met with an alliance of Latin American and Caribbean children's organizations and with officials responsible for children's rights from the Council of Europe and the European Union.

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

12. *It was so decided.*

13. She declared closed the eighty-eighth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.