



Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Nineteenth Meeting

Summary record of the 27th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 6 June 2022, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chair: Mr. Mokhiber (Representative of the Secretary-General)

Chair: Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General

1. **The Temporary Chair**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that the number of States Parties to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography now stood at 172 and 178, respectively. The Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, however, had been ratified by only 48 States.

2. Since the previous Meeting of States Parties, the Committee had been in a position to review only a limited number of reports, given that it had not been able to meet in person during the period between May 2020 and June 2021 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The challenges faced during the sessions held virtually included the limited time allocated for online meetings with simultaneous interpretation, time zone differences and connectivity issues. As at 11 February 2022, the Committee had been able to review only eight reports. At its ninetieth session, held from 3 May to 3 June 2022, it had reviewed 12 additional reports; but there remained a backlog of 78 reports. It was essential for the Committee to be allocated additional resources to address the backlog and handle the workload resulting from the treaty-body strengthening process.

3. The Committee had adopted decisions on 52 cases under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. It had received four requests to open an inquiry and had opened three inquiries. A visit to one of the three States Parties concerned was expected to take place soon. However, the Committee would need additional resources to fulfil its tasks under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

4. In the context of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the Committee had decided on 7 February 2022 to move towards a predictable review cycle of every eight years, with a midterm follow-up procedure, and to offer the simplified reporting procedure as the standard reporting procedure. The new process would come into use once the backlog of reports had been reduced, and it would be synchronized with the reporting calendars of the other human rights treaty bodies.

5. At its eighty-sixth session, the Committee had adopted general comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. In response to a request for comments on the draft document, it had

received 142 submissions, including 28 from States. Some 709 children and young people between 9 and 22 years of age had been consulted, in 27 countries. At its eighty-seventh session, the Committee had begun work on its general comment on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change. The concept note and the details of how to participate in the process could be found on the Committee's web page.

6. On 10 February 2022, the Committee had held its thirteenth informal meeting with States, at the Palais des Nations at Geneva, in a hybrid format, with nearly 70 States in attendance in person and/or virtually. The Committee had described the work it had conducted, mostly virtually, and the challenges it faced. During its eighty-eighth session, on 16 and 17 September 2021, it had held a virtual day of general discussion on children's rights and alternative care. That event had been attended by more than 800 participants from around the world, including State representatives, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, the business sector, academia, experts in the field, and children with experience in alternative care.

7. Lastly, with respect to the elections, he recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) concerning the calibre of experts to be nominated by the States parties, the information to be provided by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the need for equitable geographical distribution and balanced representation in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

Election of the Chair

8. **The Temporary Chair** said that he had been informed by the Coordinator of the Group of Western European and other States that Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) had been nominated for the office of Chair of the Meeting.

9. *Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

10. *Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/SP/53)

11. *The agenda was adopted.*

12. **The Chair** said that he had been informed that the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from a number of the States parties represented at the Meeting. He urged the representatives of those States parties to see to it that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and

suggested that they should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting.

13. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the Meeting

14. *Mr. Domingos (Mozambique) was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.*

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as amended by General Assembly resolution 50/155 (CRC/SP/54 and CRC/SP/54/Add.1)

15. **The Chair**, drawing attention to paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of article 43 of the Convention, recalled that, in accordance with article 43 as amended, nine Committee members to replace those whose terms would expire on 28 February 2023 were to be elected for a term of four years by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties. The list was contained in document [CRC/SP/54](#). The nomination of a candidate from Mauritania, which had been received after the deadline, had been included in document [CRC/SP/54/Add.1](#).

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chair** said that the nomination of the candidate from Haiti had been withdrawn.

18. *At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. La Rose (Guyana), Ms. Morel (France), Ms. Mägi (Estonia) and Ms. Mavale (Mozambique) acted as tellers.*

19. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:

Number of valid ballots:

Number of representatives voting:

Required majority:

Number of votes obtained:

Ms. Beloff (Argentina)

Mr. Jaffé (Switzerland)

Mr. Gudbransson (Iceland)

Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi (Morocco)

Ms. Marshall-Harris (Barbados)

Ms. Aho (Togo)

Ms. Correa Pulice (Panama)

Mr. Ahmed Al Barwani (Oman)

Ms. Sidikou (Niger)

Mr. Lath (Côte d'Ivoire)

Mr. Nelson (Samoa)

Ms. Taleb Moussa (Mauritania)

Ms. Kaboré (Burkina Faso)

Mr. Oomar (Mauritius)

Mr. Elmaghoub (Libya)

20. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Ahmed Al Barwani (Oman), Ms. Aho (Togo), Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi (Morocco), Ms. Beloff (Argentina), Ms. Correa Pulice (Panama), Mr. Gudbransson (Iceland), Mr. Jaffé (Switzerland), Ms. Marshall-Harris (Barbados) and Ms. Sidikou (Niger) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

Other matters

21. **Mr. Biryukov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation wished to draw attention to the statements concerning the situation in Ukraine issued, respectively, by the Committee on 4 March 2022 and by human rights experts, including the Committee, on 28 February. In those statements, unfounded accusations of aggression and grave violations of children's rights had been made against the Russian Federation, and the Russian Federation exclusively had been called upon to end hostilities and respect the principles of international law concerning human rights and humanitarian law. The Committee's approach was unprofessional and biased. Ukraine, too, was a State party to the Convention; yet the Committee had said nothing about the responsibility of the Ukrainian authorities and of numerous Western States which, for eight years, had fanned the conflict in Ukraine. The Committee had also failed to mention the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime against its own citizens. Over the previous eight years, Ukrainian armed forces in Donbas had killed more than 100 children. Kyiv used civilian sites, including educational and health-care facilities, as military bases; as a result, they had sustained severe damage.

22. Ukrainian nationalists had for years recruited children into the armed forces of Ukraine. Reports on the training of soldiers aged under 18 in special camps had appeared on numerous occasions, including on Western television, even before the special military operation conducted in Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Such actions were a clear violation of the obligations of Ukraine under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. On ratifying the Optional Protocol, in 2005, Ukraine had stated that the minimum age for voluntary, contract-based enrolment in the armed forces was 19. Moreover, the recruitment into the armed forces of children aged under 15 was prohibited under Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Ukraine was a party.

23. The current special military operation in Ukraine had been made necessary by eight years of aggression perpetrated by the Kyiv regime against Donbas, and by its refusal to respect human rights and put an end to

discrimination against its Russian-speaking citizens. The Russian Federation had repeatedly suggested that the Ukrainians and their Western sponsors resolve the issue through negotiations, refrain from positioning heavy weapons in residential areas and using civilians as human shields, organize humanitarian access for international agencies and establish humanitarian corridors for the safe evacuation of the population from areas in which hostilities were taking place. Those initiatives had all been blocked. If the Committee was still capable of truly independent and unbiased analysis, it should hold accountable those parties that were genuinely responsible for the situation in Ukraine.

Closure of the Meeting

24. **The Chair** declared the nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child closed.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.