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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Fifty-ninth session  
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 43 (a) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/92.
2. As at 20 November 2003, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had received 140 signatures that were followed by ratification. In addition, 45 States had acceded to the Convention and 6 had succeeded to it, bringing the total number of ratifications and accessions to 191. An updated list of States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention and the dates of their signature, ratification or accession can be obtained at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).
3. As at 20 November 2003, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which entered into force in 2002, had been signed by 111 States and ratified by 42 States. As at the same date, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which entered into force on 18 January 2002, had been signed by 105 States and ratified by 42 States. An updated list of States that have signed or ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention and the dates of their signature or ratification can also be obtained at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).
4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its twenty-ninth session from 14 January to 1 February 2002 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At that session the Committee considered reports submitted by eight States parties to the Convention. The

Committee also decided to send a letter to all States parties whose initial reports were due in 1992 and 1993, requesting them to submit their report within one year and informing them that should they not report within one year, the Committee would consider the situation of child rights in the State in the absence of the initial report, as provided for in the Committee's "Overview of the reporting procedures" (CRC/C/33, paras. 29-32) and in light of rule 67 of the Committee's provisional rules of procedure (CRC/C/4). Further, the Committee adopted the guidelines regarding initial reports to be submitted by States parties under article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC/OP/SA/1). In addition, the Committee reviewed its cooperation with United Nations bodies and agencies and other competent bodies, including non-governmental organizations. The Committee adopted a report on its twenty-sixth session (CRC/C/114).

5. The Committee held its thirtieth session from 21 May to 7 June 2002 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. During that session, the Committee considered reports submitted by 10 States parties to the Convention. The Committee adopted a report on the session (CRC/C/118).

6. The Committee held its thirty-first session from 16 September to 4 October 2002 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At that session, the Committee considered the reports submitted by nine States parties to the Convention. The Committee held a day of discussion on "The role of private service providers in promoting and implementing child rights" on 20 September 2002 and adopted a set of recommendations. The Committee further adopted a general comment on "The role of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting children's rights". The Committee adopted a report on the session (CRC/C/121).

7. The thirty-second session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will be held from 13 to 31 January 2003 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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