



**Convention on the
Rights of Persons with
Disabilities**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

First session

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE 3rd MEETING**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 24 February 2009, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Ms. CONNORS (Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights)

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

** No summary record was issued for the 2nd meeting.

This record is subject to correction. Participants wishing to submit corrections during the session of the Committee are asked to hand them, in typewritten form, to the Secretary of the Committee. A consolidated corrigendum to the summary records covering the closed meetings of the Committee will be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The discussion covered in the summary record began at 12.10 p.m.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE (CRPD/C/1/CRP.1)

METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to begin its consideration of the draft provisional rules of procedure.
2. Ms. PELÁEZ NARVÁEZ proposed that the Committee should first consider rules 1 to 45 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, relating to the Convention itself, before considering the rules relating to the Optional Protocol. She also recalled her proposal to establish a pre-sessional working group, which had been circulated to members together with a number of other proposals for amendments and additions to the rules.
3. Mr. KÖNCZEI commended the work done by the secretariat on the draft provisional rules and the proposal for a pre-sessional working group and suggested that the Committee should begin consideration of the proposal.
4. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON said that, as any additional meeting time would have financial implications, the establishment of a pre-sessional working group would require the consideration and approval of Member States.
5. Ms. PELÁEZ NARVÁEZ said that, in making her proposal, she had drawn on the example of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Such a working group would provide guidance and added value to the work of the Committee.
6. Ms. CISTERNAS REYES suggested that the Committee should first consider the draft provisional rules set out in document CRPD/C/1/CRP.1, before taking up the proposals pertaining to such matters as a pre-sessional working group and subsidiary bodies, which would require more lengthy discussion.
7. Mr. KÖNCZEI said that the proposals in question should be considered together with the draft provisional rules, on the basis of a twin-track approach.
8. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON said that no provision was normally made for pre-sessional working groups in the rules of procedure of human rights treaty bodies. However, any decision by the Committee to establish such a group would be governed by the relevant rules, including in particular draft rule 20 on the financial implications of proposals.
9. Ms. YANG Jia, supported by Mr. AL-TARAWNEH, noted that the draft provisional rules of procedure were modelled on the rules of other committees. The Committee was unlike others, however, and its unique nature should be highlighted. The draft provisional rules under consideration were rather weak in that respect. Referring to rules 2 and 3 on the time and place of Committee sessions, she proposed that a session should be held not in October as planned but rather before the opening of the General Assembly, in August, for example. Consideration should also be given to holding a meeting in New York to enhance the Committee's visibility.

10. Mr. McCALLUM said that the Committee was not yet in a position to take a decision on a pre-sessional working group, since the precise financial implications of the work of such a group were unknown. He would appreciate it if the Committee could be informed of those financial implications at its next session. The establishment of a pre-sessional working group might be more opportune if and when the Committee's membership increased to 18, as foreseen in the Convention. He suggested that the Committee should proceed to discuss the draft provisional rules of procedure, together with any proposed amendments thereto, leaving aside the question of a pre-sessional working group for the time being.

11. Ms. CISTERNAS REYES said that it was particularly important to raise the Committee's profile in New York. The Convention had an important social development aspect, as well as a human rights dimension. Conferences of States parties should be held in New York, and regular sessions of the Committee should be held in Geneva. However, the second session could be held in New York in August 2009 either immediately before or after the Conference of States parties.

12. Ms. PELÁEZ NARVÁEZ pointed out that provision was made for a pre-sessional working group in rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

13. Ms. MAINA said that the draft rules of procedure provided useful guidance, but the Committee should address all aspects of disability that would affect its work.

14. Mr. CHOWDHURY said that the Committee should discuss and adopt the draft rules of procedure rule by rule. He agreed with Ms. Yang Jia that the next session of the Committee could be held in August 2009 alongside the Conference of States parties in New York. Efforts should be made to raise awareness of the work of the Committee and ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities were given due consideration at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly.

15. The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON explained that rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been added long after the pre-sessional working group had become a regular part of that Committee's working methods. It had not been included in the original rules of procedure. She invited the Committee to consider the draft provisional rules of procedure rule by rule.

Part One. General Rules

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1

16. Mr. AL-TARAWNEH suggested that the words "may be" should be deleted from the first sentence of the English version.

17. It was so decided.

18. Ms. CISTERNAS REYES said that the words "and its Optional Protocol" should be inserted after "Disabilities" at the end of rule 1.

19. It was so decided.

20. Rule 1, as amended, was adopted.

Rule 2.1

21. Ms. CISTERNAS REYES said that a second sentence should be added to read “On occasions where the holding of the Conference of State parties is planned, the necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that the session of the Committee is held immediately before or after that Conference.”

22. Mr. CHOWDHURY suggested that the words “shall normally hold” should be replaced by “shall hold at least”.

23. Mr. BEN LALLAHOM agreed with the previous speaker. The word “normally” could imply that the Committee might meet only once each year. The rule should also contain a reference to the possibility of holding special sessions.

24. Mr. TORRES CORREA pointed out that rule 2.1 should be in line with rule 1, which stated that the Committee would hold meetings “as required”. The Committee was a new body with unique and distinctive characteristics. It should be entitled to convene special sessions at short notice for urgent reasons.

25. Mr. URŠIČ suggested that the word “regular” should be inserted between “two” and “sessions” in rule 2.1.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.