



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

Distr.: General

Original: English

Eighth Meeting

Summary record of the 14th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 26 February 2001 at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. N'Diaye (Representative of the Secretary-General)

Chairperson: Mr. Alemán. (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Opening of the meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child followed an important year during which the General Assembly had adopted two optional protocols to the Convention, one on children and armed conflict and one on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The optional protocols had been signed by 76 and 71 States, respectively.

2. The near-universal ratification of the Convention had resulted in an increasingly heavy workload for the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had initiated a Plan of Action, financed through voluntary contributions, to provide substantive support to the Committee and States parties in the reporting process and to transform recommendations into reality through resources, coordination and follow-up with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

3. The meeting presented an opportunity to renew the call for new States parties to accept the amendment to the Convention increasing the membership of the Committee to 18, so that the required two-thirds majority could be reached as soon as possible. Increased membership would help the Committee to meet its mandate more effectively.

Election of the Chairperson

4. **Ms. Ibraimova** (Kyrgyzstan) nominated Mr. Alemán (Ecuador) for the office of Chairperson of the meeting.

5. *Mr. Alemán (Ecuador) was elected Chairperson of the meeting by acclamation.*

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/SP/28)

6. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of other officers of the meeting

7. *Mr. Sotirov (Bulgaria), Ms. Korpi (Finland) and Mr. Snoussi (Morocco) were elected Vice-Chairpersons.*

Status of the amendment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/SP/30)

Other matters (CRC/SP/31)

8. **The Chairperson** drew attention to a note from the Secretary-General on the amendment to the Convention increasing the number of members of the Committee (CRC/SP/30) and to a note from the Secretary-General on the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/SP/31).

9. **Ms. Skoog** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associate countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey and, in addition, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, said that, in 1995, the States parties had adopted an amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention to extend the number of seats on the Committee from 10 to 18 in order to deal with the Committee's increasing workload. The current backlog of reports resulted in a waiting period of approximately two years from the time reports by States parties were submitted until they were considered.

10. For the amendment to enter into force, two thirds of the original parties to the Convention had to notify the Secretary-General that they accepted it. The European Union therefore called upon all States parties to make it a priority to notify their acceptance to the Secretary-General.

11. A number of countries representing different regions of the world had submitted highly qualified candidates for the five available seats, and it was hoped that some of the candidates who were not elected would have a seat on an expanded Committee in the near future.

12. Lastly, the European Union also emphasized the need to provide the Committee with adequate resources from the United Nations regular budget and encouraged Member States to provide voluntary contributions for the Plan of Action in order to support the Committee and its secretariat.

13. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was important to increase the number of members of the Committee to enable it to deal with its current workload. Unfortunately, adoption of the amendment required a certain time, owing to the procedure

involved in each State party; however, five years had elapsed since the General Assembly, in its resolution 50/155, approved the amendment and urged States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance could be reached as soon as possible. His delegation urged those States parties which had not yet notified their acceptance to the Secretary-General to do so and seconded the European Union's suggestion that some of the experts who were not elected during the meeting would be able to join the expanded Committee to enrich it and enable it to better execute its tasks.

14. **Ms. Ramírez** (Costa Rica) said that Costa Rica also called on all States parties to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of the amendment as soon as possible.

Election of five members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
(CRC/SP/29 and Add.1-3; CRC/SP/32 and Add.1-2)

15. **The Chairperson** said that, in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, five members were to be elected for a term of four years by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties.

16. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Raguz (Croatia), Ms. Baldeh (Gambia), Mr. Naber (Jordan), and Ms. Waldvogel (Switzerland) acted as tellers.

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

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	185
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	185
<i>Required majority:</i>	93
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Luigi Citarella (Italy)	97
Ms. Ghalia Mohd Bin Hamad Al-Thani (Qatar)	93
Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov (Russian Federation)	68
Ms. Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil)	66
Mr. Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia)	65
Ms. Saisuree Chutikul (Thailand)	61
Mr. Driss Idrissi Bichir (Morocco)	53

Mr. Peter Onyekwere Ebigbo (Nigeria)
43

Ms. Rita Felicité Sodjiedo Hounton (Benin)	40
Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz (Paraguay)	40
Mr. Hatem Kotrane (Tunisia)	39
Mr. Ghassan Salim Rabah (Lebanon)	37
Mr. Dalibor Jilek (Czech Republic)	35
Ms. Atsede Guta (Ethiopia)	32
Ms. Harkristuti Harkrisnowo (Indonesia)	26
Ms. Corazon Alma G. de Leon (Philippines)	21
Mr. Tirtha Man Sakya (Nepal)	20
Ms. Noromalala L. C. Rakoto Joseph (Madagascar)	19
Ms. Irina Moroianu-Zlatescu (Romania)	18
Mr. Mohammad Ashouri (Islamic Republic of Iran)	14
Ms. Sandra Vilcane (Latvia)	11

18. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Luigi Citarella (Italy) and Ms. Ghalia Mohd Bin Hamad Al-Thani (Qatar) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

19. **The Chairperson** said that, since only two candidates had obtained the required majority, a second ballot, restricted to the six candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining vacancies on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

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

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	185
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	185
<i>Required majority:</i>	93
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ms. Saisuree Chutikul (Thailand)	105
Ms. Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil)	95
Mr. Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia)	91
Mr. Driss Idrissi Bichir (Morocco)	88
Mr. Yuri M. Kolosov (Russian Federation)	86

Mr. Peter Onyekwere Ebigbo
(Nigeria) 61

21. *Having obtained the required majority Ms. Saisuree Chutikul (Thailand) and Ms. Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil) were elected members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

22. **The Chairperson** said that, since only four candidates had now obtained the required majority, a third ballot, restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the next largest number of votes, would be held to fill the remaining vacancy on the Committee, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting was suspended at 1.40 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

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

Number of ballot papers: 172

Number of valid ballots: 172

Abstentions: 3

Number of members voting:
169

Required majority: 85

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia) 90

Mr. Idrissi Bichir (Morocco) 79

24. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Al-Sheddi (Saudi Arabia) was elected a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

Closure of the meeting

25. **The Chairperson** declared the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child closed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.