

## UNEDITED VERSION

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Forty-ninth session

15 September – 3 October 2008

### Day of General Discussion

#### Guidelines for participants on registration and submissions

*Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Day of General Discussion 2008*

On 19 September 2008, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold a day of general discussion in Geneva on “**the right of the child to education in emergency situations**”. The discussion day is a public meeting at which representatives of governments, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, civil society and other relevant organizations as well as individual experts are welcome.

#### Participation and oral statements

In order to facilitate the exchange of views, participants will be divided into two working groups to discuss the themes of (1) **continuation and/or reconstruction of the educational system** and (2) **content and quality of education provided for children in emergency situations**. (Please see the Outline for more details on the two working groups and their respective sub-themes). The Committee asks participants to avoid presenting formal statements during the discussion day. Copies of written statements to the Committee may be distributed by participants during the discussion day.

#### Submission of written contributions

The Committee encourages the submission of written contributions on the themes of the discussion day, including, for example, on the issues listed below:

#### 1. Continuation and/or reconstruction of the educational system:

- Respect for and prioritization of children’s right to education in emergency situations;
- The continuation or reconstruction of the educational system during and after emergency situations, including transforming schools and learning centres into protected areas;
- Addressing and bridging the gap between the provision of education in the emergency phase and in the post-emergency recovery and development phase;
- The responsibilities of different stakeholders in making education part of relief efforts and prioritizing education during emergency situations;

- Measures needed to re-establish daily routines in schooling;
- How to use the “window of opportunity” for quality education that may arise in emergency situations vis-à-vis disadvantaged children.

2. Content and quality of education provided for children in emergency situations’:

- Principles and priorities guiding the content of education in emergency situations;
- The role of rights-based life skills curricula in protecting children, mitigating harm and responding to their needs and rights in emergency contexts;
- How the protection of the right to education can contribute to the realisation of other rights in emergency situations;
- Education as a rehabilitation, recovery and reintegration measure.

The Committee also encourages information on case studies that reflect the different challenges in implementing the rights enshrined in articles 28 and 29.

Authors of written contributions are encouraged to present a maximum of five recommendations related to the themes under discussion to be adopted by the Committee following the discussion day. The recommendations, which should be attached to the submission as an annex, must be directly relevant to the themes of the discussion day as described above, and prioritized.

Although the main working language of the Committee is English, written contributions can be submitted in French and Spanish, the other working languages of the Committee.

**The deadline for the submission of written contributions is 27 June 2008.** The Committee requests that written contributions be limited to a **maximum of seven pages**. In order to facilitate the exchange of information, the Secretariat will circulate written contributions to registered participants via e-mail. Please note that only written contributions received in **electronic form** (preferably Word or PDF) will be circulated. Written contributions will be circulated in their original language only and posted on the Child Rights Information Network website (<http://www.crin.org>).

Previously published materials may also be submitted to the Committee, or distributed during the discussion day to other participants. Sufficient copies must be provided, as the Secretariat does not have resources for reproduction and distribution.

Registration

For organizational purposes, all participants are asked to fill out a registration form, which can be downloaded from the OHCHR website: (<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm>). Please send it back to the Secretariat by e-mail (CRCgeneraldiscussion@ohchr.org) or fax (+41 22 917-9029) **before 15 July 2008**.

Due to limited space, please note that organizations are strongly encouraged to limit participation in this event to a maximum of three representatives. Please do not make any travel arrangements until you have received this final confirmation from the Secretariat of the Committee.

As this is a public meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, there is neither a registration fee, nor does the Committee send out individual invitations. **The United Nations is not able to provide assistance with visa, travel or accommodation arrangements.** Participants are responsible for all expenses and arrangements related to their participation in the discussion day.



#### Logistics

The discussion day will take place on Friday 19 September 2008 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Palais Wilson (52 rue des Paquis) in Geneva. Participants, whose registration has been confirmed, are requested to bring identification, such as a passport, with them to the discussion day in order to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais Wilson.

For any additional information, please contact the Secretariat, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNOG-OHCHR.

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