

CRC, CRC/C/146 (2005)

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. States parties to the Convention

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4. At its fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly agreed with the request of the Committee to work simultaneously in two chambers during 2006 (starting with the pre-session working group meeting of October 2005) in order to increase the working capacity of the Committee and decrease the existing backlog of reports.

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CRC, CRC/C/150 (2005)

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I. DECISION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

Consideration of reports under the two Optional Protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Welcoming the fact that over half of the Member States of the United Nations, including States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, have ratified the Convention's Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the one on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

Encouraging the remaining States parties to the Convention and other States to ratify the Optional Protocols as soon as possible in order to strengthen the rights of children covered in both the Protocols,

Noting the provision under the two Optional Protocols requiring States parties to submit separate initial reports on the implementation of the Protocols within two years after ratification, which implies the possibility of submission of a report shortly after ratification,

Welcoming the reports on the Optional Protocol received so far and urging States parties of which initial reports are overdue to submit them as a matter of priority and the other States parties to do it as soon as possible.

Decides to adopt the following rules for the examination of initial reports on Optional Protocols:

1. Reports received approximately at the same time as a regular periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will be considered at the session at which this regular periodic report will be examined. Additional separate time will be scheduled for this examination if the State is a party to both Optional Protocols and has submitted approximately at the same time both initial reports;

2. States parties to both Optional Protocols are encouraged, whenever possible, to submit their initial reports at the same time and preferably not later than the ultimate date at which the initial report is due for the Optional Protocol ratified first. The examination of the two initial reports will be scheduled for a regular session of the Committee;

3. In case the rules mentioned before do not apply, the Committee will apply the following ones:

(a) If the State is only a party to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, the initial report to this instrument will be considered at a regular session of the Committee if the State party concerned is facing or has recently faced serious difficulties in respecting and implementing the provisions enshrined in the Optional Protocol. For other States parties, the Committee will offer them a choice of an examination in writing (technical review) or one at a regular session of the Committee which include a dialogue with representatives of the concerned State party;

(b) If the State is only a party to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the initial report on this instrument will be examined by the Committee at one of its regular sessions.

4. Initial reports submitted under both Optional Protocols will also be included in the agenda of the Committee's Pre-sessional Working Group meetings.

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V. WORKING METHODS

843. Between 12 and 13 May 2005, the Committee met informally to discuss its working methods. This meeting also provided an opportunity for newly elected members to be introduced to their new mandate and work. The Committee, *inter alia*, discussed draft new reporting guidelines for periodic reports; methods of work under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and working methods foreseen for working in two parallel chambers.

844. At its 1052nd meeting, held on 3 June 2005, the Committee adopted new reporting guidelines for periodic reports (CRC/C/58/Rev.1) prepared by States parties

under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These guidelines will become effective for States parties to the Convention as of 1 January 2006.

845. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a decision regarding the modalities for the consideration of initial reports under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (see chapter I).

846. The Committee also adopted a document indicating the composition of the two chambers of the Committee and the States parties reports they will consider at their forty-first session (9 to 27 January 2006) (see annex II). The division of membership into two chambers and the assigning of States parties reports to be considered by these chambers have been done on the basis of a random lottery.

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IV. WORKING METHODS

634. At its 1078th and 1079th meetings, held on 29 September 2005, the Committee discussed issues related to the reform of the treaty bodies, modalities relating to its country visits and workshops on follow-up to the implementation of its concluding observations.

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