

**CRC, CRC/C/41/3 (2006)**

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**V. METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

898. At its 1098th meeting, held on 17 January 2006, the Committee held an informal meeting with States parties and discussed issues related to modalities of work in two chambers and consideration of reports under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention, 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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**II. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AT ITS THIRTY-SIXTH TO FORTY-FIRST SESSIONS**

7. During the reporting period, the Committee adopted two decisions at its thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth sessions respectively.

8. The first decision, adopted at its thirty-seventh session (13 September-8 October 2004), was related to the rights of children without parental care and recommended that the Commission on Human Rights consider the establishment of a working group to develop guidelines for the protection and alternative care of children without parental care during its sixty-first session. The full text of the Committee's decision is contained in its report of the thirty-seventh session (CRC/C/143).

9. The second decision was adopted by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session (16 May-3 June 2005) and outlined the methods by which the Committee will consider the initial reports of States parties under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention, on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution. The full text of the decision can be found in the Committee's report on its thirty-ninth session (CRC/C/150).

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**IV. OVERVIEW OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

**A. Methods of work**

**1. Recommendation to work with a two-chamber system**

31. Taking account of the increase in membership of the Committee from 10 to 18 and the fact the amendment to the Convention on this matter sought to increase the capacity of the Committee to deal with its growing workload, and after discussing various options during its thirty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a recommendation that, for an initial period of two years, reports submitted by States parties be reviewed by two parallel chambers of the Committee. On 24 February 2005, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/59/261) authorizing the Committee to meet in two chambers as a temporary and exceptional measure to clear the significant backlog of reports facing the Committee on the Rights of the Child. There was a backlog of 58 reports at the time that the General Assembly approved the request.

32. The Committee agreed that it would meet in two separate chambers for the dialogue with States parties and that concluding observations would be discussed and adopted in plenary by the whole Committee. This would allow the Committee to increase the average number of State party reports from 9 to 16 per session. The forty-first session was the first session in which the Committee met in two chambers (this also includes the forty-first pre-sessional working group held in October 2005). Sixteen State party reports under the Convention and its two Optional Protocols were considered during that session.

33. The composition of the two chambers and the allocation of State party reports to the chambers were determined by lottery. The composition of the two chambers will remain the same for the forty-second session, at which point the Committee will review the composition and decide whether the composition needs to be revised for the forty-third session.

## **2. Informal consultations with States parties**

34. On 23 January 2004, the Committee held a second informal consultation with States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols (936th meeting). Representatives of over 60 States parties took part in an interactive dialogue with the Committee. Four main issues were discussed: the revision of the Committee's guidelines for periodic reporting; the Committee's proposed two chambers working method; working methods for the consideration of initial reports under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention; and the United Nations study on violence against children. (For a full record of the meeting please see CRC/C/SR.936.)

35. On 17 January 2006, at its forty-first session, the Committee held a third informal meeting with States parties to the Convention (1098th meeting), which was attended by representatives of 53 States parties to the Convention and/or its Optional Protocols. Representatives of UNICEF, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended the meeting. The issues discussed included: (1) The Committee's initial experience operating in two chambers; (2) Reform of the treaty body monitoring and reporting system; and, (3) Follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations. (For a full record of the meeting, please see CRC/C/SR.1098.)

### **3. General comments**

36. During the period under review, the Committee adopted the following two general comments:

- General comment No. 6 on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin (CRC/GC/2005/6), which was adopted during the Committee's thirty-ninth session (see annex II); and
- General comment No. 7 on implementing child rights in early childhood (CRC/GC/2005/7), adopted during its fortieth session (see annex III).

37. As is its practice, the Committee involved other relevant United Nations human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms, United Nations agencies and bodies, NGOs and individual experts in the process of drafting these general comments.

### **4. Induction meeting**

38. On 12 and 13 May 2005, OHCHR organized a two-day informal induction meeting to give the 10 newly elected members a chance to familiarize themselves with the working methods and procedures of the Committee. Other members of the Committee also participated in the meeting.

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## **V. METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

849. At its 1157th meeting, held on 2 June 2006, the Committee discussed issues related to modalities of work in two chambers and consideration of reports under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention, the reform of the treaty bodies, modalities relating to its country visits and workshops on follow up to the implementation of its concluding observations as well as issues related to the day of general discussion.

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## **V. METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

977. At its 1158th meeting, held on 11 September 2006, the Committee discussed issues related to modalities of work in two chambers and consideration of reports under

the two Optional Protocols to the Convention, the reform of the treaty bodies and workshops on follow-up to the implementation of its concluding observations.

978. The Committee adopted revised reporting guidelines on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography which it developed with the support of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

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