

10th anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of children in armed conflict and on the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Side Event Concept Note

Background

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on, respectively, the Involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) and the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), panellists and participants attending the Side Event will be taking stock of achievements made and challenges remaining with regards to ratification and implementation of OPAC and OPSC. They will also consider ways in which international human rights mechanisms may contribute to such processes. In this context, participants may also address ongoing discussions relating to the possible elaboration of a third optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, as relevant to the two optional protocols.

OPAC and OPSC were adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by GA res. A/RES/54/263 of 25 May 2000. They entered into force on, respectively, 18 January 2002 (OPSC) and 12 February 2002 (OPAC).

Venue and timing

Palais des Nations, Room XXII, Wednesday 10 March 2010 from 13:15 to 15:00.

Panelists

- Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict
- Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children
- Ms. Najat M'jid Maalla, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- Mr. Jean Zermatten, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Ms. Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch and founding chairperson, Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- Ms. Susan Bissell, Chief - Child protection, UNICEF

Moderator: Ms. Jane Connors, Chief, Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR

Objectives of the side event

- Promote universal ratification of OPAC and OPSC by respective dates of entry into force in 2012.
- Exchange ideas on how to raise awareness and increase understanding/demystification of the OPSC and OPAC and the role of international human rights mechanisms in this regard.
- Identify good practices and challenges encountered in implementing OPSC and OPAC.
- How international human rights mechanisms can help support and strengthen domestic implementation of OPSC and OPAC.
- Dissemination of OPSC Handbook prepared by Innocenti.
- How the 10th anniversary of the two protocols can be used to help achieve the above objectives.

Format

The presentations of the panelists (1 hour in total – 10 minutes each) will be followed by a time for questions and answers.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

Country	Signature	Reg Group	CARICOM	Commonwealth	EU	Francophonie	LAS	OIC
Signed, but not ratified								
Cameroon	05/10/2001	Africa		1		1		1
Cyprus	01/07/2008	Asia		1	1	1		
Djibouti	14/06/2006	Africa				1	1	1
Dominican Rep	09/05/2002	Grulac	1					
Estonia	24/09/2003	E Europe			1			
Fiji	16/09/2005	Asia		1				
Gabon	08/09/2000	Africa				1		1
Gambia	21/12/2000	Africa		1				1
Ghana	24/09/2003	Africa		1		1		
Guinea-Bissau	08/09/2000	Africa				1		1
Haiti	15/08/2002	Grulac	1			1		
Indonesia	24/09/2001	Asia						1
Lebanon	11/02/2002	Asia				1	1	1
Liberia	22/09/2004	Africa						
Malawi	07/09/2000	Africa		1				
Micronesia	08/05/2002	Asia						
Nauru	08/09/2000	Asia		1				
Nigeria	08/09/2000	Africa		1				1
Pakistan	26/09/2001	Asia		1				1
San Marino	05/06/2000	WEOG						
Seychelles	23/01/2001	Africa		1		1		
Solomon Islands	24/09/2009	Asia		1				
Somalia	16/09/2005	Africa					1	1
Suriname	10/05/2002	Grulac	1					1
Zambia	29/09/2008	Africa		1				
	25	Total	3	12	2	9	3	11

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

Country	Signature	Reg Group	CARICOM	Commonwealth	EU	Francophonie	LAS	OIC
Not Signed or Ratified								
Antigua and Barbuda		Grulac	1	1				
Bahamas		Grulac	1	1				
Barbados		Grulac	1	1				
Brunei Darussalam		Asia		1				1
Central African Republic		Africa				1		1
Comoros		Africa				1	1	1
Congo (Republic of the)		Africa				1		
Côte d'Ivoire		Africa				1		1
DPR Korea		Asia						
Equatorial Guinea		Africa				1		
Ethiopia		Africa						
Georgia		E Europe				1		
Grenada		Grulac	1	1				
Guinea		Africa				1		1
Guyana		Grulac	1	1				1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		Asia						1
Kiribati		Asia		1				
Malaysia		Asia		1				1
Marshall Islands		Asia						
Mauritania		Africa				1	1	1
Myanmar		Asia						
Niger		Africa				1		1
Palau		Asia						
Papua New Guinea		Asia		1				
Saint Kitts and Nevis		Grulac	1	1				
Saint Lucia		Grulac	1	1		1		
Saint Vincent & Grenadines		Grulac	1	1				
Samoa		Asia		1				
Sao Tome and Principe		Africa				1		
Saudi Arabia		Asia					1	1
Swaziland		Africa		1				
Tonga		Asia		1				
Trinidad and Tobago		Grulac	1	1				
Tuvalu		Asia		1				
United Arab Emirates		Asia					1	1
Zimbabwe		Africa						
36		Total	9	17	0	11	4	12

**Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the
Child on the sale of children, child prostitution
and child pornography**

Country	Signature	Reg Group	CARICOM	Commonwealth	EU	Francophonie	LAS	OIC
Signed, but not ratified								
Cameroon	05/10/2001	Africa		1		1		1
Czech Republic	26/01/2005	E Europe			1			
Djibouti	14/06/2006	Africa				1	1	1
Fiji	16/09/2005	Asia		1				
Finland	07/09/2000	WEOG			1			
Gambia	21/12/2000	Africa		1				1
Ghana	24/09/2003	Africa		1		1		
Guinea-Bissau	08/09/2000	Africa				1		1
Haiti	15/08/2002	Grulac	1			1		
Indonesia	24/09/2001	Asia						1
Ireland	07/09/2000	WEOG			1			
Jamaica	08/09/2000	Grulac	1	1				
Kenya	08/09/2000	Africa		1				
Liberia	22/09/2004	Africa						
Liechtenstein	08/09/2000	WEOG			1			
Luxembourg	08/09/2000	WEOG			1	1		
Malta	07/09/2000	WEOG		1				
Mauritius	11/11/2001	Africa		1		1		
Micronesia	08/05/2002	Asia						
Nauru	08/09/2000	Asia		1				
New Zealand	07/09/2000	WEOG		1				
Nigeria	08/09/2000	Africa		1				1
Pakistan	26/09/2001	Asia		1				1
San Marino	05/06/2000	WEOG						
Seychelles	23/01/2001	Africa		1		1		
Solomon Islands	24/09/2009	Asia		1				
Suriname	10/05/2002	Grulac	1					1
Zambia	29/09/2008	Africa		1				
	28	Total	3	13	6	9	1	8

(Italics indicate a suspended member)

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

Country	Signature	Reg Group	CARICOM	Commonwealth	EU	Francophonie	LAS	OIC
Not Signed or Ratified								
Bahamas		Grulac	1	1				
Barbados		Grulac	1	1				
Central African Republic		Africa				1		
Côte d'Ivoire		Africa				1		1
DPR Korea		Asia						
Ethiopia		Africa						
Grenada		Grulac	1	1				
Guinea		Africa				1		1
Guyana		Grulac	1	1				1
Kiribati		Asia		1				
Malaysia		Asia		1				1
Marshall Islands		Asia						
Myanmar		Asia						
Palau		Asia						
Papua New Guinea		Asia		1				
Saint Kitts and Nevis		Grulac	1	1				
Saint Lucia		Grulac	1	1		1		
Samoa		Asia		1				
Sao Tome and Principe		Africa				1		
Saudi Arabia		Asia					1	1
Singapore		Asia		1				
Somalia		Africa					1	
Swaziland		Africa		1				
Tonga		Asia		1				
Trinidad and Tobago		Grulac	1	1				
Tuvalu		Asia		1				
United Arab Emirates		Asia					1	1
Zimbabwe		Africa						
28	Total		7	15	0	5	3	6

(Italics indicate a suspended member)