

**INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**May 23 –Aug 2023**  
**To**  
**The Closing Session of the 94<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee**  
**By**  
**Rinchen Chopel**  
**Vice Chair and Rapporteur**

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This report covers the period from the end of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session to the beginning of the 94<sup>th</sup> Session of the CRC Committee. The Hon'ble Committee Members participated in numerous events, however in the interest of time I will be reporting only on one activity per member besides the updated information of the Working Groups covering the 94<sup>th</sup> Session as well.

**1. Activities of the Working Groups of the Committee.**

**1.1 Working Group on Working Methods**

**Coordinator - Luis Pedernera**

- **The WG adopted the adjustments to the structure of the dialogue order to improve the quality of the dialogue with the States;**
- **The WG also adopted the new process for adopting the topics of the General Observations;**
- **Luis Pedernera has now handed over the position of Coordinator to Bragi Gudbranson after serving 2 years in the position.**

**1.2 Working Group on Children's Rights and the Environment with special focus on climate change**

**Co-Coordinators: Philip Jaffe and Velina Todorova**

- **The Chair has already reported about the Launch of GC 26 and the tree plantation ceremony to mark the occasion.**
- **There was also an exciting debriefing and evaluation of the process of the GC 26 with the CAT and the members of the WG GC26 on 19 September**

**1.3 Focal Point--Media /Twitter**

**Co-coordinators: Philip Jaffe**

- **Since end of May 2023, @UNChildRights1 registered 330,000 impressions for its tweets (the previous comparable period was 120,000 impressions)**
- **@UNChild Rights1 has further added 1500 new followers and now stands at 6500.**

#### **1.4 WG Child Participation: Coordinator - Zara Ratou**

- **The WG is continuing its follow up work on strengthening the guidelines on child participation in the activities of the CRC Committee**

#### **1.5 Working Group on Emergencies: Coordinator – Rinchen Chopel**

- **The WG continues to take guidance from the Bureau in terms of situations of children in emergencies. The Coordinator with the Bureau had multiple interfaces with Ukraine authorities on the status of Ukrainian children in crisis**

#### **1.6 Working Group on Samoa Follow-up**

**Focal Point: Mikiko Otani**

- **The Working Group has now resolved all preparatory loopholes and is primed to make the mission in November 2023**

#### **1.7 Inter Parliamentary Union**

**Focal Point: Sophie Kiladze**

- **The coordination and exchange of information with IPU leadership is an ongoing process and currently discussions are at an advanced stage on the proposal for a possible convening of a Joint Workshop of CRC and IPU on child rights in November 2024.**

#### **1.8 Working Group on Inquiries**

**Coordinator: Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi**

#### **1.9 Working Group on UNICEF and SDGs**

**Coordinator : Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi**

- **The Working Groups held meetings to follow the progress of the work and make proposals to improve the accomplishment of their tasks**

### **2. Activities of Individual Members**

The Committee Members participated in various interessional activities at the national, regional and global levels. However, as agreed during the 93rd Session, particularly taking into consideration the time factor, it was agreed that henceforth members will report up to 3 activities of which the **most important one** from the perspective of the member will be part of the Rapporteurs report to the Closing Session.

#### **2.1 Ann Skeleton, Chair**

- **Attended the Meeting of the Chairs of Treaty Bodies in New York From 29 May to 2 June, in her capacity as the Chair of the Committee**

- 9 June: Presented at a UNICEF regional meeting for Eastern and Southern Africa.
- 14 Aug 2023 participated in the Opening Session of the 29th session of the CRPD Committee, and presented on child victims of sexual abuse and their testimonies in court proceedings.

## 2.2 Susan Aho

- **Participated in the discourse on Global perspectives on the sexual exploitation of boys, 27 June, organized by IPSCAN,**
- 06 June 2023 (09:30), Exchange Session on Food Safety and Quality, CERFAM
- 22 June 2023 (12:00), AfDB CSO Session on Confirmation of Children's Rights, AfDB (AFDBCSO)

## 2.3 Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi

- **Participated in a series of activities organized by the UNESCO, Paris, on the Revision of the 1974 recommendation for "education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education for human rights and fundamental freedoms", from May 30 - June 2**
- Seminar to facilitate sharing experiences among States on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, OHCHR, 23 June 2023, Palais des Nation. Geneva.
- Summer school on “Children and transitional justice”, from June 25 to July 2, 2023, in Saint-Etienne-de-Baigorry in the Basque Country, France.

## 2.4 Thuwayba Al Barwani

- **Participated in the virtual Experts Meeting on Statelessness and Children’s Right to Education organized by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, on 29<sup>th</sup> of June**

## 2.5 Mary Beloff

- **Delivered a Keynote Speech on the “Current trends in international human rights law on the protection of children's rights”, in the Conference of the National Network of Judges Committed to Children's Rights, Buenos Aires, Argentina, On August**
- Closing lecture, Training course for public defenders specialized in children, August 29, University of Chile.

## 2.6 Rosaria Correa

- **Participated in the Special Working Session on Access to Justice Towards Improving Access to Justice and Legal Remedies for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation – in the event titled “Most common gaps in implementation of existing legal frameworks”; organized by ECPAT International, on 31 May**
- 03 august 2023, webinar cycle recommendations of the committee on the rights of the child on. alternative care experiences in the region, Deinstitutionalization of child care. Family foster care and alternative family care through family foster care, as a concrete expression in public policies to guarantee the right to live as a family, The organizations that make up the convening HUB, a working group in which RELAF actively participates, are: Iin-Oas Lumos International, Maiden, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, RELAF, Latin American Family Fostering Network Latin American Network Of Protection Graduates
- 14 JULY 2023, Forum: Access to Justice and Protection of Children's Rights, Scope of State reporting mechanisms: Committee on the Rights of the Child, State Reports, Observations and Recommendations of States. General remarks, Instituto Superior de la Judicatura. Doctor Cesar Augusto Quintero Correa, Organo Judicial, Panamá.

## 2.7 Bragi Gudbrandsson

- **A presentation on the C´mte´s COBs on Sweden, at the conference organized by Unicef in the Swedish Parliament, Riksdagen, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, Stockholm**
- A speech at the inaugural event on the opening on the first Barnahus in Scotland, the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, Edinburgh

## 2.8 Benyam Dawil Mezmur

- **Presented at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights on the theme "Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food of children" on July 04**

## 2.9 Sophie Kiladzi

## 2.10 Philip Jaffe

- **Briefed online the 8th Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting of Child Rights Coalitions and Networks, Manila, Philippines on the General Comment 26 (GC26) on Children’s Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change (online) on August 24, 2023,**

- Jaffé, Ph.D. (June 15, 2023). The Right of the Child to Play: From Conception to Implementation. Conference “The Interdependence and Indivisibility of the UNCRC: Implementing and Understanding the Right to Play and the Convention”. Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, Oxford University, United Kingdom.
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### **2.11 Mikiko Otani**

- **Participated in the discourse on, Protecting Children in Armed Conflict, in Norway organized by ICRC, UNICEF and Save the Children, from 5-6 June**
- 22-23 June 2023, ASEAN Dialogue on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
- 20-23 August 2023, 8th Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting of Child Rights Coalitions and Networks, Child Rights Coalition Asia, Plan International, Save the Children, Sweden

### **2.12 Aissatou Moulaye**

- **Participated in the commemorative activities for the Day of the African Child on Community dialogue on street children and child begging, organized by the Ministry of Child Protection in June 2023,**

### **2.13 Luis Pedernera**

- **Undertook a mission to Cuba for follow-up support to the dialogue process with the State and implementation of observations in partnership with Gobierno Cuba/UNICEF, from 27 May to 1<sup>st</sup> June,**
- 9-13 July, Visited Peru to participate in meetings with authorities, social organizations, United Nations agencies, Ombudsman and children about the Camila case, UNICEF/Voces Ciudadanas,;
- 24-28 July, Visited Honduras to hold meetings with authorities, legislators, United Nations agencies and social organizations and the process of transformations included in the Children's Strategy, UNICEF/ MOVIMIENTO MUNDIAL /COIPRODEN

### **2.14 Faith Marshall**

- **Participated in the session on Child Rights Approach of the ICC Prosecutor Consultations in relation to Children’s Policy on July 12th,**

### **2.15 Velina Todorova**

- **Participated in the event marking the 60th anniversary of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) of the Council of Europe on Challenges to children's rights in the modern societies in Europe, on 30 May**

### **2.16 Benoit Van Keirsbilck**

- **Delivered a Key Note speech in a Regional Workshop on Best Practices against torture of children in Africa, on 30 Aug**
- 21/06/2023, Round Table, Presentation of the General Comment 26 on CR and environment with a special focus on Climate change

### **2.17 Zara Ratou**

- **Participated in the workshop to finalize the skills framework for the preschool education with the aim to improve the processes of educational interaction and supervision for which young children organised by UNESCO, from 20-23<sup>rd</sup> June**
- **From 10-16 June** Day of the African Child. The Day of the African Child was a day rich in choices and emotions for Chadian children in general and parliamentary children in particular organised by UNICEF
- 06 August - Validation workshop - I gave my contribution to the technical validation workshop of the Curriculum, teaching guide and preschool booklets in Yehouandé in Cameroon, UNESCO

### **2.18 Rinchen Chopel**

- **Finally, among others, between June and August 2023, I had series of meetings with Government of India and the SAIEVAC Mechanisms of South Asia on further reinforcing regional cooperation to accelerate the End Violence Against Children movement and strengthening child participation platforms in South Asia.**