



Image: Members of Youth Councils in Moldova, UNICEF 2006



United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child



Image: Fotógrafo "Héctor Hernán Vanegas-Medio Atrato, Chocó, Colombia, 2003

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, the body of independent experts responsible for reviewing progress made by States parties in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, decided during its fortieth session, to devote its annual Day of General Discussion (DGD) on the 15 of September 2006 to the subject "Speak, Participate and Decide- The Child's Right to be Heard".

The Committee stresses the importance of children's right to express their views in all matters affecting them, with those views being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. The Committee has identified this right (article 12) as one of the four general principles of Convention.

The Day of General Discussion aims to;

- explore the meaning of article 12; its linkages to the other articles and the implications of the article for child participation in all aspects of society;
- focus on identifying the gaps, certain good practices, and priority issues that need to be addressed in order to further the enjoyment of the right of the child to be heard and to have those views taken into account;
- promote child participation and opportunities at all levels in the home, school, community and wider society, as well in emergencies, conflict and post-conflict situations.

Day of General Discussion

"The Right of the Child to be Heard" 15 September 2006

As the theme of its 2006 Day of General Discussion has a wide scope, the Committee proposes that participants to this meeting be divided into two working groups based on the two following areas in order to focus discussions:

Group 1: The child's right to be heard in judicial and administrative proceedings

Group 2: Children as active participants in society

What is it?

A public day of discussion aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of the Convention as they relate to specific articles or topics. After the discussion the Committee adopts recommendations, taking into account the issues raised.

Who can participate?

The discussion day is a public meeting. Representatives of Governments, United Nations human rights mechanisms, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions as well as children and experts are welcome to take part.

When?

15 September 2006

Where?

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, 52 rue de Paquis, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact:

Email: CRCgeneraldiscussion@ohchr.org
Secretariat, Committee on the Rights of the Child,
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
For more information and registration form, please visit our website at:
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm>