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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sixty-first session  
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 48 (a) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/48.
2. As at 7 December 2004, the Convention on the Rights of the Child had received 140 signatures that were followed by ratification. In addition, 46 States had acceded to the Convention and 6 had succeeded to it, bringing the total number of ratifications and accessions to 192. An updated list of States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention and the dates of their signature, ratification or accession can be obtained at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).
3. As at 7 December 2004, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which entered into force on 12 February 2002, had been signed by 117 States and ratified by 88 States. As at the same date, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which entered into force on 18 January 2002, had been signed by 110 States and ratified by 88 States. An updated list of States that have signed or ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention and the dates of their signature or ratification can also be obtained at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).
4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its thirty-fifth session from 12 to 30 January 2004 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At that session the Committee considered reports submitted by nine States parties to the Convention. On 23 January, the Committee organized an informal consultation with States parties

in order to discuss possible improvements to the reporting process, including under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention, its proposal to work in two parallel chambers and other matters. The Committee adopted a report on its thirty-fifth session (CRC/C/137).

5. The Committee held its thirty-sixth session from 17 May to 4 June 2004 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. During that session, the Committee considered reports submitted by nine States parties to the Convention. The Committee adopted a report on the session (CRC/C/140).

6. The Committee held its thirty-seventh session from 13 September to 1 October 2004 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At that session, the Committee considered the reports submitted by seven States parties to the Convention. The Committee held a day of discussion on “Implementing child rights in early childhood” on 17 September 2004 and adopted a set of recommendations. The Committee further adopted a decision on “Children without parental care” requesting, inter alia, that the Commission on Human Rights consider establishing at its sixty-first session a working group to prepare a draft of United Nations guidelines for the protection and alternative care of children without parental care by 2008. During the same session, the Committee reaffirmed its decision taken during its thirty-fourth session to request the General Assembly to work in two parallel chambers for an initial period of two years. A revised PBI (Programme Budget Implications) was prepared by the Secretariat. The Committee adopted a report on the session (CRC/C/143).

7. Three meetings of the pre-sessional working group of the Committee were also organized in Geneva, from 2 to 6 February, 7 to 11 June and 4 to 8 October 2004 respectively.

8. The thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will be held from 10 to 28 January 2005 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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