



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session Third Committee

Agenda item 64 (b)

**Promotion and protection of human rights:
human rights questions, including alternative
approaches for improving the effective enjoyment
of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

**Andorra, Benin, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France,
Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Panama,
Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and
Uruguay: revised draft resolution**

Committee on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and its Optional Protocols,²

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³ and the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,⁴

1. *Notes*, while welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ a backlog of more than eighty reports exists related to the submission by States parties of their initial reports under the Optional Protocols in conformity with their obligations, and notes with concern that if this backlog is not addressed, it will impede the ability of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to consider reports in a timely manner, and in this regard takes note of the request of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to meet in parallel chambers to address this backlog in an effective and timely manner;

2. *Decides*, as an exceptional and temporary measure, to authorize the Committee to meet in parallel chambers, of nine members each, for ten working days of each of its four regular sessions and five working days of its pre-sessional

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

² *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

³ A/63/160.

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/63/41)*.



meeting weeks between October 2009 and January 2011, for the purposes of considering the reports of the States parties submitted under article 44 of the Convention, and articles 8 and 12 of its Optional Protocols, taking due account of equitable geographical distribution and the principal legal systems;

3. *Also decides* to assess the situation regarding the meeting time of the Committee at its sixty-fifth session on the basis of an evaluation made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account a more comprehensive approach towards the backlog of human rights treaty bodies and the increasing number of reports of States parties to the human rights conventions;

4. *Requests* the Committee to intensify its review of its working methods in order to enhance the efficiency and quality of its proceedings, with the aim of achieving timely consideration of reports submitted by States parties, and also requests the Committee to review and assess its progress in order to provide an update on this question in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session and inputs to the evaluation to be made by the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the wider context of treaty body reform.
