

## Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child

### Issue:

The Canadian position on the draft convention on the rights of the child.

### Background:

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959. At the 34th session of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR 34) in 1978, Poland submitted a draft convention on the rights of the child. A revised draft containing 28 articles was presented by Poland at UNGA 35 in 1980. Since 1981 an open-ended working group of the CHR, chaired by Poland, has considered and adopted substantive provisions for inclusion in the draft convention. This first reading of the text was completed at a special two week session of the working group in January-February 1988.

A second reading of the draft convention, involving textual changes of both a substantive and stylistic nature, the use of gender-neutral language and the reordering and renumbering of articles, was completed at another special two-week session in November-December 1988. The completed convention will be sent to the CHR for its consideration and adoption, following the adoption of the working group's final report during the first week of the CHR 45 session in January 1989. Following adoption by the CHR, the convention will be considered consecutively by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, with a view to its adoption by the UN in 1989, the 30th anniversary of the Declaration and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Child.

### Canadian Position:

Canada has strongly supported the adoption of a convention on the rights of the child and has participated actively in its drafting. Though committed to the target date of 1989 for the adoption of the convention, Canada was concerned that the adoption of an effective human rights instrument should be the ultimate objective.

At the recently concluded session of the working group, which considered the convention at second reading,