

SYNOPSIS OF CASE

Meeting of UN Working Group — November 23 to December 8, 1988

Event/Process	Synopsis of the Event
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in 1987, the UN Working Group on the Draft Convention accelerated finalization of Convention for 1989 to coincide with 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. • two working group meetings were scheduled for 1988; the January meeting concluded a first reading of the text, and the November meeting finalized the text for adoption by UN. • this case study examines the November meeting where DFAIT/JLO was leader of the Canadian delegation (Candel) to Geneva accompanied by federal Justice Department, Quebec and Ontario provincial governments.
DFAIT Objective	To reach a definitive text of the Convention before the end of the Working Group session in December 1988 as a means of enhancing the protection of children's rights internationally.
JLO value-added	<p>providing leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepared Canada's position paper for the UN Working Group with input from Justice and the F/P/T Continuing Committee; • provided leadership in decision-making regarding the Canadian position throughout negotiations at the UN on legal and foreign policy issues. <p>exerting influence on process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lobbied other States to build consensus for proposed amendments outside of the plenary to avoid lengthy debates; • chaired a meeting of Western Group countries before the formal Working Group to exchange views and gain consensus on key issues before formal meetings commenced. <p>building consensus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chaired draft groups on articles 28 and 29 (education) where Canadian proposals brought texts in line with other existing covenants; • chaired draft group and achieved consensus on Article 40 (juvenile justice) which was very controversial. • in articles 3 and 5, JLO successfully presented Canadian position and Canadian proposals adopted. <p>providing expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal expertise valuable in drafting legal text and analyzing implications for Canadian domestic law; • multilateral expertise helped Candel put forward proposals promoting consensus and protecting Canadian interests.
Management of the Event	<p>priority setting: finalizing the Convention was a clear foreign policy priority for Canada in 1988.</p> <p>resource allocation: JLO assigned a legal expert on human rights to drafting process (approximately 20% of his time); Canada's Permanent Mission to Geneva provided logistical support to Candel.</p> <p>planning: UN drafting process followed predictable schedule so planning and coordination smooth; objectives for Candel clearly formulated in Canadian position paper and understood by Candel; size and composition of Candel calculated to exert maximum influence during UN sessions.</p> <p>coordination with stakeholders: JLO provided advisory services to F/P/T Continuing Committee on Convention and implications for Canada; organized prep meetings of Candel to prepare strategy.</p> <p>decision-making: JLO perceived as providing leadership in developing negotiation strategies, providing legal expertise on implications for domestic law as well as knowledge of UN context.</p>
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFAIT objectives were achieved. • DFAIT's involvement was cost effective: there was limited resource investment, given the benefits accrued to Canada's international image; specialized expertise was provided which was geared to the needs of that particular context.