

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 at the 14th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 14) 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 and has since been considered by an open-ended working group of the CHR, which normally meets for one week prior to the latter's annual session. At CHR 43 in January 1987, the Working Group continued its first reading of the Draft Convention and its consideration of the substantive articles which have thus far been proposed.

The drafting of the Convention is nearing completion and the objective is to present the completed instrument to the UNGA in 1989, the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration and the 10th Anniversary of the UN Year of the Child. However, this will depend in large measure on how quickly the Working Group can deal with the remaining proposed articles and whether new proposals will be forthcoming. The Working Group must also deal with the important issue of the implementation mechanism for the Convention. In order to meet the 1989 goal, at its 42nd session the UNGA adopted a resolution providing for an extra week of Working Group meetings prior to the next session of the CHR.

Canadian Position

Canada supports the elaboration of a Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child and participates actively in the CHR Working Group. The development of the Canadian position on the issues relative to the Draft Convention has been facilitated by the existence of a federal-provincial-territorial working group, which has met for each of the past 5 years.

Canada supports the objective of completing the Draft Convention by 1989 and, to this end, co-sponsored the UNGA resolution providing for extra meetings of the Working

7

8

9

10

11