

## 1998/271. Rights of the child

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 30 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/76 of 22 April 1998,<sup>59</sup> endorsed the decisions of the Commission:

(a) With regard to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities from the United Nations regular budget for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, while noting the temporary support given by the Plan of Action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>51</sup> based on voluntary contributions, which provide human resources to assist the Committee with the increasing workload due to the near universalization of the Convention, and to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to brief Governments regularly on the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(b) With regard to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to renew her mandate for a further three years, to request the Secretary-General to provide her with all necessary assistance, and to urge all relevant parts of the United Nations system to provide her with comprehensive reporting to make the full discharge of her mandate possible and to enable her to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) With regard to the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to request the working group on the question of a draft optional protocol to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the next

session of the Commission on Human Rights and to redouble its efforts with the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention, and to that end to encourage the Chairman of the working group to conduct broad informal consultations;

(d) With regard to the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, to encourage the Chairman of the working group on the draft optional protocol to conduct broad informal consultations with the aim of promoting an early agreement on the optional protocol and to produce a report thereon by the end of 1998, including, if possible, recommendations and/or ideas on the best way for the formal negotiations to proceed; to request the working group to meet in early 1999, primarily to consider the report of the Chairman on the status of the informal consultations, which should be available well in advance, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session; to request the Secretary-General to give the necessary support to the working group to meet for a maximum of two weeks, if the working group decides that an agreement on the draft optional protocol is possible at that session; and to reaffirm the aim of finalizing the draft optional protocol by the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(e) With regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the impact of armed conflict on children, to recommend that the Secretary-General ensure that the necessary support is made available to him for the effective performance of his mandate, to encourage the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide him with support, and to call upon other institutions and States to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose.

<sup>52</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, 1996, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1996/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>51</sup> General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.