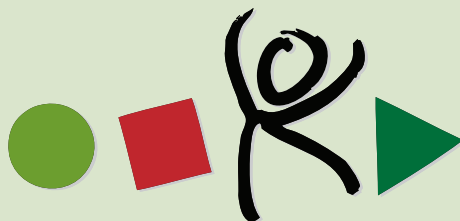


# Annual Report 2009



NGO Group for the Convention  
on the Rights of the Child

The NGO Group is a global network of 71 national and international NGOs committed to ensuring that all children fully enjoy their rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The NGO Group provides a coordinated platform for NGO action and plays a central role in key child rights developments at the international level.

The NGO Group works through its secretariat and thematic working groups to fulfil its mission to facilitate the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It advocates for and raises public awareness of the importance of the CRC. In addition, the NGO Group promotes the full implementation of the CRC through its work with national and international NGOs throughout the world.

It is governed by an Executive Committee, which is elected by the members of the network. The Executive Committee provides the strategic direction and supervises the work of the Secretariat and the working groups.

### **Objectives**

Through its Secretariat and its members, the NGO Group works to:

- Enhance the effective engagement of NGOs and other relevant partners in the CRC reporting process and other activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Mainstream child rights in relevant activities of other United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures.
- Promote the realisation of child rights at national level through the effective implementation of the recommendations and other outputs of the Committee and other relevant international human rights mechanisms.
- Pursue and support international advocacy on priority child rights issues through coordinated action with members and partners.

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Cover photograph: © 2006 Hesterki Range, Courtesy of Photoshare

Children examine fynbos seedlings at Flower Valley's Early Learning Center in the Cape Floristic Region of South Africa.

In Article 29, 1(e) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to the development of respect for the natural environment.



# Contents

Preface	ii
Introduction from the President	iii
1. Enhancing NGO engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child	1
2. Enabling effective NGO engagement with the broader UN human rights system	6
3. Twentieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	8
4. Child participation in monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child	10
5. Ensuring effective legal redress: Assisting NGOs to campaign for a new Optional Protocol to the CRC	12
6. Campaigns and activities of other thematic Working Groups	14
7. Tools and Publications	16
8. Organisational Development	17
9. Accounts and Funding	19
10. Organisational Structure and Governance	21
11. Membership of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child	22



## PREFACE

# 20 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child



On November 20, 2009, the world marked the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on how, in a single generation, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has inspired societal transformation for and with children, to help ensure that girls and boys can realize their rights. The Convention offers a vision of a world in which all children have the right to survive and develop, and are protected, respected and encouraged to participate in the decisions that affect them.

Throughout the world, civil society is working tirelessly towards the realization of child rights and monitoring implementation of the CRC by states. The NGO Group for the Convention of

the Rights of the Child plays a key role in supporting coalitions of non-governmental organizations and it has been instrumental in ensuring that children's voices are heard in reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This model, developed by the NGO Group, is now widely used as an example of best practice for other treaty bodies.

UNICEF's partnership with the NGO Group started in the 1980s during the drafting of the CRC – and it has only grown in strength. Since 1991, UNICEF and the NGO Group have been working closely together to help support the work of the Committee. Last year, we joined forces to support the Committee and its Secretariat in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the CRC.

Building on the impressive gains made in the past 20 years, UNICEF and the NGO Group will continue to work together and in broad collaboration with others to help make the vision of the CRC a reality – for each and every child.



**Ann M. Veneman**  
Executive Director, UNICEF



## Introduction from the President



Dear members  
and friends of the  
NGO Group

Serious, unacceptable violations and non-fulfillment of child rights continue to take place. Despite this, it is important that at times we take stock of our ac-

complishments and even celebrate our achievements in defending and realizing children's rights across the globe. This allows us to nurture our 'fighting spirit', and gain more energy to take on the challenges we face. The 20th birthday of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child gave us – the NGO Group and our members – a good opportunity to look more closely at our successes.

The NGO Group has played a key role in shaping today's child rights landscape. We helped to create the CRC, and have built an unparalleled capacity to implement it, through our members. No other international treaty body benefits from a network of NGOs and national coalitions, working together to defend and promote its rights. Concrete results include our significant support and strengthening of the reporting process; the establishment of a strong and collaborative relationship with successive Committee members; the influencing of international and national decision-makers and stakeholders on a vast array of child rights issues; and supporting the development of national NGO coalitions for children's rights. Since its establishment in the early 1990's, we have also worked closely with the Committee, helping strengthen their understanding of and working methods to engage effectively with NGOs.

I am glad to say that growing recognition of the value of our work led to increased financial support in 2009. This enabled us to support many NGOs to present their alternative reports in Geneva, and to employ two much needed staff members at the Secretariat. Yet there is still a great need to further improve our resource mobilization

and demonstrate to potential donors the importance of children's rights as well as our unique role. With more resources, we will for example be able to reach out and work more closely with our members – who increasingly are based in the South. A crucial challenge for the future is to ensure that the reporting does not end with a Committee session in Geneva and that we maximize the impact of the Committee's recommendations at national level.

In addition to our ongoing work, the NGO Group undertook three new projects in 2009. These were the 20th anniversary events, developing child participation guidelines, and advocacy for an optional protocol on a communications procedure. For the last of these, the NGO Group Secretariat, and individual member organizations have effectively worked together to raise awareness of the need for an optional protocol among relevant civil society organizations and government representatives. This work makes the adoption of the optional protocol much more likely, bringing into force an effective remedy to redress violations, and increasing the use of these treaties as legal instruments.

The challenges ahead appear almost insurmountable. Children's rights are still too often treated as a soft issue and despite being rights holders, children are generally prevented from making their voices heard. In launching its Strategic Plan 2010–2014, the NGO Group aims to strengthen its work, with an increased focus on the involvement of children, and the follow-up on the realization of children's rights at the national level. With profound gratitude to our partners, donors, members and secretariat, we hope you want to join us on that journey!

**Lennart Reinius**

President of the NGO Group for the  
Convention on the Rights of the Child



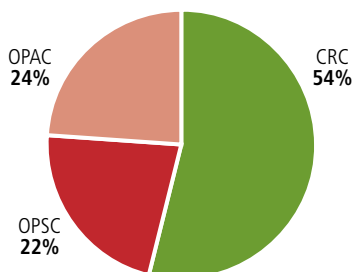


# 1. Enhancing NGO engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

## 1.1 Strengthening reporting by national NGOs

As a core area of work of the NGO Group, support was provided to national child rights NGOs and coalitions to provide their perspectives on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two Optional Protocols to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee). Through their alternative reports and discussions with the Committee during private pre-session meetings, NGOs assisted the Committee in better understanding the key priorities in each country and advised them on how best to approach sensitive issues with the States parties.

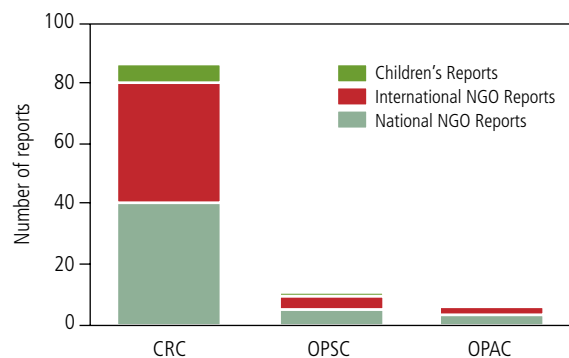
### Breakdown of reports examined by the Committee under each treaty in 2009



In 2009, the Committee examined 46 reports in its pre-sessions and/or sessions. The NGO Group identified and supported national NGOs and coalitions from 26 countries to submit alternative reports at pre-sessions taking place in 2009.<sup>1</sup> State party reports and/or have direct access to the Committee through participation in the pre-session. This included an increase in the number of reports from countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa; two regions that previously produced fewer NGO reports.

Support continued to be tailored to the needs of the child rights coalitions or NGOs – from supporting the submission of reports and organising their participation in the pre-session, to full ac-

### Total number of NGO reports examined in 2009



companiment of drafting efforts, financing and arranging travel to, and accommodation in, Geneva. For each country under examination, the NGO Group provided NGOs with guidance to maximise their impact by providing the most relevant information to the Committee.

The NGO Group facilitated the participation of 88 NGO representatives and children in the pre-sessions and/or children's meetings and 101 representatives in the sessions.<sup>2</sup> Although NGOs are only present as observers during the sessions, the NGO Group facilitated their interaction with the Committee to highlight the key priorities for its discussion with the State party. In addition to NGO representatives, twenty children attended the pre-sessions, sessions and/or their own meetings with the Committee to give their perspectives on the implementation of their rights. The children came from Bangladesh, El Salvador, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Sweden and Yemen.

<sup>1</sup> There can be more than one report per State party submitted at once, which is why there are more reports than countries being examined.

<sup>2</sup> Each country has a separate pre-session and session as part of the examination of the State party report and implementation of the CRC.

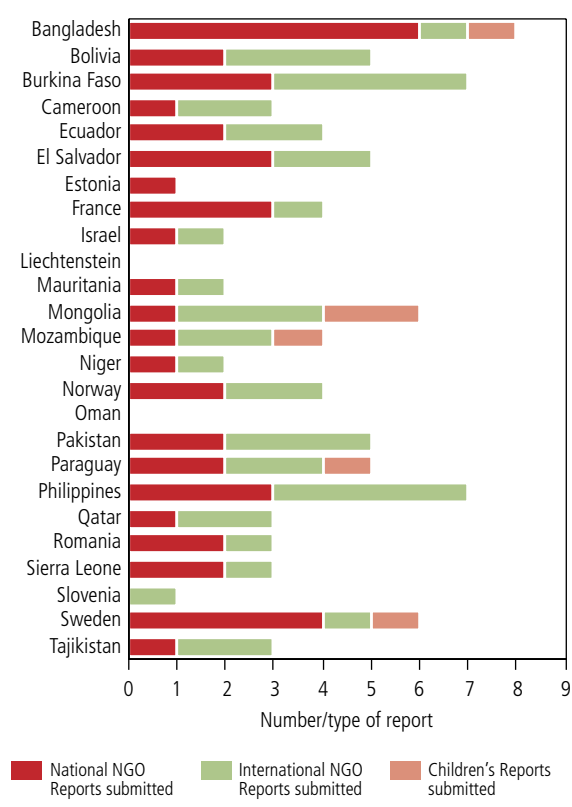
## Working in two chambers to reduce the backlog of reports

The NGO Group supported the Committee's request to the UN General Assembly in 2008 to work in two chambers in 2009 and 2010. With the move to two chambers confirmed, the NGO Group rose to the challenge and supported more NGOs to prepare reports and attend the pre-session. Starting with its 53rd pre-session in October, the Committee examined sixteen reports instead of the usual nine reports.

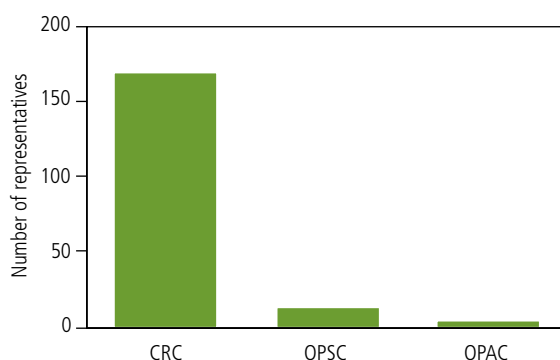
## Reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Pre-sessions – the private dialogue between non-governmental actors and Committee members – are one of the most intensive parts of the NGO Group's direct support to NGO reporting. To prepare NGOs for their three-hour pre-session, the NGO Group briefed each country delegation on the procedure of the meeting and how to maximise their impact. In 2009, the NGO Group provided technical assistance and logistical support to 80 NGO participants from Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Estonia, Israel, France, Mozambique, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Paraguay, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden and Tajikistan. It also covered travel and accom-

## NGO reports submitted at pre-session in 2009



## NGO representatives assisted in attending the pre-sessions and sessions



modation costs for 33 NGO representatives coming to Geneva.

As there is no formal process for Ombudspersons to engage in the work of the Committee, the NGO Group has increasingly been briefing and/or facilitating their participation in the pre-session. In 2009, the NGO Group took on this facilitation role for the Ombudspersons from France, Sweden and Norway.

## Reporting on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)

The Committee examined ten State party reports under the OPSC in its pre-sessions and/or sessions. The NGO Group provided technical assistance and logistical support to NGO representatives and four children on reporting to the Committee under the OPSC from the following countries: Ecuador, El Salvador, the Netherlands, Poland, Sierra Leone, Estonia and Yemen. Financial support was provided to civil society representatives to participate in the pre-sessions and sessions on the OPSC from the following countries: Ecuador, El Salvador, Poland, Estonia, Yemen and Sierra Leone.

## Reporting on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)

The NGO Group continued to guide NGOs in producing alternative reports on the OPAC regardless of whether or not there was a conflict in the country. Support was provided to national NGOs from Israel, Sierra Leone and Turkey. Financial support was provided to one representative per country.

In many countries, there is still a lack of awareness of the provisions of the OPAC. National NGOs rarely prepare alternative reports if there is no ongoing or recent conflict in the country. In order to mobilise national NGOs to report on the OPAC regardless of whether or not there is

a conflict, the NGO Group produced guidelines on reporting under the two optional protocols to explain the relevance of the provisions in times of peace (see the tools and publications section).

## 1.2 Working closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

While the NGO Group works closely with the Committee to support the reporting process and to advocate for new developments in child rights, 2009 saw new areas of collaboration between the two parties. The main activities and meetings with the Committee included:

- Supporting the Committee in developing its working methods: A working dinner was held in June between the Committee, its secretariat and the NGO Group's staff and Executive Committee. As four key priorities for the NGO Group, the topics of discussion were: the follow-up to concluding observations, guidelines for children and combined CRC and OP reports, general comments and days of general discussion, and the optional protocol on a communications mechanism.
- Collaborating with the Committee to promote the creation of a new Optional Protocol to the CRC for a communications procedure. Committee members attended meetings and side events to advocate the need for a communica-

### Developing ties with new Committee members

Following the elections in December 2008, six new Committee members began their mandate in May 2009. As it was the biggest turnover since the Committee membership was increased from 10 to 18 in 2003, the NGO Group was keen to develop close working relations with these new members. This included providing an induction for them on the alternative reporting process, pre-sessions and the role of the NGO Group in supporting their work.

Committee members newly appointed in 2009:

- Hadeel Al-Asmar (Syria)
- Peter Guran (Slovakia)
- Sanphasit Koompraphant (Thailand)
- Marta Maura Perez (Chile)
- Kamla Devi Varmah (Mauritius)
- Susana Villaran de la Puente (Peru)

tions procedure to improve the implementation of the CRC.

- Assisting the Committee in organising its event to mark the 20th anniversary of the CRC, as a member of the Steering Committee.
- Arranging meetings with the Committee, the Executive Committee of the NGO Group, children and NGOs who have participated in the reporting process to discuss how children could best participate in the reporting process.

## 1.3 Building the capacity of national child rights coalitions

In 2009, the NGO Group organised or contributed to a number of training programmes to strengthen the capacity of child rights practitioners to use the CRC and other international human rights instruments. The focus of the NGO Group's capacity building was two NGO Forums for national child rights NGOs attending the pre-sessions of the Committee, and participating in workshops and conferences run by other organisations.

### NGO Forums: providing a platform to share best practice

To strengthen the work of national child rights coalitions and provide information on opportunities to engage with other UN human rights mechanisms, the NGO Group organised NGO forums during the 51st and 52nd pre-sessions. These meetings provided a platform for national coalitions to exchange best practice and understand how other networks resolve similar challenges.

Twenty-five NGO representatives attended the NGO forums in February and June 2009 from the following countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, France, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Turkey. Each coalition presented its best practices, challenges and lessons learnt in preparing alternative reports, involving children in the reporting process and following-up the Committee's concluding observations. As the NGO Group was leading the campaign for a communications procedure for the CRC, these forums also provided an opportunity to discuss existing complaints mechanisms at national level and assess how an international procedure could be used by children and their representatives.

As many NGO representatives are not familiar with the broader UN human rights system, the forums also provide an opportunity to learn about mainstreaming child rights in other treaty bodies, UN special procedure mandate holders and the HRC's Universal Periodic Review. These forums also help the NGO Group in understanding the



NGO Forum at the 52nd Pre-session, 16 June 2009.

support national NGOs need to adapt the information they collected for the CRC reporting for other treaty bodies and the UPR.

### Building child rights knowledge in civil society

The NGO Group participated in training activities and events in Geneva, Stockholm and Paris. In March, it briefed 35 NGO representatives from Sweden on how to use the CRC and mainstream child rights into the broader UN human rights mechanisms. Additionally, it organised a seminar for 16 graduate students in Children and Youth Studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. Coming from fourteen countries, many participants had worked in NGOs in their home countries.

As part of the International Service for Human Rights' Advanced Geneva Training Course, the NGO Group presented the existing communications procedures in the UN treaty bodies and the campaign for a communication procedure for the CRC. The course was attended by human rights defenders from 25 countries. As these courses target professionals working in different areas of human rights, it provided the NGO Group with an opportunity to reach out to human rights NGOs.

To mark the beginning of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union (EU), there was an EU NGO Forum on Human Rights that focused on the theme of Violence against Children (July 2009). In addition to attending the Forum, the NGO Group gave a presentation to NGO representatives from the Dominican Republic, Finland, Sweden, Thailand, Ethiopia, Norway, Uganda and Kenya on the CRC monitoring process, civil society reporting and the support provided by the NGO Group. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The NGO Group also co-organised a panel for a debate with Human Rights Watch and the Open Society Institute entitled: *Forced Labor and Child Labor in Central Asia: The Way Forward and the Role of the International Community*. Finally, as

part of an event organised by Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) and the Université Panthéon-Assas to mark the 20th anniversary of the CRC (Paris, October 2009), the NGO Group presented an overview of the impact of the Convention and the role of the NGO Group during this period.

## 1.4 Implementing the new General Comments

In 2009, the Committee adopted the much anticipated General Comment 11 on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Youth and General Comment 12 on the Right of the Child to Express Views and be Heard. In addition, the NGO Group followed the discussions of initiatives for two general comments, one on article 3 on the best interests of the child, and one on article 19 on violence against children.

### General Comment 11 – Indigenous Children

During its 50th session, the Committee adopted its 11th General Comment on Indigenous children and their rights under the Convention. This General Comment, drafted in close collaboration with the NGO Group's Working Group on Indigenous Children, provides States parties, relevant NGOs and UN bodies with guidance on the interpretation of the Convention with respect to Indigenous children's rights.

The Working Group also continued contributing to the protection of Indigenous children's rights by preparing and disseminating information bulletins to Working Group members and by organising a side event at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York (May 2009). This side event provided participants with the opportunity to discuss whether there should be a global process to promote the General Comment and to monitor its implementation by the States parties. In order to discuss a strategy to follow-up the General Comment in more detail, the participants agreed to hold a meeting in future.

### General Comment 12 – the Right to Express Views and be Heard

At its 51st session in June, the Committee adopted General Comment 12 on the Right of the Child to Express Views and be Heard. Having closely followed the elaboration of the General Comment, the NGO Group ensured its rapid dissemination to its member organizations as well as the broader child rights community through CRIN.

The General Comment was timely. It not only coincided with the 20th anniversary of the CRC,

but also the increasingly active role of children in the work of the Committee. This includes participation in reporting on their rights, in Days of General Discussion and in some of its most recent General Comments. In line with this General Comment, the NGO Group sought ways to maximise the effective participation of children in the CRC reporting process, alongside NGOs and the Committee. In December, the NGO Group attended a

round table discussion organized by the European Youth Forum and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN to discuss the follow up to General Comment 12. This provided an opportunity for representatives from youth and children's civil society organisations, Member States, UNICEF and NGOs to exchange information on initiatives to follow-up the General Comment.



## 2. Enabling effective NGO engagement with the broader UN human rights system

The NGO Group continued developing its mainstreaming initiatives on child rights. The Secretariat, together with the Working Group on the Human Rights Council (WG-HRC), contributed to discussions on the harmonisation of treaty body working methods and increasing its engagement with the Human Rights Council (HRC). Additionally the NGO Group participated in a consultative coordination workshop organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to look at ways of improving cooperation with its Special Rapporteurs (SRs). These included the SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the SR on trafficking, especially women and children, and the SR on contemporary forms of slavery.

### Harmonising treaty body working methods

As in 2008, two Inter-Committee meetings were held to move the harmonisation of treaty body working methods forwards. To provide consolidated NGO input into these meetings, the NGO Group continued preparing joint papers and statements with a group of 16 human rights NGOs.<sup>1</sup> These papers and statements drew from the best practices of all the treaty bodies and provided recommendations on every agenda item of the meetings. This not only provided the NGO Group with the opportunity to share the best practices of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, especially in relation to interaction with civil society, but also to learn from the other treaty bodies.

Having obtained speaking slots under every agenda item during the 9th meeting (June–July), the group of NGOs made timely and relevant recommendations. The latter covered general harmonisation issues, including cross-referencing the work of other treaty bodies and follow-up proce-

dures to concluding observations and UPR mechanisms. In addition, drawing from the experiences of the NGOs that form the group, recommendations were made on NGO participation in the treaty body process, communications procedure, inquiry procedures and general comments.

With its focus on follow-up to concluding observations and communications procedures as well as the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, the 10th Inter-Committee Meeting (November–December) marked an important move towards discussions on more specific areas of harmonisation. As the Committee on the Rights of the Child is one of the only treaty bodies with no follow-up procedure, the NGO Group made a statement supporting the development of a procedure to follow-up priority recommendations and formalising the ad-hoc practice of country rapporteur visits to guide states in implementing the recommendations. In addition, the NGO Group encouraged the review of concluding observations to make them more specific, detailed and time-bound.

### Making child rights visible at the Human Rights Council

Held on 11th March, the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child provided a new opportunity to mainstream child rights in the Human Rights Council (HRC). Having suggested the theme for the Annual Day and the thematic resolution on the 'Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto', the NGO Group's Working Group on the Human Rights Council (WG-HRC) contributed to the planning of the day and ensured the participation of NGOs as panellists in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Alan Kikuchi-White of the NGO Group Executive Committee made a presentation on behalf of the network during the morning panel. He focused on child rights being more visible in the UPR process, consulting with civil society and children in reporting and following-up recommendations, and calling for the discussion of the annual day

<sup>1</sup> The NGOs first started working together to learn from the best practices of different treaty bodies and coordinate their work around the harmonisation of treaty bodies working methods in November 2007.

to be officially reported for the records of the HRC. In order to bring the perspective of national NGOs at the HRC, the NGO Group supported the participation of Dr. Jorge Freyre from the regional Latin American network REDLAMYC to provide an analysis of the implementation of child rights in the region since 1989. He shared the findings from a regional study on the implementation of the CRC, and highlighted the progress made in the national judicial framework and the challenges to making children's rights a reality in the region.

During the annual day, the WG-HRC made a joint statement on behalf of 11 members to raise the duty of the Council and its mechanisms to contribute to the full enjoyment of children's rights. The WG-HRC also organised a side event where it presented the main observations and recommendations from its assessment of the first sessions of the UPR with regard to the integration of child rights.

2009 saw the HRC adopt its first ever *thematic* child rights resolution (on the same theme as the

annual day). To maximise the impact of this, the WG-HRC lobbied for certain key issues to appear in the resolution both before and during the March session. Working Group members did this through formal and informal meetings with relevant permanent missions in Geneva.

### **Encouraging National NGOs to participate in the Universal Periodic Review**

The NGO Group supported national child rights NGOs to engage in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, as a complementary advocacy tool to promote the rights of the child and enable their implementation at national level. The NGO Group assisted national NGOs to send formal submissions for the review and to lobby on behalf of these national NGOs. As a result, NGOs from DPRK and Albania sent submissions on the 6th session of UPR, while NGOs from Bolivia, El Salvador and Iraq made submissions for the 7th session.



### 3. Twentieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The NGO Group co-organised the two principal events marking the 20th anniversary of the CRC in Geneva. The first was the Committee on the Rights of the Child's official event that took place on 8 and 9 October. The second was the conference co-organised with Save the Children, UNICEF, OHCHR and CRIN entitled 'Convention on the Rights of the Child: From Moral Imperatives to Legal Obligations – In search of effective remedies for child rights violations', held on 12 and 13 November.

#### **Celebrating the 20th anniversary with the Committee**

##### **Representing an NGO perspective in the steering committee and the event**

Due to its longstanding and close collaboration, the Committee formally invited the NGO Group to be a member of the steering committee to organise its 20th anniversary event entitled 'Dignity, Development and Dialogue'. In addition to the Committee, the other members of the steering committee included States parties, UNICEF and OHCHR.

The NGO Group played a key role in developing, promoting and helping to organise the event. To coordinate NGO input into the event, the NGO Group created a task force amongst those member organisations wanting to contribute to the event. This task force – co-convened by the Secretary of the NGO Group's Executive Committee and the Coordinator – met regularly to coordinate NGO input into the planning of the event. The co-convenors liaised between the steering committee and the task force, incorporating NGO expertise and recommendations into the production of the event.

The task force not only provided input to the concept paper and the programme, it also proposed names for panellists, contributed to other relevant documents, organised child participation, assisted with interpretation, and prepared press releases as well as the three side events.

Members of the task force divided the work between them, for instance Plan International and

World Vision successfully coordinated child participation in the event. Children and youth reporters from over a dozen countries attended the event.

In addition, the NGO Group informed its members and national NGOs about the event, by sending information through the CRINMAILS on registration and providing written submissions.

In an opening statement on behalf of NGOs, the Vice-President of the NGO Group Peter Newell spoke about the achievements of the past 20 years. Also noting that "children's rights advocacy is still in its infancy", he emphasised that for child rights to become a reality, "we need to equip ourselves now for a decade of insistence that the CRC is a legal instrument, bestowing legal obligations on states which must be enforceable by children and their representatives."

In her presentation to the conference, CRC Committee chair Dr. Yanghee Lee spoke of the important role of child participation, to "ensure that their voices and views and those of their peers are heard and considered in our discussions".

##### **National NGO representatives attending the event**

The NGO Group provided financial and logistical support to enable fourteen participants representing national child rights NGOs from seven countries, who were attending the 53rd pre-session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to participate in the event. Through their participation, they had the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders working in child rights and share their experiences with people from all over the world. These NGO representatives came from Cameroon, El Salvador, Mongolia, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Ecuador.

The event brought together an estimated 700 participants from more than 60 states and 130 NGOs. States parties, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN experts, UN bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, international and national NGOs, children's and youth groups and academics participated in the event.

## CRC Committee Chair thanks the NGO Group for its work

In her opening speech, the Chair of the Committee, Dr. Lee, mentioned the NGO Group and spoke of "...our particular gratitude to the network of fiercely committed non-governmental organizations, supported by the NGO Group for the Convention...since the beginning, they have played a key role in implementation of the Convention by monitoring measures already in place, and speaking out where action has yet to be taken".



PHOTO: YOUTH REPORTER AT THE CRC

A youth participant presents at the Committee on the Rights of the Child's event marking the 20th Anniversary of the CRC.

## Coordinating the side events

The three side events included one entitled 'Looking towards the future: creating an international remedy for child rights violations'. It was hosted by the NGO Group and the Core Group of States that supported the initiative for a communications procedure under the CRC. Experts from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, the NGO Group and the Commissioner for Children's Rights from Cyprus explained the importance of having an OP and responded to questions on the issue. The other side events were book launches organised by the African Child Policy Forum and the World Vision Children's Council from Lebanon.

## International Conference: 'From Moral Imperatives to Legal Obligations'

To encourage child rights NGOs to use the CRC as a legal instrument, Save the Children, the NGO Group for the CRC, UNICEF, OHCHR, and CRIN co-organised an international conference to mark

the 20th anniversary of the CRC. The NGO Group was represented by a member of the Executive Committee and the Coordinator in the organising committee.

Over 120 participants from more than 60 countries attended the conference. The vast majority of them were from national child rights coalitions which have previously reported to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, so they had extensive experience in advocating for child rights. Other participants included members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, other NGOs, UN agencies, key donor States and private foundations.

To provide participants with an overview of how the CRC has been used as a legal instrument, the conference included plenary sessions on the Legal Status of the CRC. These sessions covered how to use national, regional and international systems to address violations of child rights, and provided an introduction to strategic litigation and the added value of using the CRC as a legal instrument to complement existing strategies. The Vice-President of the NGO Group presented on 'The need for a Complaints Procedure under the CRC' during one of the plenary sessions. These sessions were interspersed by working groups<sup>1</sup> at which delegates, grouped geographically, discussed the practical use of the CRC in their regions to provide effective remedies in response to violations and share their experiences in how to overcome difficulties and maximise the use of often limited resources.

In his closing speech to the Conference, NGO Group Executive Committee member Alan Kikuchi-White spoke of how NGOs "must ... take matters of violations, accountability, and redress into our own hands as defenders of children's rights". This call crystallised the sense in delegates that child rights was entering a new era, with legal redress being a tool that could increasingly be used to reinforce existing elements such as reporting, lobbying and advocacy.



<sup>1</sup> The Coordinator and Advocacy Office of the NGO Group moderated the working groups on Africa and Asia respectively.

## 4. Child participation in monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In recent years, children have taken an increasingly active role in the reporting process for the CRC. While the participation of children in monitoring the CRC is an essential element in strengthening and safeguarding their rights, it does not happen in many countries, and when it does happen, the quality of input varies. The effective and meaningful participation of children also requires an appropriate and more formal space within the work of the Committee. In the best but rare examples, children contribute their views to State party reports and NGO reports, submit their own evidence to the Committee, attend meetings with the Committee in Geneva, and in some cases in their countries. In addition, they take action at national level to follow-up the Committee's concluding observations.



**Children meet the Committee to discuss ways to improve their participation.**

In 2009, the NGO Group embarked upon a programme of work to maximise children's participation in the reporting process for the CRC. In order to determine how best to support children and NGOs to enhance the experiences of children and extend the impact of their involvement at national and international level, different methods were used to obtain the views of the main stakeholders: children, NGOs who support them and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Coinciding not only with the 20th anniversary of the CRC but also with the publication of the Committee's General Comment on Article 12,

this programme of work offered an opportunity to move forward the debate on children's participation in international human rights monitoring and to start to institutionalise the participation of children in the reporting process.

### **Creating a diverse advisory group of children and NGOs**

The methodology included developing a briefing paper for the Committee on the Rights of the Child on evaluations of children's participation in the reporting process. This paper was presented to the Committee in January to get their views on child participation in reporting.

To understand how children were involved in reporting in different parts of the world, children and NGOs who had participated in the reporting process using different approaches, and coming from all regions formed a project advisory group. Children, young people<sup>1</sup> and NGO representatives from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Kenya, Moldova, Peru and Wales formed the advisory group.

### **Developing questionnaires to get the views and experiences of children and NGOs**

The advisory group met twice: first in London, in April, and then in Geneva, in September. At its first meeting, the advisory group developed a questionnaire to be sent to all children who had previously been involved in reporting as well as a questionnaire for NGOs who had supported these children in reporting. These questionnaires were sent to all children and NGOs who had taken part in reporting or meeting with the Committee. Thirty-seven children and young people aged between 10 and 22, who had been involved in the CRC reporting process, completed the questionnaire. The respondents were from Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Kenya, Latvia, Moldova, Mozam-

<sup>1</sup> In some cases, the people who had participated in the reporting process as children were young adults. However, given their experience they were still part of the team.

bique, Peru, Uganda, and the United Kingdom. In addition, 26 NGOs from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, England, Hong Kong, Kenya, Latvia, Moldova, Mozambique, the Netherlands (four NGOs), Netherlands Antilles, Paraguay, Peru (three NGOs), Scotland, the South American region, Sweden, Uganda, Uruguay and Wales took part in the survey. The outcome of these surveys was presented in a research report on the experiences of children and NGOs. It also considered several ways in which the Committee's working practices could be developed to enable children to participate more easily and fully in CRC reporting.

### **Children meet the Committee to share their views on child participation in reporting**

Following the publication of the research report, the advisory group met in Geneva (September 2009) to discuss ways to maximise child participation in the reporting process with the Committee. During the meeting, the children, the Committee and NGOs shared their expectations in relation to child participation. Based on their experiences and the research, the children made some recommendations to the Committee on how to interact with children during the pre-session and children's meeting, rapporteur visits and how to strengthen concluding observations to reflect the need for child participation at national level.



**Children and NGO delegates meet the Committee on the Rights of the Child.**

### **Drafting guidelines for children and NGOs**

Following the meeting with the Committee, the advisory group discussed the content of the guidelines for children as well as parallel ones for NGOs and the Committee to enhance child participation in reporting. These documents were drafted<sup>1</sup> during the autumn and circulated to the advisory group and other child participation experts for comments. Feedback incorporated into the finalised guidelines included case studies of best practice to provide children with practical examples of child participation in the reporting process. The completed guidelines will be disseminated in 2010.

<sup>1</sup> The Child Rights Alliance for England was hired as a consultant to lead the drafting process.



## 5. Ensuring effective legal redress: Assisting NGOs to campaign for a new Optional Protocol to the CRC

The NGO Group's Working Group for a Communications Procedure decided to take advantage of the 20th anniversary of the CRC to build momentum for the campaign for a new Optional Protocol to the CRC for a communications procedure.

### Raising awareness and mobilising support for the OP at the HRC

As a core objective in 2009, the Working Group wanted to get cross-regional support from States to adopt an HRC resolution to start the drafting process of the new Protocol. To achieve this, the Working Group's strategy involved raising awareness and mobilising support from UN Member States as well as NGOs and UN experts both in

#### Maximising the use of other opportunities to strengthen the international campaign

In addition to mobilising support at the HRC, the NGO Group took advantage of other events and opportunities to inform relevant stakeholders about the campaign and how they could get involved. To ensure the involvement of national organisations, a 'Questions & Answers' document with all the main questions raised by States and the Advocacy Toolkit and a Briefing Pack was circulated through member organisations and CRIN to the broader child rights community.

In addition to these tools, the Working Group engaged in awareness raising and capacity building activities by presenting the campaign during human rights training sessions and at other forums. These included training sessions in Geneva, held by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the NGO Forums, the NGO Group's General Assembly, teleconferences with NGOs based in Japan, Mongolia and South Korea, and by responding to individual requests from national NGOs interested in the campaign.

Geneva and at national level. In preparation for the March session of the HRC, the Working Group developed core documents for an advocacy toolkit. Further details on this can be found in Section 7, Tools and Publications.

To begin discussions about a communications procedure in advance of the March session, the two convenors of the Working Group participated as panellists in a meeting hosted by Slovenia (January 2009) entitled "*Towards a communications procedure for the Convention on the Rights of the Child?*" Following the meeting, the Working Group sent letters to UN Missions and Ministries of Foreign Affairs requesting their support and providing key arguments for developing a communications procedure. The Working Group also used the opportunity of the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child to submit and deliver written and oral statements.

### Intensifying advocacy in Geneva

As support was growing amongst States, the Working Group decided to employ a consultant in Geneva to coordinate and pursue the advocacy. In collaboration with the Secretariat of the NGO Group, members of the Working Group raised funds and successfully recruited an Advocacy Officer in March 2009. As the campaign gained momentum, the Advocacy Officer became a staff member of the NGO Group in October.

Having an Advocacy Officer to follow-up at the UN level on a daily basis proved to be a successful strategy. She became the face of the campaign for States' missions in Geneva, which facilitated lobbying and follow-up activities and made her the focal point for national organisations and petitioners.

### Gaining support for a resolution on the OP

Thanks to the coordination of efforts at both national and international levels, a 'core group of friendly States', which backed the idea of propos-

ing an Optional Protocol to the HRC, was formed. These States presented a resolution launching this initiative at the HRC's June session.

To mobilise support for such a resolution, the Working Group was involved in the preparation of an expert meeting (Geneva, May 2009) to respond to the questions and concerns of States with regard to this new instrument. Panellists included the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Head of the OHCHR Petitions Unit and Sara Austin, convenor of the NGO Group Working Group. Government representatives from over 50 States attended the meeting.

After intense lobbying efforts by NGOs at the UN and at capital level, the HRC adopted a resolution by consensus to establish an "Open-ended Working Group" (OEWG) to discuss the possibility of elaborating a new communications procedure for the CRC during a five-day session.

### Contributing to the Open-Ended Working Group

In preparation for the OEWG, the NGO Group organised a side event on the new OP during the Committee's 20th anniversary celebration (October 2009) for States to discuss further the issue and hear from experts who were present for the event. In addition, letters were sent to States' missions to discuss issues to be debated during the OEWG. Members of the Working Group and Secretariat met bilaterally with many State representatives both in Geneva and in capitals to address their concerns and muster their support.

A joint NGO written submission was sent to the OHCHR as a contribution to the OEWG. In addition, support was also provided to facilitate the inclusion of a children's statement in the process.



PHOTO: ANITA GOH, NGO GROUP

**States parties debate the merits of a new Optional Protocol at the Open Ended Working Group meeting.**

In December 2009, Peter Newell, one of the convenors of the NGO Group Working Group on the OP participated in the OEWG as one of its experts and was able to directly address questions raised by States. The Working Group also delivered joint oral statements for each of the OEWG's agenda items and provided daily updates of the session through CRIN. The OEWG was a great opportunity to hear the official support of States, provide them with the opportunity to note their main concerns and consult the experts present. The OEWG highlighted that there was strong support in principle for the OP and provided a good basis for the next steps towards the drafting process.



## 6. Campaigns and activities of other thematic Working Groups

Joint actions to advance specific child rights issues within the UN human rights system were conducted throughout 2009 by NGO Group member organisations acting together in Working Groups. In addition to the Working Group activities related to the HRC, the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and General Comment 11 on Indigenous children (mentioned earlier in this report), other Working Groups carried out the following activities:

### Working Group on Children without Parental Care

Five years after the establishment of the Working Group, its primary goal of developing international standards for the alternative care of children was achieved. The Working Group actively assisted the Brazilian Government, the Group of Friends (i.e. States supporting the process) and international expert Nigel Cantwell in the nine open-ended consultations in Geneva to fine tune the draft 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children'. Following these consultations, the Human Rights Council (June 2009) adopted by consensus a procedural resolution submitting the Guidelines to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York for consideration with a view to their adoption.

Lobbying of several governments continued in New York and a resolution 'welcoming' the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' was adopted by UNGA on 20 November 2009. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Working Group held a strategic planning meeting to discuss the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines on a global level in 2010 and 2011.

### Working Group on Violence against Children

Having lobbied the office of the UN Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative (SRS) on Violence against Children, the Work-

ing Group welcomed the appointment of Marta Santos Pais in May. The focus of the Working Group in 2009 was to ensure that the SRS had the necessary resources to fulfil her mandate as well as to develop strong working relations with her. The Working Group therefore lobbied for sustainable and diverse funding for the SRS's office; the composition of the office (i.e. including staff members to liaise with NGOs and to ensure meaningful child participation) as well as for specific methods of work. The latter included working with existing institutions, NGOs, governments and children, meeting children and NGOs during country visits, and working closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and relevant special procedures mandate holders. Members of the Working Group met with Marta Santos Pais on a regular basis to see how best to work with her during her mandate. The Working Group also shared information and coordinated its work with the NGO Advisory Council for follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children.

To help increase the visibility of the SRS, the Working Group put her name forward for different panels and supported the presentation of her annual report to the HRC by organising a side event and promoting the content of the report in joint NGO statements.

### Working Group on Juvenile Justice

Having been actively involved in the drafting of the General Comment on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice, the Working Group on Juvenile Justice looked at ways to follow-up with the promotion and implementation of this General Comment. In the spring of 2009, the convenors of the Working Group launched a consultation with the national child rights coalitions that the NGO Group worked with for the reporting process. The aim of this consultation was to find better ways to include their expectations and voices in advocacy activities carried out at international level.

## Working Group against the Sexual Exploitation of Children

During the 12th session of the Human Rights Council, the Working Group met to review the outcomes and discuss its plans to support the implementation of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and the Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. These were a product of the World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (Rio de Janeiro, November 2008).

As the review envisioned by the Congress would take place in 2013, the Working Group planned its activities around this target date. The Working Group's strategy included close coordination with the office of the new SRSG on Violence against Children, providing information to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography for her

2009 annual report on online child pornography and following the work of other relevant special procedure mandate holders. During a seminar with these mandate holders, members of the Working Group met with the Special Rapporteur on sale of children to propose their support for her country visits and put her in contact with relevant national NGOs.

Members of the Working Group also participated in the *Dynamic Coalition*, a grouping chaired by ECPAT to ensure that child protection issues related to information and communication technologies were addressed in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). To mark the 20th anniversary of the CRC, Working Group members supported regional events and encouraged NGOs to lobby for a practical anniversary gift to children: to ratify or remove all reservations to the CRC and its Optional Protocols.



## 7. Tools and Publications

In 2009, the NGO Group developed new tools for reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, advocacy documents for the campaign for an Optional Protocol to establish a communications procedure for the CRC, and prepared monitoring reports on the work of the Committee.

### Advocacy Toolkit for the new Optional Protocol

As part of its work to secure an Optional Protocol (OP) for a communications procedure, the NGO Group developed an advocacy toolkit, including a draft Optional Protocol and commentary explaining the rationale behind each provision, an advocacy leaflet and a paper on children's use of existing regional and international procedures. The toolkit brought together several key UN documents, as well as arguments in favour of an OP and answers to likely concerns of States parties. The toolkit was distributed to national and international NGOs as well as to petitioners in favour of the OP, to encourage and support them in lobbying their governments to support the drafting of a new Optional Protocol.

### Guide to Reporting under OPAC and OPSC

Ever since the Committee on the Rights of the Child began examining reports on the two Optional Protocols to the CRC in 2005, it has been developing its interpretation of the provisions of the OPSC and OPAC. As the NGO Group had been supporting national NGOs to report on both these treaties, it had developed initial guidelines on the OPSC (2005); included information on the Optional Protocols in its third edition of its guide for NGOs to report to the Committee,<sup>1</sup> and prepared lists of issues raised by the Committee under each Optional Protocol.

With the revised guidelines of the Committee for States parties for OPSC (2006) and OPAC

(2007), as well as the evolving practices in reporting on the Optional Protocols for follow-up reports, the NGO Group developed a new guide for NGOs to report under both these treaties. This guide will enable NGOs to prepare comprehensive reports on both the Optional Protocols and to understand how to incorporate information in the CRC periodic reports. The guidelines included an overview of the reporting procedure for the Optional Protocols, and a substantive analysis of the provisions of the Optional Protocols as well as information on preparing a written submission and getting the most out of the pre-session with the Committee.

### Guidelines for child participation in the reporting process

To ensure effective and meaningful child participation in the reporting process for the CRC, the NGO Group carried out a project to draft guidelines for children to report on the CRC, and for NGOs to best support children to do this. The guidelines will be printed and disseminated in 2010. Further information on this project can be found in the section entitled 'Child Participation in the Convention on the Rights of the Child'.

### Monitoring the work of the Committee

The NGO Group Secretariat produced and disseminated country reports for each State party report examined during the 50th, 51st and 52nd sessions of the Committee. Twenty-nine reports were sent to NGOs from the concerned countries as well as to the broader child rights community through CRIN-MAILS. In addition, analytical session reports were produced for the three sessions, covering a wide range of issues related to the work of the Committee, the dialogue held between the Committee and the State party delegations, and concluding observations issued by other UN human rights mechanisms in relation to children. These reports were shared with the members of the NGO Group and the broader child rights community.

<sup>1</sup> A guide for Non-Governmental Organizations reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child



## 8. Organisational Development

### Strategic Plan for 2010–2014

Developed in consultation with the members through a questionnaire, an invitation for comments on the first draft, as well as a discussion during the General Assembly, the strategic plan 2010–2014 was adopted during the General Assembly in June.

The strategic plan provides a framework within which annual work plans can be developed, setting out the specific activities and responsibilities of the various bodies within the structure of the NGO Group.

The NGO Group has identified four strategic priorities that build on its accomplishments and aim to strengthen its role as a collective global voice for child rights. These are:

1. Enhance the effective engagement of NGOs and other relevant partners in the CRC reporting process and other activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
2. Mainstream child rights in relevant activities of other United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures.
3. Promote the realization of child rights at national level through the effective implementation of the recommendations and other outputs of the Committee and other relevant international human rights mechanisms.
4. Pursue and support international advocacy on priority child rights issues through coordinated action with members and partners.

### Developing the Secretariat

Additional funding enabled the NGO Group to enhance its capacity to carry out its core activities in relation to the reporting process and mainstreaming child rights as well as coordinating NGO inputs in events to mark the 20th anniversary of

the CRC. The Secretariat also began a new area of work in cooperation with the Working Group on a Communications Procedure. The recruitment of the Advocacy Officer for the OP, and the Fundraising and Advocacy Officer strengthened the ability of the NGO Group to act in these vital areas.

### Governance and Network

#### New appointments to the Executive Committee

Two new Executive Committee members were elected in 2009. Ms. Ivanka Shalapatova, of the International Foster Care Organisation, who was co-opted in 2008, was elected in 2009. Also elected at the General Assembly was Ms. Anne-Sophie Lois, of Plan International (also appointed as Secretary).

#### Strengthening engagement with its members

The NGO Group was delighted to welcome five new members in 2009; DevCon, the International Institute for Child Rights and Development, the National Coalition for the Implementation of the CRC in Germany, RELAF, and War Child Holland.

As part of the development of the new strategic plan, the NGO Group Secretariat contacted all of its members to identify key priorities and ways in which communications and joint action could be strengthened. The strength of the NGO Group lies in the membership bringing their expertise together to work on child rights issues that are better tackled together, and a number of valuable suggestions were received for action. For those organisations where no activity within the NGO Group had taken place, membership fees were not paid, and where attempts to make contact had been unsuccessful for several years, the NGO Group contacted them to find out if they wanted to become more active members of the network. For those who no longer wanted to be members, their membership was terminated.

## Looking ahead

The NGO Group enters the new decade in a strong position and with clear objectives. 2010 will be the first year of developing activities to implement its new strategic plan. It is looking forward to playing its role in strengthening and safeguarding child rights. The activities supporting NGOs and children to engage with the Committee will grow in 2010, as will the work to mainstream child rights in the broader UN human rights system and to secure an Optional Protocol for a communications procedure. The NGO Group will work to strengthen and diversify its funding in a sustainable way, and will continue to assist child rights NGOs and coalitions improve their effectiveness in monitoring and implementing child rights. With the doubling of the workload in relation to the two chambers of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the NGO Group will continue providing the Committee the same level of support for the extra reports that it will be examining.



## 9. Accounts and Funding

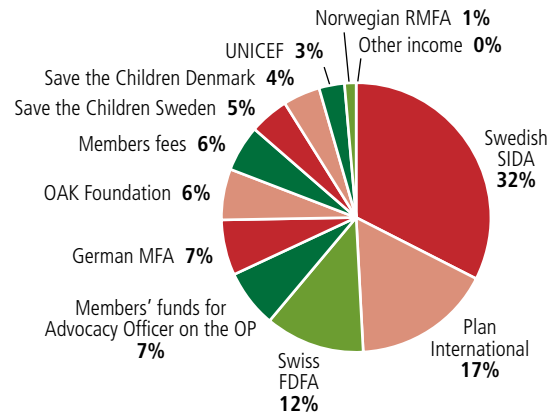
Thanks to the kind support of its donors, the NGO Group was able to expand its programmatic activities in 2009, as well as strengthen its fundraising capacity. Our key funding partners were the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OAK Foundation, Plan International, Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Sweden, the Swedish International Development Agency, and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

Specific event funding in relation to the 20th Anniversary of the CRC was also kindly provided by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and UNICEF.

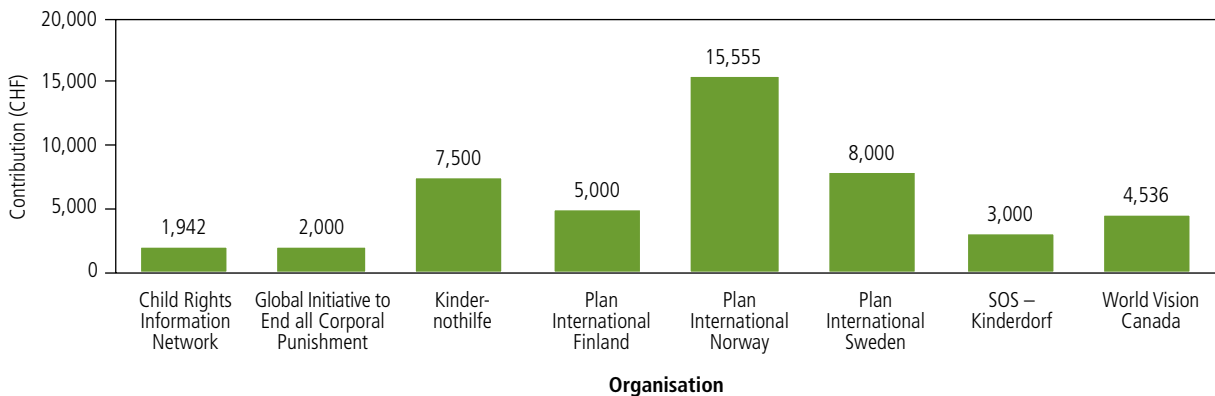
In addition, several members of the NGO Group provided generous support enabling the Secretariat to recruit the Advocacy Officer for the Optional Protocol for a Communications Procedure. These members were the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN), the Global Initiative to end all Corporal Punishment, Kindernothilfe, Plan International Finland, Plan International Norway, Plan International Sweden, SOS Kinderdorf, and World Vision Canada.

The NGO Group is grateful to all its donors for their continued support of its work.

### NGO Group 2009 Total Income



### Funding for Advocacy Coordinator on the OP in 2009 from Working Group for the CRC Optional Protocol



## 2009 Expenditures of the NGO Group

	Swiss FDFA	Swedish SIDA	German MFA	Norwegian RMFA	OAK Foundation	Plan International	Save the Children Sweden	Save the Children Denmark	UNICEF	Members' funds for Advocacy Officer	Members' fees	Other income	Own Funds/NGO Group Reserve	TOTAL	
Activities														490,163	88%
NGO participation in CRC/ OPs reporting and training	37,483	37,483	9,461		8,429									92,856	
Twentieth anniversary of CRC event				9,061					19,988		253			29,302	
Child Participation in CRC reporting	5,000	20,154	13,000				10,366							48,520	
Campaign for OP on Communications Procedure										42,102				42,102	
Personnel & social charges	16,436	63,362			26,345	56,000	20,851	30,180			15,813	630	39,164	268,781	
Guidelines on OPSC & OPAC					6,650									6,650	
Annual Report		1,952												1,952	
Core costs														64,410	12%
Rent & office operational costs	13,400	13,399												26,799	
Account services & programme	4,623	4,622												9,244	
Auditor											3,943			3,943	
Fundraising services											4,400			4,400	
ExCo, GA & Working Group meetings & activities											13,191			13,191	
Website maintenance		716												716	
Computer equipment & maintenance	3,058	3,059												6,117	
<i>Total expenditure per donor in 2009</i>	<i>80,000</i>	<i>144,748</i>	<i>22,461</i>	<i>9,061</i>	<i>41,424</i>	<i>56,000</i>	<i>31,217</i>	<i>30,180</i>	<i>19,988</i>	<i>42,102</i>	<i>37,600</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>39,164</i>	<i>554,574</i>	
<i>Total donor income for 2009</i>	<i>80,000</i>	<i>144,748</i>	<i>22,461</i>	<i>9,061</i>	<i>41,424</i>	<i>56,000</i>	<i>31,217</i>	<i>30,180</i>	<i>19,988</i>	<i>42,102</i>	<i>37,600</i>	<i>630</i>		<i>515,411</i>	
Income earmarked for 2010		73,918	22,454			57,646				5,431				159,449	
<b>TOTAL DONOR INCOME</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>218,666</b>	<b>44,915</b>	<b>9,061</b>	<b>41,424</b>	<b>113,646</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>30,180</b>	<b>19,988</b>	<b>47,533</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>630</b>		<b>674,860</b>	



## 10. Organisational Structure and Governance

The most senior organ of the NGO Group is the General Assembly, which meets annually, and is comprised of the member organisations of the NGO Group.

The Executive Committee, accountable to the General Assembly, provides strategic support, guidance, and oversight of the work of the NGO Group and Secretariat. The latter is responsible for carrying out the daily work of the network, especially in relation to reporting on the CRC and its Optional Protocols and mainstreaming child rights.

To advance child rights within the international human rights system, NGO Group members come together in thematic Working Groups to work on a particular child rights theme or issue.

In 2009, the Secretariat and Executive Committee consisted of:

### Secretariat Staff

Lisa Myers – Coordinator  
Shushan Khachyan – Child Rights Officer  
Muriel Dreifuss Bisson – Administrative Officer  
Anita Goh – Advocacy Officer (from October 2009)  
Tim Fieldsend – Fundraising and Advocacy Officer (from November 2009)

### Short term staff and freelance consultants

Daphne Martin-Gnanadason (December 2008 to June 2009 – interim Administrative Officer)  
Anita Goh (from March to September 2009)  
Laura Theytaz Bergman  
Samantha Dimmock  
Alain Gross

### Fundraising and accounting consultants

Michael Anthony  
Sabine Casenave

### Interns

Cindy Helfer  
Enkeleda Papa  
Alissa Petee

Abigail Shaw  
Sanaz Sheikholeslamzadeh  
Lisa Ventura

### Executive Committee

Mr. Lennart Reinius – President  
*Save the Children Sweden*

Mr. Peter Newell – Vice-President  
*Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children*

Mr. Alan Kikuchi-White – Treasurer  
*SOS-Kinderdorf*

Ms. Anne-Sophie Lois – Secretary  
*Plan International*

Ms. Ivanka Shalapatova  
*International Foster Care Organisation*

Ms. Veronica Yates  
*Child Rights Information Network*

### Outgoing members of the Executive Committee

The NGO Group would like to thank the following people for their commitment and work as members of the Executive Committee over the years:

Ms. Agneta Ucko  
*Arigatou Foundation*

Ms. Britta Oström  
*Save the Children*

Ms. Cécile Trochu Grasso  
*Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture*

### Working Groups of the NGO Group

Children without Parental Care  
Communications Procedure  
Human Rights Council  
Indigenous Children  
Juvenile Justice  
Sexual Exploitation of Children  
Violence against Children



## 11. Membership of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. 3D Three → Trade, Human Rights, Equitable Economy
2. Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA)
3. African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)
4. Anti-Slavery International
5. Arigatou International
6. Associated Country Women of the World
7. Association of Networks for Community Empowerment (ANCE)
8. Baha'i International Community
9. Child Helpline International
10. Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
11. Child Rights Network Switzerland (Netzwerk Kinderrechte Schweiz)
12. Children's Rights Alliance – Ireland
13. Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE)
14. Christian Children's Fund Inc
15. Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International (CATW)
16. Consortium for Street Children
17. Defence for Children International (DCI)
18. DevCon – An association for Rural Development
19. Education International
20. End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT International)
21. European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH)
22. EveryChild
23. Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE International)
24. First Nations Child and Family Caring society of Canada (FNCFS)
25. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Quaker UN Office)
26. Fundación Privada Intervida
27. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
28. Human Rights Watch
29. Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women
30. International Alliance of Women
31. International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM/AIMJF)
32. International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN / GIFA)
33. International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)
34. International Council of Jewish Women
35. International Council of Women
36. International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
37. International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)
38. International Inner Wheel
39. International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)
40. International Movement "ATD Fourth World"
41. International Play Association: Promoting the Child's Right to Play
42. International School Psychology Association (ISPA)
43. International Social Service
44. La Voix de l'Enfant
45. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

46. National Aboriginal Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
47. National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany
48. Penal Reform International (PRI) National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
49. Plan International
50. Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia
51. Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento (RELAF)
52. Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN)
53. ROC (The "Right of the Child" NGO)
54. Roshni Homes Trust
55. Save the Children Alliance
56. Soroptomist International
57. SOS-Kinderdorf International
58. Terre des Hommes International Federation
59. WAO – Afrique
60. War Child Holland
61. Werkstatt Ökonomie
62. Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)
63. World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)
64. World Alliance of YMCAs
65. World Association Of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
66. World Jewish Congress
67. World Movement of Mothers / Le Mouvement Mondial des Mères (WMM/MMM)
68. World Organisation Against Torture / SOS Torture
69. World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
70. World Vision International
71. Young Men's Christian association of Costa Rica / Asociacion Cristiana de Jovenes



The NGO Group for the CRC is grateful to the following donors for their support in 2009:

### **Governments**

Germany  
Norway  
Sweden  
Switzerland

### **Foundations**

The OAK Foundation

### **United Nations Bodies**

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### **NGO Group Members and OP Working Group Members**

Child Rights Information Network  
Global Initiative to end all Corporal Punishment  
Kindernothilfe  
Plan International Finland  
Plan International Norway  
Plan International Sweden  
Save the Children Denmark  
Save the Children Sweden  
SOS-Kinderdorf  
World Vision Canada  
Memberships (51)

### **Participation in production and editing of this report**

Tim Fieldsend  
Lisa Myers

### **Concept and design**

minimum graphics

### **Printing**

Imprimerie Minute

The NGO Group envisions a world in which children's rights, as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are universally recognised and realised. With your support, we can help make this happen.

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**If you would like to find out more about how you can be a part of this vision, please contact:**

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