



**Expert consultation:  
Optional Protocol to provide a communications procedure for the  
Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Geneva – Switzerland, 21-22 June 2010

Palais des Nations Room VIII

***Agenda***

Monday 21 June

09:00- 9:30 Security & Registration

09.30-10.00 **Opening remarks**

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Mr. Wilder Tayler**, Secretary-General, International  
Commission of Jurists

**Ms. Yanghee Lee**, Chairperson of the Committee on the  
Rights of the Child

**Mr. Drahoslav Stefanek**, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the  
Open-Ended Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the  
Convention on the Rights of the Child

10.00 – 11.00

**Session 1: Who can submit a communication? Discussion on Standing (*ratione personae*), including competency (legal capacity) and representation; and possibility for collective complaints. With input from regional and domestic perspectives.**

Chairperson: **Ms. Yanghee Lee/Mr. Jean Zermatten**

Speakers:

**Dr. Ann Skelton**, Director, Children’s Litigation Project, Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa

**Mr. Peter Newell**, International children’s rights advocate, Coordinator of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

**Ms. Sevda Clark**, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights

**Mr. Christian Courtis**, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

11.00 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.15 – 13.00

Expert Discussion on issues arising in Session 1

13:00-15:00:

Lunch

15:00 -16:00:

**Session 2: Scope of the communication procedure and admissibility, including First and Second optional protocols; *ratione temporis*; exhaustion of domestic remedies, reservations; perspective from drafting of the OP to CESC.R.**

Chairperson: **Ms. Yanghee Lee/Mr. Jean Zermatten**

Speakers:

**Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque**, UN Independent Expert on the rights to Water and Sanitation, former Chairperson of the open-ended Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Discussion

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:00 **Mr. Karl Hanson**, Associate Professor of Public Law,  
Children's Rights Unit, Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch,  
Sion Switzerland

**Ms. Anita Goh**, NGO Group for the Convention on the  
Rights of the Child

Discussion

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## Tuesday 22 June

10:00 – 11:00 **Session 3: Consideration of Communications:  
Protection measures, including withholding of identity of  
communicant; material to be considered, including from  
third parties; open or closed sessions and possibility of oral  
testimony; timeline to ensure speedy adjudication.**

Chair: **Ms. Yanghee Lee/Mr. Jean Zermatten**

Speakers:

**Ms. Elisabeth Palm**, former Member of the UN Human  
Rights Committee and Judge at the European Court of  
Human Rights

**Professor Ariel Dulitzky**, Director, Human Rights Clinic,  
University of Texas Law School

**Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro**, Vice-President and  
rapporteur on Children at the Inter-American Commission  
on Human Rights

11.00 – 11.30 Discussion on issues arising under session 3

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:00 Discussion session 3 continued

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14.30 – 15:30

**Session 4: Other elements, including interim measures, inquiry procedure, friendly settlements, follow-up and national bodies, international cooperation.**

Chairperson: **Ms. Yanghee Lee/Mr. Jean Zermatten**

Speakers:

**Ms. Jane Connors** Chief, Special Procedures Branch,  
OHCHR

**Ms. Leda Koursoumba**, Children’s Commissioner, Cyprus,  
Chairperson of European Network of Ombudspersons for  
Children (ENOC) Working Group on International Justice

**Ms. Vanessa Sedletzki**, Child Rights Officer, UNICEF  
Innocenti Research Centre at Florence

**Dr. Ian Seiderman**, Senior Legal and Policy Adviser,  
International Commission of Jurists

15:30-16:15: Discussion

16:15-16:30: **Concluding Remarks**