



Landmarks for Child Rights

Includes key milestones in relation to the UN and CRC Committee's work, child participation and Child Rights Connect (Formerly the Ad Hoc NGO Group and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child until 2013)

1959

[Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#)

1979

[International Year of the Child](#) to provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and to promote recognition that programs for children should be a fundamental part of economic and social development plans

Working Group on a draft convention on the rights of the child established by the Commission on Human Rights, open to all members of the UN, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with consultative status, following a proposal submitted by the government of Poland

1983

Formation of the Ad Hoc NGO Group with over twenty NGOs to better influence the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Group would meet to analyze the articles of the Convention and submit changes or the inclusion of new articles to the Working Group. The Ad Hoc NGO Group became the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and Child Rights Connect in 2013

1985

[UN Standard Minimum Rules of the Administration of Juvenile Justice \(The Beijing Rules\)](#) which set the minimum conditions for the treatment of children who are in conflict with the law and emphasize that imprisonment should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest time possible

1989

[UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), the most comprehensive document on the rights of children, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and opened for signature on 20 November, recognizing for the first time children as rights holders in an international treaty. The Convention entered into force in 1990

1990

[African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#) adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union), entered into force in 1999

[World Summit for Children](#) with 27 measurable goals set in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children

[UN Rules for Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty](#) reaffirming the Beijing Rules and emphasizing that imprisonment of juveniles should be a last resort and for the shortest possible amount of time

[UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency \(Riyadh Guidelines\)](#) focused on the prevention of juvenile delinquency as well as protection measures for children who are at risk

1991

[First election of 10 members of the CRC Committee by States Parties](#), who adopted guidelines regarding the form and content of initial reports at its first session

[Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#) appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of adoption of children for commercial purposes

1992

[UN Conference on Environment and Development \(Rio Conference\)](#) which adopted Agenda 21, a wide-ranging blueprint for action to achieve sustainable development, and required that children's interests be taken into account

[First General Day of Discussion of the CRC Committee](#) dedicated to children in armed conflict, followed-up by a preliminary draft of an optional protocol to the Convention which would raise the age of recruitment into the armed forces to 18

First State Party reports and first written comments by NGOs submitted to the CRC Committee for Sweden and Bolivia

First regional meeting of national child rights coalitions held in Lima, Peru to strengthen the child rights movement and focused on monitoring the CRC at national level, followed by Western Europe

1993

[First examination by the CRC Committee of the State party reports and first concluding observations](#) for Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Russian Federation, Sudan, Sweden, Viet Nam

[Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption](#) by the Hague Conference on Private International Law, which protects children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad, and reinforces Article 21 of the CRC as it seeks to ensure that inter-country adoptions are made in the best of interests of the child

[World Conference on Human Rights](#) with unprecedented participation of governments and NGOs, and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for strengthening human rights work around the world. The declaration included a section on the rights of the child, which called for the universal ratification of the CRC Convention and supported the proposal that the Secretary General initiate a study on the protection of children in armed conflicts

First participation of NGOs in the pre-sessional working group meeting in order to present information on the situation of children in their country, to assist the CRC Committee to set priorities and identify key issues for discussion with the government

1994

[First comprehensive alternative report submitted to the CRC Committee](#) by the national coalition the Child Rights Development Unit to inform the consideration of the initial report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which took place in January 1995

[UNHCR Guidelines on Protection and Care on Refugee Children](#) for UNHCR's staff and partners on refugee children that combined the concept of children's rights with UNHCR's efforts to protect and assist refugee children

1996

[Guidelines regarding the form and contents of periodic reports adopted by the CRC Committee](#)

[Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children by the appointed expert Ms. Graca Machel](#), which described the impact of armed conflict on children and included a number of concrete recommendations for the protection of children in armed conflict

First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children convened in Stockholm, with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders including governments, NGOs, and children. It adopted the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action, tools for mobilizing and monitoring action to protect children from sexual exploitation

1997

[Creation of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and appointment of Mr. Olara Otunnu](#) as the first Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, mandated to promote the protection, rights and welfare of children at every phase of conflict

[International Conference on Child Labor](#) in Oslo during which a global agenda for eliminating the worst forms of hazardous and exploitative employment of children was adopted and a global strategy for eliminating the most intolerable or extreme forms of child labor was proposed

1998

First presentation to the CRC Committee by children delivered by a group of Japanese students during an open meeting (including the media) during the lunch break

[Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor \(ILO 182\)](#) adopted by the General Conference for the International Labor Organisation, which defines which situations should be classified as the worst forms of child labor and specifies what governments must do to prohibit and eliminate them

1999

Child participation during pre-sessional working group meeting on India, one on Mali and the Netherlands

[Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour](#)

2000

[Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography \(OPSC\)](#) which sets out specific acts that must be criminalized within the areas of sale of children for purposes of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs, forced labor, or adoption, as well as child prostitution and child pornography. Entered into Force in 2002

[Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict \(OPAC\)](#) which strengthens article 38 of the CRC by raising the minimum age of direct participation in hostilities from 15 to 18 and prohibiting anyone under 18 from being compulsorily recruited into the armed forces. Entered into Force in 2002

[Millennium Summit and Declaration](#) which contained values, principles and objectives for the international agenda for the twenty-first century, and set out eight goals to be achieved by 2015 including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and reducing child mortality

2002

First children's reports submitted on Belgium and the United Kingdom

[UN General Assembly Special Session on Children](#) convened to review progress since the 1990 World Summit for Children. The General Assembly adopted World Fit for Children which outlined four key priorities; promoting healthy lives, providing quality education for all, protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence and combatting HIV/AIDS

2003

The first session with 18 members in the CRC Committee

2006

[UN Study on Violence against Children by the appointment of the expert Mr. Paulo Pinheiro](#) the first comprehensive global study conducted on all forms of violence against children, provided a global picture of violence against children and proposed recommendations to prevent and respond to this issue

2007

[Machel Study 10-Year Strategic Review – the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children](#) reviewed the current situation faced by children in armed conflict including the impact of the changing nature of conflict, also highlighted priorities and the responses required for the next decade. A more in-depth publication, Children and Conflict in a Changing World was released in 2009

2008

[Special Representative on Violence against Children](#) established to promote the elimination of all forms of violence against children in all regions, promote and support the implementation of the recommendations of the study on violence, and identify and share good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children

[UNHCR Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child](#) released after two years of field-testing. The Guidelines provided a formal mechanism to determine the best interests of the child as part of a comprehensive child protection system

2009

[First annual full-day meeting on the Rights of the Child at the Human Rights Council](#) to discuss, negotiate and adopt a resolution about the specific theme or children's rights in general (an Omnibus Resolution)

[Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#) intended to enhance the implementation of the CRC regarding the protection and wellbeing of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of being so

[General Comment on the right of the child to be heard](#)

2010

[Establishment of a working group for an optional protocol on a communication procedure](#) by the Human Rights Council and following a proposal for a draft optional protocol from the government of Slovakia

2011

[Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure \(OPIC\)](#) which allows children to submit complaints regarding violations of their rights and provides for an inquiry procedure for grave or systematic violation of child rights. Entered into force in 2014 first ratified by the States of Gabon and Thailand in 2012

2013

CRC Committee was the first treaty body to conduct the examination of a State party report via [video](#) for Tuvalu, 64th session

The NGO group became [Child Rights Connect](#) at the occasion of its 30th anniversary

2014

[Working methods on child participation in the reporting process of the CRC Committee](#)

[First joint General Comment in the Treaty Body System CRC-CEDAW](#)

2016

[First UN live webcast of a session](#), during the CRC 73rd session

[Implementation of the Simplified Reporting Procedure by the CRC Committee](#)

2018

First collaboration of the CRC Committee with a [Children's Advisory Team to organize its DGD](#), composed of 21 children from all around the world

[Day of General Discussion on protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders](#) with unprecedented child participation and the adoption of [Working methods for the participation of children in the days of general discussion of the CRC Committee](#)

[First Adopted Views on individual communication against Denmark](#) during the 77th Session

[Report on first Inquiry Procedure against Chile](#)

2019

[UNICEF-Child Rights Connect official child-friendly version of the CRC Convention](#)

[OPSC implementation guidelines](#) focusing on the implementation