

All except 12 of the parties also adhered to Protocol II (on protection of victims of non-international conflicts). Two States—France and the Philippines—adhered only to Protocol II.

Sub-Commission action. On 31 August, the Sub-Commission recommended(4) that the Commission on Human Rights adopt a resolution calling on Governments to give particular attention to educating members of the police and armed forces in the international law of human rights and humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, including, *inter alia*, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two 1977 Additional Protocols, and requesting them to submit information on the scope of such education.

Rights of the child

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The open-ended working group on a draft convention on the rights of the child met from 21 to 23 February 1989(5) and adopted the draft convention at the second reading.

On 8 March, the Commission on Human Rights decided(6) to adopt the draft convention(7) as submitted by the working group and to transmit it to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

By an 11 April note,(8) the Secretariat transmitted to the Council general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee on 5 April concerning provisions of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(9) relating to the rights of the child (see also above, under "Civil and political rights"). The Committee was of the view that, in so far as article 24 of the Covenant recognized the right of every child to receive the protection required by his or her status as a minor, its implementation entailed the adoption of special measures to protect children, in addition to those required for the protection of the rights of all persons. The Committee pointed out that some other provisions of the Covenant expressly indicated that minors should be afforded greater protection than adults.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 May, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of its Second Committee, adopted resolution 1989/79 without vote.

Question of a convention on the rights of the child
The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions on the question of a convention on the rights of the child, in particular resolution 43/112 of 8 December 1988, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to submit a draft convention on the rights of the child, through the Council, to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

Expressing its appreciation to the Commission for having concluded the elaboration of a draft convention on the rights of the child,

Decides to submit the draft convention on the rights of the child and the report of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, with a view to the adoption of the draft convention.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/79

24	May	1989	Meeting	16	Adopted	without	vote
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Approved by Second Committee (E/1989/88) without vote, 19 May (meeting 22); draft by Commission on Human Rights (E/1989/20); agenda item 9.

By a 16 October note,(10) the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the draft convention to the Assembly.

Sub-Commission action. On 1 September, the Sub-Commission expressed(11) concern that the current formulation of article 21 of the draft convention, concerning adoption of children, was open to differing interpretations, and the belief that the article should be revised to preclude the use of adoption as a source of profit. It also expressed deep concern at the participation of children in military training and hostilities in some countries, and recognized that no effort should be spared to prevent the militarization of children, as stipulated in article 38. The Secretary-General was requested to bring the Sub-Commission's resolution to the attention of the General Assembly and to submit to the Sub-Commission in 1990 a report on the adoption of children for commercial purposes and on their recruitment into armed forces and their participation in hostilities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 November, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 44/25 without vote.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, especially resolutions 33/166 of 20 December 1978 and 43/112 of 8 December 1988, and those of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council related to the question of a convention on the rights of the child,

Taking note, in particular, of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/57 of 8 March 1989, by which the Commission decided to transmit the draft convention on the rights of the child, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/79 of 24 May 1989,

Reaffirming that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social conditions, natural disasters, armed con-