

The reporting process for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



- 1.** The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international human rights treaty (agreement) that gives children and young people all over the world over 40 major rights. Every country that ratifies (agrees to follow) the Convention must make sure all its laws and rules that affect children and young people respect and protect their rights.
- 2.** The UN Committee for the Rights of the Child meets three times each year, for three weeks at a time, to examine how well different countries are putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice.
- 3.** First, a government sends the UN Committee a detailed report saying how it protects children's human rights. This happens every five years. If the UN Committee has examined a government before, this report must say what action it has taken on the recommendations the UN Committee made in its last examination.
- 4.** The UN Committee then holds a meeting called a pre-sessional working group. This is a private meeting that allows human rights organisations, Children's Commissioners, and children and young people to give their views on how well their government protects children's rights.
- 5.** The UN Committee then sends the government it is examining a list of things that it wants to know more about. The government has to answer this in writing. This is known as the Committee's "list of issues".
- 6.** Once a government has answered these questions, representatives will travel to Geneva for a formal examination by the UN Committee. This is a public meeting, which charities and children and young people are allowed to watch. At this meeting, the government's representatives will be asked questions about their country's children's rights record.
- 7.** After this meeting, the members of the UN Committee make a series of recommendations to the government they have examined, setting out where the government must do more to protect children's human rights. These are called the Committee's concluding observations.
- 8.** By agreeing to follow the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a government agrees to do everything it can to put children's human rights into practice. This includes taking action on all the Committee's recommendations.