

# Side Events for 8 and 9 October 2009 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the CRC

Centre International de Conférences Genève

## 8 October 2009

**Looking towards the future: creating an international remedy for child rights violations  
The need for a communications procedure under the CRC**

**1.30pm to 3pm, Room 21/22**

**Hosted by:** The NGO Group and the Core Group of States supporting the initiative

**Introductory statements by** Prof. Yanghee Lee, Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Peter Newell, Representative of the NGO Group for the CRC and a representative of the Core Group of States.

**Moderator:** Peter Newell

**Speakers:** Ms. Najat M'jid Maalla, Special Rapporteur on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Ms. Susana Villarán de la Puente, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and former member of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights

Dr. Leda Koursoumba, Commissioner for Children's rights, Cyprus and Chair of ENOC's Working Group on access to international justice

Since 2008, the NGO Group has actively worked to raise awareness and mobilise support for the establishment of a communications procedure under the CRC to provide an international remedy for child rights violations. In June 2009, thanks to the initiative of a cross-regional core group of States (the Core Group), a resolution establishing an Open-ended Working Group to discuss the possibility of elaborating such communications procedure was adopted by the Human Rights Council.

The NGO Group for the CRC and the Core Group welcome the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention to hold a discussion about the need for a communications procedure under the CRC, notably drawing from experiences from Special Procedures, the European system and the Inter-American system.

**Light snacks will be available outside the meeting room.**

Interpretation into French and Spanish to be confirmed.

## 9 October 2009

### BOOK LAUNCH

**Child Poverty: African and International Perspectives**

**1pm, Room 3**

**Hosted by:** African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Moderator:** Prof. Yanghee Lee, Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and Member, ACPF Board of Trustees

**Speakers:** Prof. Jaap Doek, Former Chair, UN Committee, Member, ACPF Board of Trustees

David Mugawe (Deputy Director, ACPF)

Stefan van der Swaluw (Director, Regional Office International Child Support Africa)

Representative of Plan International (TBC)

The African Child Policy Forum is an independent Pan-African policy advocacy centre based in Ethiopia. It focuses on putting children first on the public and political agenda to bring about lasting social and economic progress in Africa. Its new book, *Child Poverty: African and International Perspectives*, being released on 9 October, presents findings and observations from some of the world's leading experts on child rights, poverty and development. The book covers both industrialised and developing countries and includes what we know, what works and what needs to be done, and by whom. The side event will illustrate examples of success in combating child poverty and share conclusions on the role that economic growth does or does not play in guaranteeing an improvement in the well-being of children.

**Light snacks will be available outside the meeting room.**

Interpretation into French and Spanish to be confirmed.

Interprétation vers le français et l'espagnol à confirmer

Interpretación al francés y al español a confirmar

## **BOOK LAUNCH**

### **From a Child's Point of View -Lebanon**

2pm, Room 4

**Hosted by:** World Vision Lebanon

**Speakers:** Tracy Hamzo, Board member, World Vision Children's Council

Alin Alshayeb, Board member, World Vision Children's Council

Elie Mekhael, General Secretary, Higher Council for Childhood

Patricio Cuevas-Parra, Advocacy Manager, World Vision Lebanon

World Vision Lebanon is launching two books to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRC.

**"From a Child's Point of View"** is a book written and photographed by 32 children and young people from Lebanon. It is the result of a project that aims to equip and empower the members of World Vision Children's Council and to build their capacities on child rights, tolerance and meaningful participation by letting them tell stories from their own experiences and hopes.

**"Twenty years on: children and their rights in Lebanon"** is a book that looks at the state of children's rights in Lebanon after twenty years of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This study is part of World Vision's advocacy initiative to give a voice to vulnerable children by ensuring that their rights, conditions, needs and issues are fully considered in existing policies, in the legislative agenda and in the national action plan for children.