



ngo group for the crc

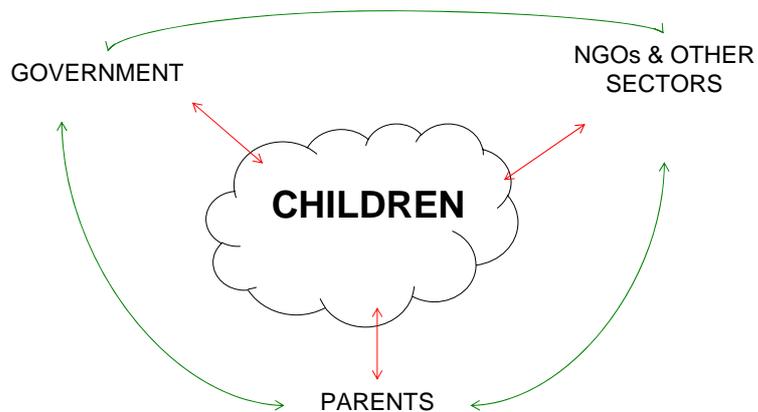
National Seminar RADELUX Alternative Reporting Methodology

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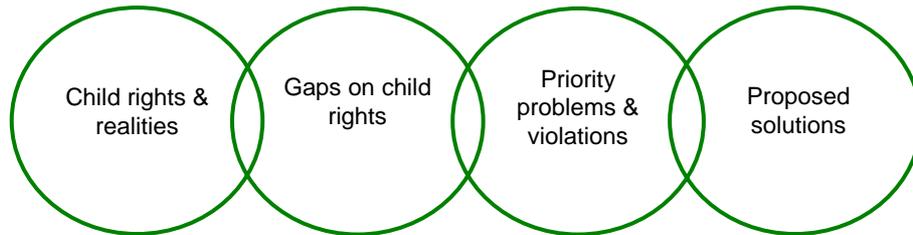
University of Luxembourg, 8th December 2011

CRC and Child Rights in Practice

Duty Bearers and Rights Holders



Alternative Reporting



Alternative Reports

- An important tool for monitoring implementation of the CRC and those Optional Protocols ratified by the government
- An opportunity for NGOs to work together and gather information on the situation of children in the country.
- A chance to identify successes in implementation by the government, but also to take note of where the gaps are and therefore where the challenges in implementation are.
- The alternative report includes recommendations on how the civil society organisations think that the government could best address the gaps and overcome the challenges, by highlighting priorities so as to bring all rights onto a level field.

How to Report

NGOs working in partnership

Identify key non-governmental stakeholders and develop/strengthen a coalition:

- Independent NGOs (international, national and local)
- Other non-governmental stakeholders (e.g. academia and children)
- Ensure broad representation from different regions of the country
- Ensure representation of different thematic areas

The Committee values information from a coalition as it is more representative.

How to report:

Working as a coalition

Things to take into account

- Different members have different capacity, so capacity building might be part of the activities of the coalition
- Develop a structure that works for you (e.g. formal/ informal, size, leadership and coordination, etc)
- Compromise different members' interests and agendas
- Find ways to include information from smaller members (often with less human resources but valuable information)
- Define roles of members of the coalition
- Develop capacity within coalition to monitor the CRC
- Ensure ownership of process and report by coalition

How to report: Develop a reporting process

- Develop the process of preparing the report – format and content of report as well as human and financial resources
- Define responsibilities and tasks amongst members of the coalition e.g. a core group of drafters, thematic groups, etc.
- Mobilise financial and logistical support to prepare the report
- Develop methodology for report – surveys, regional and national consultations, etc
- Develop timeline – the report should only be submitted 3 months before the pre-session so work your way backwards
- Discuss the best way to ensure child participation

How to report: Developing the alternative report

There is no 'correct' way to do a report. Different types of reports include:

- Comprehensive
- Follow-up to Concluding Observations
- Thematic
- Prioritising on key issues
- Reports do **NOT** have to be critical
- Reports provide **COMPLEMENTARY** information and help the Committee focus on key issues
- **All NGO reports can be considered confidential if the NGOs want them to be!**

How to report: Developing the alternative report

If you want to prepare a comprehensive report:

- Structure the report according to the 8 clusters of the CRC
- Report should be no more than 30 pages
- Include information on implementation of previous COs, gaps in State report, analysis and recommendations
- Use different sources of data (e.g. state, academia, UN agencies, NGO data)
- Translate report into English

Finishing Touches

Tips to make your report user-friendly:

- Cover page
- List members of the coalition
- Table of contents with page numbers
- Make the recommendations stand out in each section

The CRC Committee

- 18 members (9 men and 9 women)
- Members are independent experts
- It is the only Committee with 3 treaties
- Meet 3 times a year for 1 month in Geneva to monitor the implementation of the CRC, OPSC and OPAC
 - 3 weeks of session (State party examination)
 - 1 week pre-session (NGO and UN preliminary examination)

Submitting the Report

Luxembourg:

- Report deadline is 1 July 2012
- Email electronic copies to NGO Group (Roisin)
- Send 23 hard copies to the NGO Group office

- Pre-session scheduled for week of 8 October 2012
- Session should take place January 2013

The Committee on the Rights of the Child

Does the Committee understand different cultural backgrounds?

- Each country has 2 country rapporteurs (including 1 from the region) to coordinate the Committee's output on the country
- From the Middle East:
- While other members are not from the region, they may have knowledge of the region
- 10 candidates from the African continent have been presented for the CRC elections (21 December 2010), 3 of whom are current members going for re-election

Participating in the Committee's pre-session

For maximum impact at the pre-session:

- Bring at least 2 experts (legal and generalist)
- Identify and clarify key issues
- Provide constructive analysis
- Help set national priorities
- Provide appropriate recommendations
- Make suggestions for ways to approach sensitive issues

Remember: this is a private and confidential meeting!

Child Participation – Under 18

- Alternative reporting: child participation can take various forms
 - Child-led organisations produce a report, accompanied by adults, e.g. a youth parliament or a national network of youth groups.
 - An NGO writes an alternative report using information gathered during a survey or study conducted with children.
- Children interacting with the Committee members
 - Children are welcome to attend the pre-session and session meetings and participate actively.
 - Additional meetings between the children and Committee members only, can be arranged, usually on the same day as the pre-session.
 - Committee members may respond to invitations from NGOs and national coalitions to make country visits and meet with NGOs and children. *There is no established format for this type of visit and it is not done systematically.*

Participation in the Committee's Session

NGOs can only participate as observers, but:

- It is a chance to follow the entire reporting process and hear the government's responses and pledges
- You can influence the dialogue by encouraging the Committee to pursue certain issues or advise them on how to address sensitive issues
- NGO representatives who have participated in the pre-session should **NOT** be part of the government's delegation

How the NGO Group can support you

- Facilitate the preparation/submission of NGO reports
- Technical assistance and capacity building through national and regional workshops
- Providing comments/advice on draft NGO reports
- Organise and finance the participation of national NGOs in the pre-session and session of the Committee
- Produce practical tools for national NGOs/coalitions
- Provide guidance on the evolving working methods of the Committee

Impact of NGO information on concluding observations (COs)

- Provide an independent assessment for the Committee
- Highlight key issues of concern and priorities
- Provide a full picture of the situation of children in the country, which helps the Committee to develop more targeted concluding observations
- Language of the Committee in concluding observations is often similar to that of NGOs

The impact of the COs at national level

Most NGOs felt that Concluding Observations could be realistically implemented.

Unparallel tool to:

- Set priorities and mobilise partners at local and national level
- Advocate for the government to follow-up on recommendations as it is their obligation
- Lobby for change in legislation and practice

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 - Committee members respond to invitations from NGOs and national coalitions to make country visits and meet with NGOs and children, in the time *between* the pre-session and the session. This is different from meeting with the State.

For more information

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**NGO Group publications on CRC reporting
are available at www.childrightsnet.org**