

Working Groups

Each participant has been assigned to a regional working group based on origin, language and experience. To know which working group you have been assigned to you will have to check the participants' list on pages 22-27. You will remain in the same group for the all of the working group segments. The working groups will have the support of the following experts and moderators:

- Americas - Spanish and English (Room 15)
Moderator: *Angels Simon, Save the Children Sweden*
Experts: *Ariel Dulitzky, Susanna Villaran, Renato Roseno, Gisela de Leon*
- Council of Europe - English (Room 16)
Moderator: *Anna Volz, Defence for Children International*
Experts: *Marius Emberland, Edo Korljan, Peter Newell, Lilla Farkas*
- Asia - English (Room 17)
Moderator: *Anita Goh, the NGO Group for the CRC*
Experts: *Sheela Ramanathan, Savitri Goonesekere, Nevena Vučković Šahović, Vipin Bhatt*
- Africa - French and English (Room 18)
Moderator: *Lisa Myers, the NGO Group for the CRC*
Experts: *Edmund Foley, Felix Morka, Ann Skelton, Jean Zermatten, Salomon Areda Waktolla*

Thursday 13:30-15:00 - Working Group on National Systems

This working group will explore how NGOs can use or promote the use of national legal systems to achieve effective remedies for child rights violations.

Discussion will include:

- What do we mean by “effective remedy”? What do you think could reasonably be achieved in national legal systems in your region?
- What do you expect would be the most common difficulties in using national legal systems to pursue children’s rights violations within your region (for example: long delays, children being unable to bring cases, corruption, high court costs or legal fees)? How would you suggest avoiding or addressing these?
- What are the roles that NGOs can and should play using national justice systems to remedy child rights violations? In what ways can they work together or cooperate with other networks or organizations?

Thursday 13:30-15:00 - Working Group on International and Regional Systems

This working group will explore the use of international and regional human rights mechanisms to achieve an effective remedy for child rights violations. The discussion will vary according to the nature of the mechanisms available across the different regions, but will focus on the potential of these mechanisms to provide a remedy when none is offered by the national system.

Discussion will include:

- Which of the regional and international human rights mechanisms are most suitable for addressing child rights violations? Why?
- What human and financial resources are required for an NGO to make an application to an international or regional mechanism? Is bringing these complaints a good use of NGO resources?
- What are the remedies available in the different regional and international human rights mechanisms? Would you consider them to be “effective remedies”?

Friday 14:30-16:30 - Working Group on Designing a Strategic Litigation strategy

This working group will design a litigation strategy for bringing a case to challenge a violation of children's rights. Among other things, this will involve (1) selecting of a suitable case or group of cases, (2) identifying an appropriate victim(s), (3) navigating the appellate process (e.g. judicial review and exhaustion of domestic remedies), (4) applying to regional or international mechanisms, and (5) linking the case with other forms of advocacy.

Discussion will include:

- Which child rights issues can best be addressed by strategic litigation? What do you think strategic litigation can realistically achieve?
- What criteria would you use in selecting a suitable case to address a significant child rights issue?
- What if any measures should be taken to safeguard the child litigant? How would you address concerns about using children to advance your cause at their expense?
- What kinds of partnerships can be built to strengthen strategic litigation? What other advocacy strategies should accompany strategic litigation outside the courtroom?
- What can you do to make sure that the court decision is actually implemented to make sure that the court victory will have an actual impact on children's lives?