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on NGO Ad Hoc Group on Convention
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Speaking personally, not as representative of Amnesty International
(She has tried to get AI to join the NGO Committee on UNICEF, but they haven't)

Role of UNICEF in drafting of the Convention

She has been attending the UN Open-ended Working Group since '82, even before the formation of the NGO Ad Hoc Group. Doesn't remember any representation of UNICEF before MNB came, although there might have been some she wasn't aware of. But certainly no interventions or active role.

At the beginning, UNICEF lacked a role. When the NGOs gave them the idea of funding the NGO work, this was something positive that UNICEF could do. Made it possible for NGOs to do their work.

Important: should be stressed that UNICEF gave the NGOs complete freedom, there never was any attempt to control what the NGOs did or said.

Most of their contact with UNICEF then was through Marjorie, later Victor S-S. Occasionally some NGOs would contact UNICEF HQ on certain policy questions. But mostly through Marjorie, who was enthusiastic and supportive and "facilitated" many things for them, from earliest days.

GVB's recollection of UNICEF in Drafting Group

You had to force them to make a statement, and then they almost never did.

Compared to UNHCR, UNICEF seemed so passive. HCR took position and contributed to debate on article on child refugees. HCR also took strong stand and was vigorous on question of armed conflict, protection of children from armed attacks. UNICEF didn't say anything. This raised questions in the minds of the States represented on W.G.

From what she can find out, UNICEF took a similar attitude toward the Declaration on the Rights of the Child in '59. They had almost no role in that, didn't make a public statement.

U. seemed "unduly defensive" in the W.G. here. They argued that they didn't want to be in conflict with governments, but that wasn't convincing. Tarzi Vittachi made a statement, but didn't take any stands.

There were many times when UNICEF could have spoken and it would have been good for UNICEF. The UN Center on Crime... (name?) spoke on administration of juvenile justice, for instance, something where they had something to contribute. UNICEF could have done the same on issues where U has experience and expertise, but didn't. Both NGOs and States wondered why.