

**INTERNATIONAL
COVENANT
ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS**



CCPR

Distr.
GENERAL

CCPR/C/SR.124
11 April 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 124th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 9 April 1979, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. MAVROMMATIS

CONTENTS

Organizational and other matters

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room A-3550.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

79-55637

/...

The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the newly elected Bureau wished to put forward certain recommendations to the Committee. The first concerned an application by the Ukrainian SSR for postponement of consideration of its report until the next session. In a letter, the Ukrainian Government had pointed out that the adoption of the new Ukrainian Constitution had necessitated some corresponding changes in legislation, which could not be completed before the consideration of the initial report for the Ukrainian SSR, scheduled for April 1979. The Ukrainian Government had accordingly suggested postponement of consideration of the report until the seventh session, at which time its representatives could be present.
2. The Bureau recommended that the Committee should accede to the request. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the Bureau's recommendation.
3. It was so decided.
4. The CHAIRMAN read out the tentative programme of work recommended by the Bureau in the light of the views expressed by members. In view of the volume of work involved, it might not be possible to keep strictly to that programme. The Bureau would monitor the Committee's progress and would keep in touch with delegations and members of the Committee. If necessary, one or two of the last reports would have to be postponed.
5. Mr. MOVCHAN suggested postponing consideration of item 7 (Status of submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant) from Monday, 16 April, p.m., to the following Monday, 23 April, p.m., when rules of procedure, communications and other matters were to be discussed. That would leave more time on Monday, 16 April, to discuss communications. It would also allow more time for informal consultations on item 7.
6. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that there had been a specific request for early consideration of item 7. If the necessary consultations did not enable a conclusion to be reached by 16 April, the item could still be postponed at that time.
7. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposed programme of work.
8. It was so decided.
9. Mr. MAZAUD (Assistant Director, Division of Human Rights) explained that the provisional agenda (CCPR/C/7) did not include an item on co-operation with the specialized agencies. The reasons for that deliberate omission were, first, that the agenda seemed to be quite heavy as it was, and, second, that while the Committee had decided at the preceding session to consider the question of co-operation with the specialized agencies at a subsequent session, it had not indicated which session.

10. However, in accordance with a decision by the Committee, the Secretariat had invited the specialized agencies concerned to send representatives to the current session if they so wished. The representative of UNESCO was attending the session. FAO was unable to attend. ILO, in a letter, had drawn attention to paragraph 605 of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session (A/33/40), which stated that the Committee had agreed that the specialized agencies should not be invited to submit any comments on parts of the reports of States parties falling within their field of competence, since the Covenant contained no provision to that effect. ILO had indicated that, in those circumstances, it would not send a representative to the Committee's sixth session, but it had reiterated its readiness to provide any information on matters within its competence which the Committee might wish to receive.

11. Referring to document CCPR/C/VI/CRP.1, he recalled that the Committee had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a list of parts of reports which should be submitted to the specialized agencies, in accordance with the Covenant. Accordingly, the Committee should examine the list in that conference room paper and should indicate whether the parts of the reports mentioned could in fact be transmitted to ILO and UNESCO.

12. With regard to the question of publicizing the Committee's work, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 33/171, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fifth session to review the objectives, contents and format of the United Nations Yearbook on Human Rights. The Commission, at its recent session, had decided to modify the Yearbook with a view to including documents of the Human Rights Committee and other relevant organs monitoring the implementation of international human rights instruments.

13. The Yearbook, which was currently biennial, would again become an annual publication, thereby providing more latitude for including the documents in question.

14. Replying to a question raised by Mr. OPSAHL, Mr. MAZAUD (Assistant Director, Division of Human Rights) said that the final decision concerning changes in the format and contents of the Yearbook could be taken not by the Commission on Human Rights but by the Economic and Social Council, which would have before it a draft resolution to that effect at its current session.

15. Mr. TOMUSCHAT expressed the opinion that, in view of the importance of the question of the Yearbook, it should be taken up at a later date, after the implications of the resolutions in question had been thoroughly assessed in order to ascertain whether the Committee's work would receive sufficient publicity.

16. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee would have an opportunity to consider that matter later in the session.

/...

17. Mr. SADI expressed the view that too much emphasis should not be placed on the Yearbook, which was unlikely to be read by those individuals whose civil and political rights were violated. He suggested that other ideas should be considered, including the possibility of holding sessions of the Committee in various parts of the world. Such sessions would attract the necessary publicity, enabling the public to relate to the Committee's work in a much more meaningful way. Written material should be used simply to supplement other forms of publicity.

18. Sir Vincent EVANS, referring to the initial report of Chile (CCPR/C/1/Add.25), noted from the Chilean Government's comment relating to article 4, paragraph 3, of the Covenant that it had addressed two communications to the Secretary-General dated 18 August 1976 and 6 April 1978 respectively, concerning the state of siege. He wondered whether those communications had been circulated to the Committee as official documents, and if not, whether they could be issued before the Committee considered the report of Chile.

19. The CHAIRMAN replied that the Secretariat would look into the matter and inform the Committee on the following day.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.