



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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Human Rights Committee 127th session

Summary record (partial)* of the 3687th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 8 November 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Fathalla

Contents

Closure of the session

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- * No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 3685th and 3686th meetings.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 4.45 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that, during its 127th session, the Committee had considered the initial report of Cabo Verde and the periodic reports of Belgium, Czechia, Mexico and Senegal. The delegation of the Central African Republic had been unable to attend, so the Committee had exceptionally decided to postpone its consideration of the periodic report of that State party until March 2020. The concluding observations adopted by the Committee had been made public, and unedited versions of them were available for consultation on the Committee's website. The Committee had also adopted a follow-up report on concluding observations, which highlighted progress made in four States parties.

2. Lists of issues had been adopted in relation to the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ukraine, and lists of issues prior to reporting had been adopted in relation to Croatia and Spain. In addition, the Committee had adopted decisions on 43 individual communications, 5 of which had been considered in dual chambers. A total of 16 cases had been decided on the merits, 2 had been found admissible, 14 had been found inadmissible and 11 had been discontinued; of the cases decided on the merits, the Committee had found that there had been violations of the Covenant in 12 cases and non-violation in 4.

3. The Committee had concluded its first reading of draft general comment No. 37 on article 21 of the Covenant (Right of peaceful assembly) and would share the revised draft with stakeholders including Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society and academia. The second reading would begin at the 128th session in March 2020 with a view to adopting the final text by the end of that year.

4. A joint bureau meeting had been held with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and, to mark the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Organization, the two bodies had adopted a joint substantive statement on freedom of association, including the right to form and join trade unions. The statement was available on the websites of both Committees. Additionally, a half-day colloquium had been held with a number of judges from the European Court of Human Rights, at which views had been exchanged on common issues, achievements and challenges in the field of human rights.

5. The Committee had met informally with members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in the context of the Geneva Human Rights Platform, to discuss the issue of prostitution and its legal framework in relation to the work of the treaty bodies. The meeting had also served as an opportunity to discuss organizational matters, such as the coordination of reviews.

6. Side events during the Committee's session had included the launch of the United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement, a briefing on drug policy and human rights, a meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of the second Optional Protocol to the Covenant and a working dinner to discuss criminal law, human rights, sexuality, reproduction and gender equality.

7. He wished to thank Norbert Engel and Erika Engel, publishers of the third revised edition of *Nowak's CCPR Commentary* for hosting a private event for the Committee to introduce the new edition in the presence of Manfred Nowak and William A. Schabas.

8. He took it that the Committee members wished to adopt the minutes of the four Bureau meetings, which had been circulated to members.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared the 127th session of the Human Rights Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.