



# International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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## Human Rights Committee 134th session

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 3836th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 28 February 2022, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Pazartzis

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\* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

### **Opening of the session**

1. **The Chair** said that she was pleased to declare open the 134th session of the Human Rights Committee. The session would be the second to be held in person after a period in which the Committee had held its meetings via videoconference owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. At the outset, she wished to state that the Committee was conscious of the situation in Eastern Europe and welcomed the statement issued on 24 February by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in which the High Commissioner had urged an immediate halt to the military action by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

### *Opening statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations*

2. **Ms. Lee** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that, although the pandemic continued to cast a shadow, the Office was delighted that the Committee would be able to meet with the delegations of States parties on United Nations premises at the current session; such meetings represented progress in moving towards the “new normal” in relation to Covid-19.

3. The 2021 report of the Secretary-General entitled *Our Common Agenda* made clear that the pandemic was not the only factor contributing to tremendous uncertainty in the world. In that report, the Secretary-General proposed that the way forward should include greater public participation and a new vision for the rule of law. The continued efforts of the Committee – an essential mechanism that enabled the United Nations to monitor developments in the field of human rights around the world – would be instrumental in that regard. The Committee’s vigilance was especially important for preventing regressions in human rights and for strengthening democracies and democratic institutions.

4. At its 133rd session, the Committee had discussed a proposal, in the framework of the treaty body strengthening process, that had been put forward by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities following the annual meeting of the Chairs of the treaty bodies. Almost all of the treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, had now submitted input on that proposal. In November 2021, the Chairs had met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and had outlined their respective proposals for treaty body strengthening in three areas: the development of a predictable review calendar to maximize synergies and promote reporting compliance; the ongoing harmonization of working methods; and the use of new technologies to increase the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of the treaty body system. The High Commissioner had conveyed her view that it was time for the treaty body system to formulate a consolidated and unified proposal, building on the common ground in their respective proposals. Such a proposal should be bold and creative and should demonstrate the commitment of all treaty bodies to further strengthening and rationalizing the system and attracting the necessary support and funding from Member States. The High Commissioner was ready to support the Chairs in advancing the process, once they had reached a consensus. The next report of the Secretary-General on the status of the treaty body system was due to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session later in the year. The secretariat had already launched a call for contributions, which afforded an excellent opportunity for the treaty bodies to put forward a consensus proposal which, as the High Commissioner had noted, would carry greater weight and reach a wider audience than individual proposals.

5. The Human Rights Committee had shown itself to be open to the proposals put forward thus far and had already adopted a predictable review calendar. She therefore hoped that it would actively engage with the other treaty bodies, some of which were interested in following its approach.

6. During the current session, the Committee would consider the reports of six States parties, a large number of individual communications, and follow-up reports to concluding observations and Views. It would also adopt its annual report. As some delegations and other stakeholders would be attending meetings remotely, she wished to point out that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office

at Geneva had made a significant investment in upgrading the Palais Wilson meeting rooms. They were now equipped with an advanced digital platform that integrated interpretation and webcasting functions, which should enhance the quality of meetings for all participants. As the COVID-19 situation remained serious, all persons present in the room would still be required to comply strictly with measures to limit the spread of the disease.

**Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/C/134/1)**

7. *The agenda and the programme of work were adopted.*

**Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications**

8. **Ms. Sancin** said that the Working Group had met from 21 to 25 February 2022. It had considered 33 draft proposals in respect of communications involving 22 States parties and a wide range of issues, including arbitrary detention, conditions of detention, due process guarantees, the right to life, the right to political participation, discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It recommended finding a violation of the Covenant in 19 cases and finding no violation in one case. In three cases, there were two possible options. In 10 cases, the Working Group recommended findings of inadmissibility.

9. *The report of the Working Group on Communications was adopted.*

*The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.30 a.m.*