



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Twenty-seventh session

Summary record of the 594th meeting*

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 22 August 2022, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Gamio Ríos (Vice-Chair)

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* No summary record was issued for the 593rd meeting.

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In the absence of Ms. Kayess, Ms. Gamio Ríos (Vice-Chair) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by parties to the Convention under article 35

(continued)

Initial report of Japan (CRPD/C/JPN/1; CRPD/C/JPN/Q/1; and CRPD/C/JPN/RQ/1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Japan joined the meeting.*
2. **The Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva**, introducing his country's initial report (CRPD/C/JPN/1), said that the 2020 Paralympic Games, which had been held in Tokyo the previous year, had served as an opportunity to promote what was known as the barrier-free mindset, in accordance with which all persons were encouraged to respect and support each other irrespective of any disability that they might have. That initiative had been coupled with plans to promote universal design in towns and cities throughout Japan with a view to enhancing opportunities for persons with disabilities and realizing a fully inclusive society.
3. In organizing the Tokyo Games, the Government had stepped up its efforts to identify and eradicate barriers to inclusion. The same approach was taken when preparing for natural disasters and rebuilding infrastructure in the wake of them. Although much had been done to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the Government acknowledged that further steps needed to be taken to establish a fully inclusive society.
4. **Mr. Katahira** (Japan), said that the concept of the barrier-free mindset was central to the Government's approach to protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. In accordance with that concept, all persons, with their various physical and mental characteristics, were encouraged to support and communicate with each other in order to deepen their mutual understanding. The measures taken to establish the barrier-free mindset were implemented in schools, workplaces and hospitals as well as in shops, restaurants, the home and cultural and sports facilities. The Government recognized the importance of civil society organizations and considered a broad range of views in its efforts to implement the Convention. In July 2020, it had consulted with civil society organizations when preparing its replies to the Committee's list of issues.
5. The Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities set out the fundamental principles underlying the Government's approach to disability issues, while the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities established the measures to be taken in line with those principles. Although progress had been made towards implementing the Convention, the extent of its implementation varied from sector to sector. The Government was currently in the process of preparing the fifth Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities, which would cover the period from 2023 to 2027.
6. **Mr. Ruskus** (Country Rapporteur) said that the Committee welcomed the adoption of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, while noting that it was not fully compliant with the Convention, and the Act on the Provision of Lump-sum Compensation to Persons Who Received Eugenic Surgery. It also welcomed the adoption of the Act for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, which prohibited discrimination against persons with disabilities in the workplace, established employment quotas in the public and private sectors and required employers to make reasonable accommodations.
7. Despite those positive developments, the Committee was concerned to note that persons with disabilities, including children, older persons and persons with psychosocial disabilities, continued to be institutionalized in residential care homes and psychiatric hospitals and were denied the right to live in the community on an equal basis with others. The Committee was also concerned that some national laws, adopted after the ratification of the Convention, reinforced a discriminatory model of disability, whereby children with disabilities were subjected to medical assessments and denied access to inclusive education. It was troubling to note that ableist and eugenic attitudes were still to be found in Japanese society, as demonstrated by the mass stabbing of persons with disabilities in a care home in Sagami-hara in 2016. That tragic event showed that huge efforts must be made to raise Japanese society's awareness of the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.

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8. **Ms. Thongkuay** said that she wished to know what steps were being taken to amend or abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminated against persons with disabilities who were confined to institutions. She wondered what specific measures were being taken to eradicate discrimination targeted at women and children with disabilities and at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons with disabilities. The Committee would welcome information on any measures being taken to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including women and children with severe disabilities, were able to choose their place of residence and receive daily support in accordance with the Convention. The delegation might indicate whether any progress had been made towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

9. It would be interesting to learn what measures were being taken to protect women with disabilities against harmful practices such as involuntary sterilization and abortion and whether any research into such violations had been conducted. She would be grateful for information, including statistical data, on the programme set up to provide compensation to victims of involuntary sterilization and abortion and any follow-up measures being taken to support them. She wondered whether health centres were fully accessible to women with disabilities and whether the State party had established any policies on accessibility standards and reasonable accommodation in them. The delegation might describe any efforts being made to promote the participation of women with disabilities, and their organizations, in decision-making processes that concerned them.

10. The Committee would be interested to know whether children with disabilities could exercise the right to freedom of expression in all settings and whether the best interests of the child were prioritized in care homes and other institutions. The delegation might describe any measures being taken to protect children with disabilities from abuse in institutions and to promote their transfer to community-based settings. Lastly, she wondered what was being done to combat ageist and sexist stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices aimed at women with disabilities and whether any measures were being taken to promote positive perceptions of persons with disabilities and raise awareness of disability issues.

11. **The Chair** said that she wished to know whether discrimination against persons with disabilities had decreased following the adoption of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Act for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities. She wondered what legislative measures were being taken to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings and whether the Government would conduct a survey of how benefit recipients had been affected by the reduction in the financial assistance made available during the winter season.

12. **Sir Robert Martin** said that he would welcome information on any measures being taken to promote the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws and policies that affected them. He would be grateful to learn why very few persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with psychosocial disabilities were members of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities and whether the Government provided financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities.

13. The Committee would be grateful to hear about any measures being taken to combat negative stereotypes and prejudices directed at persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial disabilities. He wondered whether organizations of persons with disabilities participated in programmes to raise awareness of disability issues and, if so, what form that participation took. The State party might explain whether government officials and persons working in health care, education, the justice system and the media received training on the Convention and, if so, whether organizations of persons with disabilities participated in that training. Lastly, he wished to know whether materials designed to raise awareness of the Convention were available in accessible formats, including Easy Read.

14. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would welcome information on the implementation of the provisions of the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities on reasonable accommodation in the workplace and on any mechanisms established to provide redress to persons denied such accommodation. The delegation might provide examples of

any cases in which a person with disabilities had been denied reasonable accommodation by an employer since the adoption of the Act.

15. The Committee would be interested to learn about the role played by organizations of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising programmes organized by the State. It would also be grateful to know what role the media played in disseminating information on persons with disabilities and in promoting a positive image of them.

16. **Ms. Fefoame** said that she would like to know whether the Government had adopted a road map for the implementation of laws, policies and strategies intended to tackle the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities and, if so, whether it was adequately resourced and included measurable targets and a timeline. She wondered what steps were being taken to promote the representation of women with disabilities on decision-making councils, committees and panels of experts.

17. The delegation might describe any policies and measures established to facilitate communication and access to information for persons with disabilities. The Committee would be interested to hear about any mechanisms in place to ensure that information and communication equipment and services procured by public and private organizations conformed to accessibility standards. She would also like to know what measures were being taken to make official information and the texts of national laws available in accessible formats.

18. **Ms. Dondovdorj**, noting that the right of children with disabilities to express their views was not clearly provided for in law, said that she wished to know what measures the State party was taking to ensure that their views were taken into account on matters that affected them and that they had access to information in accessible formats. She wondered what the State party was doing to prevent, investigate and eradicate violence against children with disabilities.

19. **Mr. Basharu** said that he would like to know whether measures were in place to mainstream the rights of children with disabilities, including in the areas of early childhood development, access to early intervention and inclusive services. He wondered how it was ensured that children with disabilities were able to express their views freely and that due weight was given to their views in all matters affecting them, including family, educational, judicial and administrative procedures.

20. He would appreciate information on the measures taken to combat negative stereotypes and prejudices relating to persons with disabilities among the public, the judiciary, government officials, civil servants and within the family. Were the media involved in awareness-raising programmes and were persons with disabilities portrayed in a positive light in the media?

21. **Mr. Morris** said that it seemed that the medical and charity models of disability were deeply entrenched in Japanese society and negative attitudes and stigma persisted in relation to persons with disabilities. He would like to know what measures were being put in place to ensure that there was consistent public awareness-raising about persons with disabilities in Japan. Were those measures being put in place in consultation with persons with disabilities and their organizations?

22. **Ms. Kim Mi Yeon** (Country Rapporteur) said that she would like to know whether the State party was considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention. She would appreciate information on the remedies available under the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and would like to know whether the Act included an intersectional approach to disability and discrimination.

23. **Mr. Ruskus** said that it was his understanding that national laws still contained a paternalistic approach to disability and maintained elements of the medical model of disability. He would therefore like to know whether efforts had been made to harmonize disability-related legislation and policies with the human rights model of disability. He would like to know whether any progress had been made towards eliminating derogatory terminology from national legislation, including terms such as “mentally incompetent”, “mental derangement”, “physical or mental disorder”, “mental retardation” and “insanity”.

24. The Committee had received reports that the disability qualification and certification system excluded some persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and sensory impairments, from disability allowance and social inclusion schemes. Information on efforts to adopt a human rights model of disability within the qualification and certification system would therefore be welcome.

25. It would be useful to know whether any efforts had been made to eliminate regional and municipal disparities in the provision of necessary services and assistance for persons with disabilities, including mobility support, personal assistance and communication support.

26. He would appreciate information on the response of the State party to the stabbings at a residential home for persons with disabilities in Sagamihara in 2016, especially with respect to combating the ableist and eugenic mindset in society.

27. The delegation might indicate whether the State party planned to review the inaccurate translation of the Convention into Japanese, particularly of the terms “inclusive”, “inclusion”, “communication”, “accessibility”, “access”, “particular living arrangements”, “personal assistance” and “rehabilitation”. It might also indicate whether the State party had any plans to withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 23 (4) of the Convention.

The meeting was suspended at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

28. **A representative of Japan** said that the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conducted a variety of awareness-raising activities. One such activity had been a Paralympic lecture, at which information on how to accommodate various disabilities had been shared, videos had been shown of Paralympic athletes, and participants had been given the opportunity to take part in wheelchair sports.

29. **A representative of Japan** said that the relevant legislation had been amended in 2017 to allow children with disabilities and their parents to decide whether they attended mainstream schools or special needs education institutes. Their choices were respected to the greatest extent possible. Many children with disabilities chose to go to mainstream schools, where they received Government-funded special educational assistance.

30. **A representative of Japan** said that, with regard to remedies for instances of discrimination against persons with disabilities, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice investigated violations of human rights with a view to their prevention and resolution.

31. **A representative of Japan** said that the Government recognized the value of the communications mechanism provided for under the Optional Protocol to the Convention and was seriously considering its ratification. Nonetheless, before doing so, the compatibility of the Optional Protocol with existing laws and regulations would have to be reviewed, as would the country’s readiness to implement the procedures provided for under the Optional Protocol. The views of a range of stakeholders would be taken into consideration prior to making a decision. With respect to the interpretive declaration on article 23 (4) of the Convention, it should be stressed that the best interests of the child would always be taken into account. Japan had made its interpretive declaration based on the understanding – widely shared by States parties to the Convention – that proper immigration control should not be hindered by that provision.

32. **A representative of Japan** said that sexual violence and crimes against women with disabilities were punishable under the Penal Code. Victims could also sue perpetrators for damages in the civil courts. During investigations, due consideration was given to the disability and communication ability of the victim and, if necessary, a welfare expert or psychologist was present during questioning. Sign language interpreters were available and public prosecutors could conduct interviews in the victim’s home if appropriate. Guidelines were in place in courts to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, which took account of the intersectional and multiple discrimination faced by women with disabilities. Judges avoided asking witnesses questions that could be misleading or misunderstood. The Japan Legal Support Centre provided support to women with disabilities who were victims of sexual offences and also provided information on other sources of support and lawyers who were specialized in such crimes. Financial support was available for victims who were living in poverty or victims of spousal abuse to cover legal fees.

33. The Ministry of Justice was considering drafting new legislation to respond appropriately to cases of sexual violence against women with disabilities. To that end, a working group had been established and information had been collected from organizations that provided support to victims of sexual violence and from victims themselves.

34. In criminal and family law cases involving children with disabilities, the characteristics of their disabilities and their specific circumstances were taken into consideration. Judges avoided misleading or inappropriate questions when addressing children.

35. Training sessions – some of them mandatory – were conducted periodically to raise awareness of disability issues and access to justice among prison guards, public prosecutors, public officials, judges, court officials, lawyers, officials of the Japan Legal Support Centre and students at legal training and research institutions. Organizations of persons with disabilities were invited to speak at some training sessions.

36. Violence against and abuse of children with disabilities were punishable under the Penal Code. Parents found guilty of abuse, regardless of whether their child had a disability, could be stripped of their parental authority for up to two years. Adequate legal and judicial measures were in place to protect children, including children with disabilities, from violence.

37. **A representative of Japan** said that the Government's efforts to combat negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with mental disorders were based on the concept of "mental health first aid" for all. Relevant training programmes for the general public had been conducted since 2021 in various places. A governmental study group had been set up in June 2022 to identify ways to eliminate stigma associated with mental disabilities. The group, in consultation with peer group supporters and parents of persons with disabilities, had proposed community exchange programmes as a useful tool for eliminating stigma. The Government would step up efforts to promote those and other activities aimed at eliminating prejudice.

38. **A representative of Japan** said that a recent government study group report on the participation of persons with mental disabilities had concluded that the Government already consulted closely with persons with disabilities and encouraged their participation. The study group included three members with disabilities as well as relatives of persons with disabilities. Based on input from different participants, the group had identified common ground on a range of matters for future action. The Government would continue to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in line with the spirit of the Convention and address any challenges in that regard based on the findings of the study group.

39. **A representative of Japan** said that, contrary to what it might seem, terms such as "insanity" and "mental derangement" carried no derogatory connotations in Japanese. The term "insanity" was used in a purely legal context to determine whether a person could be held liable under the Penal Code and other relevant legislation. The term "mental derangement" was used to help police officers identify the protection needs of persons with disabilities. There were no plans to amend the terminology used in legislation.

40. **A representative of Japan** said that, in order to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in the area of employment, businesses were required to provide reasonable accommodations. Under current dispute settlement procedures, workers with disabilities and their employers could request advice from a public employment services office or Prefectural Labour Bureau. Several labour disputes involving persons with disabilities had been settled through that mechanism.

41. **A representative of Japan**, responding to the Committee's concerns about the consistency of Japanese legislation with the human rights model of disability set forth in the Convention, said that the objectives and measures described in the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities were based on the principles underlying the Convention. Under the Basic Act, all citizens, regardless of whether or not they had a disability, were entitled to dignity as irreplaceable individuals. Any violation of rights or discrimination on the basis of disability were strictly prohibited; the Act also set forth a duty to provide reasonable accommodation.

The Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities translated the non-discrimination principle enshrined in the Basic Act into practical provisions.

42. In order to protect women with disabilities from discrimination, specific reference was made to women both in the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities and in the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities. Detailed information was provided in the replies to the list of issues (CRPD/C/JPN/RQ/1). The basic policy deriving from the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities recognized the need to take account of the double vulnerability of women based on disability and gender in the provision of reasonable accommodation. In light of the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities was currently discussing the possibility of incorporating age- and gender-specific elements into the Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities.

43. **A representative of Japan** said that physical, intellectual or mental disability certificates were issued on the basis of medical considerations and entitled holders to a range of support services. In order to match support services with the individual needs of the person concerned, the local authorities cooperated with disability classification assistants. When identifying appropriate support services, the type and level of disability and the personal circumstances of the beneficiary and their caregivers were taken into consideration.

44. **A representative of Japan** said that a series of measures had been taken to promote disability awareness, including the annual Week of Persons with Disabilities, for which a poster was distributed and displayed widely. Details on those activities were provided in paragraphs 46 and 47 of the State party report (CRPD/C/JPN/1). In the framework of the Week of Persons with Disabilities, online seminars had been conducted under the theme of “disability” and “persons with disabilities” to promote a better understanding of disability.

45. **A representative of Japan** said that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare offered a range of services to facilitate the transition of persons with disabilities to community-based living arrangements, such as supported group homes. Persons transferring from institutions were assisted in finding appropriate housing. Additional support was available for persons with severe disabilities. The Ministry coordinated its activities with disability service providers on the ground. The salaries of group home managers had been increased, and medical and other services required by persons with severe disabilities and persons with challenging behaviour had been improved. Local councils tasked with monitoring measures taken in regard to persons with disabilities had called for further improvements of those services.

46. **A representative of Japan** said that the former Eugenic Protection Act and all other provisions concerning eugenic surgeries had been repealed. The Act on the Provision of Lump-sum Compensation to Persons who Received Eugenic Surgery conveyed deep remorse and an apology in its preamble and provided for the payment of compensation to the victims of forced sterilization. Thus far, 994 compensation applications had been granted.

47. **A representative of Japan** said that investigations had revealed that 142 children with disabilities under the age of 9 had been abused by their caregivers; 89 children had been subject to physical abuse, 15 to sexual abuse, and 44 to psychological abuse. A total of 160 persons with disabilities had suffered abuse in social welfare facilities, including 97 cases of physical and 37 cases of sexual abuse. The staff of social welfare facilities and local government underwent mandatory training on preventing and responding to the abuse of persons with disabilities, including children. Guidelines on abuse prevention and response had been distributed to all local government entities. Abuse prevention activities conducted at the local level were subsidized by the central Government, which also conducted research into abuse prevention.

48. **A representative of Japan** said that the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities contained provisions on information accessibility, details of which were provided in paragraph 135 of the State party report. Comprehensive measures were in place to facilitate access to and use of alternative modes, means and formats of communication to promote an inclusive society. Under recent legislation, central and local governments had an obligation to facilitate the acquisition and use of information by persons with disabilities and to implement comprehensive measures to promote information accessibility.

49. The membership of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities included persons with disabilities, business representatives and disability experts. The Commission drew on input from persons with a range of disabilities to make its deliberations more meaningful. Currently, 11 of the 30 commissioners were persons with different types of disability. There were two female members and two members who were relatives of persons with disabilities. One person with a mental disability and one woman served as non-regular members. Organizations of persons with disabilities were invited to participate in the selection process and encouraged to give priority to the appointment of women.

50. **A representative of the Commission on the Policy for Persons with Disabilities of Japan** said that a regime shift from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making had yet to be implemented. The equal recognition of persons with disabilities before the law was restricted by the adult guardianship system, under which persons with disabilities deemed incapable of making moral judgments were not allowed to exercise legal capacity, even if they had mental capacity and would be capable of exercising legal capacity with appropriate support.

51. Japan had an extremely large number of psychiatric beds, and the average hospital stay in a psychiatric facility was exceedingly long. Involuntary admissions were now as numerous as voluntary admissions, and the majority were admitted under medical care and protection orders, which allowed individuals to be forcibly admitted to hospital upon the decision of a psychiatrist and with the family's consent, even where the individual posed no risk of self-injury or harm to others. The use of physical restraints in psychiatric hospitals had doubled over the previous two decades. Restraints were permitted for use on persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with dementia and persons with behavioural disorders, even where restraints were not absolutely necessary. No road map for abolishing such practices was in place.

52. The inclusive education system, as defined by the Government, included special needs education schools. The number of children registered in special education schools and classes continued to increase. A paradigm shift from separate education to inclusive education was required; the provision of reasonable accommodation and individualized support in general education classes remained limited, however.

Articles 11–20

53. **Ms. Fernández de Torrijos** asked whether the Government had plans to do away with the system of substitute decision-making and the use of coercive hospitalization.

54. **Sir Robert Martin** said that he wished to know whether awareness-raising was conducted in line with the human rights model of disability and what steps had been taken to raise awareness among professionals in the judicial system and police officers regarding the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and the use of supported decision-making. Expressing sadness at the mass murder of a group of persons with disabilities at an institution in 2016, he asked what was being done to help persons with disabilities live in the community, what resources were available to support independent living and whether the Government had considered reducing its reliance on institutionalization.

55. **Ms. Thongkuay** said that she wished to know what the State party was doing to prevent all forms of abuse under the adult guardianship system, support independent decision-making and ensure that opposite-sex caregivers were used only with the recipient's consent. She would welcome information on steps taken by the Government to establish a system for collecting disaggregated data on intersectional discrimination, including in the form of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of women and girls with disabilities, and to bring the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities into line with the Convention. She wished to know what was being done to ensure the provision of comprehensive sex education, eliminate all forms of institutionalization, guarantee the accessibility of municipal welfare services, especially regarding the allocation of personal assistants, ensure the provision of sufficient social care services for persons with psychosocial disabilities and provide a range of in-home, residential and other community support services to facilitate community living. Did the Government intend to repeal the law limiting the use of welfare services?

56. **Mr. Schefer** asked whether the Government planned to adopt legislation to ensure that the right to procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities was upheld in all legal proceedings.

57. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would appreciate information on the measures in place to ensure that persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities were granted procedural accommodations in legal proceedings. He would also like to know what was being done to expedite the process of deinstitutionalization and ensure that persons with disabilities were able to choose where and with whom they wished to live.

58. **Mr. Basharu** asked whether mobility aids, services and assistive devices, including service dogs and transportation, were readily available and whether companies were incentivized to produce such products.

59. **Ms. Fefoame** said that she wished to know what level of representation women with disabilities enjoyed on expert bodies other than the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities in comparison with women without disabilities. She would be interested to hear whether Easy Read, sign language and other comprehensive communication approaches were readily available. It would be useful to know how cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities were identified, investigated and prosecuted, whether reporting obligations would be extended to all public agencies and institutions and whether victims had access to fully accessible support services. Given the prevalence of forced interventions against persons with disabilities, she wished to hear what was being done to eliminate such practices and punish perpetrators.

60. **Ms. Fitoussi** said that, given the substantial number of persons living in institutions in Japan, it would be useful to know what was being done to help them move out of institutions and into the community and to ensure that all their needs were met. She would also like to know whether all reasonable accommodations were provided in the general education system, given that, if not, the choice between special education and general education was no real choice at all.

61. **Mr. Morris** said that he would appreciate an answer to his question regarding efforts to eliminate the deeply entrenched medical and charity models of disability in Japanese society and guarantee consistent public education regarding disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. Would the Government consider adopting codes of conduct to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities in various fields?

62. **The Chair** said that she wondered what the causes of the recent increase in involuntary hospitalization were, whether any effective measures had been adopted to decrease the use of segregation and restraints and whether a mechanism for monitoring human rights violations in hospitals was being developed. She wondered whether the Government was aware that the provisions on “mental disability” in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act were tantamount to disability-based discrimination. She wished to know what “poverty business” facilities entailed and whether they were legal. Lastly, she would be interested to hear whether organizations of persons with disabilities participated in the planning process for policies and programmes on climate change.

63. **Ms. Kim Mi Yeon** said that she wished to know what procedural remedies were available under the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and whether the Act took into account the intersectional nature of discrimination. She would be interested to hear what efforts had been made to draw up individual evacuation plans for persons with disabilities and establish general evacuation shelters and specialized temporary housing for persons with disabilities and older persons. She wished to know what reasonable accommodations were provided for persons with disabilities during disasters, in particular under the Barrier-Free Act.

64. **Mr. Ruskus** said that it would be interesting to hear what measures were in place to raise awareness about the dangers of eugenicist and ableist attitudes, including the dangers of institutionalization. Given that, under the Convention, group homes were also considered a form of institutionalization, he would like to know what steps had been taken to redirect budgetary funds usually allocated to residential institutions for persons with disabilities towards independent living support and community-based services. He wished to know

whether safeguards were in place to protect the right to life of persons with disabilities in palliative care facilities and psychiatric hospitals and whether independent investigations had been conducted into deaths resulting from the use of restraints or contrary to individuals' own decisions regarding treatment. The delegation might indicate what measures were in place to ensure the physical accessibility of administrative and judicial buildings. It might also comment on what was being done to prevent the use of restraints, seclusion and forced therapies against persons with psychosocial disabilities and whether the Government planned to introduce complaint mechanisms for reporting instances of such abuse. What were the limitations of the compensation system for victims of eugenicist surgery, and had all victims received an apology?

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.