



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Seventy-fourth session

### Summary record of the 60th meeting\*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 13 October 2023, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Crăciunean-Tatu

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\* No summary records were issued for the 54th to 59th meetings.

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

**Substantive issues arising from the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (*continued*)

1. **The Chair**, reviewing the activities and meetings that had taken place during the seventy-fourth session, said that the Committee had considered the reports of six States parties, namely Armenia, Brazil, Chad, France, Qatar and the State of Palestine. It had also adopted assessments of the follow-up reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland and Latvia. It urged other States parties to submit, at their earliest convenience, follow-up reports that were due or overdue.

2. During the session, the Committee had continued its work on the consideration of individual communications submitted under the Optional Protocol, finding a violation in one case and deciding to discontinue the consideration of five others. Work had also continued on the draft general comment on sustainable development and the Covenant, the first reading of which had now been completed, and discussions had been held to shape two other draft general comments, on drug policies and armed conflict, respectively. The Committee had also adopted its annual report to the Economic and Social Council.

3. The Committee continued to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, whose contributions to its work were greatly appreciated. The Committee wished to reiterate that no one should be subjected to reprisals for having cooperated with it or for having sought to do so. In addition to its annual meeting with States, the Committee had held meetings with civil society organizations, United Nations mechanisms and specialized agencies, and experts from regional mechanisms.

4. Owing to a lack of resources, it was not yet possible for the Committee to implement the simplified reporting procedure and the eight-year predictable review cycle. She wished to encourage States parties to submit reports, including any that were long overdue, under the regular reporting procedure. Altogether, 26 States parties had yet to submit their initial reports; in total, 83 reports were overdue, 30 of them by more than 10 years. In that regard, the capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was able to provide technical assistance to any State party that required it.

5. Ahead of the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she wished to invite those States that had not yet done so to ratify the Covenant and the Optional Protocol thereto, and to invite States parties to the Optional Protocol to enter declarations on the inter-State and inquiry procedures contained therein.

6. At its seventy-fifth session, the Committee would review the periodic reports of Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Mauritania, Romania and Sweden. The pre-sessional working group would adopt lists of issues regarding the reports of Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Uruguay and Zimbabwe at its seventy-third session, and lists of issues regarding the reports of Angola, Georgia, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan and Sierra Leone at its seventy-fourth session.

**Consideration of reports** (*continued*)

**(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant** (*continued*)

7. **The Chair** said that, if there were no objections, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt its concluding observations on the reports of Armenia ([E/C.12/ARM/CO/4](#)), Brazil ([E/C.12/BRA/CO/3](#)), Chad ([E/C.12/TCD/CO/4](#)), France ([E/C.12/FRA/CO/5](#)), Qatar ([E/C.12/QAT/CO/1](#)) and the State of Palestine ([E/C.12/PSE/CO/1](#)).

8. *It was so decided.*

**Closure of the session**

9. Following an exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared closed the seventy-fourth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

*The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.*