



## International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Distr.: General  
29 December 2011  
English  
Original: French

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### Human Rights Committee

#### 102nd session

#### Summary record of the 2832nd meeting\*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 29 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Majodina

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\* No summary record was issued for the 2831st meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Organizational and other matters, including the report of the pre-sessional working group on individual communications**

1. **The Chairperson** said that a summary of the issues discussed by the Bureau during the three meetings that it had held and its recommendations had been distributed. She recalled that following the meeting with non-governmental organizations at the beginning of the session the Bureau had recommended that NGOs should be allocated time during the meetings so that they could take advantage of the interpretation services and brief the Committee immediately before the consideration of State party reports.
2. The Committee had decided not to examine the measures taken by Côte d'Ivoire to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant in the absence of a report. It would consider the country situation in Malawi. The Committee had also decided to send a note verbale to the Syrian Arab Republic to remind it that its report was overdue.
3. The Bureau had recommended drawing up a timetable for consideration of State party reports up until October 2012, given that the Committee now wished to schedule its consideration of State party reports not just for the following session, as had been the previous practice, but rather for a one-year period. The timetable for consideration of reports posted on the Committee website would therefore extend to 2012 and take account of the States parties for which a list of issues prior to reporting was to be adopted in July 2012, namely Afghanistan, Croatia, Israel, San Marino and New Zealand.
4. Out of the 28 communications under the Optional Protocol considered during the session, 4 had been declared inadmissible. The Committee had found violations of the Covenant in 13 cases. It had found no violation in 2 cases and had decided to discontinue consideration of 9 communications.
5. **Mr. O'Flaherty** said that the Committee had not been able to consider more communications because of various resource constraints.
6. **Mr. Amor**, noting that there would be a meeting with judges from the European Court of Human Rights, said he was surprised that the group that would take part in it did not include any member of the Committee from the African region. Members of the Committee should be consulted on that issue.
7. **The Chairperson** said that the secretariat would take note of any proposals from Committee members from the African region on that subject.

*Proposed meeting between the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

8. **Mr. Flinterman** said that, at the March 2011 session, the Bureau had asked Mr. Salvioli and himself, as a former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to explore the possibility of arranging a meeting between the two Committees in October 2011, taking advantage of the week when their sessions in Geneva overlapped, and to prepare an agenda for the meeting. The Bureau of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been contacted and an exchange of emails had led to a proposal that he wished to put to members of the Committee. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had proposed that the two Committees should hold a joint meeting during the week when the sessions overlapped between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., to be followed immediately by a working dinner. As the Committees could avail themselves of interpretation services until 6 p.m., the meeting could be used for presentations that might address the following three topics from the perspective of each of the two Committees: the obstacles to gender equality in the field

of human rights, the potential for cross-fertilization of the work of the two Committees and the Committees' working methods, including an exchange of best practices. The presentations made at the one-hour meeting should stimulate discussion on a number of issues that could be taken up again during the dinner. The dinner tables should therefore be arranged so that people who spoke the same language could sit together and hold a genuine discussion. At the end of the dinner the Chairpersons of the two Committees could sum up the discussions and put forward their views on how to proceed further.

9. He asked members of the Committee whether they agreed to the proposal. If so, the secretariat, Mr. Salvioli and himself would draft a programme for the meeting while ensuring that it went off in the most effective manner possible. It was a unique opportunity to meet with another body and a similar experience, a working dinner between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, had shown just how much progress could be made by that kind of event.

10. **Sir Nigel Rodley** said that the idea of cross-fertilization through joint meetings was excellent and such meetings should be planned whenever treaty bodies held sessions at the same time. It would be interesting, for example, to meet with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, which would soon begin its work. The meeting of special procedures mandate holders and the meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies had been specially scheduled at the same time so that a joint meeting could be held. It might be possible for the Human Rights Committee to hold such meetings with other treaty bodies and establish a new practice that could bear fruit as early as possible.

11. **Ms. Amor** said that it would be useful to deal with the central human rights issue of the status of women from the viewpoint of religions and traditions at a meeting with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

12. **Mr. O'Flaherty** said that he warmly welcomed the proposal of Mr. Flinterman and Mr. Salvioli. It might even be possible in future to have two to three hours with interpretation services instead of only one. As the meeting would make the two Committees lose at least one working hour each it was crucial to work to a very tight schedule. The secretariats of the two Committees could distribute a brief background note on the working methods of each Committee at the beginning of the respective session.

13. **The Chairperson** said she took it that all members of the Committee endorsed the idea of a meeting with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and would await details of the arrangements to be made. She hoped that the meeting would mark the beginning of a long working relationship between the two Committees and thanked Mr. Flinterman and Mr. Salvioli for developing the project.

#### **Closure of the session**

14. After an exchange of courtesies, **the Chairperson** declared the 102nd session of the Committee closed.

*The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.*