



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Eighty-first session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 2203rd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 31 August 2012, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Avtonomov

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CERD/C/SR.2203.

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The public part of the meeting was called to order at 5.15 p.m.

Organizational and other matters

1. **The Chairperson** said that, at its eighty-first session, the Committee had examined nine reports from States parties and had adopted concluding observations for each of them. It had also considered the situation in Belize in the context of the review procedure and had adopted concluding observations on that basis. He recalled that the Committee had discussed the High Commissioner's report on treaty body reform (A/66/860) and had adopted a declaration on that subject, as well as a decision on the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (Addis Ababa Guidelines). The Committee had also organized a thematic discussion on hate speech, and would consider the possibility of preparing a general recommendation on that question at its next session. He welcomed the fact that the day of thematic discussion had given the Committee the opportunity to renew its dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

2. During the session, the Committee had held a dialogue with the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. It had also met the Chief of the Anti-Discrimination Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as a representative of the OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit and a representative of the Special Procedures Division who had spoken on behalf of the Independent Expert on minority issues. In addition, it had discussed early warning and urgent procedures and had instructed the secretariat to prepare a consolidated list of Committee decisions on measures taken in that field. Lastly, he indicated that the eighty-second session of the Committee would begin on 11 February 2013 and should last for three weeks, unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly. Seven periodic reports would be considered at the session and two States parties would be the subject of a review procedure.

3. **Mr. Kemal** said that the Committee should do its utmost to avoid falling behind in its consideration of State party reports; he recommended that the Chairperson should draw the attention of the General Assembly to that point.

4. **The Chairperson** said that, in the treaty body reform context, it was important to inform the General Assembly of any delay in the consideration of reports; the Committee had already received more reports than it could consider in three weeks, but it was not advisable to make a formal request for a fourth week of meetings. The Committee should make every effort not to fall behind in future sessions.

Closure of the session

5. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chairperson** declared the eighty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.