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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 4 November 2013, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. von Haff (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Angola)

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*In the absence of Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria), Chair, Mr. von Haff (Angola), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

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

**Agenda item 67: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**  
(continued)

- (a) **Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** (continued)  
(A/68/18 and A/68/329)
- (b) **Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action** (continued) (A/67/879 and A/68/333)

**Agenda item 68: Right of peoples to self-determination**  
(continued) (A/68/318 and A/68/339)

1. **Mr. Kafou** (Libya) said that, since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, new forms of xenophobia and racism based on religion, language and culture had emerged, causing daily suffering worldwide. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance must be eliminated through global action. The worst form of discrimination had been suffered by people of African descent, who had been enslaved and taken across the Atlantic to be sold, but it also continued to be endured by those living in occupied territories. His delegation called on all nations that had suffered colonization, occupation and slavery, most of which were in Africa, to demand material reparations from the occupiers and enslavers, as Libya had done. In turn, present-day occupying and colonizing powers should assume their responsibilities. The Israeli occupying forces in the Palestinian territories were depriving the Palestinian people of all their human rights, including the right to life, in flagrant violation of the international human rights instruments.

2. His delegation wished to express grave concern at the increase in xenophobia based on religion and belief, in particular the resurgence of Islamophobia in certain Western States. Sacred sites had been desecrated, and there had been increased violence and a breakdown in trust between religions and civilizations. In the light of the lack of political will to combat racial and religious hatred he called on all States to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and promote international

mechanisms to fight all forms of racial discrimination. Having enshrined the fight against racial discrimination in its Constitution, Libya called for international commitment to a world free of conflict, xenophobia and intolerance.

3. **Ms. Gunnarsdóttir** (Iceland) said that no country was completely free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, phenomena that must be fought at the global, regional and national levels. Calling for universal adherence to and full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, she said that Iceland's Constitution and Penal Code safeguarded against discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity and belief. Furthermore, the Penal Code prohibited all forms of hate speech, which was not covered by the right to free speech whenever it violated an individual's human rights. In October 2013, her country had launched a project to fight hate speech and racial discrimination as part of the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech Movement. Specifically aimed at young people, with a view to raising awareness of and combating hate speech in relation to the Internet, its message was relevant to society as a whole.

4. A long-standing advocate of the right to self-determination, Iceland supported the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including Palestine's full membership in the United Nations. Iceland also supported all efforts undertaken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution with regard to Western Sahara.

5. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that his country's commitment to the follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was evident in its national action plan to promote equality and prevent ethnic discrimination. The right to protection from discrimination applied to all groups and individuals, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. In May 2013, Norway had organized an international conference on the rise of right-wing extremism and hate crime in Europe and beyond. It had also dedicated the September 2013 Trygve Lie Symposium to combating hate speech, which had become more visible and easier to spread owing to increased Internet access and use of social media. The solution lay not with censorship but with freedom of

assembly and expression, offering counter-arguments to extremist ideologies, prejudices and stereotypes. Racism and discrimination could not be eliminated without long-term efforts by national authorities, including the adoption and implementation of administrative and legislative measures. The international community must continue to find common approaches to address discrimination based on religion or belief, paying special attention to persons belonging to religious minorities. The only effective way to combat racism was to insist on unconditional respect for universal human rights.

6. **Ms. Salman** (Malaysia), recalling that the principle of self-determination was clearly enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, said that her delegation wished to reiterate its unwavering support for the Palestinians' inalienable right to self-determination, self-rule and sovereignty. The Secretary-General's report highlighted the effects of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Her Government had always believed in a two-State solution, based on the June 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Condemning Israel's unlawful annexation and demographic manipulations in East Jerusalem, which had created fundamental threats to the Palestinian right to self-determination, she said that the only way forward was to ensure that Palestinians were afforded their basic rights as human beings, including their right to an independent State.

7. **Mr. Diallo** (Senegal) said that self-determination and the fight against racial discrimination were, respectively, the basis of the emancipation of all peoples and the only guarantee of mutual understanding and global peace. In reference to the former, he underlined the right of the Palestinian people to decide their own destiny for themselves, recalling the human rights violations perpetrated in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, such as the collective punishment of its people, the construction of a separating wall, the destruction of goods and infrastructure, impeded access to water and the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements. Recalling the 2012 General Assembly decision to confer observer status on Palestine, he called on the United Nations and its Member States to bring about the swift realization of Palestine's right to self-determination. Senegal

welcomed the renewed negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis under the auspices of the United States of America, and called on the international community to support the process. He encouraged the leaders of both parties to continue along the difficult road of diplomacy and dialogue, while urging against the dangerous pursuit of Israeli settlements.

8. On the need to combat racial discrimination and related intolerance, he said that the victims included migrants, indigenous peoples, asylum-seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, religious minorities and persons of African descent. It was crucial to remember that self-determination and building a world in which everyone could live in harmony were the ideals upon which the United Nations had been founded.

9. **Mr. Oliveira** (Brazil) said that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action formed the framework for his country's fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia and related intolerance. His delegation deplored the targeting of millions of individuals by extremist political parties, movements and groups. Over the previous decade, Brazil had made significant progress, including the establishment of a ministerial-level secretariat for the promotion of racial equality.

10. His country had implemented policies aimed at redressing historical injustices and promoting the social and economic inclusion of Brazilians of African descent, through affirmative action programmes in education, health and employment. In 2010, legislation had entered into force to promote racial equality and fight racism. In the national census of the same year, over half the population of Brazil had freely identified themselves as African descendants, making it the largest population outside Africa itself. His Government actively supported the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and welcomed the designation of South Africa as the facilitator of the consultative process. Brazil took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of people of African descent to economic, social, political and cultural development and to peace. The Decade, long overdue, was an important step in raising awareness against prejudice, intolerance and racism. It was also a reminder of the urgent need to correct the social and economic inequalities that affected a significant part of the world population.

11. **Ms. Mansouri** (Algeria) said that racial discrimination lay at the heart of human rights because it concerned the fundamental principles of their universality and respect for human dignity and diversity and social justice. Racism, an old wound of humanity, had been adapted to the contemporary world in attempts to gain political, moral and juridical acknowledgement. In certain countries, political parties and extremist racist organizations incited hatred and intolerance against different groups, including migrants, leading to phenomena such as Islamophobia, the association of the Muslim religion with terrorism and racial profiling. The Algerian Constitution enshrined the principle of combating and eliminating all types of racism, making all citizens equal before the law. It also granted equal treatment and enjoyment of rights to foreigners on its territory while guaranteeing freedom of belief and religion.

12. The right to self-determination, a founding principle of the United Nations, was crucial for the full enjoyment of all rights enshrined in international law. Isolated attempts to reinterpret that right violated people's right to choose their fate. Algeria had made support for national self-determination a cardinal point of its foreign policy and had supported all peoples fighting for their dignity. Her delegation believed that the violation of the right to self-determination was a violation of human rights as a whole and a form of discrimination. The destiny of the Palestinian people and those who lived in the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the Sahrawi people, lay with the international community.

13. **Ms. Leshkova** (Belarus) said that interreligious and intercultural understanding was of utmost importance for her country. Belarus suffered no ethnic or religious conflicts, owing to decisive Government policies and historically good relations among different ethnic groups. In her country, the Plenipotentiary for Religious and Nationalities Affairs, an official with ministerial rank within the consultative interethnic council, was responsible for the protection of the rights of all nationalities. The second Government programme on national and ethnic issues, implemented in cooperation with citizens of Belarus living abroad, was already under way.

14. Her country had been the co-author of several General Assembly resolutions on combating racism and intolerance. As a member of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in 2012 it had made a

generous financial contribution to its functioning. Its cooperation with the international community on the issue was further demonstrated by the seminar held in Minsk in June 2013, jointly organized with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for the benefit of law enforcement and legal bodies dealing with racism issues. In August 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had examined her country's periodic reports and had praised the interethnic and interreligious situation in Belarus, stating that there was no discrimination on the basis of race, colour or religious belief.

15. Her Government attached great importance to cultural diversity and equality, as exemplified by policies aimed at increasing employment and improving education among the Roma minority as part of a larger endeavour to integrate them into society. She urged other European countries to follow that example. Belarus had lost one third of its population during the Second World War and was therefore greatly concerned about the rising threat of neo-Nazism and a tendency to idealize fascism. Freedom of the media should not be exploited for Nazi propaganda. She reiterated the country's zero tolerance policy towards the phenomenon and called on the United Nations and its Member States to follow suit.

16. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria) said that racism, which was used to subjugate, exclude, exploit, humiliate and denigrate others, was the most degrading treatment ever invented. The preamble of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, rejecting any justification for racial discrimination and condemning it as unjust and dangerous, still held a half century after its adoption. The elimination of racism and related intolerance was a priority for the Nigerian Government, which was deeply concerned at the proliferation of extreme right-wing groups and political parties promoting racism and xenophobia around the world. Racism and related intolerance should not be allowed to gain acceptance by condoning political parties that exploited nationalism and unjustified latent fears. The international community must ensure that States did more to combat the activities of groups and parties that engendered hatred and disharmony. Nigeria welcomed the attention paid to racist hate speech by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. His delegation condemned any attempt

to use the democratic principles of freedom of opinion and expression to justify racism.

17. People of African descent were increasingly affected by racial profiling, which entrenched negative stereotypes and often led to unfair treatment by law enforcement officials. Nigeria strongly condemned the practice and called for it to be abandoned at once. Welcoming the efforts of international sporting associations to combat racism, Nigeria called on all States and other stakeholders to do more to address the menace, putting greater efforts into awareness-raising while taking more stringent measures to deter it. Furthermore, racism and xenophobia had worsened the plight of refugees and migrants, who were subjected to attacks and hostility, leading to further marginalization, social and economic exclusion and illegal exploitation. Nigeria condemned xenophobic attacks on migrants and refugees and called on States to prevent or punish such acts. His Government applauded the crucial role of civil society in combating racism and xenophobia, efforts that must be encouraged by Member States. Lastly, he called on States to ensure that their legislation respected the right to equality and punished all acts of racism and related intolerance.

18. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that the exercise of the right to self-determination was firmly grounded in a set of internationally-accepted principles. His delegation regretted that it continued to be denied in Jammu and Kashmir, whose people continued to wage a peaceful struggle to achieve self-determination despite repression and gross human rights violations. Pakistan supported the realization of their right through dialogue and peaceful means. Shortly after assuming office earlier in 2013, the Prime Minister of Pakistan had offered talks with India to address all outstanding issues and India's initial response had been positive. At a recent meeting in New York, the prime ministers of both countries had decided to engage on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan, the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the United Nations had agreed to hold a plebiscite and he urged India to follow suit. A peaceful resolution of the dispute based on justice and international law would usher in an era of peace, security and harmony in South Asia.

19. Pakistan was actively involved in combating racism at the United Nations and in other international forums, in the belief that racism negated equality and human dignity. The international community had

expressed its collective and firm commitment to tackle racism and related intolerance by adopting the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, reaffirmed in 2009 and 2011.

20. Regrettably racism continued to manifest itself in many forms. There were increasing instances of intolerance and discrimination based on religion and Muslims had become a target of racism and intolerance as misperceptions spread. Member States must take effective legal and administrative measures to combat such acts. Interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the promotion of tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity were essential for combating racial discrimination and related intolerance.

21. **Mr. Kandeel** (Egypt) said that slavery and apartheid were two examples of the deplorable phenomena of racism and racial discrimination. Discrimination had taken on more subtle forms, based on nationality, religion and social or cultural background. Messages of hatred, incitement, stereotyping and stigmatization were easily transmitted through the media, textbooks and the Internet, leading to violence and undermining international peace and security. The proliferation of radical, racist and extremist movements contradicted the principles that formed the basis of democratic societies.

22. The international community should commit to full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, promoting a responsible role for the media, civil society and the information society. Moreover, it should develop and strengthen the legal, administrative and executive frameworks in Member States to prevent incitement to racism and related phenomena. Egypt stressed the importance of international cooperation and the need to strengthen the international mechanisms, along with implementation of General Assembly resolution [67/155](#). His delegation supported the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular his call to redress historical imbalances created by different forms of racial discrimination. Egypt joined his appeal for full integration in the areas of education, health, housing, food and water supplies and the workplace.

23. **Mr. Lasso Mendoza** (Ecuador) said that his country had made a State policy of changing the old racist and discriminatory mindsets that were a legacy of colonial times. Under a groundbreaking Constitution based on the promotion of human rights of all communities, heavy sanctions had been established to punish those who committed hate crimes. Ecuador also promoted a more robust social strategy, in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, with a view to combating all forms of racial discrimination and ethnic and cultural exclusion. The judiciary, armed forces, national police and civil servants had been offered capacity-building in human rights at workshops led by national and international experts, while the dissemination of international human rights instruments had been improved. Education was increasingly based on cultural diversity and had become bilingual, incorporating ancestral languages. Under a State programme radio stations were broadcasting to 13 indigenous communities in their local languages, with the aim of ensuring greater inclusion of traditionally excluded indigenous peoples and Afro-Ecuadorians. Ecuador would continue working for a world free of all forms of exclusion, discrimination and racism, from which migrants, in particular, needed protection.

24. The Government of Ecuador reiterated its solidarity with the Palestinian people and urged the United Nations to support the swift realization of their right to self-determination.

25. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was an ongoing task of the international community. Twelve years after its adoption, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continued in many parts of the world. Cuba was a mestizo country and had benefited from its African ancestry in terms of culture, creativity and energy, along with a spirit of rebellion in the fight against injustice and the struggle for freedom and independence. Moreover, Cuba had made great sacrifices in the emancipation of African nations.

26. He welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination and called on all States to cooperate with the mechanism and with the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international

regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies.

27. The enjoyment of the right to self-determination was a requirement for the enjoyment of all human rights. He expressed his country's support for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to live in peace and freedom an independent State. It was impossible to speak of human rights in cases of peoples under foreign domination and occupation.

28. Lastly, he emphasized Cuba's commitment to combat all forms of illegal, unilateral actions, such as the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States, in disregard of 22 resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the blockade to be ended. The people of Cuba were ready to defend their own right to self-determination, won after a century-long struggle for independence.

29. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that his country was committed to promoting and protecting all human rights and to ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism. National legislation had already been aligned with the Convention, guaranteeing the constitutional protection of all human rights throughout the country, without discrimination of any kind. Tolerance and the acceptance of others were essential for the Sudanese people, as demonstrated by his country's respect for South Sudan's right to self-determination and the peace accord. The Government had accepted the request for a referendum and its result; its respect for the choice of secession by South Sudan had been exemplified by the presence of the President of Sudan at its independence celebrations.

30. He expressed great surprise at the criticism levelled at his country before the Committee by the United States of America and the European Union, which should improve their own human rights situations before giving lessons to others. The highly sensitive issue of human rights should not be politicized but should be treated with impartiality.

31. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Sudan's support for an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

32. **Mr. Eshraghi Jahromi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that racial discrimination and xenophobia

were among the main sources of growing violence and extremism in every country in the world and the catastrophic impact of violence and extremism should not be underestimated. His country had repeatedly manifested its commitment nationally and internationally to combating racism and related phenomena. Respect for ethnic minorities had been taken into account in the country's economic, social and cultural development programme and a special Government department on minority issues had been established.

33. At the international level, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action remained the normative framework. Iran had cooperated with the rest of the international community, playing an active role in all related international conferences. In some parts of the world racial and xenophobic acts had increasingly targeted Muslims, indigenous peoples, migrants, people of African and Asian descent and Roma. Despite rigorous measures to end exclusion and discrimination, people of African descent continued to suffer unfair administration of justice, high rates of police violence and racial profiling. Awareness-raising measures should start with education in the countries concerned. The international community should pay attention to the continuation and intensification of the defamation of Islam and discrimination against Muslims. There had been an alarming upsurge in Islamophobia that might jeopardize peaceful coexistence in an interdependent world. He called on the international community to address those tensions by acting immediately.

34. **Ms. Al Dosari** (Qatar) said that, despite global policies to address racism, many people were still suffering from its effects around the world. She reaffirmed her Government's commitment to the full implementation of the Durban Declaration. It was impossible to talk about eliminating racism and racial discrimination without dealing with education as one of the most effective means of building awareness of people's rights and disseminating respect for human rights. The protection and promotion of all rights were enshrined in the Constitution of Qatar. Awareness campaigns had been undertaken to bring about an end to violence and build a society of tolerance and mutual respect. In April 2013, Qatar had hosted the tenth Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, with the aim of reaching common ground on the construction of just

societies and stressing the importance of combating institutional racism.

35. Israeli military occupation and settlement construction were undermining the enjoyment of human rights by Palestinians. Her delegation called for an independent State, in line with the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to freedom and self-determination, as the only means of finding a solution to the Middle East conflict. The rights of the people living in Gaza, in particular, needed to be respected.

36. **Mr. Rajeev** (India) said that the fight against racism and colonization was a cornerstone of his country's foreign policy and his delegation had taken the lead in drafting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The legacy of colonialism continued to be expressed in racial hatred, discrimination and xenophobia. Since the global economic crisis had exacerbated racism and related intolerance, the international community must renew its commitments under the Durban Declaration. The progressive consolidation of multicultural, democratic and pluralistic traditions would provide the surest guarantee against racial prejudice.

37. India had led the historic struggle for decolonization and the movement to secure the right to self-determination so that those under alien subjugation, domination and exploitation could freely determine their own political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. He warned against attempts to reinvent some of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, such as self-determination, and to apply them selectively for narrow political ends. The right to self-determination must not be used as an instrument to promote subversion and erode the political cohesion or territorial integrity of Member States. Ethnic and religious segregation and chauvinism could not be legitimized on the ground that societies must be constituted on homogenous lines. As the first non-Arab country to recognize the State of Palestine, India had maintained unwavering support and solidarity for the goal of Palestinians' right to self-determination. There must be an early negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue resulting in an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. His delegation regretted the unwarranted reference before the Committee to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, an integral part of his country, which

detracted from the important cause of the Palestinian people.

38. **Ms. Mballa Eyenga** (Cameroon) said that acts of racism persisted worldwide and were often perpetrated against minorities, such as illegal immigrants and asylum-seekers. It was therefore crucial for the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and promote the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. She welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the International Decade for People of African Descent and its objectives. It was the responsibility of States to take measures against racism and related intolerance, as well as to end the injustices perpetrated against people of African descent. Cameroon hoped that, by the end of the decade, persons of African descent would no longer be regarded as a special category but as fully-fledged citizens enjoying the same rights and assuming the same responsibilities as their compatriots.

39. As a multiethnic country, Cameroon was committed to fighting racism and related intolerance. More than 230 ethnic groups of different religions cohabited along with national minorities and a large number of refugees. Her Government had taken a number of measures to maintain peace and social cohesion and fight against all forms of discrimination. It also applied a policy of justice and fairness allowing for the various national communities to be fairly represented in public administration and every area of public life. With a tradition of hospitality, Cameroon offered foreigners a welcoming sociocultural environment where differences were seen as an asset for economic development and political stability.

40. **Ms. Daniel** (Botswana) said that her delegation attached great importance to racism and related intolerance, the contemporary forms of which were complex and difficult to detect, understand and permanently eradicate. Since tolerance and understanding must be fostered among peoples as the first step in dealing with the scourge, her country was committed to a moral and tolerant nation free from discrimination. Botswana condemned the recent terror attacks in Kenya; the killing of civilians would never bring about a solution to any form of discord or difference but undermined the achievements and efforts made in combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance. Her delegation believed in the importance

of human rights training for public officials, with a focus on racist and xenophobic crimes perpetrated by individuals linked to extremist political parties, groups and movements. It also supported calls for enhanced international cooperation in the implementation of the Durban Declaration. She hoped that global efforts to realize the objectives of the International Decade for People of African Descent would be achieved at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, Botswana ensured that efforts were guided by the ideals of the Durban Declaration and continued to integrate human rights education and training, with a focus on contemporary forms of racism, in the curricula of law enforcement officers. Those efforts required financial and technical resources and targeted assistance. She urged political leaders and their respective parties to condemn all political messages that disseminated ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination or xenophobia, in order to contribute to full and effective equality for all and greater respect for the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

41. **Mr. Eshraghi Jahromi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Palestinian people had an inalienable, permanent and unqualified right to self-determination. However, their exercise of that right continued to be denied by the occupying Power, which moreover had denied them all their human rights by means of the killing of civilians, arbitrary detentions, collective punishments and other restrictions. Massive violations of human rights and international law by the occupying Power continued unabated in Palestinian occupied territories. The international community bore a historic responsibility, through the United Nations, to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people to establish a national homeland but the measures taken to date had been inadequate. The Palestine question, which lay at the core of the Middle East conflict, must be dealt with to save the credibility of the United Nations and end regional instability and tension. A durable peace could only be secured by terminating the brutal occupation of Palestinian lands and enabling all Palestinians to enjoy their inherent rights to self-determination.

42. **Mr. Nazarian** (Armenia) said that full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was of paramount importance. His country's national legislation ensured equality for all its citizens without



any form of discrimination. Having assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe earlier in the year, Armenia had set combating racism and xenophobia and promoting European values through intercultural dialogue as two of its main goals. Moreover, the Armenian Chairmanship had held a High-Level Conference on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Europe, in Yerevan, in October 2013, with the aim of reflecting on xenophobia in political discourse and combating hate speech and racial profiling.

43. Education could play a crucial role in creating new values of tolerance and non-discrimination, but it could also be used to develop, trigger and encourage violence and racism, as seen during the electoral campaign in Azerbaijan, where political opponents standing for president had accused each other of having Armenian relatives or ancestry. Education had been deliberately used as an instrument to encourage the manifestation of hatred. Textbooks in Azerbaijan's State schools called Armenians bandits, fascists and terrorists and the authorities had ordered any reference to Armenians to be extirpated from future history textbooks. The dissemination of anti-Armenian propaganda was part of Government policy and those opposing it were often physically assaulted. Azerbaijan also oppressed other minorities, who were suffering discrimination and harassment aimed at forcing them to assimilate. He called upon the international community to condemn the growing racism in Azerbaijan. Unless the right to self-determination, a fundamental principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, was respected, individual rights could not be guaranteed.

44. **Mr. Kandeel** (Egypt) said that the right to self-determination was a fundamental right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and was essential for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all peoples. Despite all the efforts of the United Nations and its organs, the people of Palestine still did not enjoy their right to self-determination, which tarnished the credibility of the United Nations human rights agenda. The international community had a moral and legal responsibility to end foreign occupation in Palestine. In that regard, Egypt supported the Special Rapporteur's proposal calling for the International Committee of the Red Cross to convene an international conference to draft a convention for occupations exceeding five years or for an international

commission of inquiry to be set up to examine issues related to prolonged occupations. His delegation welcomed the resumption of the Middle East peace process and stressed the importance of concluding the negotiations quickly in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

45. **Ms. Sandoval** (Nicaragua) said that, as a multiethnic and multicultural nation, her country had taken measures to ensure the universal respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms as envisaged in the Constitution. Moreover, the Constitution recognized the existence of indigenous peoples along with their rights, duties and guarantees, in particular the right to keep and develop their cultural identity, have their own forms of social organization and administer their local affairs. The communities of the Atlantic coast enjoyed autonomy on many fronts, including official status for their languages. In October 2013, the regional autonomous government of the Southern Atlantic region of Nicaragua had held its first session, along with that of the Garifuna community and persons of African descent, passing resolutions on health, education and infrastructure.

46. Her Government supported policies and initiatives aimed at combating all discrimination against persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, which included a special day of solidarity with persons with HIV/AIDS and improved health-care access for members of the LGBT community. In addition to enacting national anti-discrimination legislation and ensuring that it was applied, Nicaragua had also ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol and had signed the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees.

47. **Ms. Borgman** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that her Organization had long advocated against racism and related intolerance and welcomed the strong condemnation of racist acts against migrants contained in the declaration issued at the end of the General Assembly High-Level dialogue on International Migrants and Development. Deeply concerned at the growing intolerance towards migrants, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, ethnic profiling and political violence, IOM believed that the best way to eliminate it was by integrating migrants into the economic, social, cultural and political life of the host society. The young, including

young migrants, were powerful agents for change and must therefore be included in the framing of migration policy. The social inclusion of young migrants brought down social barriers of xenophobia, marginalization and discrimination.

48. A fundamental shift was required in the public perception of migration, which called for the participation of Governments, the media, the private sector, civil society and migrants themselves. Misperceptions should be countered by factual information on demographic trends, as well as the positive contributions of migrants to host societies, the subject of a recent IOM global information campaign.

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*