



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General
7 December 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Eighty-eighth session

Summary record of the 2398th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 26 November 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Calí Tzay

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Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (*continued*)


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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** extended a warm welcome to all those present.
2. *The short film entitled Fifty Years of Fighting Racism shown during the previous meeting was rescreened.*

Panel discussion on current challenges and ways forward

3. **The Chair** invited Ms. Crickley to moderate a discussion on current challenges and ways forward.
4. **Ms. Crickley**, introducing herself and the five panel members who would lead the discussion, said that it was an honour and pleasure to moderate the dialogue, which was an opportunity to reflect on the progress made over the past 50 years and to identify current challenges and ways forward.
5. **Mr. de Gouttes** (former Chair of the Committee) said that, having served on the Committee for 24 years, he had observed first-hand how its dynamic and not overly legalistic interpretation of the Convention had helped to ensure constructive implementation and had cemented its status as the global monitoring body working to combat racism. Increasingly close cooperation with civil society and national human rights institutions, meanwhile, had provided access to new sources of information that had enabled the Committee to expand the scope of its actions. However, the current world situation, characterized by an exacerbation of inter-ethnic and religious conflict, heightened security measures in response to the terrorist threat, massive population displacements and new, more immediate methods of disseminating racist ideas and hate speech (notably social media), called for ever more effective and innovative measures.
6. Against that backdrop, the Committee should continue to issue short lists of themes to States parties in advance of its sessions in order to streamline and maximize the benefits of the reporting process, and it should use the review procedure to examine — when necessary, for instance in the absence of a delegation — the situation in States which failed to submit the required periodic reports. To enhance the dialogue, the Committee should ensure that States parties were given sufficient time to prepare and impart their replies and that national human rights institutions and NGOs were increasingly engaged in official exchanges. When adopting concluding observations, the Committee should aim increasingly to draw attention to priority or very urgent issues that required an immediate response and to issues of particular importance that should, without fail, be addressed in the next periodic report. Follow-up processes should be extended and enhanced in order to ensure continuity of oversight and action. The Committee might also consider reviving the practice of making expert visits to States parties to assist them with the reporting process.
7. Renewed effort was required to increase acceptance of the individual complaints procedure among the 177 States parties to the Convention and encourage more victims to avail themselves of it. States parties that had accepted the procedure should be encouraged to monitor implementation of the Committee's recommendations more effectively, in particular so as to ensure appropriate reparation for victims, thorough investigations and any legislative amendments required. They should also cooperate more closely with the Special Rapporteurs and the Petitions and Inquiries Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and disseminate information about the procedure more widely. Given the current levels of violence and conflict throughout the world, the Committee's early warning measures and urgent action procedures, instituted in 1993, were now more important than ever

and should be further strengthened. Lastly, to give greater effect to its general recommendations, the Committee should aim to refer to their provisions as often as possible during interactive dialogues and in its concluding observations.

8. **Ms. Fanon-Mendès-France** (Chair, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent) said that the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was dedicated to fighting the particular form of racism that was based on skin colour and exposed African people and people of African descent to structural discrimination in education, employment, health care and the criminal justice system in all parts of the world. That discrimination brought with it a structural invisibility that was manifested in a lack of representation in political office, State bodies and the private sector.

9. The Working Group believed that extreme forms of discrimination could be fought effectively only if the historical injustices suffered by people of African descent were expressly acknowledged, including, inter alia, through apologies for the tragedies of the slave trade and colonialism and the establishment of reparatory justice mechanisms; if their culture, heritage and contribution to the world were recognized and celebrated; and if Governments demonstrated a stronger, concerted political will to repair the invisibility that impeded their progress.

10. Although advances had been achieved, the recent rise in extreme right-wing political discourse, hate speech and Afrophobic crime were signs of a worrying step backwards that had once been deemed impossible. Those signs called for an intensification of efforts, at all levels of society, to ensure an adequate response to issues of race and racism which guaranteed security, justice and effective remedies for a group that had been too long ignored.

11. The Working Group was using all possible means to address those issues. It had used letters of allegation and press releases to focus attention on the inappropriate police practices that had led to the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Michael Brown in the United States of America and attested to the deep-seated racial discrimination that Afro-Americans faced in all areas of their lives. In early 2016, it would be making a follow-up visit to the United States to address that complex situation. It had also been endeavouring to engage more closely with victims and to develop more precise, targeted recommendations.

12. The set of tools and mechanisms in place to support the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance was extensive and expanding. At the national level, a growing number of countries were adopting legislation against racial discrimination and establishing national human rights bodies to oversee its enforcement. At the regional level, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had recently created the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, while, at the international level, the efforts of the Committee and the Working Group were supported by those of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

13. Invaluable synergies were to be harnessed from their combined efforts and the International Decade for People of African Descent offered a unique opportunity in that respect. Greater knowledge and understanding of the various mechanisms and greater use of the various avenues of recourse they offered were also vital to progress, as was the active engagement of civil society and Governments throughout the world.

14. **Ms. Tauli-Corpuz** (Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples), through a video message, said that the Committee's important work to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples, including, notably, the adoption of general recommendation No. 23 on the rights of indigenous peoples, had prompted very

favourable actions and decisions on the part of Governments and international bodies such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). For example, the Committee's recommendations concerning palm oil plantations in Indonesia had prompted IFC to suspend funding for Wilmar International, a large palm oil company involved in deforestation. The Committee's early warning measures and urgent action procedures had also proved extremely effective in countering the risks to which indigenous communities were exposed, having been used successfully to address concerns about mining operations in the south of the Philippines. She wished to extend her thanks and congratulations to the members of the Committee, and in particular the Chair, for their support and achievements.

Interactive dialogue

15. **Ms. Janjua** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that Islam placed a special emphasis on equality and non-discrimination. There had recently been an alarming increase in new forms of racism, manifested in religious intolerance, racial profiling, xenophobic acts, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, hate speech and incitement to racial and religious hatred. OIC was deeply concerned that Muslims around the world were or would become victims of such scourges. The disturbing treatment of migrants on the basis of their religion and race in a number of European countries required corrective action in line with international human rights obligations. Drawing attention to the landmark Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief and the related action plan, she said that it was regrettable that the international community had not fulfilled all of its commitments to achieve tangible outcomes. It was vital to counter new forms of racial discrimination by creating a strong international legal framework; that effort should include establishing an inquiry procedure, strengthening national mechanisms, criminalizing hate speech, incitement to hatred and xenophobic acts, and ensuring effective remedies for victims.

16. **Mr. Kim Changho** (Lawyers Association of Zainichi Koreans), speaking on behalf of the 400,000 ethnic Koreans living in Japan, said that most members of that minority were descendants of Koreans who had been forced to live in Japan in the first half of the twentieth century, when Korea had been a Japanese colony. Although the Japanese Constitution in principle prohibited racial discrimination, the Committee had repeatedly expressed concern that the definition of racial discrimination under constitutional law did not include the grounds of national or ethnic origin, colour or descent and that the State party did not have a specific and comprehensive law prohibiting such discrimination. An anti-racial discrimination bill had recently been discussed in the Diet, but its adoption had been postponed due to opposition from the majority political parties. Hate crimes and hate speech targeting ethnic minorities were a serious problem; right-wing groups had held numerous demonstrations and rallies at which they used hate speech and intimidation against Korean communities. The Committee had expressed concern that such hate speech and hate crimes were not always properly investigated and prosecuted by the Government. The Government had made very little effort to implement the Committee's recommendations. He supported Mr. de Gouttes's suggestion that Committee members should conduct country visits.

17. **Mr. Diaconu** said that, although the prohibition of racial discrimination was a universal norm of international law, the phenomenon persisted and was taking on new forms. In order to address some of the ambiguities in the Convention, the Committee had adopted a range of general recommendations to give its own interpretation of certain provisions. The Committee needed to carefully follow emerging social trends

and new migration flows and seek solutions to existing and potential problems. The Committee was committed to improving its working methods, particularly the dialogue with States parties and engagement with NGOs and national human rights institutions. Although the Convention could be modified in theory, there were clearly diverging views among States parties on that matter, and therefore the Committee had to endeavour to develop ways of expanding the application of the Convention in its current form by adopting new general recommendations. The application of the Convention could also benefit from developments in other bodies, such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the International Law Commission and the International Court of Justice. A book on the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention would be published in 2016.

18. **Ms. Ershadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continued to be global challenges that placed individuals and groups at a disadvantage and led to marginalization. It was cause for serious concern that people of African descent still suffered from inequality, torture and ill-treatment and were victims of alarmingly high rates of police violence and racial profiling. The international community should take the International Decade for People of African Descent as an opportunity to redouble its efforts for the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. While the fight against terrorism was a top priority for the international community, it should not be used to justify racism. The Islamic Republic of Iran was especially concerned by misplaced suspicion about migrants and refugees, especially Muslims, and called upon the international community, especially European States, to take immediate action in that regard. All States needed to take appropriate measures, through education and the media, to promote the values of acceptance and cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

19. **Ms. Espinosa Garcés** (Ecuador) said that, at the constitutional, legislative and practical levels, Ecuador was committed to promoting unity in diversity for all of its people, include migrants and refugees. Important initiatives in that respect had included the Plurinational Plan for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion for the period 2009-2012 and the 2013 Atlas of Socioeconomic Inequalities, which were intended to identify inequalities and inform public policy with regard to historically excluded groups of the population. The National Agenda for the Equality of Nationalities and Peoples had been designed to promote the inclusion of indigenous, Montubio and Afro-descendent groups, who represented 21 per cent of the population, and the Council for the Development of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador had been established to coordinate and monitor progress and the challenges faced by those groups. Just days before, an Ecuadorian court had handed down, for the first time, a sentence for the crime of racial hatred; the case involved the ill-treatment of a young man of African descent by a military officer in a military training academy. In implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, it would be important to take account of the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination. Ecuador called on all States that had not yet done so to ratify the Convention.

20. **Mr. Torrejón Alcoba** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Convention had been drafted at a time of sweeping social upheaval, which had then continued and taken on different forms in the twenty-first century. Racist hate speech was being disseminated through the global media; in particular, degrading references were made to indigenous peoples and peasant farmers from the Altiplano region of his country. A world summit on decolonization, depatriarchalization and the fight against racism and discrimination had been held in La Paz earlier in the month and had concluded that, ever since the colonization of the Americas by Spain, racism had been used to justify the oppression of those peoples. Pillaging, rape and genocide had been justified on the grounds of the conquistadores' racial superiority. It was estimated that more than 17

million persons had been transported as slaves from Africa to the Americas. Regrettably, the effects of those harmful practices continued to the present day, as traditional education and the media reinforced colonial and patriarchal paradigms. Attention should be focused on dismantling a system that was based on the doctrine of racial superiority, which was scientifically wrong and morally reprehensible.

21. **Mr. de Gouttes** (former Chair of the Committee) said that further efforts needed to be made to develop the Committee's individual communications procedure, and the Petitions and Inquiries Section should be granted additional resources to ensure that cases could be dealt with in a reasonable time frame.

22. **Ms. Fanon-Mendès-France** (Chair, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent) said that States and civil society needed to give special attention to the situation of people of African descent because of their invisibility. The effectiveness of existing instruments, including general recommendation No. 34 on racial discrimination against people of African descent, could be reinforced through strengthened cooperation between the Committee and the Working Group.

Panel discussion on current challenges and ways forward (continued)

23. **Mr. Türk** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that the Convention was of particular importance to UNHCR, as it addressed specifically the kinds of issues that the Office dealt with on a daily basis. The world was currently confronted with the largest number of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons it had seen since the end of the Second World War. The discriminatory situations that those people often faced in their home countries and which left them with little choice but to flee were directly relevant to the Convention. One of the most important challenges that the international community would have to face collectively in the coming years was the rise in xenophobic tendencies, potentially toxic public and political debates, uninformed reporting in the media and populist politics, all of which would engender a climate of fear. The Convention should be at the centre of the response to such challenges. Most of the estimated 10 million stateless persons worldwide belonged to minority groups, which indicated that discrimination was a factor in their situation. At least 20 countries had legislation that provided for the denial or withdrawal of nationality on grounds of ethnicity, race or religion. The parts of the Convention that addressed asylum seekers, refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons would be extremely important in the coming years, and he expressed the hope that the Committee would pay particular attention to those groups. It was important also to acknowledge and applaud positive practices and people-to-people solidarity in a number of countries.

24. **Ms. McDougall** (Minority Rights Group International) said that, as a member of an oppressed minority group herself, she had personally experienced endemic racism. Even though the United States Supreme Court had ruled in the 1950s that segregated schools violated the Constitution, resistance to integrated schools had been so strong that de facto segregation continued to exist in some places in that country. The main challenge facing the Committee was that of achieving greater effectiveness. It was essential to focus on follow-up to concluding observations, synergies with relevant special procedures, the management of and provision of guidance relating to recommendations, outreach work targeting civil society organizations and efforts to increase the visibility of the Committee's work. The recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided an opportunity for the Committee to give greater attention to poverty among disadvantaged minority groups and indigenous peoples and to the interrelationship of poverty with inequality and discrimination. The Committee could play a vital role in monitoring compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in particular Goal 10, on the reduction of inequality

within and among countries. The Committee should also ensure that States fulfilled their commitment to track progress towards all targets based on data disaggregated by gender, age, race, ethnic origin, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics. With the impoverishment of rural economies, members of minority groups and indigenous peoples now accounted for a higher proportion of the urban population and were facing new forms of discrimination, such as segregation, lack of access to services, targeted violence and social exclusion. The Committee could help States parties to understand the relevance of their obligations under the Convention in the context of that population shift.

Interactive dialogue

25. **Mr. Stevens** (Belgium), referring to the comments made by Mr. de Gouttes and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, said that the work of the Committee was closely linked to the principle of the responsibility to protect. Through its early warning measures and urgent action procedures, the Committee could play a role in detecting the underlying causes of violence and conflict. Particular attention should be paid to racist and discriminatory hate speech in that regard. He asked why, over the past few years, there had been a slight decline in the number of letters sent to States parties and decisions adopted by the Committee as a part of that procedure.

26. **Mr. Toro Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, despite the progress made since the adoption of the Convention, much remained to be done to halt the spread of xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination and related violence and the impact of those phenomena on millions of people around the world. Police forces of countries in the northern hemisphere were continuing to persecute people of African descent and migrants, subjecting them to ever more brutal treatment that sometimes resulted in death. Neo-Nazi and other extremist groups were increasingly active in many States. Complementary norms should be introduced that would strengthen the Convention and make it possible to tackle new forms of racism in line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Comments from the members of the Committee in that regard would be welcome. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued the principles of solidarity, interculturality, non-exclusion, equal opportunity, non-discrimination and empowerment of the poorest members of society, and it would continue to support the mechanisms set up by the Human Rights Council to counter xenophobia, racism and racial discrimination.

27. **Mr. Diawara** (Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme), acknowledging the core role of the Convention in the promotion and protection of human rights, said that Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme had organized, in January 2001, the first African regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Tolerance and had taken part in the organization of the civil society forum at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in 2009. Since the launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent on 1 January 2015, no concrete affirmative action had yet been taken to improve the lives of the millions of persons of African descent around the world who continued to live in poverty and exclusion. People of African descent often faced poverty as a result of structural factors, such as day-to-day discrimination in access to health care, education, housing, bank credit and employment. Immediate action must be taken to tackle such issues in order to ensure that another decade was not wasted. States must support both the Committee and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in their efforts to carry out their mandates.

28. **Ms. MacAttram** (Black Mental Health UK) said that in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the racism directed against people of African

descent had been conflated with an equality agenda that encompassed a range of other areas. Consequently, the monitoring activities being carried out did not reflect the real situation of racial discrimination and that had led to a worsening of the phenomenon. A disproportionate number of people of African descent were imprisoned in the United Kingdom and were often held in seclusion. Issues affecting people of African descent, such as militarized policing, State violence, and economic and social exclusion, must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

29. **Mr. Vázquez** said that, when fighting terrorism, States should not resort to racial profiling or other measures that constituted racial discrimination and they must always take into account the need to protect human rights. Members of ethnic minorities were often targeted by terrorists. The effectiveness of anti-terrorism measures was undermined by the fact that they frequently focused on the victims rather than the perpetrators. The Committee's general recommendation No. 35 stated that the criminalization of forms of racist expression should be reserved for serious cases and stipulated that education for tolerance and counter-speech were effective antidotes to racist hate speech. Furthermore, it stipulated that the protection of persons from racist hate speech was not simply one of opposition between the right to freedom of expression and its restriction for the benefit of protected groups. Limits on freedom of expression and hate speech laws were sometimes used against human rights defenders and minority groups attempting to assert their rights. Special measures formulated in line with article 1 (4) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 32 could help to eliminate the structural discrimination that pushed members of ethnic minorities to the bottom rung of the economic ladder in many countries. Governments could protect their citizens from terrorism and racist hate speech, while upholding the right to freedom of expression and opinion and other human rights.

30. **Ms. Dike** (US Human Rights Network) said that the Committee's work had been invaluable to US Human Rights Network in its efforts to address racism specifically directed at women, as referred to in the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination. Further general recommendations on intersectionality, including on gender identity, would be welcome. Implementation of the Committee's recommendations was a major issue. Despite the claims made to the contrary in the State party's response to the Committee's concluding observations in 2014, the United States authorities had not done enough to implement the recommendation relating to the investigation and prosecution of each allegation of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials (CERD/C/USA/CO/7-9, para. 17 (a)). In the United States, 1,027 people had been killed by the police thus far in 2015, but only around a dozen officers had been charged with murder or manslaughter. There was a need to strengthen the Committee's follow-up procedures, including through the organization of follow-up visits as was the practice of other human rights treaty bodies. Were there any plans for the Committee to adopt a grading system linked to the reports provided by States parties on follow-up to the concluding observations, in line with the practice of other treaty bodies?

31. **Mr. Amir** said that States must remain vigilant against the spread of racist hate speech, in particular in political and media circles, and take action to address it. Article 4 of the Convention might be reconsidered in order to take into account the concerns of States parties who felt that there was a conflict between the freedom of expression, as enshrined in their national constitutions and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and measures to eliminate racist hate speech. States and the wider international community potentially had a role to play in addressing the dissemination of racist hate speech through the media. The work of the Committee was heavily dependent upon support from Governments, the media and the public.

32. **Mr. Bossuyt** said that, during the current migration crisis, it was a mistake to lump together illegal migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. To deal with the crisis, all the countries concerned — countries of origin as well as transit and destination countries — must come together to share the responsibility. The international community should not allow itself to be resigned to the inevitability of illegal migration, which was a scourge that must be dealt with. If it was not, the first victims would be refugees, who faced a real risk of xenophobia and Islamophobia.

33. **Mr. Khalaf** said that the Committee would need support from States parties over the next 50 years. The world could not be built on a foundation of fear. If racial discrimination, poverty and injustice were to be eliminated, States must work to combat ignorance and work for peaceful coexistence, not only through education but through life experience.

34. **Mr. Avtonomov**, after expressing satisfaction at the fact that interpretation was being provided in all six of the official languages of the United Nations, by contrast with the usual meetings of the Committee, said that, 10 years earlier, it had seemed that the world was moving towards the elimination of racial discrimination. One of the challenges in future years would be to develop procedures for the proper assessment of the situation and of the effectiveness of the various bodies attempting to address the issue. The Committee should establish such an assessment procedure so as to indicate where improvement or deterioration had occurred.

35. **Mr. Kemal** said that he supported the view expressed by Mr. Bossuyt. The international system would be overwhelmed if the international community failed to deal with the causes of the current migration crisis. The countries that had the means to do so should intervene to prevent evil from taking root. The way to solve the current difficulties was to address, over the next 5 to 10 years, the economic problems faced by the countries that migrants were fleeing.

36. **Ms. Jourdan** (Association of World Citizens) said that, as a doctor, she tried to see people as individuals needing help to develop their potential. She therefore believed that the way to combat the crime of racial discrimination was to ensure that all the parties involved — whether their task was in border security or in combating human trafficking or the sale of arms to mafias and militias — worked with the judiciary to tackle racial discrimination and contemporary forms of slavery. She looked forward to the day when such overarching cooperation could be established.

37. **Mr. Murillo Martínez** said that, partly thanks to the work of the Committee, people of African descent had come out of the shadows and the 200 million Afro-descendent people in the Americas and 10 million in Europe could make their voices heard more loudly at the five regional conferences — including the one to be held shortly in Brazil — due to take place under the Plan of Action of the International Decade for People of African Descent. He was alarmed at the statistic quoted by an earlier speaker to the effect that there had been 1,027 killings of civilians by police in the United States over the past year. He requested further information. The Committee should monitor such occurrences.

38. **Mr. Lindgren Alves** said that the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention was also an opportunity for the Committee to reflect on its possible failures and limitations. In periods of violence, like the present, the world was more prone to racism, even though racism was not an official ideology in any country. The situation was caused largely by structural practices that bred a culture of negligence and intolerance. The world had seen the demise of universal values; competition was considered the sole propeller of development and had ushered in an era of fundamentalism, narcissism, selfishness and terror. The Committee's mandate was to work for equality; and equality meant acceptance of differences.

Concluding remarks

39. **The Chair** said that the representative of Belgium had asked why the Committee had not adopted more decisions. The Committee had, however, adopted three decisions in the past year as part of its early warning measures and urgent action procedures, most recently in relation to the situation concerning the activities of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as a statement on the refugee crisis. It had also sent over 100 letters to States parties. The Committee could only issue decisions when it was in session, of course; since the time allowed for sessions had been extended, for which he was grateful, it could issue more decisions in the future.

40. **Mr. Türk** (UNHCR) said that the current situation did not bode well for the elimination of racial discrimination. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had asked how irrational fears should be dealt with; and the answer must be to nip them in the bud, otherwise inflammatory rhetoric would make the situation spiral out of control. What was needed was leadership by both politicians and civil society, and also by the Committee. He endorsed the point made by Mr. Kemal: there was a need to address the root causes of displacement and migration. Following recent discussions, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would convene a summit in 2016 on the sharing of responsibility for dealing with the migration crisis, as suggested by Mr. Bossuyt.

41. **Ms. McDougall** (Minority Rights Group International) said that, following the enriching debate of the day of commemoration, the Committee needed to develop a more robust approach to seeking the full implementation of its recommendations. It must focus on addressing the fact that economic exclusion and poverty were used as a tool against minorities and racial groups. The Committee should make itself more visible and ensure that its voice was heard in the places where the most critical decisions were made, particularly in New York. The Committee was in a position to identify early warning signals, so it had a responsibility to ensure that its voice was heard.

42. **Ms. Crickley** (Moderator) said that the Committee's work should be seen in the context of the other international issues facing the world, as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, the outcome of the forthcoming climate change conference and the work on strengthening and improving the human rights treaty bodies. The Committee had called for greater evaluation and visibility. In the future, it should focus on the root causes of racial discrimination. She thanked all those who had contributed to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.