



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Twenty-second session

Summary record of the 479th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 28 August 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Basharu

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

Consideration of reports submitted by parties to the Convention under article 35

(continued)

Initial report of Myanmar (CRPD/C/MMR/1; CRPD/C/MMR/Q/1 and CRPD/C/MMR/Q/1/Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Myanmar took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that, in a statement delivered at the Fourth Regional Disability Rights Dialogue in Yangon in January 2019, the Second Vice-President of Myanmar, Henry Van Thio, had recognized that persons with disabilities faced difficulties and obstacles in their daily lives “not because of the disability itself, but because of their surroundings, physical and mental attitudes, and other barriers”. It was imperative to remove all such barriers, including those that were social and attitudinal in nature.
3. The realization of human rights was one of the Government’s top priorities. Myanmar strove to fulfil its obligations under the various human rights treaties that it had ratified, but it faced a number of challenges in that connection, particularly with regard to the fulfilment of its reporting obligations. Owing to those challenges, including the difficulty of coordinating the collection of information from multiple ministries and the need to translate that information into English, the report had been submitted after the deadline.
4. **Mr. Win Naing Tun** (Myanmar), introducing his country’s initial report (CRPD/C/MMR/1) and outlining the developments that had occurred since its submission, said that Myanmar had made a prodigious effort to remove the barriers that prevented persons with disabilities from enjoying their rights under the Convention. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 5 June 2015 and the associated implementing regulations of 27 December 2017 had been drafted in accordance with the Convention and in consultation with stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities. Articles 16 and 17 of that law concerned the rights of children and women with disabilities. In addition, article 15 of the Child Rights Law, adopted in July 2019, was devoted to the rights of children with disabilities.
5. The Government’s efforts to implement the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its associated regulations had achieved tangible results, including the establishment of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 14 September 2017. The Vice-President of Myanmar served as the Chair of the National Committee, and the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was its Vice-Chair. Prior to the establishment of various committees and subcommittees under the National Committee, consultations had been held with stakeholders, and persons with disabilities had been encouraged to play a leading role in the work of those bodies. The Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities had established 12 regional offices.
6. The Government placed great value on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Department of Rehabilitation had been established under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in January 2018 to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, ensure the effective implementation of relevant laws and regulations and improve the lives of persons with disabilities.
7. His delegation welcomed the international community’s support for the efforts being made to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Myanmar. In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Enabling Master Plan adopted at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in November 2018, Myanmar was drafting a national development strategy for persons with disabilities for the period 2020–2025.
8. Myanmar had sent delegations led by the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to the Global Disability Summits in 2018 and 2019. At the 2018 Summit, the country had signed the Charter for Change. Myanmar would continue to work with other countries in the region and international organizations, including the United Nations, to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. The Government also cooperated

with civil society and partner organizations in Myanmar to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. For example, together with the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the Government had recently held a forum on disability and the media and had organized a workshop on access to justice.

9. In order provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities, the Government had held training courses on mushroom farming in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, on massage therapy in cooperation with Japan Heart and on coffee and confectionery production in cooperation with the Korea Disabled People's Development Institute.

10. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was working with other ministries, including the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Transport and Communications, to realize the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to accessibility. With regard to information accessibility, State-owned media outlets provided sign language interpretation for persons with hearing disabilities, as did some privately owned media outlets. Sign language was also used to make information on the Convention available to such persons in video format. Pamphlets on disability-related legislation were being prepared in Braille for persons with visual disabilities. In cooperation with the Ministry of Construction, pilot projects to improve accessibility for commuters with disabilities were being carried out in the country's capital. Persons with Hansen's disease were granted the same rights as other persons with disabilities under the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

11. Under that same law, the Government was planning to launch a capital fund that would serve as the main source of funding for initiatives to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Various mechanisms, including corporate social responsibility policies and public-private partnerships, would be used to secure contributions to the fund and ensure its sustainability.

12. The Government supported associations established and led by persons with disabilities, including the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities. The rights of persons with disabilities had been the focus of considerable attention in 2018 and would remain in the spotlight in the future. The Department of Social Welfare was responsible for the provision of care services for persons with disabilities and the Department of Rehabilitation Services for various other services for such persons. Persons with disabilities were able to participate in sports competitions organized by the Myanmar Disability Sports Federation and competitions at the regional level.

13. Persons with disabilities had access to vocational training courses designed to accommodate their specific needs. Every year, basic and advanced computer training courses were organized for students with visual disabilities. Similar courses were held for students with physical disabilities. Between 2015 and 2019, six training courses had been held for a total of 180 teachers who worked with children with special needs. Three public schools had been opened for children with special needs, as had private schools for such children in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Mandalay and Lashio.

14. The Government had initiated a three-stage process for the introduction of a disability classification and registration system. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which was responsible for the first stage, was conducting pilot projects in three states and regions over a period of eight months in 2019. The Ministry would implement the second and third stages in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports.

15. With a view to making more job opportunities available to persons with disabilities, a handbook entitled "Employing Persons with Disabilities" had been published for employers. Consultations had been held with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other stakeholders in order to harmonize the process of creating jobs for persons with disabilities. In addition, the restrictions previously imposed on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector had been lifted, and persons with disabilities could now be recruited as civil servants. The Job Coach Programme was active in promoting employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities. Ever since 2015, in cooperation with Job Coach Network

Malaysia, the Government had been inviting supported employment experts from Malaysia to conduct training courses in Myanmar. Some 100 experts had been trained thus far. In addition, in cooperation with the Shwe Min Tha Foundation, the Association for Aid and Relief – Japan and the Job Coach Coalition, the Government had published a supported employment manual in the Myanmar language. A handbook on inclusive disability-related language had also been published.

16. Myanmar had taken steps to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, and the Government's "no one left behind" approach also extended to those in detention centres. With the cooperation of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Union Election Commission, the Government had ensured that persons with disabilities had been able to participate in the 2015 general election and the 2018 by-elections. The Union Election Commission also conducted awareness-raising activities in that regard.

17. In 2018, a wheelchair event had been held to raise awareness of the active participation of persons with disabilities in the peace process.

18. The share of the State budget allocated to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which had primary responsibility for realizing the rights and serving the interests of persons with disabilities, had increased from 0.19 per cent in 2016/17 to 0.45 per cent in 2018/19. In the previous two fiscal years, the Government had provided financial support to over 120,000 persons with disabilities.

19. Myanmar had made significant progress in implementing the Convention and remained committed to achieving further progress, despite formidable constraints and challenges. In order to continue moving forward, the country stood in need of financial support in order to enable it to improve transport accessibility, establish schools for sign language interpreters and create jobs for persons with disabilities.

20. His delegation therefore wished to request the international community to provide assistance in support of the country's efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and would be grateful if members of the Committee could share examples of best practices in countries that were in a similar position.

21. **Mr. Ishikawa** (Country Rapporteur) said that it was heartening to note the progress made by the State party in realizing the rights of persons with disabilities since its ratification of the Convention in 2011. It was clear that the Government and civil society were strongly committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities were not left behind. In common with other treaty bodies, however, the Committee was concerned to note that persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including women, girls and members of ethnic minorities, faced multiple forms of discrimination. The Committee was particularly concerned about the situation of women and girls with disabilities. Any amendment of legislation or reform of disability policy that did not address their situation would not be fit for the purpose of constructing a better future for persons with disabilities in the State party.

Articles 1 to 10

22. **Mr. Buntan** said that he wished to know what criteria were used for disability classification purposes and whether the State party employed a human rights approach to disability. The Committee would welcome information on the role played by persons with disabilities in formulating, implementing and monitoring the implementation of laws that affected their lives. It would be interesting to learn whether organizations of persons with disabilities were involved in drafting legislation and making recommendations during the drafting process. In view of the fact that parts of the country were still mired in armed conflict, he wished to know what steps were being taken to protect persons with disabilities who were vulnerable to intersectional discrimination, including women, girls and members of ethnic minorities. Lastly, he wondered what was being done to ensure that new infrastructure, including buildings, modes of transportation and information technology systems, were accessible to persons with disabilities and whether any incentives or sanctions were in place to encourage companies to meet accessibility standards or punish those that failed to do so.

23. **Mr. Kabue** said that it was his understanding that the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2015 referred to persons “suffering from” disability; if that was indeed the case, he wished to know whether the language contained in that law would be brought into line with the Convention. It would be interesting to learn how organizations of persons with disabilities were involved in the registration of persons with disabilities and what role they had played in the past in developing legislation concerning their rights. Were any plans in place to facilitate the participation of persons with all types of disabilities in the development of laws and policies affecting them?

24. The Committee would welcome information on the redress mechanisms available to persons with disabilities whose rights had been violated. He wondered whether any measures had been taken to raise awareness among persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders of the Convention and national legislation on disability and, if so, whether persons with disabilities had been involved in those efforts. It would be interesting to know when the National Building Code would be implemented.

25. **Mr. Ruskus** said that he wished to know to what extent the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2015 was in line with the Convention. He wondered whether the mechanism for assessing and certifying disability provided for support for persons with disabilities, promoted their inclusion and recognized all types of disability, including leprosy, intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities. The Committee wished to know to what extent organizations of persons with disabilities were involved in decision-making processes at the national and municipal levels, including those relating to the implementation of the Convention. It would be interesting to learn, more specifically, whether persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities were involved in such processes.

26. He wondered whether training on the Convention was provided to policymakers and administrative staff at the national and municipal levels and to all professionals who worked with persons with disabilities. Was training in disability issues provided to law enforcement officials, members of the judiciary and persons with disabilities themselves?

27. The Committee would welcome information on the effectiveness of the work programme established under the national action plan for combating trafficking in persons, including its effectiveness in protecting women and children with disabilities. He would appreciate information on the steps taken to combat discrimination and stigmatization aimed at women and girls with disabilities, particularly women affected by leprosy. It would be interesting to hear about any efforts to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and the rights enshrined in the Convention in particular, and to learn whether awareness-raising campaigns were conducted in all the languages spoken in Myanmar and in all its regions.

28. **Mr. Schefer**, speaking on behalf of Ms. Kayess, who had been unable to attend the meeting, said that it appeared that the new Rights of the Child Law, adopted in July 2019, guaranteed free, universal birth registration but did not guarantee the right to nationality or address exclusions in the law that denied citizenship to children and adults with disabilities who belonged to certain ethnic groups, including the Rohingya. The Committee was concerned to note that people belonging to certain ethnic groups, including members of those groups who had disabilities, faced discriminatory barriers when seeking to obtain citizenship and were consequently deprived of access to health care, education, employment, political participation and justice. In view of that situation, he wished to know whether the Government would consider making legislative changes to facilitate access to citizenship for those currently denied it, whether it planned to increase the transparency and accessibility of procedures for obtaining identity documents and citizenship and whether it would consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

29. **Mr. Chaker** said that he wished to know what measures would be taken to ensure that women with disabilities were protected against violence and sexual abuse and were able to exercise their right to justice.

30. **Ms. Gamio Ríos**, referring to a report concerning the rape of a blind woman belonging to an ethnic minority, said that she wished to know what was being done to protect women against multiple forms of discrimination.

31. **Mr. Lovászy** said that he wished to know whether there were State funds, financial measures or some sort of sustainable funding mechanism to support awareness-raising activities in public and private media outlets. He wondered how many students had been taught about the rights, history and situation of persons with disabilities. The Committee would welcome statistics on the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in State-run programmes dealing with disability issues.

32. **Mr. Ishikawa** said that he would welcome information on the timeline for reviewing the Constitution and the Criminal Code and adopting and implementing comprehensive legislation and policies that afforded protection against disability-based discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation. He wished to know why the Government claimed that multiple and intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities, especially those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, could not be eliminated until internal procedures relating to the Working Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been completed.

33. The Committee would appreciate information on the timeline for the implementation of measures to address stigmatization, discrimination and harmful stereotyping aimed at children with disabilities and to ensure that such children enjoyed access to education, health care and other services on equal terms with other children. It would also like to know when steps would be taken to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment, means of transport, and information and communications technologies and systems.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

34. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that, in addressing the Committee's questions, the delegation would be attempting to consider them from the point of view of persons with disabilities. The Government's goal was to ensure that no one was left behind, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity or disability. In 2019, a committee responsible for reviewing the Constitution had put forward a number of proposals for amendments, and those proposals were being examined by the legislature during its current session.

35. All persons who wanted or needed to obtain citizenship were encouraged to complete the necessary procedures. Birth registration procedures could be difficult to complete for people living in remote areas owing to the Government's lack of financial resources, which had been compounded by a reduction in foreign direct investment in the country.

36. Women and men in Myanmar enjoyed equal rights in most areas and had the same retirement age. The Government had committed to ensuring women constituted a minimum of 30 per cent of employees in every sector. Legislation had been drafted to further the protection and advancement of women and girls, and the Government had collaborated on a project in that regard with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Government had also taken other concrete steps towards Sustainable Development Goal 5, such as launching a helpline and setting up one-stop crisis and support centres to assist women and children who had been victims of violence. Victims had been provided with various forms of assistance, including legal aid and psychosocial support, and temporary shelters for victims of trafficking in persons had been established. As many of the reported cases of human rights violations, including sexual violence, had occurred in conflict areas, women-friendly spaces had been opened in camps for internally displaced persons and in disaster-affected areas. The new Child Rights Law had a chapter devoted to children with disabilities and included extensive provisions on the enjoyment of rights and the prevention of all forms of violence and discrimination.

37. **Mr. Zaw** (Myanmar) said that leprosy-related disabilities were covered by existing legislation. A national conference on combating leprosy had been held in the country's capital in 2018 and had issued a declaration calling for the appropriate implementation of

United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/215 and the draft principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members of the United Nations Human Rights Council (A/HRC/15/30).

38. As to the case mentioned earlier by Ms. Gamio Ríos in which a blind woman had been raped, that case had been a very particular one because the person accused of committing that offence also had a disability and was a member of a number of national organizations for persons with disabilities. The victim was staying in a safe house under the protection of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which was also acting as a mediator in the case. The case was pending a final court decision.

39. **Mr. Ya** (Myanmar) said that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law was based on the Convention, but the Government was considering amending that law to include further provisions on leprosy and psychosocial disabilities. Any such legislative review would be undertaken in conjunction with the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities. Discussions with international non-governmental organizations in Myanmar concerning the inclusion of additional definitions of persons with disabilities in the country's laws were under way.

40. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that, owing to the fact that it had taken quite a long time to draft the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, some of its provisions might be outdated and in need of revision. The Committee's recommendations and advice in that connection would be greatly appreciated.

41. **Mr. Win** (Myanmar) said that there had been no consensus on how to define "post-leprosy affected persons" in national legislation, as, although they were recognized as having a disability, they did not fit into any of the four categories of persons with disabilities identified in the law. It was hoped that the relevant legislation would be amended in the near future to add provisions on persons with leprosy, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with autism.

42. It was important to implement a rights-based approach to disability-related matters, and the involvement of persons with disabilities was key to such an approach. The Government worked closely with organizations of persons with disabilities, including the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 19 of whose 55 members were persons with disabilities. However, the country would require technical and financial support from international stakeholders to be able to further improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

43. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that the Government was working closely with relevant ministries to address the problem of trafficking in persons and had introduced an anti-trafficking law. Dedicated hotlines were being set up, anti-trafficking units had been established in police stations, and steps were being taken to raise awareness of the issue among law enforcement officials.

44. **Mr. Ya** (Myanmar) said that, each year, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement ran programmes for persons with disabilities. In the past, the programmes had been administered by the staff of the Ministry, but as of 2019 they were being organized in cooperation with the Federation of Persons with Disabilities and other organizations of persons with disabilities. The Ministry provided funding to such organizations to support awareness-raising, educational, humanitarian and other activities at the state and regional levels. In accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law, funding for disability issues was due to increase in the near future. Subcommittees on accessibility had been set up, and a pilot accessibility project was planned for implementation in the capital city that would focus on a particular park and a market. The objective of the pilot was to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in daily life and to serve as a model for other states and regions. Plans were also afoot to enhance the accessibility of roads, train stations and bus stops in Yangon.

45. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that the Government was endeavouring to respond to the challenges that the country faced in terms of accessibility within a very limited budget. Nonetheless, the budget allocation for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which was the focal point for the implementation of the

Convention, had increased significantly, although it remained quite limited by the standards of developed countries. Of course, there was a clear correlation between the country's level of development and accessibility, and as development continued, accessibility, too, would improve.

46. **Mr. Win** (Myanmar) said that the Federation of Persons with Disabilities had been consulted by the relevant ministries on the pilot accessibility project for the capital city. Nonetheless, persons with disabilities continued to face many barriers and challenges in terms of accessibility throughout the country. Access to public transportation was limited, but the Federation was working to raise awareness of the requirements of persons with disabilities among transport operators, and that effort had already yielded some positive results.

47. **Mr. Kyaw Moe Tun** (Myanmar) said that the Government did intend to ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and many other treaties, but it could not yet be said when that would happen, as there were many other pressing issues and considerable constraints to contend with. At the March 2019 session of the Human Rights Council, the delegation of Myanmar had announced that the country was in the process of preparing to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The country's initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was due in 2020.

48. **Mr. Ya** (Myanmar) said that, as the Rehabilitation Department had been established only in 2018, it was still working on setting up its regional and state offices. It was cooperating with organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct awareness-raising activities on a range of issues for government officials and the general public. A handbook on disability terminology developed in cooperation with the Federation of Persons with Disabilities would soon be published and distributed broadly.

Articles 11 to 20

49. **Mr. Babu** said that he would welcome information on any plans to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Prisons Act and the Burma Army Act to harmonize them with the Convention and strike the concepts of "lunatic" and "criminal lunatic" from the country's legislation. He would be interested to hear about the scope of the reasonable and procedural accommodations made in civil judicial procedures, including assisted notary services, and the safeguards and accessibility measures in place to ensure access to justice, especially for persons who were deaf or hard of hearing. He would also like to know about access to free legal services for persons with disabilities. Lastly, he would appreciate information on access to assistive devices for mobility and communication and any subsidies in place, including tax rebates, to facilitate the acquisition of such devices at affordable prices.

50. **Mr. Martin** said that he wished to know what the Government was doing to ensure that all persons with disabilities in Myanmar were registered as citizens with the right to vote and to make legal decisions for themselves. He would be interested to hear about the situation of persons with intellectual disabilities and the support they received, and he was particularly keen to learn whether they tended to live in institutions or rehabilitation centres or to remain with their families throughout their lives.

51. **Ms. Utami** said that she would be grateful for information on the specific measures in place to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially those belonging to minority ethnic groups, those affected by leprosy and those living in rural and remote areas, could live independently and were included in their communities. She would welcome an explanation of what was meant by the reference to the improvement of the "equality of assistive devices" in the replies to the list of issues. Did the National Development Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (2020–2025) cover the provision of assistive devices and technology?

52. **Mr. Schefer** said that, in the State party's reply to paragraph 7 of the list of issues on measures to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities in the context of humanitarian response efforts, it had referred only to the DNA mobile application. However, that alone was not sufficient. He would therefore like the delegation to expand on

other measures that were taken to ensure full and unfettered access to national humanitarian actors for all persons, in particular persons with disabilities, in need of humanitarian assistance and protection throughout the country, particularly in the north. The delegation might also comment on the measures taken to facilitate the safe passage of persons with disabilities seeking to move away from situations of risk, including areas affected by conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. He would also like to know what specific measures were in place to protect girls and boys under the age of 16 from sexual abuse.

53. **Ms. Kim Mi Yeon**, asking a follow-up question on article 6, said that she would appreciate information on measures taken to ensure substantive equality between men and women, especially for women and girls with disabilities, in compliance with the Convention and article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She would be interested to hear about measures for preventing the deprivation of liberty of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. She would also like to know about the specific services for women and girls with disabilities provided by the one-stop crisis centres, women's support centres and shelters for victims of trafficking. She would welcome a progress update on preparations for the passage of the bill on violence against women into law and wished to know whether that bill specifically provided for the protection of women and girls with disabilities.

54. **Mr. Lovász** said that he wished to know more about the availability of personal mobility services and products for persons with disabilities and any legal safeguards in place to prevent discriminatory practices in the provision of such services and products. He would be interested to learn about any State-driven initiatives, including financial incentives, to increase the quality of Internet services for persons with disabilities as a means of supporting independent living. He would like to know whether information related to public transport was accessible to persons with disabilities, and he wondered whether the Committee's general comment No. 2 on accessibility, which should be taken into consideration in building additional infrastructure for the country's capital city, had been translated into Burmese and widely disseminated. He would like the delegation to comment on whether all the sightseeing attractions in the capital were accessible to wheelchair users, whether an accessibility strategy that included effective and dissuasive sanctions was to be put in place and, if so, whether it would place special emphasis on the accessibility of information and communications.

55. **Mr. Ishikawa** said that he would appreciate detailed information on the measures in place to ensure the implementation of regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns for lawyers, court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers, including police and prison officers, on the rights of persons with disabilities and diversity of disability. He would be interested to know what the timeline was for repealing all legislation that allowed for deprivation of liberty on the grounds of actual or perceived impairment or that authorized the involuntary institutionalization or hospitalization of persons with disabilities. He would be grateful for statistics, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on the number of persons with disabilities who were still hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent.

56. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that she would be interested to know whether there had been any cases where identity cards or birth registration forms had been denied to persons with disabilities. She would also like to know whether there were any customs, superstitions or traditional practices or beliefs that entailed discrimination against persons with disabilities and that were still practised in some parts of the country.

57. **Mr. Buntan** said that he would be interested to hear whether any efforts were being made to ensure the prohibition of disability-based discrimination in the country's Constitution and laws, especially with regard to intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination. If not, he wished to urge the State party to do so.

58. **The Chair** said that he would welcome information on any measures in place to prevent forced sterilization, forced abortions and the administration of harmful treatments to persons with disabilities. In the light of the serious conflict taking place in the country,

he wished to know what measures had been put in place to protect persons with disabilities, especially in rural and remote parts of the country.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.