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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 7 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Braun ..... (Luxembourg)

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

**Agenda item 26: Advancement of women (continued)**

(a) **Advancement of women (continued)** (A/74/38, A/74/137, A/74/224 and A/74/235)

(b) **Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (continued)** (A/74/220 and A/74/222)

1. **Mr. Cooreman** (Belgium), speaking also on behalf of Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia, said that, given the deeply entrenched social and cultural norms that reinforced gender stereotypes and perpetuated discrimination against women, it was crucial to adhere to international and regional laws and standards, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which had been ratified by 189 States. Efforts should be made towards universal ratification of the Convention and the complete withdrawal of all substantive reservations, in particular those to articles 2 and 16. Following ratification, effective implementation was essential, including the submission, in a timely manner, of periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. States that had not yet ratified the Convention and/or the Optional Protocol thereto should consider doing so, as those instruments provided essential guarantees and strengthened remedies for women and girls. To seize the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, efforts to eradicate discrimination against women and girls must be stepped up, including by bridging gender gaps and structural barriers in order to achieve full gender equality.

2. **Ms. Fangco** (Philippines) said that her country had enacted a national translation of the Convention and laws to promote the advancement of women, including laws on responsible parenthood and reproductive health

and on expanded maternity leave. The Government continued to mainstream gender equality and gender responsiveness in public policies, including the enhanced social protection framework. Women occupied 60 per cent of the leadership positions in the national community-driven development programme established to empower communities and improve their access to services. Through its conditional cash transfer programme, the Government aimed to provide steady income for mothers to assist them in raising their families and to ensure that their children remained in school.

3. Despite landmark national laws, frameworks, gender-responsive programmes and the country's good standing in the Global Gender Gap Index, Filipino women and girls were most vulnerable to poverty, disasters and macroeconomic shocks and they continued to fall prey to trafficking in persons and forced labour. To combat trafficking in persons, the Government had adopted a whole-of-society approach, and social media and technology were used to raise awareness and facilitate reporting. Her Government believed in the importance of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in persons, especially for women migrant workers, and would continue to support, implement and advocate anti-trafficking objectives and commitments.

4. **Ms. Kocyigit Grba** (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons, said that gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, lack of technological and financial support for women's entrepreneurship, unequal access to labour markets, land and credit, and harmful traditional practices had constrained the economic empowerment of women. Special social protection measures were required to address poverty among older women, who often assumed caretaker roles and faced pension insecurity, leaving them vulnerable. Given the increase in the number of older persons and the growing trend of ageing societies across the world, greater attention needed to be paid to the specific challenges faced by older persons. Older women must be empowered to exercise their rights, not only as beneficiaries of special care and social protection but also as specific rights holders and active agents of change.

5. In the light of the negative effect of the world financial and economic crisis on the situation of older persons, in particular older single women and older women widows, there was a need to mainstream ageing issues into poverty eradication measures, women's

empowerment strategies and national development plans. Given the differential impact of ageing on women and men, a gender perspective should be integrated into all policies, programmes and legislation. National programmes and policies should also address the specific challenges faced by older persons in emergencies.

6. The members of the Group committed themselves to incorporating ageing into social and economic strategies, policies and action, while recognizing that specific policies would vary according to the conditions within each country. Effective measures against ageism were also needed, and older persons should be viewed as active contributors to society, not as passive receivers of care and assistance and an impending burden on welfare systems and economies. Older women were particularly affected by misleading and negative stereotypes, as they were often depicted as dependent and a burden on society, reinforcing exclusionary practices at the local and national levels. Renewed commitment, improved, rigorously implemented policies and increased funding from all sources, including increased official development assistance, were required in order to leave no woman or girl behind.

7. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that the foundation for the advancement of women in Bangladesh had been laid by establishing the equal rights of women and men in all spheres under the Constitution. The current Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House, the Deputy Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were all women. In Parliament, 50 seats were reserved for women, and an additional 23 women had been directly elected in the most recent parliamentary elections. Women served as Cabinet ministers and other high-ranking government officials and in the police, the armed forces and United Nations peacekeeping missions. For the past three years, Bangladesh had ranked first among the South Asian countries in gender equality.

8. The targeted financial inclusion measures taken by his Government had been effective for the financial empowerment and progress of women. The Government was investing more in women-friendly sustainable infrastructure, skills-based education and training for women, and the access of women to the Internet, information and communications technology and the job market. It was also addressing social taboos and challenges such as child marriage, violence against women and trafficking through the enactment and stringent implementation of laws.

9. As a climate-vulnerable country, Bangladesh was taking measures to build the resilience of its population,

especially women and girls in rural areas, who were also prioritized in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies. In his report on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas (A/74/224), the Secretary-General had recognized the effective role played by Bangladesh in developing and implementing climate change gender action plans.

10. At the United Nations, Bangladesh was an ardent proponent of the participation of women in the entire spectrum of the conflict and peace architecture under the women and peace and security agenda of the Security Council. It also worked with Member States to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for women and girls. As the Vice-Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Bangladesh had facilitated a resolution on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

11. **Ms. Bellout** (Algeria) said that the protection, promotion and empowerment of women were priorities of governmental programmes in her country. The empowerment of women and the principle of the elimination of discrimination in all its forms were also important elements of the Constitution. The advancement and empowerment of women and the integration of women's issues had been accelerated by amendments to the Constitution relating to increasing the participation of women in political and public life, women's employment and the representation of women in decision-making positions.

12. In its action plan for the period 2014–2019, the Government had stressed the need for greater efforts and the provision of more means to preserve women's gains and enhance the protection of their rights. The Government had also committed itself to strengthening measures that would empower women to balance their professional and family responsibilities. Ensuring high-quality education and training for women and girls was a priority of the national education policy because it would allow women to realize their aspirations and achieve financial independence. The Government would continue to support continuous, compulsory and free education for all and to open vocational education and training centres covering all disciplines without discrimination between women and men.

13. The 12 areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action had been addressed by strengthening the legal framework in Algeria. For example, the Criminal Code had been amended to include the criminalization and punishment of various forms of violence against women, including spousal violence and harassment of women in public places.

14. **Mr. Kim Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that women's rights were promoted and protected in his country in accordance with its Constitution and national laws. On 30 July 1946, a law on equality between men and women had been promulgated to enable women to participate in State activities and social life with equal rights to men. The period of maternity leave had been extended following an amendment to the Socialist Labour Act. International Women's Day and Mother's Day, which were commemorated nationwide, served as important occasions for encouraging respect for women throughout society.

15. As a result of measures to appoint able women to leading positions, the proportion of women leaders at or above the level of Director General in ministerial departments and agencies had increased significantly, and the majority of leaders of institutions and enterprises in the fields of education, public health and light industry were women. The consideration of the second to fourth combined periodic report of his country to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was a good occasion to enhance international cooperation for the promotion of women's rights.

16. In 1996, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences had stated that more than 200,000 women and girls had been subjected to sexual slavery by the Japanese army during the Second World War – a very grave crime against humanity that was openly denied by the perpetrators. Japan should admit to its past crimes against humanity, including military sexual slavery, apologize and provide compensation.

17. The South Korean authorities should repatriate immediately and unconditionally all the women citizens of his country that they had tricked, abducted and detained, including the 12 women abducted in April 2016 and Ms. Kim Ryon Hui.

18. **Ms. Al Kaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that women should receive training for and be involved in peacekeeping operations throughout the world. The United Arab Emirates had worked with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on training for military purposes, and women in the Middle East and Africa would be able to take part in the initiative. The second edition of the training course would be held in 2020 in Abu Dhabi.

19. The United Arab Emirates had also been working with Georgetown University to study the social, political and economic role of women in post-conflict

reconstruction. In conjunction with the University, the United Arab Emirates would organize a round table on the political participation of women in post-conflict reconstruction in the margins of an open Security Council debate on women and peace and security. The initiative should lead to the submission of recommendations and action plans for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

20. Over the past few days, elections to the Federal National Council had been held in the United Arab Emirates. For the first time in the country's history, 50 per cent of the Council's members would be women, reflecting the forward-looking vision of the United Arab Emirates to enhance the political and parliamentary participation of women. One of the underlying principles of the external aid provided by the United Arab Emirates was the empowerment of women; it had thus provided \$15 million in funding to support UN-Women over a three-year period.

21. **Ms. Ahmed** (Sudan) said that Sudanese women had been heavily involved in the revolution of December 2018. They had been mobilized over the past year to establish the civilian transitional Government and had participated in negotiations to set up the transitional authorities. Four ministerial portfolios had been given to women and one was from the Coptic minority, which demonstrated the geographical and ethnic distribution of the portfolios.

22. A great deal of attention was paid to women's rights in the transitional Constitution. The proportion of women in the transitional Legislative Council stood at 40 per cent. Strategies and policies had been adopted to promote women's rights, including in the women's strategy up to 2031, the national housing policy and the national strategy for combating gender-based violence. Awareness-raising campaigns had been launched, notably against forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and programmes for the economic empowerment of women were now under way. Special attention was being paid to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) through the national plan on women and peace and security. Attention was also devoted to rural areas and to regions that were affected by conflicts and hosted refugee and migrant camps.

23. **Ms. Chidiac** (Lebanon) said that Member States had a legal obligation and a moral duty to ensure full protection against violence through gender-responsive and gender-sensitive policies that took into account disaggregated data on gender inequalities. At the core of the fundamental rights of women lay the right to make

informed decisions about their health care. Their right to lifelong sexual and reproductive health must be accepted free of stigma, discrimination, coercion and violence. Lebanon remained committed to attaining gender parity and the Sustainable Development Goals. In September 2019, the Government had endorsed the first national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was a step towards ensuring that every woman had a seat at the table.

24. **Ms. Elmarmuri** (Libya) said that her country was working to implement the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and that international cooperation must be strengthened to that end.

25. In his report (A/74/224), the Secretary-General underlined the need to build the resilience of rural girls and women in view of social and environmental crises, climate change and natural disasters. The international community must enable rural women to live in a stable environment to prevent them from being sucked into irregular migration channels and exploited by smugglers. Bilateral regional cooperation and a balanced approach would enable all countries on migration routes, whether countries of departure, transit or arrival, to shoulder their responsibilities. Transit countries on irregular migration routes faced enormous challenges to their stability and security.

26. Her country encouraged the participation of women at all levels. Women had been involved in transitional political negotiations since December 2015. The Presidential Council had decided to create a unit for the advancement of women to support their participation in the peace process. Libya wished to honour its obligations arising from the international treaties and other legal instruments to which it was a party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government sought to combat violence against women through its policies and laws. Under the Criminal Code, harassment, whether through words or deeds, was considered a crime. The Government was working to strengthen all laws referring to rural women.

27. **Mr. Park Chull-Joo** (Republic of Korea) said that his Government strove to develop and implement policies to tackle all forms of violence against women migrant workers. It had expanded education on the prevention of sexual harassment and violence by reforming employment training for migrant workers before their entry into the country. It had also introduced a remedy and protection procedure for victims of sexual violence. In accordance with the revised administrative regulations, migrant workers who experienced unfair

treatment in the workplace, including sexual harassment or violence, were permitted to request a change of workplace.

28. One of the foremost achievements made since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was the increased recognition of the inextricable link between sustaining peace and gender equality and the empowerment of women. Nevertheless, many cases of sexual violence in conflict were unresolved and victims were still suffering. As a country endeavouring to support and recover the dignity of victims, including the so-called “comfort women” during the Second World War, the Republic of Korea had a moral obligation and the political will to make further contributions to that field. Through its Action with Women and Peace initiative, the Government supported humanitarian and development projects targeting women and girls in conflict situations by working closely with international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children’s Fund. Another objective of the initiative was to convene an annual international conference to discuss important issues under the women and peace and security agenda. The first such conference, held in Seoul in July 2019, had served as a platform to share knowledge and experiences, mobilize resources and reaffirm the collective will to combat sexual violence in conflict.

29. **Ms. Gaghadar** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her country had been taking steps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality, which was a priority in the national development agenda. Trinidad and Tobago also remained committed to fully implementing the provisions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and was currently finalizing its progress report.

30. The equal rights of men and women were guaranteed under the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago. In recognition of the cross-cutting nature of gender issues, a national policy on gender and development had been produced, providing a framework for the inclusion of gender perspectives in all areas of national development. More than 30 per cent of ministers were women, and remarkable strides had been made by women to ensure that they were represented in high-level positions in society. In March 2018, the first female President had been sworn into office.

31. The unequivocal commitment of her Government to empowering women was reflected in the implementation of policies such as the draft national workplace policy on sexual harassment and the national breastfeeding policy. Laws and regulations had been proposed to improve the work environment for working

mothers through the provision of flexible working hours and facilities such as day-care centres. Initiatives had been undertaken to empower men and women in rural communities. While universal health care was offered at no cost through the public health-care system, the Government continued to take measures to improve the access of women to family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, immunization services, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and screening for cervical cancer. A directorate of women's health had been established to implement policies specifically targeting women's health-care issues.

32. **Mr. Rumongi** (Rwanda) said that gender equality and the empowerment of women had been cornerstones of his country's national transformation agenda for decades. In 1995, when Rwanda had committed itself to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the challenges of meeting the commitments had seemed insurmountable, especially considering the horrendous experiences suffered by women during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Nevertheless, Rwanda had emerged as a global champion of the advancement of women.

33. Rwanda had seen the tremendous impact of the empowerment of women in public office across the country. In the lower chamber of Parliament, 61.2 per cent of the members were women – the highest percentage of women in Parliament in the world.

34. To address violence against women, initiatives had been established at the grass-roots level, such as the innovative one-stop centres, which provided safe shelter, medical and psychosocial counselling and legal aid to victims of gender-based violence. Kigali was part of the Safe Cities programme developed by UN-Women. Rwanda had laws that guaranteed women equal rights with men to land access, ownership and utilization and to inheritance. The law on gender-responsive budgeting set out accountability measures for gender-sensitive resource allocation across sectors, programmes and projects. The community-based health insurance scheme had empowered women to access affordable and high-quality health services. Through measures such as increased numbers of community health workers and the use of drone technologies for emergency health supplies, the rates of maternal and infant mortality had fallen significantly. The Government had invested significantly in coding academies and scholarships for women to enable them to pursue training in information and communications technology.

35. **Mr. Ruidíaz Pérez** (Chile) said that, as a result of the global women's rights movement launched in 2018, Chilean society recognized that discrimination had no

justification and the new generation was setting unprecedented standards of harmony and inclusiveness. The Government was currently promoting a comprehensive law against violence that established obligations for the State to prevent violence and provide reparations for victims. A bill against sexual harassment using digital means had been submitted for consideration in 2019. Through the implementation of its gender agenda, the Government sought to move towards the full economic empowerment of women and to significantly increase the participation and leadership of women at high levels in the public and private spheres. Since the introduction of the requirement for 40 per cent of candidates for Congress to be women, the representation of women in that body had increased from 16 to 22 per cent and legislative committees for women and gender equality had been established in each chamber. Chilean law provided for six months of postnatal leave, part of which could be taken by the father, and a bill on universal nursery care was currently under consideration.

36. Regarding the private sector, which had a big role to play in creating a corporate culture that respected the principle of gender equality, companies that complied with good practices in that area could obtain certification, and a public-private gender parity initiative was being promoted. The first report of the Chilean private sector on gender equality would be released in 2019 with a view to promoting a culture of responsibility and accountability. The Government had made a commitment that women's representation on the governing boards of public companies would be at least 40 per cent.

37. In the context of the three international forums hosted by Chile in 2019, namely, the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Chile was advancing an agenda to put women at the centre of climate change mitigation measures, to bridge the digital gender divide and to encourage the participation of more women in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. On 4 October 2019, in Chile, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum had adopted the first road map on women and inclusive growth.

38. **Ms. Oropeza Acosta** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that addressing the alarming rates of femicide in the Latin American and Caribbean region required a myriad of public policies, including ones on prevention and assistance for the families of victims. Her Government had established an office for

combating violence against women and girls in the light of the high rates of femicide and infanticide and had launched an action plan against femicide and male violence.

39. Extensive provisions were in place in her country to protect women and guarantee their right to live free from violence, and work was under way to improve their implementation. In the past decade, the gender gap in land ownership had decreased. Women accounted for over 50 per cent of parliamentarians in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which had the third highest percentage of women in parliament in the world. According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2018, her country was in twenty-fifth place in the global rankings for gender parity and was well above average.

40. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that, in addition to fighting alongside women worldwide for their rights, Palestinian women were fighting for their most basic rights and fundamental freedoms under a brutal military occupation, which continued to pose by far the biggest obstacle to their advancement and empowerment. It was not only tragic but also shameful that the occupation by Israel continued and that its illegal policies and practices, including the expansion and construction of Israeli settlements and its wall, the confiscation of Palestinian land and the demolition of thousands of Palestinian homes, had intensified.

41. Over the past 50 years, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women had been arrested and/or detained under so-called Israeli military orders. They continued to be subjected to the harshest forms of physical and psychological torture and medical negligence, and were denied access to both family and lawyers. The illegal policies and practices had been accompanied by an unending series of collective punishment measures, affecting every aspect of life of the occupied people, in further grave breach of the occupying Power's obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to ensure the well-being and humanitarian needs of the population. The vilest form of collective punishment was the illegal Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, where 2 million Palestinians had been inhumanely isolated, impoverished and traumatized for the past 12 years and forced to endure a dire humanitarian crisis and deplorable socioeconomic conditions. As documented in many recent reports, Gaza was unliveable, and the conditions had placed a particular strain on women. Her delegation reiterated its call for an immediate end to the illegal and immoral blockade by Israel.

42. Collective action by the international community was vital for deterring further violations and to end, once and for all, the occupation by Israel, and enable Palestinian women and their spouses, children and entire families to live in a free and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in peace, freedom and dignity.

43. **Mr. Soumela** (Burkina Faso) said that, through its national economic and social development plan, his Government was seeking to increase the proportion of women business owners from 21 per cent in 2015 to 50 per cent in 2020. It also offered technical and financial assistance for women entrepreneurs. Through a programme for the economic empowerment of young people and women and a support fund for income-generating activities for women, women were awarded credit at preferential interest rates. Measures were being taken to facilitate the access of women to public markets and give them priority in the allocation of newly developed agricultural areas. Women had acquired the same rights as men in the area of employment and social protection, and the adoption of a law on voluntary insurance enabled women and girls working in the informal sector to benefit from social security.

44. Burkina Faso had reached parity in its primary education system. To ensure the retention of girls in school and their completion of different stages of education, the Government was working to combat harmful traditional practices and to prevent unwanted and early pregnancies. State scholarships were also awarded to increase girls' enrolment.

45. Women with disabilities were given access to no-interest funds to improve their socioeconomic inclusion. A legal assistance fund had been established to improve the access of women in difficult situations to justice. By law, women and men must respectively make up at least 30 per cent of the candidates for elected positions. Women from Burkina Faso were involved in conflict prevention and resolution and peacekeeping through the national working group on women and peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel and the national unit of women of the Group of Five for the Sahel. To counter the negative effects of climate change on the daily lives of women in Burkina Faso, the Government had come up with innovative ways to promote resilient agriculture and protect the environment.

46. To improve the situation of women in Burkina Faso and protect their rights, the Government was focusing on the implementation of action plans for the enforcement of the gender quota law and for the national strategy to promote women's entrepreneurship, and on

the adoption of a national strategy for the promotion and protection of young girls and its action plan.

47. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that her delegation commended the Secretary-General for achieving gender parity at the senior management level at the United Nations. However, women should have equal representation across the board at all levels, especially among the special representatives of the Secretary-General and the heads of mission.

48. The persistence of conflicts in various parts of the world remained a major impediment to the elimination of violence against and sexual abuse of women and girls. The international community must ensure that the basic and inalienable rights of women and their families living under foreign occupation were guaranteed, including women living in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, where a cruel curfew and a complete lockdown for the past two months had exacerbated their pain and suffering, and where children were taken away by occupation forces and detained incommunicado. While the plight of those suffering under foreign occupation had been considered in international forums over the years, the perpetrators of such crimes – which were crimes against humanity – continued to enjoy immunity. All relevant actors of the United Nations system must address that dire and unacceptable situation.

49. The Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed equal rights for all citizens without any discrimination and the full participation of women in all spheres of national life. In accordance with its national and international obligations, the Government had taken steps to promote the rights of women in the economic, social, political and cultural fields.

50. **Ms. Yakivu** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that her country had ratified international, regional and subregional legal instruments relating to women's rights, reflecting its commitment to take legal and administrative measures to ensure the enjoyment by women of their rights. In a law on the fulfilment of women's rights and gender parity, measures to reduce existing inequalities were set out with a view to the gradual achievement of gender parity through positive discrimination in the public and private spheres. However, as the 30-per-cent quota for the representation of women was not being respected, President Tshilombo Tshisekedi had undertaken gender mainstreaming actions in all sectors. As a result, the representation of women had increased from 6 to 18 per cent in the Government and had reached 11 per cent in the National Assembly and 29 per cent in the Senate. Women had been appointed as army and police generals and were

represented in the Court of Cassation and the Constitutional Court.

51. In the light of the gender-based sexual violence suffered during the repeated conflicts caused by armed groups in the eastern part of the country, the Government had developed a national strategy to combat gender-based sexual violence and had adopted laws on sexual violence. It had also developed the second phase of its action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Commendable legislative reforms had been undertaken to support women in the country, notably the removal from the family and labour codes of discriminatory provisions against women.

52. Free primary education was guaranteed by the Constitution, and many girls had enrolled at the beginning of the current school year. While the most recent statistics indicated that maternal and infant mortality rates remained pressing issues, the proportion of deliveries assisted by skilled personnel had increased, the child mortality rate had gone down and immunization coverage had expanded. Lastly, the Government had submitted its report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action to the United Nations.

53. **Ms. Algoumarett** (Niger) said that women and girls in rural areas continued to face precarious living conditions and had long been left behind despite their contribution to the global economy. Her delegation welcomed the call of the Secretary-General to support rural women and girls through increased investment in infrastructure, access to public services and sustainable social protection. Themes for the celebration of International Women's Day in her country had included "Empowerment of women and girls in rural areas" and "Day of solidarity with rural women". Rural women made up 50.6 per cent of the population of the Niger, of whom 63 per cent were poor and more than 80 per cent illiterate.

54. Having ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Niger had made the reduction of gender inequalities and the empowerment of women and girls priorities of its revival programme. Sexual harassment and female genital mutilation had been included in the Criminal Code. A quota law had been adopted to improve the representation of women in Government, elected positions and high-level administrative positions. The national gender policy and a decree on protection, support and care for young girls at school were intended to improve the protection of women's rights. In 2015, a national gender observatory had been established to monitor and ensure the effectiveness of the



implementation of national gender measures. The Government had implemented strategies to promote the economic empowerment of women and to combat gender-based violence.

55. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi) said that, as an agro-based economy, with women contributing about 70 per cent of labour in the agricultural sector and producing 80 per cent of all food, Malawi believed that the empowerment of women was critical for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. His Government had amended the Land Act to ensure that women had the right to own land with secure tenure and was promoting village savings and loan programmes to encourage small-scale businesswomen, which had thus far benefited about 4.5 million Malawian women.

56. Malawi had made significant progress in combating child and early marriages, annulling almost 20,000 child marriages to date. Such efforts had contributed not only to the promotion and protection of the rights of children but also to their right to education, which was an important step towards empowering women and girls.

57. Malawi was grateful for the support provided by United Nations agencies, including UN-Women, and other development partners for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially Goal 5. To enable it to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals targeting women, Malawi appealed to its development partners to continue to support its development efforts.

58. **Ms. Alzayani** (Bahrain) said that her country had established the Supreme Council for Women in 2001 and the best international criteria had been adopted to achieve gender parity. The Government had also developed a comprehensive national framework to promote gender equality and a national observatory on gender balance indicators that measured progress nationally, regionally and internationally. A political empowerment programme had been developed to promote the participation of women in all stages of the election process and to enable women to contribute to the country's development. As a result, a woman had been elected as speaker of parliament for the first time.

59. In 2019, Bahrain was celebrating the centenary of the launch of standard education in the country. Women participated in all fields thanks to equal opportunities for women in education. Women comprised 67 per cent of the beneficiaries of scholarships, and 68 per cent of students in higher education were female.

60. In 2019, a royal order had been passed to rename the Princess Sabika Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global

Award for the Empowerment of Women as the Princess Sabika Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for the Advancement of Women, indicating that Bahrain had moved on from empowerment to a new phase based on the balance of partnership between men and women.

61. **Mr. Ayebare** (Uganda) said that, given the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action and universal health coverage, women and girls must be included in the conversation for the effective implementation of those commitments. Together with the States members of the African Union, Uganda had adopted the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018–2028 in response to the emphasis in Agenda 2063 on fulfilling the potential of women and empowering all women and girls.

62. His Government had made significant progress in developing legal frameworks, policies and programmes to protect women's human rights and advance gender equality. The Constitution prohibited laws, customs or traditions that were against the dignity, welfare or interests of women or which undermined their status. An affirmative action policy under the Constitution had enabled progress in the representation of women in the Government, with women holding more than one third of senior ministerial positions. The national gender policy and the national action plan for the advancement of women had accelerated the protection of women's rights, their participation in decision-making and governance and their environmental empowerment.

63. Reaffirming its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, his delegation called upon the international community to strengthen its commitment to renewed cooperation and solidarity in that regard.

64. **Ms. Marin Sevilla** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the integration of a gender perspective, the promotion and protection of women's rights and the empowerment of women, including indigenous women, women of African descent and women with disabilities, were fundamental components of the design and implementation of public policies in her country. The Constitution and the legal framework for gender equality and equity were written in gender-inclusive, non-sexist language and set out the rights of women to substantive and effective equality. Her country had taken steps to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had contributed effectively to all

international forums and mechanisms relating to women's rights and empowerment, including UN-Women.

65. Despite the obstacles arising from the multifaceted attacks against Venezuelan society and its economy and the imposition of unilateral coercive measures affecting the entire population, in particular women and girls, combating the feminization of poverty was a priority of her country. The wage gap between men and women had been eliminated. Gender parity had been achieved in primary and secondary education, and more than 70 per cent of university students were women. Almost 60 per cent of all pensioners were women. Household labour and family care were considered productive employment, and women working in informal sectors were included in the social security system. Institutions for the political, economic and social empowerment of women had been established, such as the National Institute for Women and the Women's Development Bank. To combat gender-based violence, the Government had adopted innovative laws, such as the on Women's Right to a Life Free from Violence Act, which was considered one of the most advanced legal instruments on the issue in Latin America and the Caribbean.

66. **Ms. Arega** (Ethiopia) said that, based on the principle of the equal rights of women and men in all economic, social and political activities, the Ethiopian policy and development package for women sought to promote the participation of women in the economic, social and political spheres, the national development process and government administration. The criminal and family laws had been revised to improve protection for women against violence and harmful traditional practices.

67. Since her country's political transition in April 2018, reform programmes had been implemented to create an environment more conducive to the participation of women in socioeconomic development. Gender parity had been achieved at the highest decision-making level in the Cabinet. Women headed key national institutions and had been appointed to the positions of Head of State, President of the Supreme Court and Chair of the National Electoral Board.

68. Recognizing the magnitude of the challenge of violence against women and girls, the Government had adopted and implemented a criminal justice policy for the provision of special protection to vulnerable groups, especially women and children, in criminal proceedings, a strategic plan for an integrated and multisectoral response to violence against women and child justice, and a national strategy on harmful traditional practices with an action plan on female genital mutilation, child marriage and abduction.

69. The national social protection policy targeted the advancement of women and their socioeconomic rights through the promotion of employment and income-generating opportunities. Women living in rural areas had been supported through the provision of land ownership title deeds, while women engaged in farming and agropastoral activities had received support through a small-scale irrigation scheme. Through its national micro and small enterprises strategy, the Government facilitated access to finance, networking and training for women entrepreneurs. In connection with land ownership, 16 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years of age had their own houses and 35 per cent were joint home owners. Of the beneficiaries of the low-cost housing programme implemented by the Federal Government, 52 per cent were women.

70. **Mr. Palden** (Bhutan) said that the historic level of progress achieved towards gender parity at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General levels within the Secretariat and in the recruitment of resident coordinators served to remind Member States of the need to intensify efforts to deliver on the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and in the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

71. The overarching development philosophy of his country of "gross national happiness" – whereby every man, woman and child was an equal participant in the development process – guided its development agenda, and every policy was screened from that perspective. A national gender equality policy had been drafted and would form the basis for the national gender action plan, which encapsulated the Government's vision of a society in which substantive equality was attained and equal opportunity was provided for women and girls to achieve their full potential.

72. Bhutan recognized the need to rely on its entire human capital to ensure that its graduation from the least developed country category was smooth and sustainable, and the importance of the economic empowerment of women in that context could not be overstated. As a predominantly agrarian State with nearly 60 per cent of the female workforce engaged in the agricultural sector, Bhutan appreciated the recognition by the Secretary-General in his report (A/74/224) of the significant impacts of climate change on the lives of women and girls living in rural areas. Given the importance of gender-responsive development policies and programmes for the empowerment of rural women, it was encouraging that 46.6 per cent of the beneficiaries of the Government's rural economic advancement programme were women.

73. Having submitted its national report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Bhutan looked forward to engaging in the twenty-fifth anniversary process. Despite being a relatively new troop- and police-contributing country, Bhutan was committed to increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping. It had already met the minimum deployment target for women peacekeepers and had made a commitment that nearly 50 per cent of its pledged formed police unit would be made up of women. Efforts were also being made to increase the training and induction of women in the army.

74. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that, as a result of the measures taken by his country to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, a law on the participation of women in decision-making had been adopted and increased penalties for perpetrators of violence against women were in place. With the support of its partners, Burundi had established a network of women mediators, who played an important role in the peaceful resolution of conflicts by fostering dialogue and a culture of non-violence. Women currently occupied 47 per cent of the seats in the Senate, 36 per cent in the National Assembly and 30 per cent in the Government.

75. Free basic education was guaranteed for all pupils in public schools, and parity had been achieved at the national level. Free health care for children below 5 years of age and free maternity care were guaranteed. The percentage of women giving birth in health-care facilities had increased from 40 per cent in 2005 to 85 per cent in 2018. The 3,029 agropastoral cooperatives in Burundi provided jobs in each of the 3,002 collines and districts.

76. Burundi was committed to the implementation of awareness-raising programmes to eradicate social and cultural practices that served as a basis for gender-based violence; gender mainstreaming in policies and sectoral planning and budgeting; the gradual expansion of social security to cover the entire population, in particular those working in the informal and rural sectors; and the eradication of gender-related stereotypes in rural areas and schools. To achieve its objectives, Burundi called upon its partners to provide effective support that was fully aligned with the Burundian national development plan.

77. **Ms. Algharabally** (Kuwait) said that her delegation welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to increase the representation of women in posts at the Professional and higher levels and to achieve parity by 2021. Such efforts should be pursued in order to fulfil the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

78. Under article 29 of the Constitution of Kuwait, all people were equal in human dignity and in public rights and duties before the law, without discrimination. Women in Kuwait had sufficient legal protection. For example, a law had been adopted on equal salaries for equal work. Regarding the obligations of Member States to provide maximum physical and mental health services during childbirth and to ensure sexual and reproductive health with no violence, the Government of Kuwait provided free health services, ranging from prevention to awareness-raising and treatment. As a result of its efforts to increase the effectiveness of women in society, women occupied high-level leadership and government positions.

79. The Government was working to implement its Vision 2035, known as “New Kuwait”, and Sustainable Development Goal 5. It was also seeking to alleviate the suffering experienced by Palestinian women under occupation by mitigating the effects of the occupation by Israel. Noting the role played by UN-Women in that regard, Kuwait was prepared to continue its financial contribution to the organization and was cooperating with all international organizations working to promote the status of women in the political, economic and other spheres.

80. **Ms. Tripathi** (India) said that there was no place for weaponizing women’s rights issues through empty rhetoric for self-serving political gains. One delegation had callously chosen to politicize the agenda by making unwarranted references to the internal matters of her country. It was ironic that the delegation of a country that failed to punish violations of women’s right to life in the name of so-called “honour” was making baseless statements about women’s rights in India. The international community still remembered that the armed forces of that country had perpetrated sexual violence against women with impunity in the immediate neighbourhood of India in 1971. Her delegation did not wish to engage further on that issue.

81. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were integral parts of the inclusive development strategy of her Government, and the utmost importance was attached to the representation of women in decision-making positions. More than 1.3 million elected women representatives led the formulation and implementation of public policies at the grass-roots level. Measures such as financial inclusion, income guarantee programmes and cash benefit transfers had improved the lives of millions and were linked to increased productivity and better access to labour

markets for women. Women's entrepreneurship was promoted through the provision of access to loans.

82. Ensuring cooking gas connections for more than 80 million women had resulted in a positive impact on their health. Every woman giving birth in public health institutions received free and cashless services, and a cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women provided wage compensation during childbirth and childcare. A national mission had been launched to eradicate malnutrition by 2022 with a focus on children, women and adolescent girls. Among the initiatives to ensure safe work and public spaces for women were a law on sexual harassment of women in the workplace, new taxi policy guidelines, women's helplines and the Safe Cities project. Victims of sexual violence and abuse received medical, legal and counselling services and shelter at one-stop centres.

83. **Ms. Mehdiyeva** (Azerbaijan) said that it was encouraging to see the consistent progress made by the United Nations in increasing the representation of women within its system, and her delegation looked forward to the full implementation of the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity.

84. Azerbaijan was particularly concerned about the fate of women and girls taken hostage or reported missing in connection with armed conflict and made continued efforts to raise awareness of the problem at the international level, including through relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women.

85. By identifying barriers through improved data collection, her Government had implemented policies and programmes tailored to the specific needs of women and girls. Within the framework of a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme to promote the participation of rural women in economic and social life, resource centres had been established in eight regions, offering rural women and girls access to library resources, computers and the Internet and helping to create a network of more than 3,000 rural women. Under another joint project, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the capacities of rural women were being developed to meet employment and sustainable development targets. Through State programmes and projects, the number of female entrepreneurs had increased from 4 to 29 per cent. Extensive measures had been taken to improve the situation of women refugees and internally displaced women. In the past five years, two projects had been carried out with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to prevent and eliminate

gender-based violence among refugees and internally displaced persons.

86. **Ms. Mijić** (Croatia) said that her Government was implementing its national gender equality policy with targeted measures to ensure the adequate political and economic participation of women, the reconciliation of work and family life and protection from all forms of violence, including domestic violence. Amendments to the Criminal Code would enter into force on 1 January 2020, and sexual intercourse without consent would, for the first time, be defined and prosecuted as a crime of rape. Furthermore, penalties for acts related to domestic violence, rape and violence against women would be tightened, and penalties for grievous bodily harm and the mutilation of sexual organs would be increased.

87. Croatia had taken steps to integrate a gender perspective and the promotion of gender equality into all its foreign policy activities, especially development cooperation. Given the country's tragic experience of aggression at the beginning of the 1990s, including the use of rape as a method of intimidation and terror, raising the issue of sexual violence in conflict was an essential part of its diplomatic work to prevent conflict and promote the human rights of women and girls.

88. Although Croatia was among the 6 per cent of countries that had publicly elected a female Head of State, there was no room for complacency. To succeed in achieving the objectives set almost 25 years ago in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, not only were more women leaders needed, but men were equally needed to support the advancement of women's rights and empowerment. Among the priorities of the forthcoming Croatian presidency of the European Union were the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and equality in the labour market.

89. **Mr. Mahmaminov** (Tajikistan) said that his Government, in collaboration with international organizations and civil society, had been making comprehensive efforts to implement its gender policy and legislation related to the empowerment of women and gender equality. The aim of the existing normative and legal framework for ensuring the equality of rights and opportunities for women was to protect the rights of women in politics, education, the economy and the family. In 2013, a law on domestic violence had been adopted to protect the rights of family members and provide for legal, medical and psychological assistance to victims of domestic violence. In 2014, the Government had adopted a programme on the prevention of domestic violence for the period 2014–2023.

90. To improve the access of women to economic resources, millions of somoni were allocated annually from the State budget to strengthen the capacity of ministries and departments. The Government of Tajikistan was currently implementing a national strategy to enhance the role of women for the period 2011–2020, aimed at creating the conditions necessary for the advancement of women in all areas of public life and training specialists in issues related to gender equality. To implement the strategy, the Government had developed an action plan that boosted women's employment and supported women's entrepreneurship.

91. **Mr. Kabba** (Sierra Leone) said that his Government had introduced and implemented policies and legislation to promote the full participation of women in politics and their socioeconomic empowerment. It continued to demonstrate the political will to attain the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other agreements relating to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as prerequisites for sustainable development.

92. To address the issue of violence against women, the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 had been amended to underscore deterrence in punishing perpetrators of rape and other forms of sexual violence. Committed to fulfilling its reporting obligation, Sierra Leone was working on its seventh periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Tremendous progress had been made in the allocation of resources to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in order to support programmes for the empowerment of women, including a development fund for female entrepreneurs. The commitment of the Government to increasing the representation and participation of women in decision-making was reflected in the increase in the number of women appointed to senior-level positions, including Attorney General and Minister of Justice. Sierra Leone strove to empower women in rural communities and protect them from all forms of violence and abuse.

93. The mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the medium-term national development plan for 2019–2023, which was fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, was another demonstration of the commitment of his country to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Government had worked strategically with civil society and development partners on initiatives to eliminate invasive, cruel and inhuman practices and was currently focused on empowering women who were victims of sexual abuse, violence and exploitation.

94. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that, recognizing that women in her country had traditionally experienced exclusion, violence and neglect, the new Government had sought to improve the situation of women, many of whom continued to live in poverty, without access to health or decent work. A gender-focused policy with the aim of achieving genuine gender equality was under consideration for the Government and all sectors. It would be key to consolidating democracy and moving towards a more inclusive development model. For the first time, the Cabinet had an equal number of men and women, which reflected the President's vision of equality and inclusion for women in public office.

95. To ensure the right of women to a life free from all forms of violence, the Government had proposed a comprehensive policy for assistance to female victims of gender-based violence, which would be developed with the involvement of women of different social backgrounds in order to determine the best way to strengthen legal frameworks, institutional capacities and the provision of technical assistance. El Salvador welcomed the support of the international community for initiatives that enabled it to break down barriers to the full enjoyment by women and girls of their rights, such as the Spotlight Initiative.

96. The Government reaffirmed its commitment to meet the needs of groups of women that suffered from multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and migrant women. In the light of the high rate of teenage pregnancies, specialized services and intersectoral interventions were being strengthened to support the adolescents and young people facing the highest rates of sexual violence. El Salvador had ratified the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Although significant progress had been made in overcoming discrimination, States would need to continue to coordinate with all relevant actors to improve the situation of all women and girls.

97. **Mr. Kemayah, Sr.** (Liberia) said that gender equality and the empowerment of women were among the priorities of the Liberian development agenda. His Government had reviewed its national gender policy, had embarked on the second phase of its national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and had recently passed a law on domestic violence, with support from the Spotlight Initiative of the European Union. The Government was striving to enhance the direct participation of women and girls in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and leadership, and the armed forces were making every

effort to increase their recruitment of women by 2022, with a view to fulfilling the gender parity quota of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The President was also championing the provision of additional seats in the legislature for women, persons with disabilities and young people.

98. The Government had instituted a national conference to bring together women from various sectors to promote the political participation of rural women and their involvement in decision-making. Given the profound impact of climate change on rural women and the importance of their contribution to mitigation efforts, national disaster management policies and laws provided for the participation of women and vulnerable groups in all activities implemented by the Government and development partners before, during and after disasters.

99. UN-Women should deploy more technical experts to work closely with national Governments and ministries to develop capacities for gender mainstreaming interventions at the programme and technical levels. It should also continue its joint efforts with other United Nations agencies on programme implementation. Gender-responsive budgeting and planning should continue to be emphasized, given the importance of budget allocation to sustaining efforts at the national level.

*Statements made in exercise of the right of reply*

100. **Mr. Lee Jooil** (Republic of Korea), responding to the statement made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said that the North Korean defectors had come to the Republic of Korea of their own accord and were currently living in the country as ordinary citizens. His Government would continue to make efforts to address the humanitarian issues resulting from the division between the two Koreas.

101. **Ms. Suzuki** (Japan), responding to the statement made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said that the allegations made were factually incorrect and groundless. For more than 70 years, Japan had consistently respected democracy and human rights and had contributed to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the international community. Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should bring true peace to North-East Asia by overcoming mutual mistrust and deepening their cooperation with one other. Japan wished to share that approach and called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to aim for a bright future together. Should that country continue to

raise the same issues, her delegation would not use the right of reply to repeat its position, but that did not mean it agreed with the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

102. **Mr. Kim Lee** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the crime of sexual slavery committed by Japan against women of various countries, including 200,000 Korean women, during the Second World War was a hideous international crime against humanity. To date, Japan had denied its past crimes. No statute of limitations applied to such crimes against humanity. Japan should take responsibility for its past war crimes, including the crime of sexual slavery, apologize and provide full compensation that could be accepted by all victims.

103. Abductions were a clear violation of international law and were crimes against humanity and violations of human rights. The 12 women abducted from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Ms. Kim Ryon Hui had clearly been tricked and taken to South Korea by the South Korean intelligence agency. An international fact-finding group organized by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and Asia-Pacific Lawyers Association had investigated the South Korean authorities and found that the crimes against the women constituted collective abduction and a violation of human rights. South Korea should immediately and unconditionally repatriate all women citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the spirit of the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, which called for the countries to proceed towards national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity and reunification.

104. **Ms. Suzuki** (Japan), responding to the statement made by the Republic of Korea, said that Japan has made sincere efforts to address the issue of comfort women. In December 2015, Japan and the Republic of Korea had reached an agreement on the issue following considerable diplomatic efforts. Both countries had agreed that the issue had been resolved finally and irreversibly. It was of great importance that the agreement be steadily implemented.

105. **Mr. Kim Lee** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that Japan had nowhere to hide from its responsibility for its past cruel crimes against humanity, as no statute of limitations applied to such crimes. Japan should honestly recognize its crimes and officially apologize and provide compensation to all the victims in the world.

106. **Mr. Park Chull-Joo** (Republic of Korea) said that the dimensions of the so-called "comfort women" issue went beyond the bilateral one between the Republic of

Korea and Japan. It was a matter of universal human rights relating to sexual violence in conflict. Continued and genuine efforts were therefore required to recover the honour and dignity of the victims. Given the failure of the agreement of 2015 to adequately address the opinions of victims, it could not be a lasting solution. In January 2018, his Government had stated that it would not seek to terminate or renegotiate the deal, respecting it as an agreement between States. However, it would continue to cooperate with the international community to enable comfort women victims to recover their dignity and honour and to ensure that the present and future generations could achieve a brighter future by learning from the past.

107. **The Chair**, responding to a request from the representative of Japan for another right of reply, said that delegations could make only two rights of reply for each agenda item.

108. **Ms. Suzuki** (Japan), speaking on a point of order, said that she had been told to make one right of reply for each country, and she wished to make a second right of reply to the Republic of Korea. While she would respect the Chair's decision, she requested that her statement and her delegation's dissatisfaction be duly reflected.

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*