



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Ninety-eighth session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 2737th meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 10 May 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Amir

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Closure of the session

* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CERD/C/SR.2737.
** No summary record was issued for the 2736th meeting.

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The public part of the meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **Ms. Izsák-Ndiaye** (Rapporteur) said that, over the course of the session, the Committee had reviewed reports submitted by five States parties, namely Andorra, Guatemala, Hungary, Lithuania and Zambia, and had adopted concluding observations thereon. In the case of Zambia, the State party had been unable to send a delegation from its capital and had, instead, sent a representative of its Permanent Mission to appear before the Committee. Unfortunately, the Committee had received responses in writing to only a limited number of questions, and only after the meeting. The Committee had collaborated with non-governmental organizations from Guatemala and Hungary and the national human rights institutions of Guatemala, Hungary and Lithuania. It had also held discussions with representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations agencies.

2. The Committee had met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss a range of issues, including the financial constraints faced by OHCHR, which could have a grave impact on the Committee's work, and the efforts of OHCHR to promote the International Decade for People of African Descent. In addition, the Committee had met with the Group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to discuss areas of common interest and opportunities for cooperation, especially in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action.

3. The Committee had held hearings on two inter-State communications submitted by Qatar, concerning Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates respectively, and one submitted by the State of Palestine, concerning Israel. Representatives of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates had taken part in those hearings. Israel had turned down the invitation to attend on the grounds that it did not consider itself to be in a treaty relationship with the State of Palestine. The Committee had decided not to adopt any decisions on those communications at the current session, owing to a lack of time and resources.

4. The Committee had considered various country situations requiring urgent attention and had decided to send letters to six countries in the framework of its early warning and urgent action procedure. It had considered follow-up reports submitted by Australia, Ecuador, Kuwait, Pakistan and Serbia under article 9 (1) of the Convention and had adopted recommendations in response to those reports. It had discussed several aspects of its methods of work, including the possibility of extending the simplified reporting procedure to all States parties. After an initial discussion on draft general recommendation No. 36 on preventing and combating racial profiling, it had decided to establish an open-ended working group as a drafting committee. It had also decided to post the draft on the Committee website and to invite stakeholders to submit their comments on the draft by 30 June 2019. The Committee aimed to adopt the draft general recommendation at its ninety-ninth session, during which it would also review the reports of seven States parties.

5. **The Chair** said that the Committee's role was to assist the international community with the urgent task of combating all forms of racial discrimination. The importance of its work was illustrated by the fact that he had been invited to preside over the forthcoming annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies.

6. After the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the ninety-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination closed.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.