



Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Committee against Torture Seventy-first session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 1839th meeting

Held via videoconference on Friday, 30 July 2021, at 1.15 p.m. Central European Summer Time

Chair: Mr. Heller (Vice-Chair)

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CAT/C/SR.1839.

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The public part of the meeting was called to order at 1.15 p.m.

Organizational and other matters

1. **The Chair** said that, at its seventy-first session, the Committee had conducted an online review and adopted concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Belgium. He wished to express the Committee's gratitude to the State party for its willingness to participate in the dialogue in a virtual format, notwithstanding the format's attendant limitations and challenges. It bore repeating that the Committee's decision to hold an online review was in response to the ongoing exceptional circumstances and would not set a precedent for future reviews.

2. At its seventy-second session, which would be held in person in Geneva in November 2021, the Committee would consider the reports of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Nigeria, Serbia and Sweden. It would also adopt lists of issues prior to reporting for Canada, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Peru and Saudi Arabia. It would discuss proposals for potential future work with regard to its general comments, hold its annual joint meeting with the Subcommittee and meet with a number of regional human rights mechanisms, in line with its usual practice.

3. During the current session, the Committee had undertaken follow-up work under articles 19 and 22 of the Convention and in relation to article 20 and reprisals. In addition to adopting the report of its working group on communications, it had adopted 37 decisions on individual communications. The Committee had also adopted its report on follow-up to communications, deciding to end the follow-up for two cases, owing to satisfactory implementation of its previous decisions, and maintain the follow-up dialogue in six cases.

4. The Committee had also discussed the outcome of the meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies held in June 2021, received an update on the activities of the treaty body capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and explored ways to promote the universal ratification and implementation of the Convention in a briefing and discussion on the Convention against Torture Initiative.

5. The human rights treaty bodies faced mounting difficulties in fulfilling their mandates. The political and financial support of States was indispensable for the proper operation of the treaty body system, which could not be expected to do more with fewer resources. He wished to reiterate the Committee's desire to meet in Geneva in future and counted on OHCHR and the host country to make it possible to do so.

Closure of the session

6. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared the seventy-first session of the Committee against Torture closed.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.