



# International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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## Human Rights Committee 141st session

### Summary record (partial)\* of the 4113th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 1 July 2024, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Abdo Rocholl

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\* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### **Opening of the session**

*Opening statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations*

1. **Mr. Cissé-Gouro** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that, at a time of increasing polarization, rising inequality and mounting extremism, human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Committee, played a vital role by recommending ways for States to improve their human rights record, rectify missteps and bring justice to victims. Furthermore, the work of the treaty bodies had a multiplier effect. For instance, the Committee had broken new ground with its jurisprudence in the area of climate change, which was bolstered by the recent ruling by the European Court of Human Rights according to which States had justiciable, positive human rights obligations to protect against the growing risks of climate change, the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on climate change and the March 2024 ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights holding a State responsible for violating the right to a healthy environment and failing to protect against business-related harm to the environment.

2. In that spirit of mutual reinforcement, he wished to draw the Committee's attention to the June 2024 report by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers containing a taxonomy of government efforts to control judicial systems, which ranged from thwarting bar associations and manipulating administrative functions, to criminalizing and attacking justice operators. The report also explored the key role played by legal professionals in safeguarding democracy in the context of a year where nearly half the world's population would be voting.

3. In addition, the Human Rights Council would be considering the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the impact of arms transfers on human rights, amid a sharp rise in global military expenditure in 2023 compared to the previous year. That report examined the crucial role of access to information in enabling effective external oversight of decisions on arms transfers and suggested that States should share information on any risk assessments undertaken to prevent violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The High Commissioner had also presented a report to the Council focused on conscientious objection to military service, including the difficulties conscientious objectors faced in obtaining refugee status in some countries.

4. At their recent thirty-sixth annual meeting, the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies had made important progress on aligning working methods and had worked to widen support for the implementation of the treaty body strengthening process. At a well-attended meeting with Member States, the Chairs had advocated strongly for resources to implement the predictable review schedule, among other key proposals, and had highlighted the negative impact of the liquidity crisis at the United Nations on the treaty bodies' work. He hoped that their engagement would yield positive, concrete results, including through the biennial General Assembly resolution on the treaty body system to be adopted later that year.

5. The Office shared the Committee's concern about the impact of the liquidity crisis on the treaty bodies' work, and he wished to reaffirm the High Commissioner's staunch support and intention to continue exploring avenues to ensure that the Committee's third session of 2024 could proceed.

### **Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/C/141/1)**

6. *The agenda and the programme of work were adopted.*

### **Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications**

7. **Ms. Tigroudja** said that, owing to the liquidity crisis, the Working Group on Communications had met for only three days instead of the usual five, from 26 to 28 June 2024. After adapting its methods of work, and in keeping with its practice of joining cases concerning similar complaints against the same State party and with the simplified

format agreed at the 140th session, the Working Group had nonetheless examined 64 communications. The communications, which had been submitted between 2015 and 2022 against 13 States parties, involved, inter alia, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment in detention, non-refoulement, linguistic and Indigenous rights, procedural safeguards and the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly. For the first time, the Working Group had discussed a case concerning an international organization's jurisdictional immunity.

8. On the basis of its deliberations, the Working Group would be submitting for the consideration of the plenary a finding of a violation in 50 cases, a finding of inadmissibility in 8 cases and a finding of non-violation in 1 case; the completion of the discussion of the 5 other cases remained pending.

9. She wished to underscore that in-depth discussion and preparation of decisions prior to plenary meetings was an absolute necessity. Accordingly, in future, it would be essential to maintain the full duration of the sessions of the Working Group so as to ensure the legal soundness of the Committee's decisions under the Optional Protocol and thereby its legitimacy.

10. *The report of the Working Group on Communications was adopted.*

*The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.25 a.m.*