



# International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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## Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Fortieth Meeting

### Summary record of the 47th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 29 May 2024, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chair:* Ms. Syauta . . . . . (Representative of the Secretary-General)

*Chair:* Mr. Hachem . . . . . (Lebanon)

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

### **Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General**

1. **The Temporary Chair**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the fortieth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the main purpose of which was to hold elections to fill the nine vacancies of members of the Human Rights Committee whose terms were due to expire on 31 December 2024.

2. Since the thirty-ninth Meeting, held in June 2022, South Sudan had become a party to the Covenant, bringing the number of States parties to 174. The Optional Protocol had been renounced by one State, bringing the number of States parties to 116. Côte d'Ivoire had signed the Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, bringing the number of signatories to 91. Although the high number of States parties reflected the continuing interest in advancing the goals and objectives of the Covenant, there was still some way to go towards the goal of universal ratification. She appealed to those States that had not ratified the Covenant and the Optional Protocols to consider doing so.

3. Since June 2022, the Human Rights Committee had examined the initial and periodic reports of 38 States parties. It had adopted 14 lists of issues and 9 lists of issues prior to reporting. There were currently 23 reports pending consideration. Although the Committee had adopted decisions on 335 individual communications under the Optional Protocol, 1,322 communications were still pending examination by the Committee. At its 140th session, the Committee had adopted a comprehensive strategy to address the backlog by rationalizing the registration process, strengthening case management and streamlining the drafting stage.

4. During its 140th session, the Committee had held its 13th informal meeting with States parties to the Covenant to provide an update on its work and its core activities related to reporting and individual communications. She reiterated the Committee's plea for States parties to support the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the area of digital transformation. The digital tools currently used to support the Committee's work were outdated and needed upgrading urgently.

5. Several milestones had been achieved in the treaty body strengthening process in the previous two years, including the adoption of the conclusions of the Chairs of the treaty bodies at their 34th meeting in June 2022 (see [A/77/228](#)) and the development by OHCHR of a

working paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for those conclusions, both of which were based on the recommendations of the State-led review of the treaty body system (see [A/75/601](#)). The treaty body strengthening process was entering a decisive phase. A strengthened treaty body system was in the best interests of Member States, as it would ease the reporting burden and avoid a backlog of State party reports, and of rights holders, whose individual complaints needed to be considered in a timely manner.

6. As to nominations and elections, General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) encouraged States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies. It further encouraged States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities. She drew attention to the documentation provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, pursuant to that resolution, reporting on the current situation with respect to the composition of the treaty body and reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members.

### **Election of the Chair**

7. **The Temporary Chair** said that she had been informed by the coordinator of the Group of Asia-Pacific States that Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) had been nominated for the office of Chair of the Meeting.

8. *Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

9. *Mr. Hachem (Lebanon) took the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/SP/96)**

10. *The agenda was adopted.*

### **Election of other officers of the Meeting**

11. *Mr. Reichwein (Netherlands), Mr. Mohamedou (Mauritania) and Ms. Cruz Morataya (Guatemala) were elected Vice-Chairs by acclamation.*

12. **The Chair** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CCPR/SP/2/Rev.1). Rule 2 provided that the credentials of representatives and the names of delegation members should be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than one week before a Meeting and that such credentials should be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In a note dated 8 May 2024, the Secretary-General had invited States parties to submit the credentials of their representatives, but a number of them had not yet done so. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting. He urged them to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

13. *It was so decided.*

**Election, in accordance with articles 28–32 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of nine members of the Human Rights Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2024 (CCPR/SP/97)**

14. **The Chair** said that elections would be conducted in accordance with articles 28–32 of the Covenant to replace nine members of the Human Rights Committee whose terms were due to expire on 31 December 2024. Pursuant to article 30, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, the Secretary-General had invited States parties, in a note verbale dated 24 November 2023, to submit nominations to fill those posts by 15 March 2024.

15. The terms of the following nine members were due to expire on 31 December 2024: Ms. Abdo Rocholl (Paraguay), Ms. Bassim (Egypt), Mr. El Haiba (Morocco), Mr. Gómez Martínez (Spain), Ms. Kran (Canada), Mr. Santos Pais (Portugal), Mr. Soh Changrok (Republic of Korea), Ms. Tchamdja Kpatcha (Togo) and Mr. Yigezu (Ethiopia).

16. He drew attention to the list of 17 candidates nominated by States parties in document CCPR/SP/97. After that document had been issued, the nomination of the candidate from India had been withdrawn. He invited the Meeting to elect, by secret ballot, 9 candidates from the remaining list of 16 candidates.

17. *At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Kieboom (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Ms. Babikyan (Armenia), Ms. Nyepan (Liberia) and Ms. Wells (Vanuatu) acted as tellers.*

18. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	171
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	171
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	171
<i>Required majority:</i>	86
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Saidov (Uzbekistan)	129
Mr. El Haiba (Morocco)	120
Ms. Bassim (Egypt)	119
Mr. Šimonović (Croatia)	115
Mr. Soh Changrok (Republic of Korea)	111
Mr. Fernández Liesa (Spain)	109
Ms. Abdo Rocholl (Paraguay)	104
Mr. Yigezu (Ethiopia)	101
Mr. Korkelia (Georgia)	99
Ms. Leinartė (Lithuania)	94
Ms. Tchamdja Kpatcha (Togo)	91
Mr. Majola (South Africa)	84
Mr. Delbe (Côte d'Ivoire)	79
Mr. Manirakiza (Burundi)	61
Mr. Nguimout (Cameroon)	47
Ms. Tanurovska-Kjulavkovski (North Macedonia)	18

19. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Saidov (Uzbekistan), Mr. El Haiba (Morocco), Ms. Bassim (Egypt), Mr. Šimonović (Croatia), Mr. Soh Changrok (Republic of Korea), Mr. Fernández Liesa (Spain), Ms. Abdo Rocholl (Paraguay), Mr. Yigezu (Ethiopia) and Mr. Korkelia (Georgia) were elected members of the Human Rights Committee for a four-year term ending on 31 December 2028.*

**Closure of the Meeting**

20. **The Chair** declared closed the fortieth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*