



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

Distr.: General
29 July 2024

Original: English

Committee against Torture Eightieth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2109th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 8 July 2024, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Heller

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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 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **Mr. Korkeakivi** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) declared open the eightieth session of the Committee against Torture.

2. He said that he welcomed the joint statement of the Committee, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture calling for accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims of torture, which had been issued on 26 June 2024 on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The statement emphasized that, despite progress, the promise of the international prohibition against torture had yet to be fulfilled, as many regulatory and practical obstacles continued to hamper effective investigations into the crime of torture. Legal action taken by civil society was thus crucial in the fight against impunity, while victims needed strong support for recovery and rehabilitation. OHCHR would continue to support the Committee's efforts in that regard, working to ensure that international commitments were translated into tangible action and effective measures on the ground.

3. Activities to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention were ongoing and had thus far included a workshop and public event on torture and mental health led by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; a side event on the role of the Special Fund established pursuant to article 26 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention as a strategic tool in the prevention of torture, during the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council; three workshops to reinforce the capacities of authorities and civil society organizations in preventing and combating torture and ill-treatment, held by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic in conjunction with OHCHR and the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture; and a round table to create a framework for exchanges between national and international actors involved in combating torture, which had been convened by the OHCHR field office in Tunis in collaboration with the national preventive mechanism of Tunisia and civil society. To commemorate both the fortieth anniversary of the Convention and the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, OHCHR was engaging in a communication campaign, collaborating on social media initiatives with the United Against Torture Consortium and preparing a story on the case of one torture survivor, which included an interview with the Chair of the Committee. The anniversary activities would culminate in a high-level event to be held during the Committee's session in late 2024.

4. At the thirty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, the Chairs had held important meetings with the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, and representatives of civil society organizations and Member States. Significant progress had been made on aligning the treaty bodies' working methods. The Chairs had called for increased support for the treaty body strengthening process and for the resources necessary to implement the predictable review cycle. He was hopeful that the Chairs' decisive engagement with Member States would have a positive impact on the preparation of the biennial General Assembly resolution on the treaty body system, which was due to be adopted later in 2024, and would facilitate efforts to ensure an impactful, efficient, coherent and sustainable treaty body system.

5. In addition to the usual resource constraints, the liquidity crisis at the United Nations had further impeded the work of the Committee and other treaty bodies. OHCHR was making every effort to ensure that all the treaty bodies could fulfil their mandates and was highlighting the direct impact of the crisis on human rights protection on the ground. He was pleased to note, however, that OHCHR had secured funds for the Committee's session in late 2024.

Adoption of the agenda (CAT/C/80/1/Rev.1)

6. *The agenda was adopted.*

Organizational and other matters

7. **The Chair** said that, during the current session, the Committee would consider State party reports submitted by Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea and Türkiye. The Committee would hold private briefings with representatives of the national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms of Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador and the Republic of Korea, and with non-governmental organizations from Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea and Türkiye. All preparatory meetings would be held in person. Regrettably, the cessation of hybrid meetings, except for mandated meetings such as dialogues with State parties, as announced by the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva in January 2024, would adversely affect the work of the Committee, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

8. The Committee would consider 31 individual communications during the session. Follow-up reports would be presented by the rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations and the rapporteur for follow-up to decisions on complaints. Information on cases and allegations of reprisals against individuals and organizations cooperating with the Committee would be presented by the rapporteur on reprisals. In addition, the Chair of the Subcommittee would present the seventeenth annual report of that body (CAT/C/79/2) and the Committee would meet with representatives of the Convention against Torture Initiative.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.20 a.m.