



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

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Committee against Torture Eighty-second session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2172nd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 7 April 2025, 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. Cissé-Gouro** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) declared open the eighty-second session of the Committee against Torture.

2. Echoing the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made at the recently concluded session of the Human Rights Council regarding the historic strain that the painstakingly built human rights edifice was under and the importance of international institutions, international and national legal frameworks and judicial systems, a free press and civic space in ensuring that human dignity remained a fundamental pillar of global governance, he said that the independent voices of the treaty bodies were more vital than ever. At the same time, the Organization's ability to fulfil its mandates was being hampered by geopolitical and financial challenges. While 2024 had been particularly difficult in that regard, there was every indication that the challenging liquidity situation would persist for the foreseeable future. The Office would continue to do its utmost to ensure that the treaty bodies could carry out their mandates.

3. Nevertheless, the treaty body strengthening process was ongoing. In December 2024, the General Assembly had adopted its biennial resolution on the human rights treaty body system, in which it invited the treaty bodies to continue to work towards achieving a clear, regular reporting schedule for States Parties, to increase their efforts to further use digital technologies in their work and to facilitate participation of States Parties and all relevant stakeholders in their mandated activities. It had not, however, endorsed certain detailed proposals put forward by the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, notably the eight-year predictable calendar of reviews. On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2024, an informal meeting of the Chairs and treaty body focal points on working methods had been held, providing participants with an opportunity to engage with Member States and other stakeholders. The Chairs and focal points had also met with the special procedures coordination committee, discussing, among other issues of common concern, the promotion of an "all mechanisms" approach to addressing the numerous challenges facing the human rights architecture. Cooperation between the Office and the Chairs and focal points with regard to the harmonization of working methods would continue ahead of the upcoming annual meeting of the Chairs.

4. Since the Committee's last session, the Office had presented its report on human rights and transitional justice to the Human Rights Council. Using examples from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Colombia, Guatemala and Kenya, among others, the report illustrated powerful practices that were victim-centred, inclusive, gender-responsive and innovative and had had an early, tangible or transformational impact on victims and affected communities. Many of the practices had been developed by victims' associations and grass-roots organizations and also contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief had presented her report to the Council, which, with the input of the Committee, explored the intersections between the right to freedom of religion or belief and the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

5. **The Chair** said that the Committee shared the view that the deteriorating international context was calling into question the values that had led to the establishment of the United Nations. It was deeply concerned that some States were renouncing their treaty obligations and going so far as to withdraw from international organizations. It was abundantly clear that the Committee's role in the current climate was to continue to fight for the principles, norms and ethical rules underpinning efforts to abolish torture.

6. As for the liquidity and financial crises, it was for the States, as founders of the treaty bodies, to live up to their obligations and do everything in their power to enable them to function. The fact that the liquidity crisis might prevent the Committee from holding the other sessions scheduled for 2025 was extremely serious and should be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Committee stood ready to cooperate with the Office to boost efforts to maintain the ascendancy of human rights and related mechanisms.

Adoption of the agenda (CAT/C/82/1)

7. *The agenda was adopted.*

Organizational and other matters

8. **The Chair** said that, at the current session, the Committee would consider State Party reports submitted by Armenia, France, Mauritius, Monaco, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. The Committee would hold private briefings with representatives of the national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms of Armenia, France and Ukraine. All preparatory meetings would be held in person. Regrettably, the cessation of hybrid meetings, except for mandated meetings such as dialogues with States Parties, as announced by the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva in January 2024, would continue to adversely affect the work of the Committee, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

9. In addition, the Committee would consider and adopt lists of issues or lists of issues prior to reporting for Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Iceland, Iraq, Kenya, Montenegro, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan and Uruguay. It would also consider 27 individual communications. Reports would be presented by the rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, the rapporteur for follow-up to decisions on complaints and the rapporteur on reprisals. In accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture was tentatively scheduled to present the Subcommittee's annual report to the Committee, subject to the availability of funds for travel. The Committee would adopt its own annual report at the end of the current session.

10. Lastly, he wished to note that the Committee had been informed by the Division of Conference Management that summary records could be provided only for reviews of States Parties and the opening and closure of the session.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.35 a.m.