



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Thirty-second session

Summary record (partial)* of the 761st meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 5 March 2025, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Kim Mi Yeon

Contents

Consideration of reports submitted by Parties to the Convention under article 35 (*continued*)

Initial report of Tuvalu, considered in the absence of a delegation (continued)

* 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.

Consideration of reports submitted by Parties to the Convention under article 35

(continued)

Initial report of Tuvalu, considered in the absence of a delegation (continued)

([CRPD/C/TUV/1](#); [CRPD/C/TUV/Q/1](#))

1. **The Chair** said that the questions put by members the previous day ([CRPD/C/SR.759](#)) had been relayed to the Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations, which had been requested to submit replies prior to the adoption of the Committee's concluding observations on 10 March 2025. The secretariat of the Committee had since received a written communication from the health minister of Tuvalu requesting the postponement of the consideration of the country's initial report ([CRPD/C/TUV/1](#)) to allow additional time for preparation. It was regrettable that the delegation was absent and that, as the request had been made late, the Committee was unable to accommodate it. She recalled that such requests should be sent to the secretariat of the Committee sufficiently in advance and give compelling reasons for postponement. She invited Committee members to proceed with their questions under the articles of the Convention.

Articles 10–20

2. **Ms. Placencia Porrero** (Country Task Force) said that she wished to know why section 16 of the Constitution, which stated that the killing of a person was lawful under certain circumstances, had not been amended and whether any consideration had been given to its disproportionate impact on persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

3. She was interested to learn how persons with disabilities, including deaf and blind persons, received information concerning emergencies; whether there were communication channels with the emergency services and, if so, whether they were accessible and interactive; and whether persons with disabilities and their representative organizations had been involved in designing emergency response measures. She wondered how the Tuvaluan Government was reacting to decisions by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to reject residency applications from Tuvaluan nationals with disabilities on health-related grounds, whether the Government had lodged any complaints with the Governments of those countries to defend the rights of persons with disabilities and whether the Government monitored the number of applications rejected for health reasons.

4. It would be helpful to know what measures the State Party was taking to raise awareness of the principle of equal recognition before the law among judicial officials and persons with disabilities themselves, what efforts were under way to develop services for supported decision-making, whether any training was provided to legal practitioners and the police about the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention, and what procedures and safeguards were in place to ensure that persons with psychosocial disabilities in particular were able to exercise those rights. She wished to know how persons with disabilities were assisted in gaining access to the justice system on an equal basis with others, whether training was provided to judicial officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, what procedural accommodations were made for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities in court, and whether any such accommodations were enshrined in law. She would also be glad to learn what was being done to ensure that online interaction with the Government and the judiciary was accessible for persons with disabilities.

5. She wondered whether any action had been taken to investigate, monitor, document and prohibit police malpractice when persons with disabilities were deprived of their liberty; what safeguards were in place to ensure that such persons could lodge complaints and that decisions made by the police were recorded; what steps had been taken to investigate allegations and complaints of the cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities; what consequences the perpetrators faced; what efforts had been made to prevent the use of restrictive and coercive practices against persons with disabilities; and what training on rights under the Convention was provided to police officers who were responsible for persons with disabilities.

6. She wished to know how the State Party prevented exploitation, violence and abuse vis-à-vis persons with disabilities; what inclusive, accessible and gender-sensitive protection and reporting mechanisms were available for victims of exploitation, violence and abuse; how persons with disabilities had been involved in the finalization of the draft policy for the protection of children in all educational institutions; and what measures had been taken to train and raise awareness among families and caregivers of the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. She would be interested to learn whether the use of a provision of the Mental Treatment Act that allowed persons with disabilities to be held in mental health facilities on the directions of the medical officer in charge was monitored, how the physical and mental integrity of persons with disabilities was ensured, what policy and legal measures allowed patients to challenge decisions by medical officers, and what procedural safeguards, such as informed consent, were in place.

8. She would be grateful to hear how the constitutional right to freedom of movement and nationality was guaranteed in practice for persons with disabilities; whether those persons and their families received any home services, such as home adaptations, assistive technologies or home care, or financial support to cover those services; and what plans were being developed to make community services accessible and inclusive to enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in society. She wondered what policy measures had been taken to enhance the provision of mobility aids, whether persons with disabilities who purchased their own assistive devices received training from professionals on how to use them and whether repair services were provided.

9. **Ms. Kayess** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that, given the lack of services and support for persons with disabilities, particularly in the outer islands, she wished to know whether there were any plans to work with donors or international partners on community-based inclusive development.

10. **Mr. Corporán Lorenzo** asked whether the State Party intended to establish a body at the presidential level to coordinate action by all government institutions concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

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