



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 of the 762nd meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 5 March 2025, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Kim Mi Yeon

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

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

(continued)

Combined second and third periodic reports of the Dominican Republic (continued)
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1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of the Dominican Republic joined the meeting.*
2. **The Chair** said that interpretation into the national sign language would, unfortunately, not be available for the meeting. She invited the Secretary of the Committee to explain why.
3. **Mr. Araya** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, owing to the liquidity crisis facing the United Nations, the United Nations Office at Geneva had, without consulting the Committee, decided to begin charging States Parties for the use of the video link that allowed national sign language interpretation to be provided remotely. The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva had been informed of the cost that morning. He wished to apologize to the delegation and to deaf persons in the Dominican Republic who would now be unable to follow the webcast of the meeting.

Articles 10–20

4. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** (Country Task Force) said that he wished to know whether the State Party would consider reviewing article 76 of Act No. 5-13 – which authorized the National Council on Disability to establish residential centres for persons with disabilities – with a view to reorienting the article away from institutionalization and towards independent living.
5. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the centres or homes referred to in article 76 were intended for persons with severe disabilities who were orphans and had no relatives with whom they could stay. However, no such homes were yet in place. The National Council on Disability was exploring the possibility of opening a home for a group of young people who had been in the care of the National Council for Children and Adolescents but now needed to be transferred out of that system because they had reached the age of 18.
6. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** asked whether the State Party would consider repealing article 76 or amending it to provide for foster care and inclusive settings instead of residential centres.
7. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the Government's first step would be to develop a protocol setting out a solution for the young people mentioned. During that process, it would consider options such as placing the young people with foster families, setting up a group home for them or partnering with civil society organizations that worked with persons with the same types of disabilities that the young people had. The National Council on Disability was reviewing the practices of other Latin American countries in such cases.
8. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that he wished to refer the delegation to the Committee's guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, which contained useful information on alternatives to institutionalization.
9. It would be helpful to know whether the provisions of the Civil Code that set 18 as the minimum age for marriage for boys and 15 as the minimum age for girls and that allowed persons below those ages to marry with a dispensation from the Government were still in force. He would be grateful for statistics on child marriages involving children with disabilities and more detailed information on the dispensation that the Government could provide.
10. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that Act No. 1-21 had amended the Civil Code and eliminated all the exceptions that had made it possible for a person under 18 to marry. Consequently, since 2021, no minor could legally marry in the Dominican Republic. There were therefore no statistics on the practice.

11. Early unions, where two minors decided to live together without any legal bond, continued to exist. There were no legal restrictions on such unions, and the Government had no legal basis on which to intercede. No statistics were available on the involvement of children with disabilities in early unions.

12. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that he would appreciate information on the situation of Haitians with disabilities in the Dominican Republic, which was reportedly currently home to some 800,000 Haitians. He wished to know whether physical rehabilitation services and occupational therapy were available to foreign nationals with disabilities.

13. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that foreign nationals were entitled to receive any type of medical treatment in the Dominican Republic. There was no discrimination of any kind against them.

14. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that, under the Constitution, healthcare services must be accessible and free of charge for all.

15. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the General Health Act (No. 42-01) provided for the right to health of all persons in the country.

16. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** asked whether physical rehabilitation services and occupational therapy in particular were available free of charge for persons with disabilities who were not nationals of the Dominican Republic.

17. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that such treatment was provided free of charge, through the public health system, to all persons, regardless of their nationality. Services were also provided through State-funded programmes delivered by civil society organizations, which were available to all persons with disabilities, regardless of their migration status.

18. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that he wished to know whether, in practice, persons with psychosocial disabilities were recognized as persons with disabilities; whether they had access to all the healthcare services they needed, including medication, free of charge; and whether the State Party allowed the use of electroconvulsive therapy and chemical restraints in psychiatric hospitals or units.

19. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that those services were indeed free of charge. The Integrated Care Centre for Persons with Disabilities provided services to children. Coverage under the public health system was further expanded through agreements with civil society organizations working with persons with disabilities, whereby the Government provided staff to work in centres run by the organizations.

20. Individuals with psychosocial disabilities could be hospitalized in crisis units for between 24 hours and 14 days, with the average stay being 7 days. Before being placed in such a unit, the person's case was individually evaluated by the hospital's ethics committee. Electroconvulsive therapy was not used in the public health system, where treatment tended to focus on medication.

21. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that, under the General Health Act, all persons had the right to information about their health. In the case of minors with psychosocial disabilities and patients who were in a critical condition or unconscious, the right to be informed prior to treatment fell to their immediate family members or guardians.

22. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that he would like to know what laws governed the hospital ethics committees and whether there was actually a legal prohibition against the use of electroconvulsive therapy in the State Party or whether its use was simply avoided.

23. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that hospital staff sought to ensure that the rights and dignity of patients were respected in decision-making procedures. Although the General Health Act of 2001 remained in effect, some of its provisions had been superseded by a number of protocols and treatment guidelines that had been issued on the basis of international instruments that had the force of law. In any case, a congressional committee had been set up to amend and update the General Health Act.

24. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that he would be grateful for statistics on the number of persons with disabilities in jails, prisons and detention centres and information on the accessibility measures and reasonable accommodation provided to them in those facilities.

25. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that that information would be provided in writing.

26. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** asked whether it could be concluded from the delegation's earlier answers regarding residential centres that no forms of foster care, alternative care or community inclusion were systematically made available to children or adults with disabilities in the State Party.

27. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that, as the majority of persons with disabilities in the Dominican Republic lived with their families, there had been no need to provide for other forms of residential care before the aforementioned situation involving the young people in the care of the National Council for Children and Adolescents had arisen. Day centres were available for persons with disabilities.

28. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that she wondered whether the State Party intended to reconsider its classification of disability into the categories of light, moderate and severe, which was based on the medical model of disability and thus inconsistent with the Convention.

29. With regard to the hospitalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities, she would appreciate the delegation's thoughts on the compatibility of the State Party's practices in that area with article 14 of the Convention. In view of reports that women and girls with disabilities continued to be subjected to forced sterilization despite the fact that it was prohibited by law, she wished to know what steps the State Party was taking to enforce the relevant laws and ensure the eradication of the practice.

30. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the Government was aware of the need to continue strengthening the Disability Assessment, Registration and Certification System and ensure that it reflected the shift to a more holistic model of disability. The current system, in place since 2022, had been developed with support from the Ibero-American Programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had proven effective in enabling duly certified persons to obtain access to social protection. The system was currently undergoing a digital transformation, after which steps would likely be taken to review the way in which disabilities were classified.

31. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that a new protocol governing the hospitalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities was currently under development. The crisis units to which such persons were admitted employed nurses, psychologists, social workers and counsellors to ensure that patients received specialized care. Efforts were made to seek the patients' consent and involve their family members in the treatment process.

32. Hospital ethics committees were required to assess all sterilization cases individually and to ensure that patients' right to make decisions about their sexual and reproductive health were respected. Health professionals caring for the patient concerned were invited to participate in the decision-making process, with a view to guaranteeing that the decision made was aligned with the patient's wishes. There had been a number of recent cases in which civil society organizations had intervened to prevent patients from being sterilized against their will.

33. **Ms. Fefoame** said that she wished to know what the State Party was doing to address the growing threat of abuse faced by women and girls with disabilities. The delegation might wish to comment on whether shelters and counselling services were accessible for such women and girls and whether sign language interpreters were assigned to those who needed them. It would be useful to learn whether women and girls who were deaf or hard of hearing had access to alternatives to the hotline for victims of gender-based violence and what alternative formats of information were available more generally. With regard to forced sterilization, she would like to know what mechanisms were in place to ensure that the perpetrators were punished.

34. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that violence, discrimination and torture were prohibited under the Constitution, national laws and the international agreements ratified by the Dominican Republic. Violence specifically against persons with disabilities was addressed in Act No. 5-13.

35. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that victims of any form of violence could seek protection through a number of legal channels. Women victims of violence could submit complaints to the Attorney General's Office, which would pursue the perpetrators and, where necessary, issue a protection order. The Ministry of Women's Affairs ran shelters for women and girls affected by violence, providing them with psychological support, healthcare, legal assistance and protection.

36. The Attorney General's Office had recently handled a case involving a child with a motor disability and speech impairment who had fallen pregnant after allegedly being raped by her stepfather. The case had been heard by a judge at the juvenile court, who had ruled, with the agreement of the victim's mother, that the victim should be placed in a shelter specifically for children with disabilities in order to ensure her protection. The victim and her baby had since returned to the mother's home, from where they were being monitored by the National Council on Disability and receiving social and medical support from the Ministry of Women's Affairs. All government agencies were required to establish the protocols and services necessary to guarantee the protection of victims of violence, including those with disabilities.

37. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that a project to provide hospital workers with sign language training was being run with support from the Fundación de Discapacidad Manos Abiertas, a non-governmental organization working on disability issues. Sexual health services were open to all women of childbearing age, and staff were required to obtain patients' informed consent before administering any treatment.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

Articles 21–30

38. **Mr. Morris** (Country Task Force) said that he would welcome an update on the number of certified sign language interpreters in the State Party and information on the steps being taken to support deafblind persons.

39. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that there were currently 589 certified sign language interpreters working in the courts. While the total number of sign language interpreters in the country was higher, most of those persons were not certified and worked on an informal basis to help their deaf relatives.

40. The Government recognized the need to establish a more structured process for the certification of sign language interpreters that was in line with national and international standards. Steps were being taken to determine which Latin American countries had had success in that area and might serve as a good example to follow. The Government planned to choose a national academic institution to support its certification efforts, which were currently being hampered by the fact that the main civil society organization representing deaf persons had been unable to operate for two years owing to issues with its legal status and structure. Efforts were being made to help that organization regularize its situation so that work to certify more sign language interpreters could begin in earnest.

41. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the Directorate for Special Education provided support to deafblind students and those with multiple disabilities. Staff from the Perkins School for the Blind provided education professionals with specialized training on working with students with visual impairments and other disabilities.

42. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the National Health Service had signed various agreements with civil society organizations representing persons with disabilities in order to ensure the accessibility of its facilities. A new major hospital had recently been built with Braille signage installed throughout its premises.

43. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the country's first-ever sign language dictionary had been published in 2020 to address the concern expressed by the

National Congress that the language had not been codified in a document. The law recognizing sign language as the official language of deaf persons had subsequently been adopted in 2023, establishing that sign language interpreters wishing to be certified must master the language set out in the Dominican dictionary. Deafblind persons were represented by their own association, which received subsidies from the Government in order to support the development of projects and programmes aimed specifically at that group.

44. **Mr. Morris** said that he wished to know whether sign language interpreters who worked in the courts were able to provide interpretation services in other settings. The delegation might wish to clarify why the certification process for sign language interpreters could not be initiated until the challenges faced by the relevant civil society organization had been resolved.

45. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that all court interpreters would have received general sign language interpretation training before earning their accreditation to work in judicial settings and could thus take on work in other sectors, such as health and education. Many interpreters were able to assist deafblind persons thanks to their knowledge of tactile sign language.

46. The Government wished to manage the certification process for sign language interpreters with organizations made up of persons with disabilities rather than institutions that provided services to them. The members of such organizations had unique expertise in the area of sign language, which meant that their input needed to be sought before the process could be launched.

47. **Mr. Morris** said that he would be grateful for information on the total number of children with disabilities at the primary school level. It would be useful to learn whether the State Party had introduced a mechanism to monitor the implementation of inclusive education and what had been done to familiarize teachers with its philosophy and train them in working with children with disabilities and using modern assistive technologies.

48. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education had conducted surveys to determine the number of children with disabilities in the education system. In accordance with a pilot plan, information on children with disabilities had begun to be collected from families, churches and communities. Civil society organizations had identified some children with disabilities who were in the education system but had not been classified as having a disability in the school management system.

49. The Ministry of Education had developed an application that used disability-disaggregated data to ensure that appropriate accommodation could be made for children with different types of disability. The support provided by the Olga Estrella Resource Centre, which had originally catered for children with visual impairments, had been expanded to include children with other types of disability, including autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities.

50. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education, with the support of UNICEF, had continued providing educational services to children through television broadcasts and other means. In 2021, the Ministry had begun the process of revising laws relating to the education of children with disabilities. That process had culminated in the issuance of Ordinance 05-2024, which provided for the incorporation of children with disabilities into the mainstream education system. Following the issuance of the Ordinance, specialized training had been provided to technical staff and teachers around the country. The families of children with disabilities also received training so that they could assist their children with their education outside of school hours.

51. **Mr. Morris** said that it was still not clear whether any mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the inclusive education system had been established. Given the limited number of persons with disabilities who had access to some form of health insurance, it would be interesting to know how persons with disabilities who lacked insurance were able to obtain access to quality healthcare. He wished to know whether healthcare professionals were being trained to implement the human rights model of disability rather than the outdated medical

model and whether all gynaecological and obstetric units in the public health system had been made accessible to women with disabilities.

52. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that 97 per cent of the population were registered with the social security system, which consisted of a contributory scheme, for employed persons, and a subsidized scheme, for persons whose income was less than the national minimum wage. Existing hospitals were being adapted to meet the National Universal Design Standard (NORDOM 779), while new hospitals were constructed in compliance with that standard.

53. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the medical model of disability had been completely replaced with a rights-based approach. Measures to raise awareness of the rights-based approach had been taken since 2013 in accordance with Act No. 5-13, the general law on equal rights of persons with disabilities. The Disability Assessment, Registration and Certification System was structured around the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. The system emphasized the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in healthcare, education and the workplace rather than the nature of their disabilities. Where necessary, wheelchairs, crutches and other mobility aids were made available to women in shelters for victims of violence and their children. A total of 42 members of staff in shelters had basic sign language skills so that they could better assist deaf women.

54. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the National Council on Disability had issued healthcare staff, including nurses, therapists, psychologists and all relevant technical staff, with guidelines on the rights-based approach to disability.

55. **Mr. Morris** said that it was still not clear whether all gynaecological and obstetric units in the public health system were accessible to women with disabilities. He would welcome information on the use of sheltered workshops to provide employment to persons with disabilities. He would be grateful to know the number of persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors and whether any penalties had been imposed on employers who had failed to comply with employment quotas for persons with disabilities.

56. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the Ministry of Labour regulated relations between employees and private companies while the Ministry of Public Administration regulated relations between civil servants and the State. The Ministry of Labour organized awareness-raising workshops for private companies and national and international organizations. The National Employment Service organized job-placement services that placed particular emphasis on assisting persons with disabilities. A total of 45,000 persons with disabilities were employed in private companies. The National Employment Service coordinated with the Dominican Foundation for the Blind to promote access to employment for persons with visual impairments. The Service also organized the "For Talent" (Por Talento) initiative to promote access to employment for persons with disabilities and a youth employment programme that arranged subsidized work placements for young persons, including those with disabilities. To date, four persons with disabilities had found permanent employment through the programme.

57. The Ministry of Public Administration had begun gathering information on civil servants with disabilities. To date, it had identified 355 civil servants with disabilities in 65 institutions. The institutions concerned had been instructed to carry out surveys to determine the reasonable accommodation that should be made to support their staff with disabilities and ensure compliance with employment quotas.

58. A system that enabled institutions to identify requirements for reasonable accommodation had been established. Institutions that failed to comply with accessibility standards were penalized. Software had been developed that allowed persons with visual impairments to participate in competitions for employment in the civil service. A Braille version of the regulations governing recruitment procedures had been published.

59. The Ministry was developing principles of inclusion on the basis of the Civil Service Act and establishing accountability measures for human resources departments that failed to comply with such principles. The Ministry of Public Administration was working with the

Ministry of Labour to establish mechanisms for imposing penalties on companies or agencies that failed to comply with regulations.

60. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that persons with disabilities who were dependants of participants in the contributory social security scheme received the same coverage as the persons on whom they were dependent. The number of persons registered with the subsidized scheme had risen from 3.7 million in 2020 to 5.9 million today. Efforts were being made to expand access to social security to include the entire population.

61. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that it was not known how many persons with disabilities were affiliated with the two social security regimes. Every citizen had the right to a medical insurance card that gave them full access to the national network of health services. Persons who did not have a medical insurance card would still receive treatment if they visited a public hospital. A number of State-funded civil society organizations worked with the National Council on Disability to provide free services and devices and aids, including crutches, wheelchairs and specialist treatments, to persons with disabilities.

62. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that all persons with disabilities could request disability certification from the National Council on Disability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, intensive efforts had been made, in conjunction with civil society, to identify persons with disabilities who did not have medical insurance so that they could be registered with the subsidized scheme. Data on persons registered with the social security system were not disaggregated by disability. Indicators were being developed to make it easier to determine whether employers were complying with employment quotas for persons with disabilities.

63. Efforts to identify persons with disabilities in the workplace were hindered by the fact that identification took place on a purely voluntary basis. In order to identify persons with disabilities, employees in the public and private sectors were asked to respond to the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning. In the education system, indicators for identifying children with disabilities had not been introduced until 2023. Efforts to identify more children with disabilities and to strengthen the Disability Assessment, Certification and Registration System were ongoing.

64. **Mr. Morris** said that he would be interested to learn about the situation of persons with disabilities who were not beneficiaries of the “Progress with Solidarity” conditional cash transfer programme. He wished to know what social protection measures were being taken for Haitian nationals with disabilities who lived in the Dominican Republic. Given that very few persons with disabilities earned enough to qualify for social housing, he wondered what steps were being taken to ensure access to housing for persons with disabilities.

65. Information on any measures being taken to make polling stations accessible to persons with disabilities would be welcome. He would also be grateful for details of any steps being taken to encourage persons with disabilities to participate in politics and public life. How many persons with disabilities had been elected to the parliament in the most recent elections?

66. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that social protection payments provided to people who had lower incomes or belonged to other vulnerable groups, who were likely to include persons with disabilities, included subsidized health insurance, assistance from the Fund for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities and solidarity pensions. Efforts were made each year to broaden the scope of the social protection system and to ensure that all eligible persons benefited from it.

67. Approximately six candidates with disabilities had stood for different political positions in the most recent elections. There was no exact information on how many had been successful. Efforts had been made to ensure that the 2024 elections were accessible to persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that polling stations were physically accessible and that those who attended them could vote on the ground floor. Online voting had been introduced in some regions as an option for deaf persons under a pilot project; it was hoped that it would be made available throughout the country in the next elections.

68. Efforts were being made to remodel parks and other recreational facilities with a view to making them compliant with accessibility standards. Information on how many such spaces were accessible was unavailable. Initiatives had been proposed to ensure that any new public space was built to the same universal accessibility standard.

69. **Ms. Gabrilli** said that she wished to know what steps the State Party was taking to ensure that it had a sufficient number of rehabilitation centres, including specialized centres. It would be interesting to know whether, under the current legal framework in the Dominican Republic, schools were explicitly prohibited from refusing access to children with disabilities. She would be grateful to learn how many children with disabilities were out of school.

70. **Mr. Makni** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that he wished to know whether autistic children were admitted to mainstream State schools and, if so, whether they had the support of a classroom assistant, and whether the cost of such assistants was paid by their families or covered by the family support or social protection system. He wondered whether any accommodations were made for such children during exams, and whether the diplomas and certificates awarded to them had the same value as those awarded to children without disabilities. In the context of targeted social protection measures, it would be helpful to learn how families that had a member with a disability were identified.

71. **Mr. Tamon** said that he would be grateful to learn what regulations were in place for protecting persons who were deaf and persons who were blind in the area of employment.

72. **Ms. Guala Beathyate** said that, given that international human rights conventions had the same legal force as the Dominican Constitution, it would be helpful to receive an explanation of the mechanisms that existed for harmonizing national laws with those conventions and repealing them where necessary. She wondered what avenues were available for persons with disabilities who wished to report that their rights had been violated as a result of a conflict between the provisions of an international instrument and older laws that were still in force. More information on the initiative to promote the right of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to exercise their legal capacity that had been outlined previously would be welcome. She wished to know whether the national care system took into account situations in which persons with disabilities were caregivers, which was often the case, and whether such persons received training.

73. **Ms. Dondovdorj** said that she would be interested to know whether the State Party carried out regular monitoring with the aim of identifying barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in exercising their rights to marry, to be parents and to have relationships. If so, she would be grateful to learn about the results of such monitoring and the measures that the State Party had taken with a view to improving the safeguarding of those rights. It would be useful to learn to what extent reasonable accommodation was being made for children with disabilities at schools based on those children's individual needs.

74. **Mr. Morris** said that he would be interested to hear about how the State Party was implementing the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

75. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the Ministry of Education had established a 10-year plan with a view to better fulfilling its obligations under article 24 of the Convention. Under the plan, emphasis was placed on the importance of teacher training. All students received support in accordance with the level of their disability. Students with higher needs remained in special education institutions where they could receive the level of support they required. A total of 28,000 children with disabilities were receiving inclusive education in mainstream schools, and that number was expected to increase through the use of a new system with new indicators. Indicators were also in place for monitoring what students in inclusive education were learning.

76. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that children with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities could benefit free of charge from full rehabilitation and care services at four centres in the Dominican Republic that were considered to be among the foremost in the region. The centres were oversubscribed and

efforts were being made in collaboration with local communities to extend their services to areas of the country where they had hitherto been unavailable. Adults with such disabilities benefited from free rehabilitation services and assistance with independent living under various civil society programmes that were paid for with a combination of public and international funding. Although children with disabilities were not refused access to school on the basis of their disabilities, efforts were being made to raise awareness in that area and to train and support teachers who considered themselves to be insufficiently qualified to work with such children. While up-to-date data on the number of children who were not in school were currently unavailable, such information would be obtained from the results of the 2022 census and included in the country's next periodic report. Experts in special education visited mainstream schools to train and support teachers in providing reasonable accommodation.

77. **A representative of the Dominican Republic** said that the dialogue with the Committee had highlighted the challenges and barriers that remained and had given the delegation a renewed sense of determination to tackle them. The Committee's recommendations would help to consolidate public policy to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and ensure a more just and inclusive society.

78. **Mr. Makni** said that the Committee was grateful to the delegation for the insight into the situation of persons with disabilities in the Dominican Republic. Among the most pressing issues for the State Party to address were the harmonization of national laws with the Convention and the adoption of a disability assessment system that was in compliance with the Convention.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.