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Chairperson: Ms. Ploder (Vice-Chairperson) (Austria)

Contents

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (*continued*)

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments (*continued*)

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

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In the absence of Mr. Monthe (Cameroon), Ms. Ploder (Austria), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (continued)

(a) Advancement of women (continued)
(A/C.3/65/L.17-L.20)

Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

1. **Mr. Mijnerends** (Netherlands) speaking also on behalf of France, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17. Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco and Montenegro had joined the sponsors. China had been listed in error as a sponsor, but it was hoped that eventually it would support the draft resolution. The draft resolution was a follow-up to previous resolutions on the agenda item and would be submitted every two years to improve overall coherence and cooperation between relevant actors to address all forms of violence against women. In that regard, the Netherlands and France welcomed the establishment of UN Women and believed that upon its adoption, draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17 would provide that body with a firm road map for combating violence against women. Lastly, the draft resolution contained a number of recommendations on preventing violence against women for Member States and United Nations bodies.

2. **Mr. Gustafik** (Acting Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Serbia and Togo had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18: Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

3. **Ms. Karim** (Malawi), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Belgium, the Czech Republic and Indonesia had joined the list of sponsors. Progress towards achieving Millennium Development Goal 5, improving maternal health, was slower than with regard to any of the other Goals. Over half a million women died in childbirth annually and for every woman who died, some 20 others were injured or disabled. Obstetric fistula was a major cause of that situation in many developing countries, affecting over 2 million women in Africa, Asia and the Arab region, with between

50,000 and 100,000 new cases each year. Its victims were generally poor, illiterate women in remote areas, where gender discrimination was widespread and access to health care limited.

4. The draft resolution reprised the resolution adopted by the Third Committee two years earlier. It called for the international community and all relevant stakeholders to give particular attention to maternal health, especially the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula. The draft resolution reflected the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report (A/65/268) for action to be undertaken at national, regional and international levels to prevent obstetric fistula and end maternal morbidity and mortality.

5. **Mr. Gustafik** (Acting Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Finland, Portugal and Switzerland had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.19: International Widows' Day

6. **Mr. Makanga** (Gabon), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.19, noted that Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan, and Timor-Leste had joined the sponsors. Issues linked to the social conditions of widows had not yet been directly addressed by the United Nations. Following the deaths of their husbands, women and their children often faced increased vulnerability, and thousands of widows were victims of social injustice, discrimination and sexual abuse. The draft resolution would declare 23 June every year as International Widows' Day, thus raising awareness globally of the situation of widows and their children and providing an opportunity to express solidarity with widows everywhere.

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Acting Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Chile and Togo had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.20: Trafficking in women and girls

8. **Ms. Hernando** (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.20, said that the draft resolution aimed to update a similar resolution that had been adopted at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, which called upon Governments, inter alia,

to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls and ensure that victims of trafficking were not penalized for being trafficked.

9. **Mr. Gustafik** (Acting Secretary of the Committee) announced that Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Togo had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*) (A/65/336)

(a) **Implementation of human rights instruments** (*continued*) (A/65/40 (Vol. I), A/65/40 (Vol. II), A/65/44, 48, 94, 190, 265, 317 and 381)

(d) **Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action** (A/65/36)

10. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to continue its general discussion of sub-item (a) and to begin the general discussion of sub-item (d) of agenda item 68.

11. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirmed, *inter alia*, the right of all peoples to self-determination. However, the implementation of international human rights instruments had been far from satisfactory. Efforts to protect human rights had been impeded by several factors, including the financial crisis, conflicts and environmental disasters linked to climate change. Those factors negatively and directly impacted the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in developing countries where economic crises had caused numerous conflicts. The threats to human rights posed by those crises could be addressed only through equitable international economic engagement between the North and the South and by assisting developing countries to overcome the challenges that they faced.

12. By exploiting the mass media, a number of major Powers sought to politicize human rights. Human rights values and principles were seriously undermined by double standards or when they were exploited for political ends or to the detriment of the culture and beliefs of others. Mechanisms to implement international human rights instruments were insufficient and the world must stand firm against increasingly frequent incidents of racism and religious intolerance.

13. The Sudan fully respected the right to freedom of expression. However that freedom must not be used as a justification for attacks against religions or beliefs. Many people continued to suffer religious discrimination, particularly following the events of 11 September 2001, and many languished in official or secret prisons where they were tortured and continued to have their rights violated.

14. The Sudan was committed to upholding international human rights instruments. Rights and freedoms were enshrined in the Sudanese Constitution, the formulation of which had drawn on the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005. Its Constitutional Court safeguarded human rights at the highest judicial level, and the Advisory Council on Human Rights was working to further strengthen respect for those rights. In free and fair elections in 2010, the people of Sudan had elected the President of the country and a parliament that encompassed the entire political spectrum. The Sudan had also enacted laws to guarantee Internet freedom and access to information.

15. The most recent report by the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan had noted several positive developments. The Sudan was striving to address issues in post-conflict areas in the South and in western Sudan and was cooperating fully with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The Sudan had also announced a new strategy for Darfur, which strengthened the participation of its people, including internally displaced persons, in the political process with a view to fostering the region's development. The Sudan was also participating in negotiations in Doha and was committed to holding a referendum on self-determination in South Sudan.

16. Lastly, the Sudan called upon the international community to reject the imposition of unilateral sanctions on States, which served to increase hatred between peoples, and to pay greater attention to the plight of migrants and minorities, especially those who suffered under foreign occupation, including in the occupied Arab territories.

17. **Mr. Berti** (Cuba) said that his country had made significant progress in the enjoyment of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights; civil and political rights; and the realization of third-generation or solidarity rights. The right to

self-determination had been achieved despite obstacles and threats arising from the policy of hostility and the embargo imposed by successive United States administrations. Achievements in health care, education, scientific and technical research, culture and sports had been possible because the Cuban people controlled the country's political fate and resources in a participatory democracy designed and approved by the people.

18. Cuba was party to 42 human rights instruments and took its obligations seriously, including its reporting obligations. In 2009, Cuba had signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, reflecting its commitment to the rights established therein. It had also been the fifth country to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

19. His Government had supported the establishment of the Human Rights Council, following the failure of the Commission on Human Rights, which had been immersed in politicization and manipulation. Cuba gave the same priority to economic, social and cultural rights as to civil and political rights and had engaged actively in creating international norms for human rights for all. As a founding and current member, Cuba continued to promote consolidation of the Council on the basis of mutual respect, international cooperation and constructive dialogue.

20. Committed to cooperation with mechanisms implemented on a universal, non-discriminatory, non-selective and non-politicized basis, Cuba would continue to welcome visiting missions under the special procedures of the Council and had recently engaged in the universal periodic review, with excellent results. The former system of sanctions against countries of the South and automatic impunity for the countries of the North should not be repeated in the current human rights system.

21. **Ms. Shinohara** (Japan) said that the Human Rights Council and UN Women, established as part of the reform process, were major advances and would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations human rights apparatus. Japan hoped that the 2011 review of the Human Rights Council would enable a comprehensive approach to human rights issues. In 2009, one of the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Committee, had adopted a new reporting procedure that would allow it to conduct a more

focused dialogue with States parties and had the added benefit of significantly reducing their reporting obligations and the documentation burden of the Secretariat. The United Nations must continue its efforts to streamline existing mechanisms, including other treaty body mechanisms.

22. Japan complied faithfully with its obligations under all human rights treaties to which it was a party. Its periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child had been considered in 2010, and it would respond in good faith to any recommendations made. Japan's Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality, to be established later in 2010, was expected to include a campaign to publicize the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, its Committee's most recent recommendations and her country's response to them.

23. Japan had twice amended its Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims. In addition, it had broadened the definition of spousal violence, reinforced the related protection orders and strengthened the role of municipalities in that area. At the international level, Japan had proposed its candidature to the Executive Board of UN Women. In general, it intended to continue its efforts to ensure that the gender-related activities of the United Nations were well coordinated, efficient and effective.

24. Japan had recently carried out major reforms to improve the implementation of its policies on persons with disabilities. In order to improve the policies themselves, in December 2009 it had established a ministerial board for disability policy reform, which was working to make changes faithful to the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Japan would be active in promoting international cooperation on the rights of disabled persons.

25. Her country attached great importance to the United Nations role in establishing universal normative standards. It had ratified the new International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and had urged other States to ratify that meaningful instrument. Lastly, Japan fully supported all of the efforts put into reforming the international human rights frameworks and would

cooperate with all relevant partners to ensure that the changes were implemented effectively.

26. **Mr. Al-Mesallam** (Qatar) said that his country attached great importance to human rights at all levels and that fundamental rights and freedoms were enshrined in its Constitution. Qatar had enacted legislation to further strengthen those rights and freedoms and had amended its criminal code so that it was in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

27. Qatar had acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and had partially withdrawn its general reservation with regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. His country was also working to implement many of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

28. Human rights departments had been established within Qatari ministries. Non-governmental organizations also promoted respect for human rights, protected women and children, defended journalists and combated trafficking in persons. Moreover, Qatar's promotion of human rights was enshrined in its foreign policy, which was based on settling international disputes peacefully. His country also hosted international conferences on development, human rights and peace, as well as on financing for development and on interfaith dialogue with the Muslim world.

29. **Mr. Lukiyantsev** (Russian Federation) said that Russian President Dmitri Medvedev had said that standards for democracy which included human rights standards could be effective only if they were internationally accepted. Only if such standards were developed collectively could countries rest assured that those norms would not be used to limit sovereignty and interfere in internal affairs.

30. Regrettably, in a number of countries, human rights were seen as a foreign policy tool and nothing else. Some countries, believing themselves free of sin, thought that human rights violations could only occur elsewhere, although their human rights situations at home were far from perfect.

31. The establishment of the United Nations and the modern international system for the promotion and protection of human rights were direct consequences of the outcome of the Second World War. It was therefore deeply regrettable that certain parties were engaging in revisionist moral and legal assessments of the outcome of the War in pursuit of short-term political interests. History was being completely rewritten, executioners were being represented as victims and liberators as occupiers. Worst of all, the decisions of the Nuremberg Trials were being challenged.

32. There was an increase in phenomena which had a negative impact on respect for human rights, such as the financial, economic and food crises, terrorism and natural and man-made disasters. The Russian Federation had suffered particularly from the latter in the past few months. Those events had caused numerous casualties and great suffering. Such threats and challenges should cause people to look at the human rights agenda in a new way and focus on economic, social and cultural rights, as well as on the right to development. In that connection, the upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development was much anticipated.

33. The Human Rights Council would soon undergo a review of its activities and status. Four years after its launch, the Council had clearly demonstrated its ability to dispatch its obligations and required no major reform. The review should focus on eliminating various problems in the functioning of the Council. Strengthening cooperation on human rights should be a central part of the review.

34. Discussions of changes in the status of the Council were not appropriate at the current time. Issues related to the division of labour between the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Third Committee should be addressed. Proposals by a number of countries to introduce additional criteria for election to the Council should not be adopted, as such an approach would run counter to established practice. The Russian Federation supported the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and of Ms. Pillay, the High Commissioner. The degree of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Commissioner was satisfactory, and work on a bilateral cooperation agreement was going forward.

35. Democratic institutions in the Russian Federation were developing dynamically, with particular importance attached to the contribution of all stakeholders, including civil society institutions. While individual instances of human rights problems did occur, their solution was a priority. Ms. Pillay would pay a visit to the Russian Federation early in 2011, at which time she would meet with President Medvedev.

36. **Mr. Alnenaiji** (United Arab Emirates) said that human rights principles were guaranteed in the United Arab Emirates' domestic legislation and enshrined in its Constitution. Its citizens enjoyed, inter alia, the rights to equality, social justice, freedom of expression and association. Furthermore, torture and arbitrary arrest and detention were prohibited. His country was a party to 15 international human rights instruments, had ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights and was taking steps to accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Progress made by the United Arab Emirates in the field of human rights had also been commended by the Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

37. The United Arab Emirates had established a national committee to combat trafficking in persons, had amended its labour laws in order to better protect migrant workers in the country and had implemented measures to protect domestic workers, most of whom were women from abroad. It was also drafting legislation to regulate the relationship between domestic workers and their employees, in line with international standards and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

38. The United Arab Emirates had concluded numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements to facilitate dialogue with migrant labourers' countries of origin. Non-governmental bodies had been established to promote and protect human rights and legal and psychological assistance was provided to victims of abuse, domestic violence and trafficking. His country was also working to raise awareness of human rights principles among police officers, the judiciary and in schools and promoted human rights abroad through its activities as a major aid donor to developing countries.

39. Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestinian land and its brutal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory violated international humanitarian law and the basic human rights of Palestinians. Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip must immediately be lifted, in accordance with international humanitarian law and the recommendations of the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. Perpetrators of those crimes must, moreover, be brought to justice.

40. **Mr. Sydykov** (Kyrgyzstan) said that his country had undergone radical changes during the current year, and that its unity and statehood had been tested. In April 2010, the Kyrgyz people had overthrown an authoritarian, corrupt system characterized by lawlessness and chosen the path of democratic development. However, in May and June, criminal, extremist groups had provoked bloody clashes between members of the Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities. Over 400 people had died, thousands had been injured, many had lost their homes to fire, and hundreds of other buildings had been destroyed as well. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ethnic clashes had been planned and organized to destabilize the political situation. However, the events which had occurred in the southern part of the country earlier in the year were in fact due not to ethnic hostilities but were rather socio-economic and political in nature.

41. A Government commission, whose members included prominent Kyrgyz and Uzbek officials, scholars and experts as well as representatives of other ethnic groups, was actively investigating the causes of the conflict. An independent international commission supported by the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Governments of the Scandinavian countries had also begun an investigation of the events.

42. Urgent measures had been taken to rebuild infrastructure in the cities of Osh and Jalal Abad, and US \$100,000,000 had been allocated by the Provisional Government. A specialized fund had been set up to receive funds from country donors. A new ethnic policy was being developed which took into account the recent painful experiences. A new Constitution that laid the foundation for parliamentary rule had been adopted by popular vote in June 2010. The main purpose of the reform was to establish genuine human

rights protection mechanisms, as well as to dismantle the authoritarian system and ensure that the authorities were accountable to the people.

43. The new Constitution strengthened civil rights protections and contained a strict ban on capital punishment. The section on human rights had been broadened significantly. In addition, it stated that international norms of human rights law took priority over other international treaty norms. A number of organizations, including the Venice Commission, the European Union, the United Nations and OSCE had expressed their approval of the human rights section of the Constitution.

44. Since obtaining independence, Kyrgyzstan had ratified seven of the nine principal international human rights conventions and had assumed obligations under 40 international human rights instruments. Implementation of the national human rights programme for the period from 2002 to 2010 was being monitored, and the results would serve as a starting point for the national human and civil rights protection framework for the period 2011 to 2020. A national project entitled Return to Democracy had been developed in cooperation with civil society and was aimed at reforming democratic government institutions. Parliamentary elections had been held in early October, and they had received high ratings from OSCE, the European Parliament and other organizations.

45. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the initiative to take measures against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Work was under way on the issue of establishing a national mechanism for transparency and openness in correctional facilities. Following the universal periodic review (UPR) of Kyrgyzstan's national human rights report, 168 recommendations had been made. The Government of Kyrgyzstan had committed to carry out 154 human rights recommendations over the course of four years. That would require additional financial investment. Given that the capacity-building of States and provision of technical and advisory assistance to fulfil the obligations assumed were among the UPR objectives, the international community was requested to provide such assistance.

46. **Mrs. Muzumbe-Katongo** (Zambia) said that she was pleased to inform the Committee that her country's final draft Constitution recognized not only civil and

political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, Zambia had made progress on amending existing laws and enacting new ones to incorporate the provisions of international human rights instruments. It had passed legislation to provide an effective framework for a fair and equitable criminal justice system, to protect the rights of persons seeking refuge or asylum and to end gender-based violence.

47. Since government accountability was important for the protection of human rights, Zambia had enacted a whistleblower protection law, and its new disaster management law would help to alleviate the impact of natural and other disasters on the enjoyment of human rights. It had recently established a sex crimes unit and a victim support unit. In order to improve the general welfare of children, her country had made the teaching of human rights, including children's rights, a part of the high school curriculum. It had also initiated human rights training for police officers and continued to implement a food security programme offering material and technical assistance to farmers.

48. In February, Zambia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was imperative for States to report progress on the implementation of human rights instruments to the relevant treaty bodies. Her country appreciated the useful recommendations that had been made by those bodies, but it continued to face material and technical challenges that hindered the timely submission of its State party reports.

49. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, throughout history, human rights concepts had always been important, particularly in people's struggles to obtain food and drinking water and to combat slavery, oppression and poverty. Human rights must be viewed through the unique experience of each country, taking into account, inter alia, its history, language and customs. In its Constitution and laws, her country had accorded special attention to safeguarding civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, in accordance with international human rights law and had acceded to numerous human rights instruments.

50. While some saw the accelerating pace of political, economic, scientific and social change positively, for others it was a source of great concern. Despite vast improvements in the material quality of life for many, conflicts continued to give rise to humanitarian disasters and crimes that included murder

and ethnic cleansing. Although promises of peace and security were made at regional and international conferences, efforts to address the most blatant and widespread violations of human rights, including foreign aggression and occupation, remained subject to political manipulation.

51. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had, inter alia, called for effective international measures to guarantee and monitor the implementation of human rights standards in respect of people under foreign occupation. Foreign occupation was in itself a serious violation of human rights: to put an end to that violation, the occupation itself must cease.

52. The Syrian Arab Republic therefore called upon the international community to work together to ensure that human rights standards and the provisions of United Nations instruments were respected by all, without exception. Moreover, the international community, in addressing human rights issues, must accord priority to the most heinous violations, including the crime of occupation, and to implementing measures that were commensurate with the grave human rights violations committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, which included torture, collective punishment and the expulsion of the Arab population from their homes and lands.

53. **Mr. Alibabae** (Islamic Republic of Iran), addressing sub-item (a) of agenda item 68, said that his Government attached great importance to the role of international human rights instruments in the promotion and protection of human rights. Hence, it had acceded to many of the core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and had recently signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

54. His Government had fully engaged in the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council and had submitted periodic reports to the various treaty monitoring bodies for the instruments acceded to by the Islamic Republic of Iran. His Government considered those two monitoring mechanisms to be

important elements in the United Nations human rights system.

55. The universal, indivisible and interrelated nature of all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights should be fully respected by all Member States, and any selective national policy in those areas must be avoided, in accordance with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, national and regional particularities, as well as cultural, historical and religious factors, should be taken into account in the joint efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

56. Referring to sub-item (d), he said that the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993 and the holding of the World Conference on Human Rights the same year had marked a turning point for the promotion of human rights. Economic and social rights and the binding nature of the right to development must receive the same attention as political and civil rights. The existing international order was characterized by selectivity and economic and political exploitation.

57. The international community must seriously consider religious, national and cultural particularities in order to decelerate growing trends of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The majority of such cases targeted Islam and Muslims, the most recent example had been the call to burn a copy of the Koran on 11 September 2010 in the United States of America. Fortunately, that appeal had been met with condemnation. There was a pressing need to be aware and take action against the rapidly growing phenomenon of anti-Muslim sentiments and actions.

58. The Islamic Republic of Iran had cooperated in the field of human rights with the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and with members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). His country's proposal to designate 5 August each year as Islamic Human Rights and Human Dignity Day had been adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers to provide an opportunity to celebrate and introduce aspects of human rights promoted and strengthened by Islam.

59. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, which had begun its activities with the aim of realizing the goals and objectives of the Tehran Declaration and

Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity.

60. The Vienna Declaration put particular emphasis on the right to development as an inalienable component of human rights. The call for the realization of that right was as urgent now as when it had been made in 1993. However, obstacles to its realization made it unachievable in the foreseeable future. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action paid particular attention to the regional, cultural and historical backgrounds of each State in addressing human rights, while also focusing on the principle of the universality of human rights.

61. **Mr. Tharoor** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the institutionalization of inalienable human rights within the United Nations system, in particular, through the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). However, a comprehensive debate on human rights was possible only if the importance of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development and the links between those rights and civil and political rights, was fully understood.

62. He also welcomed the streamlining of the treaty bodies reporting process, which had reduced duplication and helped to maintain uniform standards and the timely submission of country reports. OHCHR support provided to developing countries to prepare those reports was also greatly appreciated. The harmonization of the procedures had also improved the ability of the treaty body committees to make assessments and recommendations, which had of course done much to strengthen domestic legislation. Nevertheless, treaty bodies should give due credence to development, democracy and human rights as interrelated issues. He reiterated India's support for the treaty bodies and commitment to fulfilling its reporting obligations. However, his delegation was concerned about the delay in the consideration of country reports by the treaty bodies. Any initiatives to speed up the process, including holding additional meetings, would be supported by India. He urged OHCHR to take all the necessary steps to deal with the backlog.

63. His country commended the success of the universal periodic review process, in particular the fact that all Member States would have undergone the process by 2011, just five years after the mechanism

was introduced. That achievement was largely due to the efforts made by participating countries, as well as the support of OHCHR and civil society. He also recognized the complementarity of the universal periodic review with other human rights mechanisms, highlighted by the fact that the review recommendations were guided by the observations, recommendations and conclusions of treaty bodies, special procedures and OHCHR reports.

64. As perhaps the world's largest representative democracy, India prided itself on its parliamentary system, democratic values, constitutional guarantees, impartial judiciary, free and vibrant media, thriving civil society and well established non-governmental organizations, and would continue to promote and protect fundamental freedoms and human rights for all citizens.

65. **Mr. Gamaha** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country was party to many human rights instruments, including regional mechanisms, and would continue to participate in the resulting treaty obligations. To that end, legislation and administrative measures had been adopted, policy and regulatory bodies set up, and affirmative action taken, following the establishment of the multiparty political system in the 1990s. Actions to foster and cooperate with civil society and the media had been introduced to enable them to play a complementary role in promoting and protecting human rights. In addition, public education and awareness-raising programmes had been implemented by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance.

66. His Government had mainstreamed human rights as indicators and targets of progress in poverty alleviation within the National Development Visions. The second phase of the national strategy for growth and poverty reduction included activities to improve good governance, access to justice, gender equality and the advancement of women. Efforts to mainstream the issue of persons with disabilities in the national strategy, further to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in November 2009 and the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act in April 2010, and to comply with treaty body recommendations were being hampered by limited resources.

67. The support of the international community would be needed to achieve full compliance. Similarly,

the proposed national human rights plan of action would require additional financial support from the international community to ensure its full implementation. Lastly, the national report of the United Republic of Tanzania would be considered under the universal periodic review in October 2011 and had been prepared following training and financial and technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and with contributions from relevant institutions, the private sector and civil society.

68. **Mr. Kim Bonghyun** (Republic of Korea) said that the long-standing gap between norms and practices in the promotion and protection of human rights remained daunting. To address it, greater effort was required. First, States parties needed to provide better cooperation and support for treaty body mechanisms, including periodic reports, reviews and country visits. It was a matter of concern that some States had never cooperated with the special rapporteurs. For its own part, his country would continue to cooperate fully with the treaty bodies and had submitted the required periodic reports. It was making a sincere effort to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in response to its third periodic report.

69. Secondly, the universal periodic review had proved a valuable tool despite initial concerns about duplication, and States should make serious efforts to follow up on universal periodic review recommendations. In particular, they should not use the review as a mechanism for defending human rights violations. The Republic of Korea noted with appreciation the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/65/36), which showed the Office's far-reaching and practical efforts to protect and promote human rights.

70. Lastly, the Human Rights Council's effectiveness and credibility would be strengthened by its upcoming review. It needed to find ways to enhance its ability to deal with chronic and emergency human rights situations and to increase the impact of its work. As a founding member of the Council, his country would continue to endeavour to make useful contributions to its review process.

71. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his country was party to virtually all the international human rights instruments and supported the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as

economic, social and cultural rights, through a set of regulations and laws and internal mechanisms. Recent ratification by Algeria of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the lifting of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, demonstrated Algeria's commitment to human rights.

72. The National Advisory Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was governed by legislative provisions defining its mission. An independent body within the Office of the President, it guaranteed the basic rights of citizens and stood ready to denounce all violations of human rights. There was a required course on human rights in the schools, and the principles of tolerance of dialogue and a culture of peace were discussed in textbooks. Gender equality was also covered. People working in law enforcement received training on international human rights instruments.

73. Civil society organizations were an essential partner in human rights work, contributing actively to the various reforms which had been carried out in Algeria. His country made no distinction between civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights or the right to development. Consideration of human rights must be carried out with respect for objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity.

74. The review of various national legislative and regulatory codes and texts aimed to protect human rights more effectively, in accordance with international norms and treaty commitments. The promotion of the political rights of women and facilitation of their representation in elected assemblies and effective participation in decision-making at all levels had been incorporated in the Constitution. Human trafficking had been criminalized. Work had been done to improve prison conditions. To date, Algeria had submitted nearly 40 reports to international and regional human rights bodies.

75. Adherence to international human rights instruments should not be selective. The implementation of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was weakened due to non-ratification of the Convention by industrialized countries that nonetheless

emphasized their attachment to human rights. The countries which had ratified the Convention were primarily those where migratory flows originated, rather than developed countries.

76. Despite significant human rights advances, many peoples still lacked their essential rights. The right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation was necessary for an international order based on respect for human rights. Human rights and the rights of peoples were closely linked. Implementation of the right of ethnic groups to be accepted, the right to peace and self-determination, the right to development and the right to live free from fear and poverty, in an environment where the ecological balance of our planet was preserved, were challenges still to be met.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.