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Chair: Mr. Tafrov..... (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 69: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*) (A/68/487)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/68/56, A/68/176-177, A/68/185, A/68/207-210 and Add.1, A/68/211, A/68/224-256, A/68/261-262, A/68/268, A/68/277, A/68/279, A/68/283-285, A/68/287-290, A/68/292-294, A/68/296-299, A/68/301, A/68/304, A/68/323, A/68/345, A/68/362, A/68/382, A/68/389-390, A/68/496 and A/67/931)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/C.3/68/3, A/68/319, A/68/276, A/68/331, A/68/376-377, A/68/392, A/68/397 and A/68/503)

1. **Ms. Knaul** (Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers), introducing her report (A/68/285), which focused on the issue of compliance of military tribunals with human rights law and internationally recognized standards, said that one of the most complex aspects of that issue related to the types of offences that fell under the jurisdiction of individual tribunals. Over the past year she had undertaken official visits to El Salvador, the Maldives and the Russian Federation to assess progress made at the national level; the reports on the first two visits had already been presented to the Human Rights Council and the report on the latter visit would be presented in June 2014.

2. She thanked the Government of Qatar for inviting her to conduct a visit in 2014, which would be the first opportunity for her to assess the status of the judiciary in the Middle East, and encouraged other Governments to respond positively to her request for a country visit and extend an invitation in the near future. She recommended that the draft principles governing the administration of justice through military tribunals should be promptly considered and adopted by the Human Rights Council and endorsed by the General Assembly.

3. **Ms. Torres** (United States of America) said that while the report addressed important issues in relation to due process rights and the rule of law, some of the recommendations it contained did not take sufficient account of the realities that States had to consider in

designing and maintaining military justice systems. For example, with regard to the recommendation that the jurisdiction of military tribunals should be restricted to offences of a strictly military nature, she noted that her country had a significant presence overseas, and its general military practice was to strive to exercise jurisdiction over any offence committed by a service member, even where civilian courts might share jurisdiction. It recognized, however, that for some States, particularly where there were concerns about impunity in military justice systems, exclusive civilian jurisdiction over certain serious crimes might be appropriate. Her country's military justice system ensured impartiality of military judges by strictly prohibiting unlawful command or influence of judges' decisions. Her delegation did not agree that guaranteed tenure for military judges necessarily led to a better outcome. The lack of tenure for military judges in her country enhanced the quality of applicants for judicial positions, since serving as a military judge could lead to promotion to senior leadership positions. She asked the Special Rapporteur what other mechanisms might help to preserve judicial impartiality, such as oversight by civilian courts.

4. **Ms. Tschampa** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union noted the conclusion in the report that the administration of justice through military tribunals raised serious concerns in terms of access to justice, impunity for past human rights abuses, the independence and impartiality of military tribunals and respect for the fair trial rights of the accused. It also noted the assessment that military tribunals must function with independence and impartiality, guaranteeing human rights, and in particular the right to a fair trial. She asked what the main challenges were with regard to fair trial and due process guarantees in proceedings before military tribunals which did not meet standards of independence, impartiality, competence and accountability; what assistance could be provided to States in assessing remaining gaps in their judicial systems in the event that proceedings before military tribunals were not in full conformity with international human rights law and standards and with the requirements for ensuring fair trial and due process guarantees; and what non-legislative mechanisms could be used by States in order to enhance the impartiality of judges and the judiciary.

5. **Ms. Sukacheva** (Russian Federation) said that the integrity of the judicial system was a prerequisite for democracy and the rule of law. Her delegation agreed that military tribunals should be an integral part of the general justice system and operate in accordance with human rights standards and had sponsored resolution 19/31 of the Human Rights Council on the integrity of the judicial system which underscored the need for military courts and special tribunals to apply the due process procedures that were recognized in international law as guarantees of a fair trial. The principles of the independence and impartiality of judicial bodies must underpin that process. She asked whether the Special Rapporteur planned to continue to continue her work on the topic, and what additions could be made to the draft resolution on the integrity of the judicial system which would be submitted for consideration by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fifth session.

6. **Ms. Knaul** (Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers) said that one of the main challenges in relation to military tribunals was the lack of a unified set of practices by States. That problem could be overcome through, inter alia, the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the draft principles governing the administration of justice through military tribunals. Other challenges included protracted trials and pre-trial proceedings, inadequate access to legal counsel, failure to guarantee the principle of equality of arms between the prosecutor and the defence, and limitations on the right to appeal. States establishing military tribunals should ensure that those tribunals functioned in a competent, independent and impartial manner, guaranteeing the exercise and enjoyment of human rights, in particular the right to a fair trial and to due process. Another issue to be considered was security of tenure for judges, who were often appointed only for limited periods. Her overarching recommendation was that the draft principles governing the administration of justice through military tribunals should be promptly considered and adopted by the Human Rights Council.

7. **Mr. de Zayas** (Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order) introducing his report (A/68/284), which he said should be read in conjunction with his 2013 report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/24/38), said that the report identified obstacles to the realization of a just world order and proposed reforms to United

Nations bodies with a view to making them more democratic, enhancing equitable participation in the Bretton Woods institutions, and bringing transnational corporations under United Nations scrutiny. It also called on Governments to make better use of instruments ensuring direct democracy.

8. The General Assembly should be revitalized and made more pro-active, democratic and representative. It should deploy preventive strategies and honour the pledge to spare humanity from the barbarity of war. It must voice the international community's rejection of war and develop early warning mechanisms to detect and neutralize disinformation, propaganda for war and the range of pretexts that States used to justify the use of force. The Secretary-General should use his good offices and deploy preventive strategies against rampant war propaganda. Belligerent tensions should be referred promptly to the Security Council, but also to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, since armed conflicts impeded the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. In that context, the draft declaration on the right to peace which was under consideration in the Human Rights Council would contribute to the development of a culture of dialogue and non-violence. The General Assembly might also wish to consider convening a world conference on self-determination, at which all indigenous communities, peoples living under occupation and non-represented peoples would be heard.

9. **Mr. Oliveira** (Brazil) said that his delegation welcomed the recommendation on the reform of the United Nations, and of the Security Council in particular, in order to reflect the current world order. It also took note of the emphasis that the Independent Expert placed on multilateralism over unilateral actions and use of force. He asked whether the right to privacy should not be seen as an overarching principle for the full exercise of the rights set out in the recommendation made in paragraph 69 (j) of the report, in particular the right to freely debate and express one's opinions. He also asked what Member States could do at the multilateral level to reinforce the right to privacy as a basis for democracy.

10. **Ms. Sukacheva** (Russian Federation) said that the analysis of a democratic international order contained in the Independent Expert's report was superficial and the proposed reform of the Security Council was based on an abstract formula. She reminded the Committee that the Council's existing

system of permanent members' right of veto had on numerous occasions prevented massive human rights violations, particularly of to the right to life. While civil society played an important role in the establishment of a democratic international order, it should be recalled that the United Nations was primarily a platform for intergovernmental dialogue. The existing system for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations was in full compliance with the mandate of the United Nations.

11. The recommendation in paragraph 69 (i) that the mandate of the Human Rights Council should be expanded to allow the examination of reports from financial institutions and transnational corporations under the universal periodic review procedure did not fall within the Independent Expert's mandate. Moreover, there was no need to establish a world parliamentary assembly or a world court of human rights. Her delegation believed that the current mechanism in place for monitoring countries' respect for human rights — the universal periodic review — was effective and should remain as an intergovernmental procedure. She reminded the Committee that the concluding observations of the Human Rights Council contained recommendations, but they were not binding under international law.

12. **Mr. Diyar Khan** (Pakistan) said that a just, peaceful and prosperous world would remain an elusive goal until the global system was firmly based on a democratic and equitable international order, which would, in turn, require the universal realization of the right to self-determination. In that context, the Independent Expert had focused attention on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, which remained one of the longest unresolved disputes of that nature. Nearly seven decades after the establishment of the United Nations, the world was still faced with conflicts, wars, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease. His delegation supported the Independent Expert's call for comprehensive reforms of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to make it more democratic, accountable and transparent. The centres of privilege would have to be phased out gradually.

13. His delegation agreed that unilateral military actions and the imposition of economic sanctions often caused serious human rights violations in the target countries and that the asymmetry of financial power and trade imbalances at the international level were obstacles to equitable economic development and

perpetuated poverty in different parts of the world. The Independent Expert's proposal to establish a world parliamentary assembly and a world court of human rights merited closer examination.

14. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation supported the Independent Expert's views on several areas pertinent to his mandate, in particular the call for strengthening democratic institutions and reforming the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in order for the voice of the developing world to be heard in their functioning and decision-making, in addition to the need to reduce military spending and address decreases in spending on social services. However, the Independent Expert had neglected to mention official development assistance, without which it would be impossible to build a more equitable world. In that connection, he asked the Independent Expert to comment on what the post-2015 global economic order should look like and what targets should be considered with regard to official development assistance, democratization of financial institutions and trade.

15. **Ms. Vadiati** (Islamic Republic of Iran) asked the Independent Expert what his views were on how unilateral and territorial sanctions would affect a democratic and equitable international order, and whether he intended to devote greater attention to that issue in his next report. She also wondered what impact emerging extremism and terrorism would have on a democratic and equitable international order, especially in developing countries.

16. **Mr. Awal** (Indonesia) said that his delegation supported the Independent Expert's recommendations. The promotion of a more democratic and equitable international order should be based on the Charter of the United Nations as the cornerstone of international relations. In that regard, Indonesia expected the Independent Expert to respect the Charter and the principles of constructive dialogue and of creation of mutual trust. He therefore urged the Independent Expert to promote a climate of mutual understanding and advance issues of mutual concern when conducting consultations with States and other relevant stakeholders and hoped that such an approach would be reflected in future reports.

17. **Mr. de Zayas** said that while he did not expect all States to agree with his recommendations, he could assure them of his commitment to his mandate and his

independence. In addition to expertise, an independent expert must have the capacity to carry out his mandate free of interference and intimidation and unhindered by the filter of political correctness, lest he fail the mandate by rehashing existing wisdom and engaging in rhetoric that merely confirmed the status quo. The conduct of his mandate required the confidence to think beyond prejudices and formulate concrete reform proposals. His reports did not engage in naming and shaming because that practice rested on the fallacy that the party doing the naming had nothing to be ashamed of and had the moral authority to shame the other. It would be better for States and non-governmental organizations which claimed to know better to offer advisory services and technical assistance so as to help States improve their human rights structures in a spirit of international solidarity.

18. With regard to the right to privacy, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression called for respect for article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the right to privacy, as such respect was an indispensable part of ensuring a democratic and equitable domestic and international order. Moreover, general comment No. 34 of the Human Rights Committee elaborated at some length on what the right to privacy entailed.

19. He had endorsed the detailed recommendations contained in the book "Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World" by Joseph Schwartzberg. However, he sympathized with the concern raised by the Russian Federation, given the historic role of the veto in preventing disaster by blocking interventions that might have resulted in a third world war. He considered self-determination to be part and parcel of the world constitution composed of the Charter of the United Nations and the nine core human rights treaties, hence his call for a workshop in the Human Rights Council and a world conference on self-determination, which would make possible additional study of treaties with indigenous populations who had not yet achieved self-determination.

20. Given the need for more transparency and accountability in financial institutions and the World Trade Organization in the context of a post-2015 global order, one in which the developing world must be more involved in decision-making in financial architecture,

he had suggested an expanded universal periodic review of the work of those institutions.

21. The impact of unilateral sanctions on a more democratic and equitable international order had been discussed at a workshop of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He had included in his report the workshop's recommendation that the Human Rights Council should entrust an existing special procedures mandate holder with that particular issue, along with other recommendations it had made. Moving forward, he would continue to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders in good faith to address such issues as enormous trade imbalances and the great gulf between rich and poor. He therefore asked States to provide constructive criticism, which would assist him in the conduct of what remained a very new mandate.

22. **Mr. Singh** (Special Rapporteur on the right to education), introducing his third report (A/68/294), said that the central role of education in accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been recognized by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and by the Human Rights Council. The approach to education must rights-based and should link international obligations to political commitments, particularly in the light of growing disparities in access to education. Effective measures must be taken to ensure de facto equality of access to education for all. Universal education goals should extend to all nations, given that the norms and principles underlying the right to education were applicable everywhere, whatever the level of education in a given country, and that the right to education was essential to the exercise of all other human rights, and to poverty reduction.

23. The post-2015 development agenda should have the objective of making education accessible to all at the junior secondary level and ensuring the universal availability of high-quality secondary education by 2030, including technical and vocational education, with pathways for the pursuit of higher education.

24. Each universal goal set forth in the post-2015 development agenda should be accompanied by national implementation strategies based on a human-rights approach. Education was both a primary responsibility of Governments and a social responsibility, hence the need to foster the active

participation of local bodies and civil society organizations, especially communities, teachers, students and their parents.

25. The post-2015 development agenda should also advance a framework of international development cooperation based on solidarity. Furthermore, the review mechanism for the post-2015 commitments should be established on the basis of international human rights standards; it was important to measure, report on and thus ensure that future goals were nationally enforceable. A set of indicators for that purpose would enable Governments to better identify the shortcomings and the progress made. Accountability should be linked to the enforcement mechanism of the right to education so that individuals and groups deprived of the enjoyment of that right could seek justice.

26. The education aspect of the post-2015 agenda should directly address marginalization and exclusion using such positive measures as affirmative action and social schemes. Given the benefit of education to both the individual and the society, it was vital for the development agenda to focus on increasing domestic and international investment in education based on an enduring legal framework. Social interest in education — which was and must remain a public good — should be promoted and private education providers must be regulated in order to avoid the mercantilization of education.

27. The role of education in accelerating progress towards all the MDGs deserved continued and enhanced attention; to that end, the right to education should constitute the foundation for the future development agenda, which must be informed by the fundamental consideration of social justice and equity.

28. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that while fairly good progress had been made towards achieving MDG 2, the MDG framework focused more on quantitative than on qualitative aspects. However, it was quality that mattered most in education. He therefore hoped that the post-2015 development framework would address the quality aspect and asked the Special Rapporteur for his views on the matter.

29. **Ms. Valtchanova** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) welcomed the importance attached in the Special Rapporteur's report to equitable approaches to education that favoured the marginalized and the

vulnerable. The need to provide the most disadvantaged children, youth and adults with the necessary skills for a decent life and work must be duly reflected in public policy and strategies.

30. Investment in quality education, particularly for girls, generated immediate and intergenerational benefits across all dimensions of social development and poverty reduction. Global citizenship education had been identified as one of the three priorities of the Secretary-General's Global Education First initiative. That relatively recent area of learning coincided with the emergence of such new global challenges as increasingly integrated and knowledge-driven economies, greater migration between countries and from rural to urban areas, growing inequalities, greater awareness of the importance of sustainable development and growing youth demographics. Education systems needed to address those emerging challenges with a collective response and a strategic vision that was global in character rather than limited to the individual country level. In that connection, UNESCO would be organizing a forum on global citizenship education in Thailand in December 2013. She asked what the Special Rapporteur thought the major dimensions of global citizenship education should be and how Member States might be further encouraged to incorporate that newly developed concept into their responsibilities to provide quality education for all.

31. **Ms. Tschampa** (Observer for the European Union) said that her delegation welcomed the Special Rapporteur's recommendations on how to operationalize a human-rights-based approach to education in the post-2015 development agenda. She asked what the best mechanism would be to ensure accountability in that agenda; and requested examples of best practices in targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in order to address marginalization and exclusion in education.

32. **Mr. Awal** (Indonesia) said that the Indonesian Constitution mandated the allocation of at least 20 per cent of the domestic budget to education. His Government agreed that education was a core responsibility of Governments and also a social responsibility. In that regard, he asked how the capacity-building aspect might be promoted in operationalizing a rights-based approach to the education-related development goals, in particular by the State. He also asked the Special Rapporteur for his

views on the issue of the accountability of various stakeholders and participants in education.

33. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that her delegation agreed that the right to education, a fundamental building block for human development, must be emphasized in the post-2015 development agenda; it supported the emphasis placed on a human rights based approach, the importance of linking State obligations to political commitments, and the need for inclusive approaches and the adoption of positive measures targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Gains achieved in education would undoubtedly have an impact on all the MDGs. The Nigerian education system had undergone major reforms, with a revised national policy on education focusing mainly on inclusive education for children and youth with special needs in regular schools. Furthermore, Government strategies put in place included a universal basic education scheme that guaranteed nine years of uninterrupted, free and compulsory education for all children from primary level to the first three years of secondary school.

34. **Ms. Al-Mulla** (Qatar) said that her country attached great importance to the right to education and made every effort to ensure equal access to quality education for all. She recalled that in November 2012, the Special Rapporteur had attended the World Innovation Summit for Education in Qatar, at which her Government had launched the global initiative "Educate a Child", which aimed to provide quality education for children and youth who lacked access to formal schooling. In that regard, political will and good governance were the key to delivering the right to education. Her delegation would welcome more information on how to ensure that the right to education was central to the post-2015 development agenda and, in particular, how to devote special attention to the needs of children with disabilities and ensure equal opportunity for girls.

35. **Mr. Singh** (Special Rapporteur on the right to education) said that in his second report, he had addressed the importance of quality education and discussed how such parameters as infrastructure, curriculum content, and the status of teachers and their professional development prospects, might form a holistic framework through which the quality of education could be measured. In the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the current trend

indicated a move towards quality of education as a primary consideration.

36. Education for global citizenship was an integral part of any quality education, which by definition must convey respect for human rights and democratic citizenship, international solidarity and mutual understanding. Other parameters like respect for the richness of political diversity must be incorporated as well. The recently launched International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures might usefully inform the development of global education, as would the follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

37. With regard to accountability, political commitments must be taken seriously and linked to international legal obligations, from a strong human-rights perspective. Moreover, civil society and other stakeholders had an important role in collaborating with Governments in order to make them more accountable. In that connection, the emerging concept of rights holders and duty bearers was also of value. Accountability could be made operational if the right to education was made justiciable.

38. A number of examples of best practices to address marginalization did exist, but they had not been systematically compiled. Social protection measures adopted by Brazil, several European Union member States and others should be highlighted in order to demonstrate how to overcome educational marginalization and exclusion, which were deeply rooted and ubiquitous challenges.

39. A human-rights-based approach must be understood in terms of how it should be incorporated into the development agenda and how to make human rights better known and better understood. Moreover, the development agenda must be regarded from a rights perspective that accepted the inherent entitlement of the rights holders to a given right, apart from considerations of merit. In order to make development equitable, inequality of opportunities must be addressed. In closing, he welcomed the expressions of support and commitment from Qatar and other delegations to giving education prominence in the future development agenda and hoped that through the joint efforts of all stakeholders, the momentum would be maintained.

40. **Ms. Albuquerque** (Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation),

introducing her report to the General Assembly (A/68/264), said that the elimination of inequalities had not been taken into account in the Millennium Development Goals and should be incorporated into the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Experience had shown that equality was not an automatic outcome of conventional development practices and that; benefits delivered to high-income groups did not automatically reach marginalized populations; in fact, universal access to water, sanitation and other basic services would be impossible unless those populations were given a high priority.

41. In conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, she had produced a proposal advocating the use of disaggregated data to monitor progress in the elimination of inequalities in access to water and sanitation, and illustrating that, if universal access was to be achieved by 2030, faster progress in extending coverage to marginalized populations was needed.

42. Because the contamination of water resources by agricultural, industrial and domestic wastewater jeopardized the human rights to sanitation, health, food and a healthy environment, wastewater management policies must take account of such rights. Although waste from toilets and latrines represented a major health hazard, especially in cities, and 80 per cent of wastewater was discharged untreated into the environment, the management of wastewater had not been given a high priority.

43. Sanitation should be understood in terms not only of the right to use a latrine or toilet but also of human rights violations stemming from the failure to treat and dispose of or reuse wastewater. The human rights framework required that efforts should go beyond ensuring access to basic sanitation, particularly in countries where coverage was almost universal but wastewater management was inadequate. Human rights standards enabled progressive improvements in such management, with States focusing on the most urgent challenges. Although overnight change was impossible, gradual measures appropriate to each context should be taken. The management of faecal sludge and septage, particularly in informal settlements, whose residents were often exposed to contamination, must be prioritized. Wastewater collection and treatment must be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

44. **Ms. Thowsen** (Norway) said that the social, economic and environmental aspects of water management needed to be addressed for sustainable development to be achieved. She asked which challenges needed to be overcome so that the human rights framework could be embedded into broader considerations of wastewater treatment and water quality control systems between 2014 and 2020, and what the roles and responsibilities of Member States, donor agencies, civil society and the private sector would be.

45. **Ms. Tschampa** (Observer for the European Union) requested more information on the ways in which the right to water and sanitation could be upheld in the post-2015 development agenda and human rights could be used as a principle to ensure sustainability. She asked what the Special Rapporteur's priorities were for 2014.

46. **Ms. Klopčič** (Slovenia) said that, as a member of the Blue Group, Slovenia called on the international community to uphold the human right to water and sanitation. As a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, it supported the inclusion of water rights in those goals. The visit of the Special Rapporteur to Slovenia in 2010 had raised national awareness of the need to ensure universal enjoyment of those rights. She requested further information regarding policies and strategies which could lead to sustainability within a human rights framework, and on the ways in which transboundary water cooperation ensured respect for the human right to water and sanitation.

47. **Ms. Schneeberger** (Switzerland) requested examples of good practices in legislation, policies and strategies to reduce water pollution and improve the use of wastewater. Given the lack of political will mentioned in the report, she requested further information regarding the ways in which Governments could be encouraged to address the most urgent challenges in wastewater management and the private sector could be made to meet its responsibilities in the area of environmental pollution. She expressed support for the inclusion of a specific water and sanitation goal in the post-2015 development agenda.

48. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) said that his Government had supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur from the start and had organized her visit to Bangladesh in 2010. Although progress had been made

towards the Millennium Development Goal targets related to safe drinking water, much remained to be done in the area of sanitation. Developing countries, in particular least developed countries, lacked not the will but the resources to achieve the targets. Inequalities within countries could not be addressed until global inequality had been eliminated.

49. The members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals recognized that any MDG targets which were not met by the deadline, including those related to sanitation, would be incorporated in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. He asked the Special Rapporteur to provide more information regarding the achievable, measurable and quantifiable sanitation targets she envisaged as part of that agenda.

50. **Ms. Hasse-Mohsine** (Germany) requested further information regarding the concept of the wastewater ladder as a means of upholding the human right to water and sanitation, especially in the light of States' obligation to respect the principle of sustainability. She requested clarification of the ways in which human rights could be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, and the ways in which States could use a human-rights-based approach to give due priority to wastewater management.

51. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that her Government endorsed the approach of paying equal attention to sanitation and to waste collection and treatment. Since the economic losses caused by a lack of water and sanitation in Africa were estimated at 5 per cent of gross domestic product, the matter clearly required more attention. Her Government had re-established the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in 2010 and had launched a road map in 2011 to help Nigeria achieve the water and sanitation targets of the MDGs and the Africa Water Vision 2025, but it would need about \$2 billion annually to provide 75 per cent of its people with access by 2015. In the communiqué of the Presidential Summit on Innovative Funding of the Water Sector, held in February 2013, it was recommended that state governments should allocate 5 per cent of their budgets to the water sector. In collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, her Government had taken various measures to monitor and ensure water quality, including setting limits for hazardous water contaminants.

52. **Mr. García-Larrache** (Spain) requested further information regarding which aspects of the MDGs required the most urgent attention.

53. **Ms. Albuquerque** (Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation) said that the aspects of the MDGs requiring the most urgent attention were sanitation and hygiene, on which little progress had been made.

54. The post-2015 sustainable development agenda should include a goal related to universal access to water and sanitation, along with wastewater treatment and integrated water resource management which respected human rights. The goal should be designed to improve hygiene, without which child mortality and the incidence of diseases related to water and sanitation could not be reduced. Menstrual hygiene was a particular concern and was linked to gender discrimination: in some countries which she had visited during her mandate, many girls and women were forced to stay at home during menstruation simply because they could not afford sanitary pads. Without a global commitment to the elimination of inequalities and the inclusion of marginalized groups, the sustainable development goal on access to water and sanitation would not be reached.

55. The challenges to the integration of human rights in the post-2015 agenda were political and included a lack of visibility regarding the issues. However, she welcomed the speech of the Secretary-General at the Budapest Water Summit, held in October 2013, in which he had stressed the importance of water and sanitation to that agenda. His political will and that of his Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation and heads of State would bring progress. The integration of human rights would require engagement with citizens, regulatory systems, accountability, transparency, funding and a change of mindset. The additional effort, however, would lead to more sustainable initiatives, which were essential in order to avoid retrogression; for example, although figures existed for the number of people who had gained access to water and sanitation since 2000, it was not known how many had lost such access. Although the MDG target related to water had been achieved in 2010, many systems established since 2000 were no longer in operation.

56. Her priorities for 2014 were ensuring meaningful citizen participation, which she intended to make the subject of her report to the General Assembly, and

accountability and violations of the right to water and sanitation, which would be the subject of her report to the Human Rights Council.

57. Good practices in wastewater treatment included the Japanese *jōkasō* system, in which domestic wastewater in rural areas was treated in septic tanks rather than discharged into the environment or transported. The Japanese Government was considering ways of exporting the technology cheaply. The Government of Brazil made payments to water companies on condition that they met progressively higher water treatment standards under its programme for the decontamination of drainage basins. Other successful initiatives had been introduced in India, Namibia, Tuvalu and the United States of America. Her office had published a compilation of such good practices, entitled “On the Right Track”, in 2012.

58. In response to the representative of Bangladesh, she said that, although more resources were indeed required to make progress in sanitation, Bangladesh’s community-led total sanitation approach had improved access among the most vulnerable people through political will, despite limited resources. In response to the representative of Slovenia, she said that in countries where austerity measures were being applied, human rights impact assessments should be conducted to avoid violations of the right to water and sanitation and failure to ensure sustainable access.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.