



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Tenth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 121st meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 13 September 2013, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Cisternas Reyes

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

** No summary records were issued for the 115th to 120th meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.50 p.m.

Other matters

1. **Ms. Lee** (International Disability Alliance) said that her organization was looking forward to reading the Committee's guidelines on NGO participation and encouraged the Committee to consider expanding those guidelines or adopting separate guidelines on the participation of national human rights institutions. She commended the Committee's efforts to make its work accessible through captioning and interpretation in International Sign and relevant national sign languages. Her organization was currently gathering feedback from disabled persons' organizations about the accessibility of the Committee's meetings and would share that feedback with members. International Disability Alliance had recently added to its website a compilation of all the Committee's concluding observations on each article of the Convention, along with the relevant questions from its lists of issues.

2. More than 1,000 viewers from 55 different countries had watched the webcasts of the current session, and of those more than 400 had watched the sign language channel. Her organization was committed to ensuring the webcasting of the Committee's sessions until that responsibility was assumed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. **Ms. Lachowska** (Disability Council International) said that her organization's work focused on persons with disabilities in developing nations and included supporting grass-roots disabled persons' organizations and helping States to implement the Committee's recommendations. It also supported specific projects that promoted independent living and created employment and educational opportunities for persons with disabilities, an area of its work it hoped to expand in the future. It would also continue its advocacy efforts to support the Committee's sessions.

4. **Ms. Garcia** (Unisourds) suggested that the Committee might wish to provide a glossary for each State party report it considered. Referring to the preamble of the Convention, which stated that the family was the natural and fundamental group unit of society and was entitled to protection by society and the State, she urged the Committee to place greater emphasis on the promotion of interactions with family members of persons with disabilities at all levels of education. Efforts to promote independence and autonomy had led many persons with disabilities to become isolated from their families. Family members of deaf persons should have access to free sign language classes, to ensure that deaf persons were able to communicate freely with their family members without relying on interpreters, who sometimes abused their position. The Committee should also focus more on the training of community leaders, who could spread awareness about the Convention.

5. **The Chairperson**, taking stock of the work accomplished, said that at the current session, in addition to holding dialogues with States parties and adopting concluding observations and Views on individual communications, the Committee had adopted initial drafts of general comments on articles 9 and 12 of the Convention. It had also been involved in many cross-cutting efforts, such as the treaty body strengthening process. The Committee had learned valuable lessons at the session that would help it to streamline its working methods and become more effective, including during intersessional periods.

Future meetings

6. **Mr. Araya** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, at the Committee's next session, which would be held in Geneva from 31 March to 11 April 2014, it would consider the initial reports of Sweden, Azerbaijan and Costa Rica. A pre-session meeting would then be

held from 14 to 17 April 2014, at which lists of issues would be adopted for Germany, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Belgium, Mexico and Denmark.

Closure of the session

7. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chairperson** declared the tenth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities closed.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.