



International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Distr.: General

1 July 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Committee

114th session

Summary record (partial)* of the 3163rd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 29 June 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Salvioli

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. **Ms. Tadjbakhsh** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) declared open the 114th session of the Committee. As Chief of the Universal Periodic Review Branch, she said that she had witnessed the value of collaboration between the intergovernmental Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies. The Council had a frequently political role as a counterweight to the work of the independent experts who interpreted the various human rights instruments. Working together on long-standing and contemporary issues would strengthen the protection of rights holders.
2. One such issue was reprisals. Given that the Council would be considering the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and that the chairpersons of treaty bodies were discussing the role of their new rapporteurs on reprisals, they could opportunely draw on each other's resources and expertise in order to address the issue and enhance the protection of human rights defenders at the national and international levels.
3. Another very topical issue was the right to privacy in the digital age. A new special rapporteur on the right to privacy would be appointed at the Council's current session to identify specific threats to rights in the context of massive and indiscriminate surveillance, a topic that the Committee had recently broached in its dialogue with several States parties. Therefore, it would be important for the special procedures and the treaty bodies to align their views while standards were being developed in that area.
4. Referring to the upcoming report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on discrimination and violence against individuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity, she suggested that the Committee and the Council should seek ways of cooperating to improve the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons.
5. The commissions of inquiry and special procedures on human rights country situations were another area of increasing significance in the Council's work; the reports on several country visits would be presented to the Council at its current session and should prove an excellent source of information for the Committee in its own reporting procedure.
6. Lastly, stressing that the universal periodic review process was informed by the concluding observations, Views and follow-up of the Committee, and vice versa, she suggested that new ways should be sought of capitalizing on the complementarity of their respective procedures. For example, the Committee could specify which of its recommendations were not being effectively implemented by a given State party so that they could be taken up in the universal periodic review. A holistic approach to the promotion and protection of human rights was key to ensuring universal enjoyment of human rights in the future.
7. **Ms. Cleveland** stressed the need for further investigation of how synergies between the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review could be maximized.
8. **The Chairperson** said that the chairpersons of the treaty bodies had adopted a document on reprisals against human rights defenders at a meeting in San José, Costa Rica, the previous week. He welcomed the opportunity of an exchange between the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, but cautioned that treaty body views and recommendations should not be weakened in the process. Despite generating a

certain amount of scepticism, the Committee's follow-up procedure was vital to the universal periodic review.

9. **Ms. Tadjbakhsh** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that the universal periodic review need not impinge on the competence of the treaty bodies; rather, it could be used strategically to advance their recommendations in a manner which they themselves determined. While it was true that recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review tended to be vaguer than those issued by the treaty bodies, they did not dilute them. Moreover, guidelines were being prepared in partnership with a non-governmental organization (NGO) on how to draft factual and implementable recommendations.

Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/C/114/1)

10. *The agenda was adopted.*

Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the pre-sessional Working Group on Individual Communications

11. **Ms. Waterval** said that the Working Group, which had met from 22 to 26 June 2015, was composed of Mr. Ben Achour, Mr. Bouzid, Mr. De Frouville, Mr. Rodríguez-Rescía and herself and had considered 29 cases. It had adopted 20 recommendations finding a violation of the Covenant and 5 recommendations finding no violation. It recommended that the plenary should adopt decisions of inadmissibility in the remaining four cases.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.30 a.m.