



# International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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## Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination Twenty-fifth Meeting

### Summary record of the 34th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 June 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chair:* Mr. Šimonović. . . . . (Representative of the Secretary-General)

*Chair:* Mr. Mac-Donald . . . . . (Suriname)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

### **Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General**

1. **The Temporary Chair**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Since the previous meeting, Grenada had become a State party to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 176. At its sessions held in 2012 and 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had considered 29 initial or periodic reports and had adopted conclusions and recommendations aimed at effectively implementing the Convention at the national level. The Committee had also continued its practice of reviewing the implementation of the Convention by States parties whose reports were seriously overdue. At its eighty-first session, the Committee had held a thematic discussion on racist hate speech, aimed at enhancing the understanding of the causes and consequences of the phenomenon and how the resources of the Convention could be mobilized to combat it.

2. Important as the Committee's achievements were, there was room for improvement. For instance, only 55 States parties had made the optional declaration recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive communications under article 14 of the Convention, and consequently the individual communications procedure remained underutilized. In the past two years, the Committee had formulated opinions on only two communications.

3. Extended meeting time from 2009 until 2012, authorized under General Assembly resolutions [63/243](#) and [65/200](#), had enabled the Committee to address its backlog of reports. However, in returning to shorter sessions in 2013, the Committee had already begun accumulating a backlog. In 1973, with 74 States parties, the Committee had had the same meeting time, two three-week sessions per year, as it currently did with 176 States parties.

4. The Committee continued to play a key role in the treaty body strengthening process, participating in all the relevant consultative processes. In a public statement on the treaty body strengthening process, the Committee had welcomed the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the strengthening

of the United Nations human rights treaty body system and had called once again on States parties to support that process.

5. With regard to the financing of activities under the Convention, the General Assembly, in its resolution [47/111](#), had endorsed the amendment to article 8 of the Convention providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations and had requested the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee on that basis, beginning with the budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The Secretary-General had continued to ensure that the Committee received adequate funding. In order for the amendment to enter into force, acceptance must be received from two thirds of the States parties. To date, only 43 States parties had ratified the amendment, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly.

6. At the same time, the Secretariat was still seeking the payment of arrears of voluntary contributions under the Committee's previous financial regime. The Secretariat was obliged to report to the General Assembly on those accounts every other year. In most cases, the arrears amounted to a few thousand dollars — more than the cost of producing the financial report itself. Moreover, some of the States with outstanding payments no longer existed. It was time that States parties, as members of the General Assembly, paid any outstanding arrears of voluntary contributions and ratified the amendments to the Convention.

### **Election of the Chair**

7. **Mr. Hoxha** (Albania), speaking as Chair of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, nominated Mr. Mac-Donald (Suriname) for the office of Chair of the Meeting.

8. *Mr. Mac-Donald (Suriname) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

9. *Mr. Mac-Donald took the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda (CERD/SP/75)**

10. *The agenda was adopted.*

11. **The Chair**, drawing attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure ([CERD/SP/2/Rev.1](#)), said that the Secretary-General had not yet received credentials from a number of States parties represented at the

Meeting. He therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of those States parties should be permitted to participate in the Meeting provisionally, on the understanding that the States concerned would submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

12. *It was so decided.*

### **Election of other officers of the Meeting**

13. **The Chair** said that, under rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting should elect one to four Vice-Chairs from among the representatives of the States parties. He had been informed that Mr. Dah (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Pavlichenko (Ukraine) and Mr. García-Larrache (Spain) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chair by the Groups of African, Eastern European, and Western European and Other States, respectively.

14. *Mr. Dah (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Pavlichenko (Ukraine) and Mr. García-Larrache (Spain) were elected Vice-Chairs by acclamation.*

### **Election of nine members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/SP/76 and Add.1)**

15. **The Chair** drew attention to the list of candidates nominated by the States parties to replace the Committee members whose terms of office would expire on 19 January 2014, and their biographical data, contained in documents [CERD/SP/76](#) and [CERD/SP/76/Add.1](#). He had been informed that the candidature of Mr. Rakotoniaina (Madagascar) had been withdrawn. Altogether, 16 candidates had been nominated for the 9 vacancies. In that connection, he drew attention to the provisions of article 8 of the Convention relating to the election of members of the Committee, particularly paragraphs 1, 2 and 4. He invited the States parties to elect nine members to the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 19 January 2014.

16. He noted that only three women had been nominated as candidates, and that, of the current 18 members of the Committee, only three were women. In its resolution [67/156](#), the General Assembly had encouraged States parties to give due regard to the equal representation of women and men.

17. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Han Qing (China), Mr. Davis (Jamaica), Ms. Juodkaitė-Putrimienė (Lithuania) and Ms. Maduhu (United Republic of Tanzania), acted as tellers.*

18. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	174
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	174
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	174
<i>Required majority:</i>	88
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil)	138
Mr. Bossuyt (Belgium)	130
Mr. Kemal (Pakistan)	128
Mr. Kut (Turkey)	125
Mr. Yeung Sik Yuen (Mauritius)	120
Ms. Crickley (Ireland)	119
Mr. Amir (Algeria)	102
Ms. Hohoueto (Togo)	95
Mr. Khalaf (Lebanon)	84
Mr. Quilaman (Philippines)	80
Mr. de Gouttes (France)	77
Ms. Bayartsetseg (Mongolia)	75
Mr. Ismayilov (Azerbaijan)	74
Mr. Waliakoye (Niger)	70
Mr. di Gioia (Argentina)	66
Mr. Bocar (Mali)	48

19. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Amir (Algeria), Mr. Bossuyt (Belgium), Ms. Crickley (Ireland), Ms. Hohoueto (Togo), Mr. Kemal (Pakistan), Mr. Kut (Turkey), Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil) and Mr. Yeung Sik Yuen (Mauritius) were elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

20. *No other candidates having obtained the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	174
<i>Number of invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	173
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	171
<i>Number of abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Required majority:</i>	86
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Khalaf (Lebanon)	89
Mr. Quilaman (Philippines)	82

21. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Khalaf (Lebanon) was elected member of the*

*Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

**Other matters**

22. **Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein) said that as the oldest human rights treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had particular authority in the treaty body system, and should thus take a leadership role in identifying innovative measures to improve and strengthen the work of the treaty body system as a whole.

23. The Committee had succeeded in eliminating its backlog of reports through ad hoc measures, but reports were accumulating once again, while, at the same time, a majority of States parties either did not comply with their reporting obligations at all or did not do so in a timely manner. It was the responsibility of the General Assembly to provide the Committee with the necessary resources. In addition, States parties must determine how best to ensure compliance with the reporting obligations that they had voluntarily accepted upon ratification.

24. Liechtenstein had consistently advocated for increased fairness and transparency in election campaigns. The ongoing intergovernmental process should make a positive contribution to that and other matters related to nominations and elections. It was hoped that in the future, a relevant agenda item might be adopted to provide for regular discussion of those and other matters coming under the competence of States parties.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*