



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

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
103rd session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 2822nd meeting

Held via videoconference on Friday, 30 April 2021, at 4 p.m. Central European Summer Time

Chair: Ms. Li

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CERD/C/SR.2822.

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The public part of the meeting was called to order at 5.35 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **Ms. Izsák-Ndiaye** (Rapporteur) said that the Committee's 103rd session had been the third session that it had conducted exclusively via videoconference owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Committee had begun the session by holding its first online review of a periodic report – that of Belgium – under article 9 of the Convention. Besides the constructive dialogue with the State party, it had also held discussions on racism and racial discrimination in Belgium with the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Unia), the Federal Migration Centre (Myria) and several non-governmental organizations.
2. The Committee had considered follow-up reports from Iceland, Jordan, Mexico, Poland and the State of Palestine and had adopted lists of issues prior to reporting for Gabon, Lesotho, Maldives and Tunisia. It had also considered information submitted under its early warning and urgent action procedure, as a result of which it had decided to issue seven letters to six States parties.
3. In addition, the Committee had adopted a decision regarding the inter-State communication *State of Palestine v. Israel*, initially submitted on 23 April 2018, in which the applicant claimed that the respondent had violated articles 2, 3 and 5 of the Convention with regard to Palestinian citizens living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. At its 100th session, following the oral statements delivered by the representatives of the States Parties concerned, the Committee had decided that it had jurisdiction to deal with the communication. Due to delays caused by the pandemic, the submissions that the States parties had made on the admissibility of the communication had not been brought before the plenary Committee until the 103rd session. After careful consideration, the Committee had decided to reject the objections raised by the respondent State concerning the admissibility of the inter-State communication and had requested its Chair to appoint, in accordance with article 12 (1) of the Convention, the members of an ad hoc Conciliation Commission, which would make its good offices available to the States concerned with a view to finding an amicable solution of the matter on the basis of States parties' compliance with the Convention. More than 50 documents related to the proceedings had been declassified and published on the Committee's website.
4. In the light of concerns that, in the context of the pandemic, Asians and people of Asian descent had been stigmatized and scapegoated for the spread of the virus and subjected to a wave of racist violence, the Committee had adopted a statement on the rise of racial discrimination against Asians and people of Asian descent, in particular racist hate crimes and hate speech. In that statement, the Committee called on States parties to unequivocally, unconditionally and publicly reject and condemn racially motivated violence of all forms and urged them to adopt measures to prevent racial discrimination against Asians and people of Asian descent.
5. Furthermore, the Committee had prepared and considered, under article 15 of the Convention, a report on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The report noted that the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011–2020) had come to an end and that none of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories had become independent. The Committee had committed to continue raising questions about the Territories' situation and status with their administering Powers during the review of the periodic reports of those States parties. Lastly, the Committee had discussed the possibility of preparing a new general recommendation on the relationship between racism and enjoyment of the right to health.
6. The 104th session would take place in August 2021. The Committee had not yet decided whether the session would be conducted virtually or in a hybrid format, with some members attending meetings in Geneva. The Committee remained concerned about the disruption that the pandemic had caused to its work and the protection gap that had emerged as a consequence.

7. **The Chair** declared the 103rd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination closed.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.