



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Twenty-first session

Summary record (partial)* of the 473rd meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 5 April 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Basharu

Contents

Adoption of the report on the twenty-first session

Future meetings

Closure of the session

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

** No summary records were issued for the 468th to 472nd meetings.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.25 p.m.

Adoption of the report on the twenty-first session

1. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** (Rapporteur), summarizing the draft report on the twenty-first session, subsequently to be issued as document CRPD/C/21/2, said that the Committee had begun the session by welcoming new members and electing a new Bureau. It had proceeded to hold meetings with numerous entities and officials of the United Nations system, including special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. It had engaged with representatives of the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the European Disability Forum, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and with organizations of persons with disabilities from several countries. It had participated in side events organized by a variety of national and international non-governmental organizations, including events to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and World Autism Awareness Day. Furthermore, the Committee had adopted concluding observations on the initial reports of Cuba, the Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey and Vanuatu, as well as lists of issues prior to reporting in relation to Belgium, the Cook Islands, Czechia and Denmark. It had also taken decisions on communications submitted under the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

2. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft report on the twenty-first session, subject to final drafting changes by the Rapporteur and the secretariat.

3. *The report on the twenty-first session of the Committee was adopted on that understanding.*

Future meetings

4. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** (Rapporteur) proposed that the Committee should adopt the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session, which the secretariat had prepared and which was organized in the usual manner.

5. *The provisional agenda for the twenty-second session was adopted.*

Closure of the session

6. **Ms. Quan-Chang** (International Disability Alliance) said that her organization wished to congratulate the Committee on concluding the longest session in its history, having held nine interactive dialogues and adopted nine sets of concluding observations. IDA looked forward to the continuation of the Committee's work and to learning about how countries were implementing the Convention and the challenges they still faced.

7. IDA strongly encouraged the Committee to reiterate its calls for States members of the Council of Europe to oppose the adoption of the draft Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorders with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment. Similarly, considering that several States parties maintained reservations and interpretative declarations relating to key articles of the Convention – notably articles 12, 14, 19 and 24 – and that such provisions were against the spirit of the Convention and hindered its implementation, IDA encouraged the Committee to keep expressing concern in that regard.

8. IDA looked forward to learning about the Committee's progress on the planned general comment on article 11, concerning situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and about the results of the joint working group, established with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on children with disabilities. It urged the Committee to maintain its opposition to the trend for the institutionalization of children with disabilities in small group homes and to challenge those States and United Nations entities that failed to call for the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities.

9. The organizations of persons with disabilities that had interacted with the Committee were grateful for the opportunity to report on implementation of the Convention in their respective countries. All had been satisfied with the way that the Committee had reflected their concerns during the dialogues with States parties. The Committee had always

been open to the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in its procedures, empowering persons with disabilities to be stronger advocates at the national and international levels.

10. **The Chair** said that the session had been the Committee's most ambitious to date. He wished to point out that, in addition to the activities described by Ms. Gamio Ríos, the Committee had held its first dialogue concerning a periodic report submitted under article 35 of the Convention, that of Spain. The Committee had also carried out activities relating to inquiries under the Optional Protocol. It had examined and adopted final decisions on three individual communications – one where it had found a violation, one that was inadmissible and one that had been discontinued – and had postponed its examination of a fourth communication to allow time for further investigation. The Committee had also adopted a report on the follow-up given to views. It had decided to maintain the follow-up procedure that was ongoing in respect of five cases and to discontinue the procedure in one case, informing the parties accordingly.

11. The Committee had participated in an interesting exchange with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar. It had met with the coordinator of the Task Force on secretariat services, accessibility and use of information technology of the Human Rights Council to discuss promoting the accessibility of the Council's meetings. Lastly, meetings had been held with representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss matters relating to the United Nations system-wide accountability framework on disability inclusion and to the 2020 review of the treaty body system. Such interactions were important for ensuring the continued cross-fertilization of ideas within the human rights system.

12. The Committee welcomed the strong engagement of national organizations of persons with disabilities, national human rights institutions and independent monitoring mechanisms and frameworks under article 33 (2) of the Convention, many of which had addressed the Committee orally or in writing. The Committee recognized that, without their significant contributions, it would be unable to carry out its work. It was also grateful for the efforts of the United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies that had attended the session, and to the many organizations that had arranged thematic side events.

13. After the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the twenty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities closed.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.