



Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Committee against Torture Eighty-first session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2136th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 28 October 2024, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Heller

Contents

- Opening of the session
- Adoption of the agenda
- Organizational and other matters

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **Mr. Cissé-Gouro** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) declared open the eighty-first session of the Committee against Torture.
2. He said that events to mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention against Torture would culminate in a high-level event on 14 November, in Geneva, to underscore the commitment to ensuring that the Convention remained the cornerstone of global efforts to combat torture and provide justice and redress for victims.
3. Despite chronic resource constraints, compounded by the Organization's ongoing liquidity crisis, which were preventing the treaty bodies from fully and effectively carrying out their mandated activities, in particular amid the growing number of ratifications and concomitant increase in workload, there had been significant results in the treaty body strengthening process, including the recently adopted unified conclusions of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on making the system fit for purpose, coherent and sustainable. At their meeting in June 2024, the Chairs had progressed on aligning the working methods of the treaty bodies, particularly with regard to the simplified reporting procedure and the proposed advisory mechanism for harmonization. They had also urged the Member States to endorse the introduction of a predictable eight-year review calendar and other pending proposals and had called for the allocation of the resources necessary to implement the proposals.
4. In his fifth biennial report on the treaty body system, published the previous month, the Secretary-General had found that resource constraints over the past years posed risks to the effective functioning of the system and that underreporting by States parties led to unpredictability and incoherence, as well as uneven implementation of human rights obligations. The Office welcomed the Pact for the Future, in which the Members States requested the Secretary-General to assess the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing of the United Nations human rights mechanisms to ensure efficient and effective mandate delivery.
5. According to the Secretary-General's latest annual report on intimidation and reprisals for cooperating with the United Nations, the number of reported acts of intimidation and reprisals by State and non-State actors against individuals or groups who had cooperated or were seeking to cooperate with the United Nations remained high. The report reiterated the Organization's commitment to strengthening its response to such incidents and ensuring that appropriate systems were in place to raise awareness, identify, document, track and report allegations and send clear zero-tolerance messages. The report also welcomed the efforts of United Nations entities, notably the Committee, to develop dedicated protocols or guidelines to prevent and address reprisals.
6. Lastly, he wished to draw the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's report on human rights in the administration of justice, which highlighted best practices in the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the justice system and the potential negative impacts of those technologies on safeguarding rights in criminal justice.

Adoption of the agenda (CAT/C/81/1)

7. *The agenda was adopted.*

Organizational and other matters

8. **The Chair** said that, at the current session, the Committee would consider State party reports submitted by Cameroon, Jordan, Kuwait, Mongolia, Namibia and Thailand. The Committee would hold private briefings with representatives of the national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms of Cameroon, Jordan, Mongolia and Thailand and with non-governmental organizations from those same States parties. All preparatory meetings would be held in person. Regrettably, the cessation of hybrid meetings, except for mandated meetings such as dialogues with State parties, as announced by the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva in January

2024, would continue to adversely affect the work of the Committee, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders.

9. In addition, the Committee would consider and adopt lists of issues prior to reporting for Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, San Marino, Serbia and Sweden. It would also consider 22 individual communications. Reports would be presented by the rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, the rapporteur for follow-up to decisions on complaints and the rapporteur on reprisals. In accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention, a joint private meeting would be held between the Committee and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

10. Lastly, he wished to note that the Committee had been informed by the Division of Conference Management that summary records could be provided only for reviews of States parties, the opening and closure of the session and the joint meeting with the Subcommittee.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.25 a.m.