



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Summary record of the 79th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 19 September 2012, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. McCallum

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 35 of the Convention

Initial report of Argentina (CRPD/C/ARG/1; CRPD/C/ARG/Q/1 and Add.1; ARG/CORE/1/Add.74)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Argentina took places at the Committee table.*
2. **The Chairperson** said that thanks to the support of International Disability Alliance the Committee's first dialogue with the Argentine delegation was being retransmitted on the Web, especially to enable persons with disabilities who had been unable to travel to Geneva to follow the discussions.
3. **Ms. Bersanelli** (Argentina) said that 30 years after the return to democracy Argentina had begun strengthening its human rights policies. It had adopted a law on mental health and a national plan against discrimination. Paraphrasing Archimedes' famous dictum, she said that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Argentina had incorporated in its legal system in 2008, was the lever which would make it possible to lift traditions which had for so long been responsible for the marginalization and stigmatization of persons with disabilities. Argentina recognized that disability was a human rights issue and the rights of persons with disabilities would henceforth be taken into account in the implementation of all public policies.
4. The Secretariat for the Media had organized a series of public information campaigns to create awareness of the provisions of the Convention. The emphasis had been placed on the action the Government had taken to facilitate employment, education and accessibility for persons with disabilities. In addition, Convention follow-up and dissemination days were organized each year with the assistance of NGOs and organizations representing persons with disabilities in order to celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the law incorporating the Convention in the domestic Argentine legal system. International meetings were also organized, mainly with countries of the South, for the purpose of exchanging data on experience gained with implementing the Convention.
5. A working group on communication had been set up within the National Disability Observatory, which is part of the National Advisory Commission on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), with a view to improving the access of persons with disabilities to information, and in particular to government Internet sites. Under Act No. 26.653 of 2010 on the accessibility of information available on the Internet, centralized and decentralized public services, public sector enterprises or public service licensees and State-funded civil society organizations were ordered to design web pages in accordance with the rules governing the accessibility of information, in order to ensure that persons with disabilities received really equal treatment. A terrestrial digital television decoder had been developed to provide persons with disabilities with access to information and communication services, in application of the provisions of the Convention. In secondary schools, pupils with disabilities were given specially adapted computers as part of the Connect Equality (*Conectar Igualdad*) programme.
6. A programme for the application of health technologies was being conducted with the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), which was aimed at developing portable, low-cost diagnosis tools and developing medical technologies at regional level. That project had opened the way to a new generation of research centres, with the Centre for Health Care and Disability Technologies, which was responsible for improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

7. The publication of Act No. 26.571 on the democratization of political representation, transparency and electoral equity in December 2009 marked a considerable advance in terms of encouraging the political participation in and access to political mechanisms for persons with disabilities. As a result, persons with disabilities had been able to participate in the primary and general elections held in 2011.
8. In order to improve the security and protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergency, a working group had been set up in the Ministry of Defence to draft a protocol on providing assistance to persons with disabilities in the event of internal or international armed conflicts and humanitarian actions.
9. A programme on access to justice for persons with disabilities had been launched by the Ministry of Justice, to ensure equal treatment and access for persons with disabilities in all judicial proceedings.
10. A technical committee for overseeing employment and social security standards was responsible for examining current laws and regulations in that field, as well as practices, and for proposing any changes required for ensuring the enjoyment of Convention rights.
11. Pursuant to the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, Argentina had developed indicators to monitor implementation of those goals and had adopted a set of measures for the purpose, which were being implemented under the supervision of the inter-institutional commission for the follow-up of Millennium Development Goals.
12. A population census had been carried out in 2010, using the new methodology based on United Nations principles and recommendations on the measurement of disability and on the questions raised by the Washington Group. According to preliminary results, persons with disabilities accounted for 12.9 per cent of the Argentine population living in individual accommodation, equivalent to 5,445,800 persons. Preparations had also begun for the second national disability census (ENDI), which was to take place in 2013.
13. In 2011, the National Advisory Commission on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities became the government body responsible for dealing with all matters related to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, and a National Disability Observatory was set up to produce, disseminate, update and process information collected from the relevant sources. The Observatory, which is also in charge of supervising the implementation of the Convention, is made up of representatives of persons with disabilities and public officials, who are organized into working groups dealing with different areas, such as health care, employment, education, accessibility and political participation. The Observatory assesses the policies designed to assist persons with disabilities, helps to prepare legislative reforms and protocols concerning persons with disabilities and works for the spread of new observatories in the provinces.
14. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** (Country Rapporteur) praised the State party for all the new regulations it had introduced and for the measures it has taken to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. She was concerned, however, by the fact that existing laws and the legislation in the course of preparation contained certain provisions which were contrary to the Convention. Principles such as that of legal incapacity and measures such as the imposition of guardianship or wardship continued to apply for persons with psychosocial disabilities, and judges retained considerable discretionary powers in that respect. Since the State party was quite aware of the discrepancy in its laws and of the need to modify its Civil Code to bring it into line with the Convention, she asked what precise steps Argentina intended to take to remedy the situation.

15. She also wanted to know what mechanisms were provided in the preliminary bill on the modification, updating and unification of the Civil Code and the Code of Commerce to ensure the participation of civil society, especially persons with disabilities, in the preparation and implementation of the legislation and policies adopted to apply the Convention.

16. She noted that between the beginning of 2009 and September 2011, more than 19,000 persons suffering from psychosocial disabilities had either had their legal capacities restricted or had been subjected to involuntary or forced internment, in the autonomous city of Buenos Aires alone. She asked what was being done to replace the segregation of persons with disabilities and the limitation of their rights with the provision of a system of care for those persons within the community and social and professional integration, with additional assistance to enable the persons with disabilities themselves to take the decisions that concerned them.

17. She regretted the many gaps in the information supplied in response to the list of issues (CRPD/C/ARG/Q/1). The subject of children was hardly dealt with at all; the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities was referred to in connection with only 2 of the State party's 30 indigenous communities; and nothing was said about the efforts made to ensure accessibility and to remedy the lack of accessibility, or about the participation of persons with disabilities in such activities.

18. Furthermore, the report given on action taken to implement the Convention and on the progress achieved, took no account of the specific situation of women. Although it had been considered worthwhile to set up an office for women in the Supreme Court, it had not been thought necessary to take any special initiative to guarantee the access of women with disabilities to justice, and the State party had not replied to the Committee's questions concerning the concrete action of the Gender and Disability Programme. She recalled the attitude of the courts in relation to women with disabilities, as illustrated by the case of the two judges who were currently facing a complaint for having in a judgement referred to a young rape victim suffering from disabilities in particularly degrading terms. She considered that in that case the judges had been guilty of an extremely serious breach of the rules of the Convention and the principle of equality between persons.

19. Lastly, she drew attention to the lack of consideration for the right to parenting of persons with disabilities, on restrictions on the right of abortion in the event of rape which women suffering from a mental or psychosocial disability could not exercise without the consent of their guardians, and on the inability of certain categories of persons with disabilities themselves to be appointed guardians, and therefore to be in charge of a child, or managing property, etc.

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20. **Ms. Cisternas Reyes** asked what mechanism the State party used to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of indigenous peoples. The delegation might also indicate how CONADIS coordinated its activities with those of the services responsible for indigenous peoples. She would also like to know what proportion women with disabilities represented among the 38.5 per cent of women described in the initial report (CRPD/C/ARG/1, paras. 62 and 522) as occupying managerial positions in the civil service.

21. **Mr. Rios Espinosa** asked the delegation for some explanations regarding the Argentine political system, in particular how the federal Government ensured that the Convention was applied in the provinces. He would also like further details of the discrepancies, described as "minor" in the reply to a question in the list of issues (CRPD/C/ARG/Q/1/Add.1, para. 12), between federal and provincial legislations.

22. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** asked whether CONADIS was an independent body or whether it depended on the Government and what its precise role was. Had it participated in drafting the State party's initial report and did it include in its ranks persons with disabilities, the members of families of persons with disabilities and representatives of civil society organizations? He also enquired about a national plan in favour of accessibility and a building code aimed at eliminating architectural obstacles. Lastly, he wished to know where the State party stood with regard to universal design, including on aspects related to access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and assistance technologies.

23. **Mr. Gombos** asked whether persons with disabilities and especially children with disabilities were consulted and how, in the event, the latter participated in decision-making. What was the situation regarding persons with mental or psychosocial disabilities? Noting that the State party was a country characterized by great diversity, he asked what was done to combat multiple discriminations.

24. **Mr. Tatić** asked what had been the results of the assessment of the premises of the various bodies connected with the National Disability Observatory with regard to accessibility. He would also like the delegation to provide further information on the mechanism used for the application and follow-up of accessibility measures, especially at the local level, and on the penalties applied to anyone who did not abide by the prescribed rules.

25. **Ms. Degener**, pointing out that the Convention's approach to disability was founded on human rights, asked whether the State party intended to integrate human rights within its national policy for persons with disabilities, and conversely persons with disabilities in its national human rights policy. Although under Argentine law all women without discrimination enjoyed the same rights regarding sexual and reproductive health, it appeared that women with disabilities had difficulty exercising them in practice (in such aspects as contraception, sterilization or abortion). She asked what precise steps were being taken to remove obstacles to the enjoyment by women with disabilities of those rights.

26. **Mr. Ben Lallahom** asked whether the rules and standards of universal access were applied by the State party in accordance with the Convention, whether such application was supervised by the authorities and whether any breaches were penalized.

27. **Mr. Langvad** asked whether there was any mechanism for ensuring the effective implementation of positive measures taken with regard to access amongst others to information and communication technologies (ICT), means of transport and buildings, and what steps were being taken to bring older buildings up to standard. Information would be welcome on the financial assistance that Argentine public authorities, at the various territorial levels, gave to associations of persons with disabilities to enable them to express their views, and on the way in which legislation on non-discrimination made allowances for the transition from the medical model to the social model for caring for persons with disabilities and members of their families, who also needed to be protected from discrimination.

28. **Mr. Kim** asked whether there was any strategy for eliminating the sort of negative attitudes that hampered the implementation of the Convention and whether public awareness campaigns were used to achieve that purpose.

29. **Ms. Quan-Chang** noted that there were incompatibilities between the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, of which the State party was a signatory and which was based on an obsolete medical model, and the Committee's Convention, which was founded on a more modern social approach. She expressed doubts regarding the current relevance of the former instrument. She was concerned that a considerable effort of harmonization would be

needed owing to the amount of legislation required by the federal nature of the State party's political system, and asked what steps were being taken to speed up the process.

30. **Ms. Yang Jia** asked whether Argentine airlines that obliged persons with disabilities using wheelchairs to purchase a double passenger ticket were liable to a penalty. She considered, moreover, that under the provisions of article 5, the State party should ensure that the language of magistrates was free of all words or expressions injurious to the dignity of persons with disabilities.

31. **The Chairperson**, speaking as a member of the Committee, wanted to know why, despite the provisions of article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, persons with disabilities had not been consulted on the question of legal capacity that appeared in the draft new Civil Code.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

32. **Ms. Bersanelli** (Argentina) said that Argentina, which was a federal republic organized into very independent provinces, was keen to further the implementation of the Convention throughout the country. To achieve that, CONADIS entertained close links with the provinces and municipalities and strove to formulate and apply a set of cross-cutting policies aimed at integrating and protecting persons with disabilities and their relatives. The Government was aware that it had to conduct cross-cutting policies in line with the social model of care for persons with disabilities and was taking appropriate measures in a number of domains. For example, policies were currently being extended to indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, much still remained to be done, especially to assist certain vulnerable groups affected by multiple discriminations, mainly in the provinces of Tucumán and Formosa.

33. **Ms. Monopoli** (Argentina), referring to possible discrepancies between federal laws and provincial legislation, pointed out that the supreme laws of the State were the Constitution and the current federal legislation, and that the provinces had to apply them. She agreed, however, that the process of legislative harmonization had not yet reached its conclusion.

34. **Mr. Rosales** (Argentina) said that the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on disabilities dated back some 15 years, and that provisions of the Convention were invoked by the Court as well as by lower courts in matters such as transport, pension funds or health care. With regard to the case mentioned by the Rapporteur involving the rape of a woman with disabilities, he said that the expressions used by the judges had been clearly inadmissible, but added that fortunately such situations were the exception rather than the rule.

35. A programme of action had recently been launched in favour of access to justice, in response to difficulties encountered with the implementation of the Convention by judicial authorities in the regions. Surveys and opinion polls had also been conducted in the main provinces to determine whether judges were familiar enough with the provisions of the Convention and how they applied them.

36. Regarding the incompatibility between the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, regarding the question of guardianship, he recalled that, following the general comment drawn up by the Committee in May 2011, it had been decided that placement under guardianship was a discriminatory practice, contrary to article 12 of the Convention. The act on mental health stipulated that all such guardianship measures should be reviewed, and the new version of the Civil Code would incorporate the necessary amendments.

37. With regard to multiple discrimination, efforts were currently being made to include disability as one of the causes of discrimination listed in the anti-discrimination Act No.

23.592, which had come into effect in 1988. Among the weapons available for combating discrimination, it was also worth mentioning the National Plan to Combat Discrimination, which had been adopted before the Convention had been ratified, the Act on violence against women and the Act on violence at the workplace. The provisions on violence against women did not specifically refer to women with disabilities.

38. **Ms. Monopoli** (Argentina) said that for some years Argentina had been incorporating its policy on disability within its general human rights policy and that it was making various efforts to create awareness of the change among the actors and the public concerned. A great deal remained to be done in that respect and the Government, aware of the fact that vulnerabilities were often complex and multiple, was pursuing its cross-cutting policies.

39. **Ms. Bersanelli** (Argentina) said that she felt deeply offended by the comments injurious to the dignity of persons with disabilities spoken by the judges during the proceedings mentioned by the Rapporteur. Argentine society was well aware that ignorance was shameful and the case referred to showed that human rights awareness should be a constant concern.

40. **Ms. Tiramonti** (Argentina) explained that CONADIS, which was a public body answerable to the Government, was run by an advisory committee, that included representatives of associations of persons with disabilities, and a technical committee, made up of the officials of several public bodies concerned with the integration of persons with disabilities. The first duty of CONADIS was to coordinate, regulate, guide, promote and disseminate nationwide all actions which would contribute directly or indirectly to the integration of persons with disabilities. Its action was based on the fundamental principles of the Constitution, current legislation and international documents on equality, liberty and solidarity. Its aim was to prevent discrimination, to facilitate participation through intervention, and to support decentralization, which brought the administration closer to persons with disabilities. More specifically, the management of CONADIS made sure that disability policies complied with the provisions of the Convention.

41. **Mr. Rossetto** (Argentina) said that persons with disabilities and their families had participated in preparing Act No. 26.657 on mental health. Argentina did not have a long tradition of associations of persons with disabilities and their families, but had recently been making every effort to make up for lost time in order to bring that group into closer touch with legislative and political processes.

42. **Ms. Tiramonti** (Argentina), replying to a question regarding measures taken to improve accessibility, said that there was in fact a national accessibility plan, which aimed to provide universal accessibility. The plan focused primarily on persons with disabilities, but was also intended to assist, for example, older persons or pregnant women. The national plan, prepared by CONADIS, was currently being circulated, although no penalties had yet been worked out for any failure to apply universal accessibility rules. On the other hand, penalties were applied under the law for non-observance of the rules on technological accessibility. Further changes in the law were expected in the months ahead to improve the protection of accessibility, particularly with regard to digital television. Attention was also being paid to accessibility in older buildings, which were gradually being brought up to standard.

43. **Mr. Godachevich** (Argentina), in reply to the question concerning Argentine airlines, which allegedly obliged wheelchair users to buy two passenger tickets, said that such a practice was certainly not widespread. If the Committee could provide the delegation with details of the specific case concerned, the latter would of course enquire into the practice, which was directly opposed to the usual Argentine policy of ensuring assistance for persons with disabilities travelling by air. Generally speaking, however, owing to the

structure of the country and the degree of independence enjoyed by the provinces, it was not easy to check whether accessibility measures were being properly applied. The system of special funds (Act No. 25.730 concerning cheques) was a financial facility which aimed to improve the independence of persons with disabilities and their accessibility in all circumstances, particularly in schools.

44. Regarding the concern expressed concerning the alleged lack of awareness campaigns, it might be noted that Argentina was making a substantial effort in the field in that respect, that included training days and workshops organized with the help of civil society.

45. The importance of the question of reproductive rights for persons with disabilities was fully recognized by Argentina, and the National Disability Observatory had set up a working group to analyse the relevance and quality of Ministry of Health programmes of assistance to persons with disabilities, particularly the right to information and to accessible health-care services.

46. **Ms. Bersanelli** (Argentina), in reply to a question concerning the proportion of women with disabilities holding managerial posts in the civil service, said that, without having precise figures at hand, it seemed likely that there were very few. The National Disability Observatory was intending to study the matter in order to draw up a full picture of the current situation. It would make a point of analysing the factors that were favourable to the presence of women, and especially women with disabilities, in such positions (with particular emphasis on accessibility and autonomy).

Articles 11–33 of the Convention

47. **Mr. Gombos** thanked the State party for recognizing that the Argentine Civil Code did not comply with the Convention and welcomed their efforts to reform it. Nevertheless, he was concerned at the fact that the bill reforming the Civil Code, while it did include some interesting improvements, still imposed restrictions on the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities. He wished to draw attention to certain possible consequences: for instance, substitute decision-making left guardians at full liberty to take decisions in such areas as medical experimentation, abortion or psychiatric treatment. The national law on mental health also made some useful changes but was still not in compliance with articles 14 and 15 of the Convention, on liberty and security of the person and freedom from torture.

48. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** (Country Rapporteur) said that the federal law on accessibility standards was applicable by the provinces and municipalities, who could choose whether to abide by the law or not. That being the case, she would like to know what steps the State party was taking to ensure that national accessibility standards were really followed and applied in the provinces. She also asked whether the State party was considering introducing measures to assist persons suffering from a mental or psychosocial disability with their decision-making and the exercise of their legal capacity.

49. **Mr. Ríos Espinosa** asked whether, as part of the current revision of the Criminal Code, the State party intended to review the provisions that applied to persons with disabilities sentenced to deprivation of liberty and declared not criminally responsible, with a view to ensuring that they were able, if necessary with assistance, to enjoy the essential guarantees provided by law, such as the right of defence, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention. He also wanted to know what was being done to take due account of the special needs of women with disabilities, including those placed in institutions, in programmes for combating violence against women.

50. **Ms. Cisternas Reyes** wished to know whether legal and regulatory safeguards had been introduced to avoid a reoccurrence of the tragedy that had happened in May 2011,

when two persons with disabilities who had been placed in isolation and subjected to physical and chemical restraints had died in the prison's psychiatric ward. She also wanted to know whether the three new mechanisms for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities introduced under the law on mental health, namely the defence service looking after the rights of persons placed in institutions, the independent review body and the torture prevention measure, were operational and, if so, how they coordinated their activities. She would also like further details of internal staff training policies conducted by the judiciary with a view to introducing procedural changes and assisted decision-making systems, and regarding the progress made with the revision of article 152 ter of the Civil Code concerning declarations of legal incapacity. It would be useful if the delegation could say whether in practice the designation of guardians would be replaced by support measures.

51. **Ms. Quan-Chang** wondered whether the State party had the political will to have the Senate approve the bill setting up the national system for the prevention of torture that the Argentine Parliament had adopted several years previously, following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. She recommended that the State party should intensify its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly those sentenced to deprivation of liberty and persons placed in institutions, were really protected against torture.

52. **Ms. Yang Jia** asked what measures were being taken to assist blind and partially sighted persons, persons suffering from auditive disorders or those suffering from multiple disorders in the current circumstances of economic and humanitarian crisis.

53. **Ms. Maina** said that the terminology used in the report and in the listings and descriptions of the duties of certain recently created bodies, as well as certain concepts (such as the degree of disability), legal clauses and practices were inappropriate, not to say discriminatory, and incompatible with the letter of the Convention. She asked whether the State party was considering taking steps to bring its Civil Code into line with the provisions of the Convention and, generally speaking, to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in the country.

54. Raising the issue of the criteria used by the State party to decide whether a person was suffering from disability, she asked whether the State party continued to apply a medical model for disability or had switched to a social model based on human rights. In view of the large number of adults with disabilities placed under guardianship, she wondered whether the independence of persons with disabilities was preserved in the State party. Lastly she asked whether the State party intended to try to withdraw persons with disabilities from institutions in order to enable them to live in society, in their families or their communities, and to receive a form of support tailored to their particular disability.

55. **Mr. Kim** asked whether any persons with disabilities had expressed the wish not to live in an institution and to live instead in society and, if so, whether any support was available to enable them to leave the establishments in which they had been placed and to find other solutions in terms of care or accommodation.

56. **The Chairperson**, speaking as a member of the Committee, welcomed the progress made by the State party to enable children with disabilities to attend school and asked for further information regarding the integration of blind or partially sighted children in ordinary schools.

57. **Mr. Tatić**, noting that the average rate of employment of persons with disabilities by private sector enterprises remained under 1 per cent, asked what consequences the State faced as employer if it failed to maintain the official quota of 4 per cent that it had adopted.

58. **Mr. Gombos** asked whether the State party intended to take steps to ensure that sign language should be fully recognized in legal terms and to ensure compliance with article 25 of the Convention, while making sure that community solutions other than the placement in institutions or internment as provided by the mental health Act were really given effect and implemented, on the basis of prior informed consent.

59. **Mr. Rios Espinosa** asked whether the State party intended to change its existing legislation, in particular article 43 of the national education Act, to allow children with disabilities to be educated in ordinary schools, with special facilities if necessary. He also asked whether the State party intended in the near future to review its electoral law in order to give voting rights to persons suffering from mental disabilities. He finally inquired how far the implementation of the Service Programme in Support of Independent Living (SAVA) had progressed.

60. **Ms. Cisternas Reyes** asked how the State party conducted a qualitative assessment of its inclusive education system and whether it used indicators for the purpose. She also wished to know what proportion of persons with disabilities had access to rehabilitation services in specialized centres or community facilities. The delegation might also indicate whether there was any intention to change existing legislation, firstly to remove the rule that obliged all persons with disabilities placed in institutions to be placed under guardianship in order to qualify for aid, and secondly to improve the electoral law in order to enable persons with disabilities to choose the person who would help them exercise their right to vote.

61. **Ms. Quan-Chang** asked whether the National Disability Observatory complied with the Paris Principles as an independent mechanism for the promotion and follow-up of the implementation of the Convention and whether the Defender of the People service also played a role in that respect.

62. **Mr. Ben Lallahom** asked what educational measures the State party was taking to meet the special needs of persons with disabilities living in the northern part of the country, which was a rural, poor and indigenous region. In the light of the publication of several reports by the University Environment and Health Network (REDUAS) on the continued exposure of rural populations to pesticides, he wondered whether the issue was of concern not only to the country's health authorities but also to those dealing with disabilities.

63. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** asked what concrete measures the State party was taking to guarantee persons with disabilities access to higher education and to ensure the implementation of the national plan of action for accessibility so that persons with disabilities could participate in the political life of the country and in particular take advantage of inclusive education, independent living and access to justice.

64. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** (Country Rapporteur) asked how the State party, which had undertaken a programme on women and disability, applied the principle of gender equality in the policies it conducted to provide persons with disabilities with access to decent accommodation and employment quotas. In the general context of the review of the Criminal Code, she asked what specific measures the State party was considering in the area of sexual and reproductive health in order to put an end to the forced sterilization of women and young girls suffering from disabilities, to enable persons with disabilities to found a family and to grant a woman with an intellectual or psychosocial disability who had been a rape victim the right to an abortion, without the consent of a guardian. She asked lastly how the State party explained the considerable gap between the number of persons with disabilities whose disability could be certified by a Single Disability Certificate (CUD) for the purposes of the payment of care benefits and the actual number of certificates issued, and how many of those certificates were issued to children with disabilities.

65. **Mr. Langvad** wished to know what measures were being taken to make disability benefits available, in conditions of equality, to migrant workers with disabilities and the children with disabilities of migrant workers, who could not meet the 20-year residential requirement in the country which had been set as a condition of entitlement.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.