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Summary record of the 41st meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 16 September 2025, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Saran

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports (continued)

(a) Reports submitted by States Parties under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (continued)

Fifth periodic report of Chile (continued) (E/C.12/CHL/5; E/C.12/CHL/QPR/5)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Chile joined the meeting.*
2. **A representative of Chile**, resuming her delegation's replies to the questions raised at the previous meeting, said that the Government had adopted a set of criteria to ensure that investments in carbon trading initiatives concerned new rather than existing projects and effectively led to the reduction of emissions. Carbon certificates guaranteed the validity of initiatives and reductions and were verified by an independent body. In February 2025, the Council of Ministers for Sustainability and Climate Change had adopted a regulation on the carbon offsetting system that included oversight and transparency measures.
3. **A representative of Chile** said that the National Strategy for the Eradication of Child Labour and Protection of Adolescent Workers 2015–2025 was being implemented by the central Government and all 16 regions; 40 of the 55 planned actions had already been completed. The measures undertaken included the design of communication strategies, the establishment of a case referral mechanism, the commemoration of World Day against Child Labour in schools and the training of teachers, inspectors, police officers and other officials. The 2023 survey on the activities of children and adolescents had, for the first time, included measurements of domestic work, unpaid care work and hazardous forms of labour. Taking into account methodological adjustments, it was estimated that, since the previous survey in 2012, the prevalence of child labour had fallen from 6.9 per cent to 5.4 per cent. At the international level, Chile currently chaired Alliance 8.7, which was working urgently to combat forced labour, modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour.
4. **A representative of Chile** said that, according to data from the 2022 national social and economic survey, the country's overall poverty rate stood at 6.5 per cent, while extreme poverty affected 2 per cent of the population. The overall poverty rate had resumed a downward trajectory, falling from 8.5 per cent in 2017, notwithstanding an uptick caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
5. To address the high rate of informal employment, the Government was working towards the introduction of a simplified social tax, which was designed to allow small taxpayers, especially micro-entrepreneurs, to meet their obligations by paying a monthly or quarterly fixed contribution in exchange for access to social security benefits. The new regime was set forth in a bill that was currently before the National Congress.
6. A law to increase women's representation on the boards of private companies was expected to enter into force in 2026, with the aim of strengthening women's participation and promoting gender equality in corporate decision-making. A recommended gender quota, which would subsequently become mandatory, would be introduced. The draft legislation was in line with Act No. 21.356 of 2021, which established that persons of the same gender must not account for more than 60 per cent of members of the boards of directors of publicly owned companies.
7. The Government had taken steps to promote equitable access to preschool education as a means of reducing workplace inequalities between men and women. Act No. 21.753, which modernized preschool education services, had recently entered into force, paving the way for a fairer, more robust and more reliable system of public preschool education. In addition, a bill was being processed to ensure universal access to day-care services, building on an existing provision in the Labour Code that required companies with more than 20 female employees to offer a day-care service. Once adopted, the law would extend coverage to domestic workers and self-employed workers, while promoting higher standards by requiring the certification of day-care services by the Ministry of Education.
8. According to the 2022 national economic and social survey, 16.9 per cent of the population was in a situation of multidimensional poverty, which was defined on the basis of

five dimensions: housing, education, health, work and social security and social cohesion. Various measures had been taken to address those dimensions. For example, the Government implemented a social protection policy that combined elements of universal social protection with targeted measures for specific vulnerable groups, especially children and adolescents. In the education sphere, efforts included the Indigenous Grants Programme, subsidies for school transport in rural areas, the School Meals Programme and programmes aimed at migrants and refugees. The State provided a range of allowances and cash transfers, which the most vulnerable 40 per cent of households received automatically. Children of migrants in an irregular situation could be registered with the Social Registry of Households, which ensured that their families had access to benefits such as the family subsidy.

9. **A representative of Chile** said that the Supreme Court recognized the right to water as part of the right to a healthy environment and had expressly stated in its judgments that all human beings had an equal right to drinking water. In a case concerning the community of Nogales, it had ruled that the local authority must provide 100 litres of water per inhabitant in order to ensure decent living conditions. It had also ruled on the need for the special protection of vulnerable groups in accordance with international human rights law.

10. The Court had considered an application for constitutional protection filed by residents of the village of Pichidangui against the Office of the Superintendent of Sanitation Services and sanitation companies for failing to supply drinking water in conformity with World Health Organization standards and national laws. In its decision, the Court had found that international human rights treaties ratified by Chile were binding; that States Parties to the Covenant had a duty to prevent third parties from impairing or endangering the enjoyment of the right to water; and that the water provided must be sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable for personal and domestic uses, as the Committee had established in its general comment No. 15 (2002).

11. **A representative of Chile** said that the Water Code, as amended in 2022, recognized the human right to water and sanitation and declared water to be a national asset for public use, with human consumption the priority. According to 2024 census data, 92 per cent of dwellings in Chile had access to the public drinking water supply and 83 per cent had indoor sanitary facilities. In view of the gaps in coverage, the Ministry of Public Works focused on developing infrastructure to supply drinking water to rural areas and areas of water scarcity, including through plans to build desalination plants. The Ministry of Housing and Town Planning facilitated the supply of drinking water to informal settlements in the framework of its Precarious Settlements Programme.

12. In the area of housing, figures from the 2022 national economic and social survey revealed the need for 552,000 new homes in the light of factors such as overcrowding, shared dwellings and unrepairable housing. The Ministry of Housing and Town Planning had identified almost 72,000 dwellings in informal settlements in 2022. To address the housing shortage by increasing house-building capacity, the Government had launched the Emergency Housing Plan with goals for each region and commune. Some 214,000 homes had already been delivered, meeting 79 per cent of the overall target for 2022–2026. The Plan was complemented by the Precarious Settlements Programme, which was designed to address the situation of informal settlements through formalization or relocation. Further efforts were required to address the housing deficit and its structural causes.

13. **A representative of Chile** said that the Government had launched a programme for the support and care of victims of ocular trauma, most of whom had suffered serious injuries caused by rubber bullets. In the first quarter of 2025, 593 people had signed up to the programme, and many were receiving psychological and psychiatric care.

14. A consistent legal and policy framework ensured equitable access to public health services for vulnerable groups, including migrants. The National Policy on Migration and Foreign Nationals sought to reduce health inequalities, and a circular of 2023 had been amended to ensure the affiliation of migrants in an irregular situation to the National Health Fund, allowing them to register with public health facilities. A comprehensive intersectoral health system responded to the physical and mental health needs of vulnerable children and young people through the coordinated efforts of various State bodies. Since 2022, that system had been strengthened and additional funding had been allocated to the mental health

component. In 2022, the Government had adopted an Explicit Health Guarantee to ensure that victims of sexual abuse – another priority group – received timely and comprehensive care, including medical examination and treatment, prophylaxis to prevent infection and pregnancy, psychological counselling and support during recovery.

15. The Ministry of Health was working to improve healthcare in rural areas. Primary healthcare was available in all communes, 28 of which were trialling free universal primary healthcare for all persons residing, working or studying therein. Rural health posts in those communes had been provided with satellite Internet terminals, allowing them to offer telehealth services. Act No. 20.584 on patients' rights and obligations guaranteed Indigenous Peoples' access to culturally appropriate healthcare.

16. The number of patients on waiting lists for treatment or surgery had risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the health system had performed well, delivering record levels of service in 2024, including 57 million primary care interventions and 1 million surgeries in the public health system. The number of specialist and dental consultations had increased by 40 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively, since 2021, while average waiting times had fallen sharply. Those achievements were due to several strategies pursued by the Ministry of Health, such as the introduction of a patient portal to enhance administration and access to information. The sustained effort to strengthen the healthcare system had been accompanied by a significant increase in health spending, from 13.5 trillion Chilean pesos (Ch\$) in 2022 to more than Ch\$ 16 trillion in 2025. Investment in human resources had increased by 25 per cent.

17. One significant development related to the inclusion in the national immunization programme of monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus. Chile had become the first country in the Southern Hemisphere to ensure universal access to the antibodies, resulting in a major reduction in paediatric hospitalizations. For the first time, during the previous winter season, no infants had died of the virus.

18. It was 20 years since Chile had embarked on the health reform by which it had introduced the system of Explicit Health Guarantees to address 90 health problems, with a focus on access, timeliness, quality and financial protection. New guarantees continued to be added, including those on rehabilitation after hospitalization for COVID-19, drug treatment for hepatic cirrhosis and hospital treatment for children with severe depression and suicide risk. The addition of those guarantees had been accompanied by a budget increase of Ch\$ 100 billion.

19. Regarding the right to adequate food, progress had included the adoption of a national strategy on food security that was designed to ensure equitable access to healthy, safe and sustainable food while protecting the environment. The strategy's focus was on promoting healthy diets and a food environment conducive to nutritious choices. As overnutrition remained the main challenge, the Government had adopted a national strategy to halt the rise in obesity among children and adolescents for the period 2023–2030. Complementary feeding programmes, designed to prevent undernutrition due to lack of essential nutrients, had been reformulated for beneficiaries including children under the age of 6 years, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, children with milk allergies and older persons.

20. **A representative of Chile** said that additional information on the increase in government spending on health, as well as the budget amounts allocated to housing and social services, would be provided in writing.

21. **Ms. El Yedri Afailal** (Country Task Force) said that she would be grateful for more detailed responses to the questions raised by the Committee on the privatization of water resources. She would like to know whether a drought management plan was in place and measures had been taken to protect water resources against overexploitation and pollution by mining companies. She wished to learn about any steps taken to introduce a mechanism for the return of ancestral lands to Indigenous Peoples, particularly the Mapuche; to reduce structural inequalities and regional disparities in quality of life; and to safeguard the right to health of persons deprived of liberty.

22. **Mr. Fiorio Vaesken** (Country Task Force) asked whether the indicators used by the State Party to measure multidimensional poverty were in line with the global

Multidimensional Poverty Index used by the United Nations and what dimensions of poverty were considered in the development of government policies.

23. **Ms. Chen** asked how the State Party encouraged the public to engage in daily exercise and what its goals were in that regard.

24. **Ms. Lemus de Vásquez** (Country Rapporteur) said that she wished to know what steps the State Party was taking to increase environmental protection and to ensure a timely and effective response to environmental and health emergencies around the country, timely access to environmental information, the effective participation of communities in decisions that affected their health and surroundings, and their access to specialized medical care and justice and redress mechanisms, particularly in the so-called environmental sacrifice zones.

25. She wished to know what the country's mental health budget was, whether the results of the National Mental Health Plan 2017–2025 had been assessed, whether work had begun on a new comprehensive national plan on the issue and what measures were being taken to ensure the availability of mental health professionals.

26. **Ms. Lee** said that she wished to know whether the State Party was taking steps to ensure that evictions were carried out in a manner consistent with the Covenant, for example through the prevention of evictions in the absence of alternative housing and the requirement of consultations with the persons affected. It would be helpful to know what the State Party was doing to ensure that the National Health Fund had sufficient resources and that intercultural health services were available to Indigenous communities.

27. **Mr. Windfuhr** (Country Task Force) said that he would be interested to find out what the State Party's most pressing challenges were in terms of climate change adaptation, how those challenges affected the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, whether there had been any resolution to the conflicts involving Indigenous Peoples and lithium mining interests in the Atacama Desert and whether the State Party planned to introduce a framework law on the right to food.

28. **Ms. Rossi** said that she wished to know the status of four legal initiatives about which the Committee had received reports: a 2024 proposal by the Ministry of Health to amend the regulations on conscientious objection to abortion; a bill to legalize abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy; a bill on comprehensive sexual education; and a bill prohibiting the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities. It would be helpful to have disaggregated statistics on the number of migrants and refugees in the country and the number of migrants in an irregular situation. She would like to know what steps the State Party was taking to expedite procedures for the regularization of migration status, what social protection services were available to migrants and what impact irregular migration status had on a person's ability to fully enjoy their social rights.

29. **Ms. Pérez** said that she wished to know to what extent persons who used drugs were involved in monitoring the 2024–2030 action plan under the National Drug Strategy and whether the plan addressed the decriminalization of drug use and harm reduction.

30. **A representative of Chile** said that all prisons, whether traditional or contractually managed, complied with Ministry of Health guidelines. Each traditional prison in the closed system had an infirmary or health facility that provided primary care services and was staffed by at least one paramedic and, in larger prisons, a nurse and a medical technician. Prisoners requiring healthcare services not provided at the infirmaries were referred to the public health system. All detainees arriving at traditional closed prisons underwent a medical examination that included assessments for certain types of disability. There was a 46-bed prison hospital in Santiago, with operating facilities and emergency care and infectious disease departments, that offered 24-hour care. The services of professional midwives were available in women's prisons. A pilot project had been launched in 2023 to provide remote mental health services to persons deprived of liberty. Healthcare services were provided in contractually managed prisons in accordance with the terms of the specific contract.

31. The Ministry of Health funded three-year health promotion plans implemented at the municipal level that encouraged physical activity and other healthy behaviours. A national strategy was in place for the period 2023–2030 to curb rising obesity rates among children and adolescents. A bill introduced under the strategy would require schools to promote at

least 60 minutes of daily physical activity for all students by creating environments that fostered such activity.

32. The Environmental and Social Recovery Programme, which the Ministry of the Environment had been implementing in Huasco, Quintero-Puchuncaví and Coronel since 2014, had been designed with the involvement of civil society, the private sector and the Government, and representatives of all three sectors sat on the Environmental and Social Recovery Councils. Atmospheric decontamination plans were also being implemented.

33. Environmental measures such as soil remediation had already been carried out in the commune of Arica prior to the enactment, in 2012, of the law establishing a programme of intervention for areas in that commune with exposure to heavy metals. The health authorities regularly reported the results of their environmental exposure monitoring, which had revealed no risk to human health. Independent institutions also carried out such studies. The Arica Environmental Health Centre continuously monitored the health of all persons covered by the law. The Atmospheric Decontamination Plan for Quintero-Puchuncaví had been implemented, a register had been prepared of pollution sources in the area, and monitoring of them had been stepped up. The health authorities had a standing plan for environmental epidemiological monitoring. Epidemiological studies had also been carried out by independent academic institutions. Health workers and teachers had received training on environmental health and toxicology, and the hospital and primary healthcare networks in the area had been strengthened.

34. New community mental health centres were being opened, a psychological counselling helpline had been established and the suicide prevention helpline that had been operating since 2023 had already received almost 100,000 calls. Telepsychiatry services had also been rolled out and, in 2024, a total of 555 hours of services were being offered a month. A comprehensive mental health bill put forward by the Government provided for the establishment of an interministerial committee to develop a national mental health policy, priority access to legal assistance agencies for persons with mental health issues, new oversight powers for the Office of the Superintendent of Health, measures to support the inclusion in school of students with mental health disorders, the possibility for parents and caregivers to take leave from work following the hospitalization of a child under the age of 18 years in connection with a suicide attempt and the prohibition of so-called conversion therapies for gender-diverse persons. With respect to Indigenous Peoples, the regulations ensuring access to culturally relevant health services had entered into effect and were being implemented through the network of intercultural facilitators present throughout the public health system.

35. The law decriminalizing voluntary termination of pregnancy when performed on one of three grounds had entered into force in 2017. Between that time and June 2025, 6,567 cases of voluntary termination of pregnancy had been recorded. Since 2022, 159 inspections had been carried out in both public and private hospitals, and hospitals where all medical staff were conscientious objectors had been instructed to prepare protocols for immediate referrals. New regulations on conscientious objection issued in May 2025 required the rights enshrined in the law to be displayed and treating physicians to disclose whether they were conscientious objectors, and if so for which of the three grounds, the first time they saw a patient. Department heads were to have access to an up-to-date list of conscientious objectors to ensure that there were always staff available to perform voluntary terminations of pregnancy. Hospitals could give preference to non-conscientious objectors in hiring to ensure availability of staff.

36. **A representative of Chile** said that government measures to address regional inequalities included the introduction of a plan for the comprehensive development of the most geographically remote regions through priority investment in infrastructure, employment and services and the *Buen Vivir* Plan, which provided an intercultural focus to government efforts to reduce disparities in infrastructure development and access to social services in the Biobío, Araucanía, Los Ríos and Los Lagos regions. In addition, resources had been allocated for local capacity-building, project monitoring and investment planning. The resources available for such measures had increased following the introduction of the mining royalty, a tax on the revenues of large-scale mining that had a redistributive effect,

with 309 of the country's 345 communes receiving resources generated by that tax since 2024.

37. Five regulations to implement the amendments to the Water Code were already in force. Drinking water subsidies were available to vulnerable groups through the social protection system. In 2022, 1,169 projects to build new rural drinking water systems or to improve, expand or maintain existing systems had been carried out; the corresponding figures for 2023 and 2024 had been 946 and 791, respectively. A new rural sanitation manual had been introduced, and the National Mining Policy 2050 set seven goals directly related to water resources, including a reduction in the percentage of inland waters used in mining and the protection of glaciers.

38. The National Lithium Strategy increased State involvement in the extraction of lithium, a strategic resource, but also provided for the protection of salt flats. All projects that had an impact on Indigenous communities were subject to consultation requirements. Such consultations had, for example, been held in connection with two recent contracts involving the Ministry of Mining, the Production Development Corporation, State-owned mining entities and other firms.

39. **A representative of Chile** said that, from 2019 to early 2022, decisions of the country's high courts on the eviction of squatters had focused on strengthening due process safeguards for such evictions and had noted the wrongful nature of any enforcement without recourse to the courts. In an early 2022 case, the Supreme Court had balanced the property rights of the property owners against the squatters' rights, physical integrity and inability to obtain better housing and had ordered the property owners to coordinate with local and central authorities to find a solution to the squatters' situation that was consistent with human rights standards. In a November 2022 decision, however, the Supreme Court had ordered that the property in question must be vacated, set a reasonable time frame and authorized the involvement of law enforcement if an eviction proved necessary, expressly providing that the eviction must be carried out in accordance with the standards of the international human rights treaties binding Chile. The decision required that, in such cases, the affected parties must be notified of a decision in a timely manner; a reasonable time period – generally six months – must be provided for vacating the property; if an eviction proved to be necessary, it must be carried out in the presence of government officials or their representatives to ensure a reasonable and proportionate use of force; and the administrative authorities must provide temporary shelter for evicted individuals. The Court continued to follow that approach.

40. **A representative of Chile** said that the Government complied with all standards established by judicial rulings regarding evictions. Particular attention was paid to the situation of children and adolescents in eviction cases. Through its local children's services, the Ministry of Social Development coordinated and monitored all relevant cases, especially those involving families in camps, to secure access to public services and ensure effective protection of their rights. Such measures complemented housing policy and broader efforts to provide structural solutions. The Government also aimed to foster dialogue between occupants and landowners. The protocols for intervention by Carabineros in evictions were in the process of being updated.

41. **Mr. Fiorio Vaesken** said that he would welcome detailed information on public spending on education in 2024, together with the forecast for 2025. He wished to know what measures the State Party was taking to improve educational quality, particularly in mathematics, and would be grateful for an explanation of teacher selection and training processes and information on their salaries and career paths, as well as clarification of whether any teachers worked on an unpaid basis. He wondered how many private schools there were in the State Party and how their compliance with the national curriculum was monitored.

42. Moreover, he wished to know what safeguards existed to ensure that the application of Act No. 21.128 (the Safe Classrooms Act) did not violate children's rights, what preventive measures against school violence were in place, how arbitrary expulsions were avoided and how it was ensured that expulsions did not result in school dropout. He would also be grateful for an explanation of the bill on subsidies for a new school reintegration programme and the reasons why progress on the bill had stalled. Information on measures

taken to secure reintegration opportunities for young people who had dropped out of school would also be welcome.

43. He wished to know what steps were being taken to ensure the adoption of the bill on comprehensive education on sexuality and emotional health and would appreciate an explanation of its contents. He wondered what obstacles had hindered the incorporation of sex education in the national curriculum, what role parents played in drafting sex education policies and how the State ensured that sex education was grounded in scientific evidence. He also wondered what specific measures the State Party was taking to design and implement prevention programmes and awareness-raising campaigns to combat online violence, particularly against girls and women.

44. He would welcome clarification of the number of memorial sites related to the dictatorship that were maintained by the State, the budget earmarked for the construction and maintenance of such sites and the authority responsible for their upkeep. He also wondered whether the national curriculum included teaching on the military dictatorship and its human rights consequences.

45. Further information on the aspects of the constitutional reform bill relating to Indigenous Peoples would be welcome, and he wondered how the current legal framework enabled them and persons of African descent to preserve, develop and transmit their identity, history, culture, language, traditions and customs. He would welcome an explanation of the role of Indigenous language and culture teachers and traditional educators and wished to know what action had been taken on the recommendations of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding on revitalizing Mapuche culture and what legal guarantees existed for the right to education in Indigenous languages, including languages other than Mapuche.

46. **A representative of Chile** said that in 2024 education expenditure had amounted to 4.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and was projected to rise to 5.1 per cent of GDP in 2025. According to the national educational quality measurement system, learning outcomes had improved between 2022 and 2024. Average scores had risen in the fourth grade of basic education by 14 points in mathematics and 11 points in reading and in the second grade of secondary school by 7 points in mathematics and 6 points in reading. Gains had been recorded across all levels and socioeconomic groups. In 2024, the mathematics score in the fourth grade of basic education had reached its highest ever level, and progress was markedly high among the lowest socioeconomic groups.

47. Under the Teaching Profession Act, between 2015 and 2023, statutory salaries for teachers with 15 years' experience or more had increased by 27.6 per cent, rising faster than the average across the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Twenty-nine per cent of pupils attended municipal schools, 54 per cent subsidized private schools, 9 per cent fee-paying private schools and 1 per cent delegated administration schools. Six per cent of pupils attended education facilities managed by the local public education services established under Act No. 21.040 on the Public Education System. Those services would gradually assume administration of schools still managed by municipalities.

48. **A representative of Chile** said that current legislation addressed school violence from a punitive and reactive perspective, which was insufficient to meet the challenge of improving relations and reducing violence. The Ministry of Education had therefore implemented a coordinated set of measures combining normative frameworks, pedagogical strategies and institutional management mechanisms. The National Policy on Harmonious Relations in Education 2024–2030, updated after the COVID-19 pandemic, contained guidelines based on inclusion and collective care. The Policy was implemented through five interconnected dimensions. The first consisted of updating the legal framework through a bill on harmonious relations, respectful treatment and well-being, which emphasized the pedagogical nature of harmonious relations and was currently before the National Congress. The second involved integrating learning about harmonious relations and socioemotional skills throughout the curriculum, supported by diversified teaching and formative assessment. The third related to institutional management and provided for training harmonious relations coordinators in schools to implement regulations, action plans and protocols adapted to each community. The fourth concerned monitoring and evaluation and

established systems for assessing and improving the school environment in ways relevant to local circumstances. The fifth component was training and support through tools and capacity-building for teachers to apply approaches that were responsive to students' multiple needs.

49. **A representative of Chile** said that national heritage legislation would be modernized through a bill explicitly recognizing memorial sites as a protected category. Binding participatory mechanisms had been established, including mechanisms for popular consultation and consultation with Indigenous Peoples and Chilean tribal peoples of African descent, in line with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), allowing for the integration of their views, practices and cultural rights into the normative framework. The bill envisaged the establishment of regional heritage councils, in which representatives of memorial sites would have a say on local decisions, and a stable, direct financing system to reduce dependence on competitive funds. In parallel, a separate bill on memorial sites was being prepared under the leadership of the Office of the Undersecretary for Human Rights, aimed at consolidating their legal recognition and ensuring their sustainability in the face of budgetary threats and denialist discourse.

50. Consultation with Indigenous Peoples had been a fundamental pillar in the drafting of the Cultural Heritage Act. Between 2023 and 2024, broad and representative consultations had been carried out, enabling the incorporation of Indigenous and Afrodescendent viewpoints, practices and knowledge systems into the Act. That approach had strengthened the recognition of intangible, Indigenous and Afrodescendent heritage, in line with the principles of cultural diversity and equity. It not only met international human rights and heritage standards but also advanced a more inclusive heritage framework, recognizing its material, intangible and community dimensions. Sustained dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and the Chilean tribal people of African descent had led to substantive agreements, reinforcing the democratic legitimacy of the process and laying the foundations for more representative and sustainable cultural governance.

51. The Government had adopted a 10-year plan for the revitalization of Indigenous languages, to be implemented by the Indigenous Languages Working Group, which brought together representatives of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage and other public institutions. Key measures included the Cultural Revival of Indigenous Peoples and Persons of African Descent Programme, launched in 2016 to support community projects that strengthened cultural and linguistic identity; the "Languages are the Future" campaign, which promoted the use of Mapudungun, Aymara, Quechua, Rapa Nui, Kaweskar, Yahgan and Kunza in the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; and bilingual intercultural education initiatives led by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage also supported language immersion initiatives and the training of traditional educators, thereby fostering the revitalization of everyday use of Indigenous languages.

52. **A representative of Chile** said that, following the COVID-19 pandemic, a council on educational recovery had been convened by the Ministry of Education, bringing together government officials and representatives of the educational and academic sectors, civil society and international organizations to provide the Government with recommendations for re-engaging children and adolescents in education. The outcome of that process had been the Education Recovery Plan 2023–2025, which provided for the expansion of the Programme on Harmonious Relations and Mental Health, with the aim of strengthening municipal harmonious relations networks and placing mental health professionals in all schools nationwide.

53. Other measures had focused on delays in the development of reading, writing and communication skills. In addition to investment in the creation of a support kit for reading delays, a national campaign had been launched to recruit more than 20,000 tutors, who had worked with 80,000 students, giving priority to those in the second to fourth grades of basic education. That effort had been complemented by infrastructure and connectivity projects, with a total investment of Ch\$ 100 billion.

54. Local teams of 1,300 education professionals had been formed in various municipalities to address the issues of attendance and re-engagement. They had worked with local authorities, public services and social organizations to reach students who had dropped out of school or were often absent and to raise awareness among families and communities of the effects of absenteeism and exclusion. The Plan had already yielded concrete results: test scores had improved, and in 2024 retention had increased, with 3,000 more students remaining in the system compared with 2023. In 2024, the dropout rate among students from the most vulnerable households had been the lowest on record, while that group had also shown the highest rate of re-engagement.

55. The average attendance rate from March to December 2024 had reached 86.5 per cent, an increase of 1.7 percentage points compared with 2023 and 3 percentage points compared with 2022. The national rate of outstanding attendance had been 22.7 per cent in 2024, an increase of 4.9 percentage points compared with 2023 and 8.2 percentage points compared with 2022. At the same time, rates of serious absenteeism had significantly decreased. Schools under the authority of local education services had better indicators in terms of retention and attendance. While gaps persisted, further measures were being prepared, including a bill to create a school reintegration subsidy. The School Achievement Grant, which targeted families in the social protection subsystem for poverty reduction, would be redefined to prioritize attendance and enrolment, going beyond its current focus on academic results.

56. **A representative of Chile** said that the State had recently adopted a comprehensive law on the prevention, punishment and eradication of gender-based violence. The law established penalties for persons who exhibited, disseminated or published intimate content without consent, including on digital platforms. It also addressed symbolic violence, defined as the communication or dissemination of messages, texts, sounds or images in any medium or on any platform with the aim of spreading stereotypes that undermined dignity, justified or normalized subordination, discrimination or inequality against women, or otherwise caused them harm. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2024, the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality had launched a campaign against violent viral content, aimed at young people.

57. **A representative of Chile** said that the training of Indigenous language and culture educators targeted persons over 30 years of age and was focused on educational continuity, intercultural translation and early childhood education. In 2024, training had been organized for some 7,000 participants, enabling them to strengthen their cultural and linguistic skills through a range of initiatives. The Intercultural and Indigenous Education Programme of the National Indigenous Development Agency had developed intercultural educational initiatives for young children, including linguistic immersion activities in schools. Those efforts were consistent with the recommendations of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding, which had underscored the importance of language revitalization for intercultural dialogue. Knowledge of Indigenous languages was declining and increasingly concentrated among older generations, placing those languages at risk of disappearance. For that reason, the adoption of the bill on the preservation of Indigenous languages was a priority.

58. The constitutional reform bill incorporated recognition of Indigenous Peoples at the constitutional level and enshrined the principle of interculturality, thus aligning national standards with international ones. It would explicitly recognize not only the individual rights of Indigenous Peoples, but also their collective rights. Although only recently submitted to the National Congress, the bill appeared likely to receive broad support, in line with the cross-party backing for the recommendations of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding. The State's commitment to historical memory was reflected in the National Plan for Truth and Justice, which was a long-term plan aimed at clarifying the circumstances and fate of victims of enforced disappearance. The Plan also sought to analyse the macrocriminal patterns of the dictatorship and included significant measures of remembrance and guarantees of non-repetition.

59. By law, all secondary schools must implement the sexuality, emotional health and gender programme, which provided comprehensive education on those subjects, promoting the full development of students and the creation of safe educational communities, and

addressed issues such as the prevention and handling of gender-based violence, including in digital spaces. The Ministry of Education had also developed a resource kit for non-sexist education to support schools in promoting gender equality and eradicating violence.

60. **Mr. Fiorio Vaesken** said that he would like to know what measures were being taken to promote education for persons with disabilities and specifically for deaf persons. In particular, he wished to know whether there were capacity-building initiatives for institutions and their staff on accessibility and the cultural and linguistic rights of deaf persons, whether the Government had taken measures to provide funds for the maintenance and operation of schools for deaf students, and whether there was a framework for cooperation with the centre for deaf students in Valparaíso, including emergency funds to prevent its closure.

61. He would like to know whether the Mapuche Huilliche People had been consulted on the hydroelectric project developed by Statkraft on the Pilmaiquén River, the geothermal exploration project in Curacautín conducted by Adobera SpA and the construction of hydroelectric power stations on the Curacautín River, among others. He would be interested to learn whether the cultural and spiritual value of the lands and their importance for the survival and collective cultural development of Indigenous Peoples had been taken into account. He would appreciate information on how the State guaranteed the rights of Indigenous Peoples to use their ancestral lands and how it supervised and regulated private companies currently operating in those territories to prevent environmental pollution and the destruction of sacred natural sites. Lastly, he would welcome details of the criminal charges used to justify the arrest of Indigenous persons defending their land rights and of the current whereabouts of those individuals.

62. **Ms. Lemus de Vásquez** said that she would appreciate clarification of the reasons for the difficulties faced by migrant and refugee children in securing timely access to education, despite the fact that current legislation recognized that right for all, irrespective of immigration status. She wondered what specific measures were being taken to expand the capacity of the education system and ensure the full and effective inclusion of all children, including migrants and refugees.

63. **Ms. Lee** said that she would like to know what measures were being taken to promote the equal participation of girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to eliminate gender stereotypes in education that deterred girls from engaging in those subjects.

64. **A representative of Chile** said that, although the Ministry of Education had adopted an inclusive education programme to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools, special schools continued to receive subsidies. There were currently 2,561 students with hearing impairments in the education system, 88 per cent of whom were enrolled in inclusive education programmes across 1,366 schools. There were also 10 special schools specifically for deaf students, which continued to receive subsidies from the Ministry of Education.

65. Act No. 21.325 on Migration and Foreign Nationals established that foreign nationals, including those in an irregular migration situation, enjoyed the same rights as Chilean citizens in matters of employment. Both foreign residents and foreigners in an irregular migration situation had access to healthcare in accordance with the requirements of the health authority and were subject to the measures set out in the Health Code. Under the Act, only residents who had lived in Chile for a minimum of 24 months and were in a regular migration situation were entitled to non-contributory social security benefits in the form of direct cash transfers. However, that restriction did not apply to children and adolescents, which was why they had recently been included in the Social Registry of Households and, where applicable, received benefits such as the family subsidy.

66. Robust legislation was in place to guarantee the right to education of migrant and refugee children, in line with international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. That right was also covered in, for example, the updated national policy on foreign students and the guidelines on preschool education with a focus on intercultural inclusion, both issued by the Ministry of Education. To ensure the realization of the right to education in practice, temporary school identification numbers had been introduced, which enabled children who were in an irregular

migration situation to have access to the school admissions system. The Government was concerned about the recent rise in rhetoric questioning the right of migrants in an irregular migration situation to have access to basic social rights such as education and healthcare.

67. **A representative of Chile** said that the National Policy on Gender Equality in Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation had been updated and was being implemented. Its objectives included preventing and eradicating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and gender-diverse persons, bringing about cultural change and mainstreaming gender equality in science, technology and innovation. As a result, the number of women enrolled in undergraduate STEM programmes had increased by 8.7 per cent between 2022 and 2024. The Ministry for Women and Gender Equity had introduced a programme to reserve a certain number of places for women on STEM courses. Female applicants were also given additional points when applying to university STEM courses where places were allocated based on a points system. A women's leadership in science programme supported women working in science, technology, knowledge and innovation to progress in their careers and take on leadership positions.

68. **A representative of Chile** said that regulations on projects that might have an impact on Indigenous Peoples covered both the requirement to undergo a mandatory environmental impact assessment and the application of the provisions of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) on prior consultation. There was effective judicial protection of that legal framework, and there had been many cases in which the executive had taken decisions on such projects based on judicial rulings.

69. **A representative of Chile** said that the Supreme Court had sought to provide clarity on the interpretation of the regulations on the consultation of Indigenous Peoples. In its jurisprudence, it had attempted to provide guidance on the concept of the direct effect of a particular measure on the people concerned, which was one of the criteria used to determine whether an environmental impact assessment and consultation were required. The Court had recognized that in carrying out consultations with Indigenous Peoples, it was necessary to take into account the potential impact on their economic, social, and cultural development. In a landmark ruling in a 2022 case involving a salt mine in the Copiapó region, it had concluded that it was necessary to conduct a consultation process with all the Indigenous communities that might potentially be affected. That case had highlighted that it must be the Indigenous communities themselves that provided the administrative authorities with the relevant background information so that a determination could be made as to whether there was a real risk that they would be affected.

70. **A representative of Chile** said that, in 2007, Chile had concluded a friendly settlement agreement before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in which it had committed to reforming the marital community property statute to guarantee full equality of rights between men and women. In 2021, equal marriage legislation had been adopted, but the rules related to marital property had not been amended, which meant that same-sex couples could not opt for the community property regime. Although the legislature had not resolved that regulatory gap, it had made a commitment to move in that direction to ensure that all marriages, irrespective of the gender of the spouses, had equal and non-discriminatory access to the three different matrimonial property regimes. A working group had been set up with representatives of the Ministry for Women and Gender Equity, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Minister and Secretary-General of the Office of the President, and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to work on the promised legal reform of marital property rights. A bill had been drafted in 2023, achieving broad consensus, and had been submitted to the Senate Committee on the Constitution, Legislation, Justice and Regulations in January 2024. The executive branch was committed to making progress in that area and had continuously used the legislative urgency mechanisms available to it. However, due to the large number of bills before the Committee, the draft legislation had not yet been processed, but it was hoped that it would be later in 2025.

71. **A representative of Chile** said that General Technical Regulation No. 71 (Surgical Sterilization in Persons with Mental Illness) of 2004 had been superseded by two subsequent laws: Act No. 20.584 of 2012 on patients' rights and obligations, specifically article 14 thereof, and Act No. 21.331 of 2021 on the recognition and protection of the rights of persons in mental healthcare, specifically article 9 (7).

72. **A representative of Chile** said that the Framework Act on Climate Change established the obligation to develop sectoral adaptation plans that outlined the measures needed to adapt to climate change in the most vulnerable sectors. The main challenges included developing indicators to improve the environmental risk map, increasing funding for adaptation measures and identifying synergies with adaptation measures for other environmental crises, such as biodiversity loss. Strong environmental institutions, such as the Supervisory Authority for the Environment, were in place to deal with environmental conflicts and the concerns raised by civil society in connection with the activities of mining companies. Evading environmental impact assessments was now classified as an infraction punishable by the Authority. Civil society and interested parties had access to complaint mechanisms and could file lawsuits if they believed their observations had not been taken into account. The mining projects mentioned by the Committee represented only a small proportion of all the projects registered in the system for environmental impact assessments. Unlike in other countries in the region, the mining industry in Chile was highly formalized. Therefore, the risk that mining projects would not undergo an environmental impact assessment was low.

73. **A representative of Chile** said that the evaluation report on the 2017–2025 National Mental Health Strategy was being finalized and would be published shortly. The next strategy would be designed on the basis of the results obtained and in line with the methodological recommendations of the World Health Organization.

74. Persons who transferred from the private health insurance system to the public insurance system – the National Health Fund – did not necessarily also transfer to the public care system. In fact, most continued to receive care in the private health sector. Under the law on private health insurance institutions, the National Health Fund had been authorized to offer a new form of complementary coverage to allow its members to have access to private healthcare providers.

75. **Ms. Lemus de Vásquez** said that the Committee was grateful to the delegation for the comprehensive information it had provided during the constructive dialogue, which had allowed it to gain a deeper understanding both of the progress made and of the measures planned to implement the Covenant. The Committee hoped that its recommendations would contribute to the State Party’s efforts to ensure the full realization of the rights enshrined in the Covenant, which was not only an international legal obligation but an essential condition for dignity and social justice.

76. **A representative of Chile** said that the delegation was grateful to the Committee for the constructive review of the State Party’s significant progress in relation to economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the gaps and challenges that remained. Efforts were needed to address the persistent inequalities between men and women in employment, to move towards a fairer tax model, to reduce regional disparities, to ensure access to basic services by building stronger institutions and to continue to implement recent educational reforms. Other priorities included advancing in the constitutional recognition of Indigenous Peoples and implementing the recommendations of the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding. The Committee’s concluding observations would provide fundamental input to help the Government advance with greater strength and conviction toward a more just, inclusive, and resilient society.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.