



Economic and Social Council

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Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Sixty-seventh session

Summary record (partial)* of the 30th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 6 March 2020, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Zerbini Ribeiro Leão

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

** No summary record was issued for the 29th meeting.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 4.10 p.m.

Substantive issues arising from the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *(continued)*

1. **The Chair**, reviewing the activities and meetings that had taken place during the session, said that the Committee had considered the reports of five States parties, namely Belgium, Benin, Guinea, Norway and Ukraine. The Committee had continued its work under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, examining one communication, in which it had found a violation of the Covenant and the Optional Protocol. It had also decided to discontinue the examination of six individual communications.
2. The Committee had discussed and adopted its draft general comment on article 15 of the Covenant, on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. It had decided to make available the simplified reporting procedure to all States parties on an opt-out basis and to introduce a predictable review cycle, on the basis of the position paper adopted at the thirty-first meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies. In so doing, it hoped to contribute to the 2020 review of the treaty body system, reduce the reporting burden on States and facilitate cooperation with a broad variety of stakeholders. The Committee's decisions would be reflected in its annual report for 2020.
3. The Committee's focal point for non-reporting States parties, had met with representatives of several States parties to discuss the challenges that they faced and ways of facilitating engagement with the Committee. The Committee's Bureau had met to discuss its regular work and had held a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Human Rights Committee to share experiences and discuss issues related to working methods and substantive issues of relevance to the work of both Committees. The Committee had also enjoyed an informal exchange with members of the other treaty bodies through the Treaty Body Members' Platform, hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.
4. The Committee had held an informal meeting with States, which had attracted a large number of participants. It had also held numerous meetings with representatives of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, either in person or by videoconference, and a thematic briefing on the right to housing in the context of environmental degradation, climate change and climate policy.
5. Noting that the Committee would contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020, he recalled the Committee's statement (E/C.12/2019/1) on the pledge to leave no one behind. At its sixty-sixth session, the pre-sessional working group would adopt lists of issues regarding the reports of the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uzbekistan, and lists of issues prior to reporting for Canada, Chile, France and Italy.

Consideration of reports *(continued)*

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant *(continued)*

6. The Chair said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt its concluding observations on the reports of Belgium (E/C.12/BEL/CO/5), Benin (E/C.12/BEN/CO/3), Guinea (E/C.12/GIN/CO/1), Norway (E/C.12/NOR/CO/6) and Ukraine (E/C.12/UKR/CO/7).
7. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the session

8. Following an exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared closed the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.