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ON CIVIL AND
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Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 328th MEETING

Held at the Wissenschaftszentrum, Bonn-Bad Godesberg,
on Tuesday, 27 October 1981, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. MAVROMMATIS

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40
OF THE COVENANT (agenda item 4) (continued)

Morocco (continued) (CCPR/C/10/Add.2)

1. Mr. JANCA commended the Government of Morocco for its well-documented report, which had been prepared in accordance with the Committee's general guidelines.
2. The report contained significant data on the progress achieved with respect to equality of rights for men and women in fields such as employment and education. However, details of that type had not been given for other rights provided for in the Covenant. For example, the progress achieved in protecting the right to life, guaranteed by article 6 of the Covenant, could have been illustrated by providing information on the decrease in the rate of infant mortality and on the number of death sentences carried out in Morocco in recent years. Similarly, in connection with article 10 of the Covenant, statistical data on juvenile delinquency, particularly with regard to recidivism, would have been welcome. Noting that a new draft Criminal Code and a new draft Labour Code had been prepared in order to bring legislation concerning human rights into line with changing conditions, he remarked that one of the most important tasks of the Committee was to help States parties to improve and supplement their legislation. Therefore, the members of the Committee needed complete and precise information to determine whether national legal rules and social realities in the States parties were in conformity with their obligations under the Covenant.
3. Referring to the relationship between international treaties ratified by Morocco and Morocco's internal legislation, he said that the introduction to the report suggested that provisions of international treaties took precedence over internal legislation only in certain cases and where explicitly provided for in domestic laws, such as the Moroccan Nationality Code. He was therefore not convinced by the statement on page 5 that "the provisions of the Covenant have become an integral part of the internal public order ... from which no derogation can be admitted". He even doubted whether the Covenant had acquired the status of ordinary law to which the general principle that lex posterior derogated lex prior applied. To take a practical example, was it possible for a Moroccan woman facing an arranged marriage under the 1957 Code of Personal Status to request and obtain an annulment of the court decision by invoking article 23, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, forbidding such marriages?
4. Like previous speakers, he would like to raise a question concerning article 4 of the Covenant. In connection with article 35 of the Moroccan Constitution, quoted on page 13 of the report, were there any constitutional or legal provisions explicitly prohibiting derogation from articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 18 of the Covenant during a state of emergency? If not, was the Covenant itself "approved in accordance with the procedures laid down for amendment of the Constitution" as provided in article 31 of the Constitution, so that the provisions of the Covenant had the legal force of constitutional amendments?

5. In connection with article 6 of the Covenant, it was of special interest for the Committee to be informed whether the Moroccan Criminal Code in force provided that sentence of death should not be imposed for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age. If that was not the case, he asked whether such a provision was included in the new draft of the Moroccan Criminal Code. Regarding the same article, he would like to know which acts, according to the existing Moroccan Criminal Code, were qualified as "crimes against the internal and external security of the State", for which the death penalty could be pronounced.
6. It would appear that articles 224 to 232 of the Moroccan Criminal Code, mentioned on page 15 of the report, were much narrower in scope than article 7 of the Covenant and applied only to acts of violence committed by public officials. Further clarification on that point would be welcome.
7. In connection with article 10 of the Covenant, he asked for more information on the meaning and practical application of article 18 of the Dahir of 26 June 1930, which indicated that children could be detained by virtue of the power of parental punishment. That provision did not seem to him to be in conformity with article 9, paragraph 1, and article 24 of the Covenant.
8. He asked for more precise information about the contents of chapter I, sections II and III, of the Moroccan Criminal Code, which, according to page 29 of the report, reflected the provisions of article 20 of the Covenant.
9. In connection with associations, article 3 of the Dahir of 15 November 1958 stated that an "illicit cause" and an "illicit objective contrary to the law and morality" could render an association null and void; he would like a concrete explanation of those terms. In conclusion, he asked for an explanation of the term "uninominal" on page 35 of the report.
10. Mr. DIEYE expressed appreciation of the Moroccan Government's efforts to give Muslim law its real significance and scope. Islam was often deformed and interpreted in a sectarian and fanatical way, but the report showed that Islam was in fact perfectly compatible with human rights. The report highlighted Morocco's democratic system, and in particular the multiplicity of political parties and the enjoyment of freedom of expression, which were absolutely necessary for the respect of human rights.
11. Reports of States parties from the third world had to be examined within the framework of that area; human rights in the third world could not be perceived in the same way as, for instance, in the United States of America or the Federal Republic of Germany. Democracy in Morocco, particularly with regard to equality between men and women, had been carried to a reasonable point, beyond which in his view progress would no longer be achieved. The question of equality of the sexes deserved emphasis, since many people believed that women were oppressed under the Islamic system; such opinions were evidence of a superficial understanding of Islam, which in fact guaranteed women the same fundamental rights as men. On the matter of the system of inheritance, which could appear at first view to be discriminatory, the explanation given in the report was satisfactory in his opinion. In any case, a person could modify that system by assigning to a female child a portion of the estate which would place her on an equal footing with the male child.

12. He noted with appreciation that the independence of judges was guaranteed in Morocco; that was particularly important for a developing nation, where those in power might be tempted to prevent the exercise of fundamental human rights. He further noted that Morocco had not only ratified several international instruments, but was making them an indisputable reality in Morocco.

13. Several questions had come to mind in reading the report. First of all, in a country which had an official religion, Islam, did people of other religions, such as the Jewish and Christian minorities, have freedom of expression? Secondly, the report stated on page 10 that "the right of appeal exists in all cases which are not expressly excluded by the law". Since the right of appeal was the foundation of the two-tiered system of justice, he would like to know which cases were expressly excluded by the law.

14. On page 16 of the report, it was stated that "any person who has been arrested by virtue of a warrant to appear, and has been detained for more than 24 hours in a place of detention without being questioned, shall be deemed to have been arbitrarily arrested". That description applied more properly to a warrant for arrest, since a warrant to appear required a person to be brought before the examining magistrate immediately. He would like to know whether that was an error or a particular feature of Moroccan legislation.

15. With regard to aliens against whom an expulsion measure had been taken, he asked which authority was competent to make such decisions, and whether an alien who had applied for review of his case to the Directorate-General of the Sûreté Nationale was granted a stay of execution while his case was being decided.

16. With regard to article 14, paragraph 3 (b), of the Covenant, he said that the period during which an accused person was held in custody should be a short one and asked whether accused persons in Morocco had the opportunity to communicate freely with their counsel. In connection with article 131 of the Moroccan Code of Criminal Procedure, the report stated on page 22, that "The preliminary investigation is mandatory only in criminal cases; in the case of a minor offence, the investigation may take place only under a special provision of the law." He remarked that the preliminary investigation could be extremely useful and was even obligatory for certain cases in some countries. He would like to know whether, in the case of a minor or of a political offence, for example, the accused could be brought directly before the competent court in the absence of a preliminary investigation. In addition, he asked which organ supervised the criminal police.

17. The information concerning article 16 of the Covenant indicated that there were three systems relating to personal status in Morocco; the Moudawanna, which applied to Muslims; Hebrew religious law, which applied to Moroccan Jews; and the Moroccan Personal Status Code, which applied to Moroccans who were neither Muslims nor Jews. He would like to know whether, in Morocco, an attempt was being made to evolve a standardized personal status régime by unifying those three systems through a corpus of modern law.

18. In conclusion, he said that the laws of Morocco were formulated in an exemplary way which faithfully reflected the sources of Muslim law. He believed that a fruitful dialogue of mutual benefit to the Committee and the Government of Morocco had begun.

19. Sir Vincent EVANS said that Morocco's very substantial report was commendable, and that the information given in it clearly demonstrated the progress with regard to human rights which had been made in that country since its accession to independence.

20. On page 5 of the report the Committee was informed that, since the entry into force of the Covenant for Morocco on 3 August 1979, the provisions of the Covenant had become an integral part of the internal public order, from which no derogation could be admitted. The Committee's examination of some 40 reports by States parties had shown that there were basically two ways of giving effect to the Covenant in domestic legislation: in some States it was actually incorporated in domestic law and became directly applicable, while in others domestic law was brought into conformity with the Covenant. It would be useful to know which of those two systems Morocco had followed. It seemed from the information given on page 5 of the report that the provisions of the Covenant had been made an integral part of Moroccan law and could be invoked before the courts by anyone who claimed that his rights under the Covenant had been violated. However, there was no provision in the Constitution to give effect to the Covenant. It might be that some special law had been enacted to do so. In any case, some further explanation would be appreciated.

21. The Committee's function was to help the individual to safeguard his rights. It was therefore essential that the individual should be aware of what his rights under the Covenant were. Thus, it would be interesting to know whether the Covenant had been given publicity in Morocco in both the Arabic and Berber languages. Another important consideration was that the police, prison and administrative authorities should be aware of their obligations under the Covenant. Was such information included in their training programmes?

22. He associated himself with the questions already asked by Mr. Bouziri regarding article 21 of the Criminal Code. In any case, it seemed rather harsh in the present day and age that mothers could be executed 40 days after they had given birth. Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Covenant clearly pointed towards the abolition of the death penalty; he would like to know whether the Moroccan Government had given any consideration to that possibility and what was the state of public opinion in that respect.

23. Unfortunately, cases of ill-treatment of prisoners occurred in most, if not all, countries and it was essential that there should be machinery to enforce the relevant laws and regulations. He would like to know how effective were the supervisory committees, established to monitor conditions in prisons and detention centres, which were referred to on page 19 of the report. It appeared that, although they included honorary members nominated by the Ministry of Justice, they consisted largely of officials. It was very important for supervisory bodies of that kind to be independent of the police and prison authorities. In many countries a system of completely independent prison visitors existed. Had the Moroccan Government considered the possibility of instituting such a system, and could the Committee be assured that cases of ill-treatment were properly investigated?

24. The information given in respect of article 9 of the Covenant indicated that a person might be arrested by virtue of a warrant. Some information on the circumstances in which an arrest could be effected without a warrant would be appreciated. Persons were normally arrested with a view to bringing them to trial on criminal charges. Were there any persons detained for political reasons without trial? If so, on what authority and for how long were they detained, and how was their detention justified in terms of articles 10 and 19 of the Covenant?

25. With regard to article 14 of the Covenant, he would like some more information on the power accorded to the Supreme Court to take over a case, irrespective of its nature or degree, on grounds of reasonable suspicion or public interest, as well as some examples of how that power was exercised. Some further information on the family and child protection associations mentioned in connection with articles 23 and 24 of the Covenant would also be welcome.

26. In many countries a movement towards the complete emancipation of women and their complete equality with men was taking place. One result was that many more women were working outside the home for social and economic reasons. That situation could have consequences which were not always beneficial to children. It would be interesting to know how that problem was being tackled in Morocco.

27. Mr. TOMUSCHAT congratulated the Moroccan Government on its detailed and well-ordered report. Although more information on any factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Covenant would have been welcome, the report was one of the best the Committee had received to date.

28. He would, however, like to know what publicity the Covenant had been given in Morocco, and the languages in which it was available, with special reference to Berber. It would also be helpful to know whether the report now before the Committee had been published in Morocco. Some further information on the status of the Covenant in Moroccan law, on the state of emergency, and on the past and present implementation of the relevant constitutional provisions would also be welcome.

29. The information given in the report on the remedies available in pursuance of article 2, paragraph 3, of the Covenant was very summary and needed to be expanded. For example, it would be helpful to know what remedy was available to a person who was refused a passport and whether there were administrative tribunals to deal with complaints by individuals against the State.

30. Another important question was whether Moroccan law contained provisions for the dissolution of political parties and trade unions and, if so, in what circumstances they could be dissolved and what remedies were available to them to contest the lawfulness of their dissolution.

31. The Moroccan Constitution, in articles 5-18, apparently made a deliberate distinction between nationals and foreigners as far as the enjoyment of a number of rights was concerned. Some of the restrictions on foreigners seemed questionable. For example, article 13 of the Constitution guaranteed to all citizens, but not to foreigners, the right to education. Some further information on articles 5-18 of the Constitution in the light of articles 9 and 19 of the Covenant, where the terms "everyone" and "anyone" included foreigners as well as nationals, would be welcome.

32. Article 9 of the Constitution indicated that the various freedoms enunciated elsewhere in the text could be limited only by law, whereas article 19, paragraph 3, of the Covenant was more specific and made restrictions on the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of that article subject to circumstances in which they were necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others and for the protection of national security or of public order or of public health or morals. It was very important that the substance of liberty should be preserved at all times and that restrictions should always be the exception rather than the rule. An explanation of the situation obtaining in Morocco in that respect would be appreciated.

33. Further information on the Dahir of 1935 mentioned by Mr. Opsahl at the previous meeting, as well as on court decisions handed down pursuant to it, would also be welcome, since it appeared that the act had been interpreted too broadly and might not be in conformity with the provisions regarding arbitrary arrest and detention contained in article 9 of the Covenant. He would be particularly interested to know whether any members of parliament were currently under arrest.

34. The information relating to article 9, paragraph 5, of the Covenant was unclear. With regard to the statement that "Compensation may be obtained under the terms of the Dahir of 12 August 1913 ... particularly in cases where the liability is criminal or quasi-criminal", he said that normally it was not a question of the personal responsibility of the official who had carried out the arrest or exceeded his authority. Article 9, paragraph 5, was intended to establish the objective responsibility of the State in cases where a person was the subject of an illegal act or persecution.

35. With respect to article 13 of the Covenant, the Committee was informed that persons against whom expulsion was pronounced might lodge an appeal. However, there was a difference between an appeal and the remedy provided in article 13, which called for a formal, standardized procedure which would enable an alien to put forward the reasons against his expulsion.

36. With regard to article 14 of the Covenant, he would like to know whether there were any special rules for exceptional procedures, for example where proceedings were instituted against a large number of persons, and whether the judges considered each person as a separate case. In his opinion, separate trials should be held in such a situation.

37. As to article 14, paragraph 3 (a), of the Covenant, the information provided made no mention of the question of language. It was clear, however, that language difficulties might arise and he would like to know what measures were envisaged to cover such a possibility. The same comment applied to the section of the report concerning article 14, paragraph 3 (f); the information supplied was not complete, since it made no reference to the free provision of the services of an interpreter.

38. On the basis of the information given with regard to article 14, paragraph 6, on the right to compensation, there seemed to be some inconsistency between Moroccan legislation and the provisions of the Covenant. Article 620 of the Code of Criminal Procedure stated that "The new verdict establishing the innocence of the convicted person may, at his request, award him damages to compensate for

the injuries done to him by the conviction", whereas the Covenant stated that "the person who has suffered punishment as a result of such conviction shall be compensated according to law". He recognized that, in practice, there might be no conflict because compensation would be awarded whenever there was no element of doubt. In any event, he would welcome clarification in that regard.

39. With respect to article 18 of the Covenant, he asked what was the meaning of the constitutional provision which stated that "Islam is the religion of the State". The Committee had considered reports from other countries in which Protestantism was the State religion and it had reached the conclusion that such a situation was compatible with the Covenant to the extent that there was no discrimination against persons practising other religions. He would like to know whether, in the case of Morocco, other religions were merely tolerated or whether they were placed on an equal footing by law.

40. He thought that additional information was also necessary in order to evaluate the situation regarding implementation of article 19 of the Covenant. The gist of the article was that the individual should have the right to engage in a public discussion on public matters, including criticism of Government bodies, for such a right was most helpful for the general welfare of the community. He would like to know whether the crime of lèse-majesté existed and whether the Dahir of 1935 had ever been applied to silence persons who did not agree with the Government.

41. With regard to article 22 of the Covenant, he asked what system applied to trade unions and what was the current status of the Democratic Labour Confederation, which did not seem to agree with the Government. Some clarification was necessary in that regard, since the events of June had centred around a general strike. While the right to strike was affirmed in a parallel Covenant, it was not unlimited and he would like to know what restrictions were placed on its exercise in Morocco.

42. Mr. PRADO VALLEJO expressed his gratitude to the Government of Morocco for its excellent report.

43. He would like to know whether a Moroccan citizen who believed that he had been improperly treated by a public authority could invoke the provisions of the Covenant before a competent court. He would also like to know whether publicity was being given to the Covenant in Morocco.

44. He welcomed the statement in the report that the incorporation of international legal provisions into Moroccan legislation showed that, in certain areas, Moroccan legislation gave precedence to international law over internal law. He would like to know, however, what were the areas in which international law did not have precedence. On a related point, he noted the statement in the report that "Save as provided for in duly published international conventions, activities included in the list to be established by decree shall be exercised only by Moroccan physical or juridical persons". He would like to know what were the activities that could be exercised only by Moroccans.

45. In the information given on page 11 concerning the inheritance received by women, it was stated that a woman could inherit only half the share of her brother, since it was the man who was obliged to provide a marriage dowry and who bore all the costs of maintaining the household. That explanation was not satisfactory, however, in the case of an unmarried woman. He would like to know how such a distinction could be reconciled with the statement on the previous page of the report that the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights was fully reflected in the Moroccan Constitution.

46. Referring to the penultimate paragraph on page 13, he requested clarification of the statement that a number of crimes and offences were removed from the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts and transferred to that of military tribunals.

47. With regard to article 398 of the Moroccan Criminal Code, which related to the death penalty, he would like to know whether views had been expressed in official circles in Morocco in favour of the abolition of capital punishment.

48. As to the information on page 16 of the report to the effect that, in an emergency, a warrant for arrest might be published by every available means, he would like to know what were the means in question, in what cases they were used and whether they included the radio and the press.

49. With respect to article 13 of the Covenant, he asked what remedies were available to aliens under Moroccan legislation to prevent expulsion.

50. Referring to the information on article 16 of the Covenant, he said he found it difficult to understand from the legal standpoint why Moroccans who were neither Muslims nor Jews were subject to the Moroccan Personal Status Code. He would welcome clarification concerning that situation, which appeared to be unfair.

51. He also requested clarification regarding the information contained in the ninth paragraph on page 26 of the report, because the paragraph gave the impression that discrimination was practised against non-Moroccans who were not allowed to acquire farm land or land intended for farming outside city boundaries. He would also like to know why prior authorization was required for the practice of the liberal professions and who granted such authorization. It would also be useful if members could be informed of any remedies that were available to persons who felt that they were unfairly affected by such a restriction.

52. With respect to the statement in connection with article 18 of the Covenant that "freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety...", he failed to see why an individual's beliefs, which was essentially a personal matter, should be subject to restrictions because of public safety.

53. In relation to article 22 of the Covenant, the statement that any association "designed to impair the integrity of the territory of the nation or the monarchical form of the State shall be null and void", prompted him to ask whether a citizen who expressed the view that Morocco should become a republic would be considered to have committed an offence. He believed that to regard the expression of such an opinion as a crime would be contrary to the provisions of the Covenant.

54. Mr. HERDOCIA ORTEGA commended the Government of Morocco on its excellent report.

55. He would welcome further information concerning the situation in Morocco with respect to trade union freedoms. The list of ratifications which appeared on page 2 of the report made no mention of ILO Conventions Nos. 11, 98 and 105, yet those conventions, which were generally regarded as being among the most important adopted by ILO, appeared in the ILO's records as having been ratified by Morocco. Moreover, in the section of the report relating to articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant, it was stated that the right of assembly was safeguarded by the Dahir of 15 November 1958 and that freedom of association was protected by article 9 of the Constitution. However, he understood that an Expert Committee concerned with the implementation of ILO conventions had been called upon to deal with allegations regarding violations of trade union rights in Morocco pursuant to ILO Conventions Nos. 29 and 105. In addition, ILO Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association had apparently not been ratified by Morocco.

56. In connection with article 6 of the Covenant, concerning the right to life, he asked whether there was any private movement or campaign in Morocco for the abolition of the death penalty and what was the attitude of the authorities towards the death penalty.

57. In connection with article 7 of the Covenant, he noted that article 10 of the Moroccan Constitution provided that "No one shall be liable to arrest, detention or punishment, save in the cases and in the manner prescribed by law". He asked whether that meant that the law provided for the punishment of detainees in certain instances and what were the cases in which punishment could be lawfully applied.

58. He then referred to a number of allegations concerning violations of human rights in Morocco. In doing so, he in no way meant to incriminate the Government of Morocco but simply to clarify the situation and to lay those charges to rest if they were false. Firstly, although article 129 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provided that the examining magistrate could prohibit communication by a detainee for a period of only 10 days, renewable for one further period of 10 days, there were numerous allegations to the effect that the incommunicado régime had in some cases been applied for several months and, on occasion, for over one year. Secondly, notwithstanding the requirement in article 7 of the Covenant that no one should be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, there had been reports of prisoners being given electric shock treatment, burnt with cigarettes and so forth. He asked for information concerning any specific cases in which penalties had been imposed for ill-treatment of prisoners as a result of proceedings brought by the Minister of Justice or the King's prosecutor or in which complaints regarding such ill-treatment had been made by private individuals. In connection with forced or involuntary disappearances, a particularly sinister form of violation of human rights, he understood that some 30 cases had been brought before the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice of Morocco and that a further 63 complaints had been made concerning alleged involuntary disappearances in southern Morocco and in Western Sahara.

59. He was not sure whether the provisions of Moroccan law regarding imprisonment for debt, and particularly the provisions of the Dahir of 21 August 1935, were consistent with article 11 of the Covenant.

60. In conclusion, he asked whether Morocco had any private organizations, recognized by the State, which were concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.

61. Mr. HANGA said that Morocco had submitted a very full report which conformed to the Committee's guidelines.

62. He asked whether, in the event of an inconsistency between the Moroccan Constitution and the Covenant, there was a legal obligation to amend the text of the Constitution to bring it into line with the Covenant.

63. Reference was made on page 9 of the report to a number of remedies available to persons whose rights had been violated. In that connection, he asked whether an individual could invoke those or other remedies when the violation of his rights resulted not from an act but from an omission.

64. Concerning article 3 of the Covenant, he requested information on the role of women in political life and in the struggle for peace, a question which had been dealt with in a General Assembly resolution of 1975. He would also welcome information on the Dahir of 1 September 1939, which did not appear to be fully consistent with the provisions of article 4 of the Covenant.

65. With respect to article 6 of the Covenant, he asked whether there were any legal provisions in Morocco relating to public health and occupational safety.

66. In connection with article 9 of the Covenant, he would like to know whether there were any procedures for speeding up trials in Morocco and what was the basis of criminal liability in Moroccan law.

67. He doubted whether Morocco's existing legislation met the requirements of article 11 of the Covenant.

68. In connection with articles 13 and 14 of the Covenant, he asked whether Moroccan law recognized the right of asylum and whether there were special courts to deal with labour disputes and special courts for juvenile delinquents. Concerning article 16, he asked whether the recognition of every individual as a person before the law began at birth or at conception. As to article 18 of the Covenant, he requested information concerning the role of parents or guardians in ensuring the religious and moral education of children.

69. Noting that article 9 of the Moroccan Constitution guaranteed freedom of expression in all its forms, he asked whether that freedom was subject to any of the restrictions provided for in article 19 of the Covenant and, if so, what those restrictions were.

70. He agreed with other members that the requirements of article 20 of the Covenant, and especially its first paragraph, were not fully met by Moroccan legislation.

71. In connection with articles 22, 23 and 24 of the Covenant, he asked whether trade unions in Morocco played a political as well as an economic role, whether the family was protected by fiscal and social legislation, whether parental authority was exercised by the father, the mother or both, and whether such authority could be restricted when it was exercised improperly. Some information on the status of illegitimate children would also be welcome.
72. Finally, in connection with article 25 of the Covenant, he asked whether the communal and provincial councils represented the power of the State, in which case their scope for action would obviously be very broad.
73. Mr. AL DOURI said he was particularly happy to note the wide range of legal provisions referred to in Morocco's report, since third world countries were constantly being accused of disregarding human rights. However, he asked whether the Government of Morocco had experienced any difficulties in applying those provisions fully.
74. More information should have been given on the situation regarding inheritance. In Islamic countries, the fact that men were entitled to inherit a greater share than women derived from the legal obligation of men to provide life-long financial support to women, an obligation which extended even to the cousins of the woman concerned.
75. Referring to the Dahir of 6 September 1958 mentioned on page 26 of the report, he said that a similar system applied in Iraq. It was the spirit of Islam that the customs of other religions, including the Jewish and Christian religions, should be scrupulously respected, and the arrangements described were merely designed to ensure such respect.
76. In conclusion, he requested additional information on the political role of women in Morocco.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.