Human Rights Committee
115th session
Summary record of the 3210th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 22 October 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Salvioli

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Fourth periodic report of the Republic of Korea

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.
The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant (continued)

Fourth periodic report of the Republic of Korea (CCPR/C/KOR/4; CCPR/C/KOR/Q/4 and Add.1)

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of the Republic of Korea took places at the Committee table.

2. Mr. Kim Joo Hyun (Republic of Korea), introducing his country’s fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/KOR/4), said that his Government had implemented a wide variety of policies in response to the Committee’s previous recommendations, issued in 2006. Much had changed since then in the human rights situation. Thanks to outstanding communications technologies, citizens now had unlimited access to information through the Internet and conventional media outlets. Thorough monitoring was conducted to prevent any human rights violations that might arise from the use of those technologies, however. The Government had proactively disclosed much information and was encouraging citizens’ participation in policymaking, while implementing balanced human rights policies that reflected diverse public opinions. All human rights violations without exception were subject to judicial review; the Constitutional Court had issued a number of rulings in favour of human rights protection. With specific reference to improvements in civil and political rights, he referred the Committee to supplemental information covering the period from 2011 to 2015 (document without a symbol distributed in the meeting room).

3. In response to the recommendations made at the second universal periodic review of the Republic of Korea, the Government had initiated an Amended National Action Plan in 2013. The Social Welfare Service Act had been amended in 2012 to designate respect for human rights as the highest value to be upheld in all social welfare services. Human rights education had been strengthened in an effort to encourage the invocation of international human rights treaties during judicial proceedings. Training materials issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had been translated into Korean.

4. There were more than 90 pieces of legislation that prohibited discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, disability, age, sex and skin colour, and human rights protection for persons with disabilities and foreigners had been strengthened. Relevant laws that had been adopted included the Anti-Discrimination against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act of 2007. The Second Basic Plan for Foreigners, which had come into effect in 2013, aimed to prohibit discrimination and promote cultural diversity. The Refugee Act had been enacted in 2012, instituting social security, education and other benefits for recognized refugees.

5. His Government had strengthened its efforts to combat domestic violence, sexual violence and child abuse and neglect through increased statutory punishments as well as non-punitive measures. While capital punishment had not been used since 1997, it still remained as a form of statutory punishment, and opinion was sharply divided about whether or not it should be abolished. The procedure for ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplemental protocols was nearly complete: all that remained was the final deposition of the ratification instrument. As part of that procedure, the Criminal Act had been amended in April 2013 to include a general provision on human trafficking.

6. The rights of prisoners in the country had significantly improved. The Government had implemented customized treatment programmes for all prisoners. Minors received treatment suited to their age, and female prisoners were required to
have regular gynaecological check-ups. A system for online video visits with families
had been launched in April 2013. In order to prevent arbitrary detention in mental
institutions, government officers who inspected facilities were to file a request for a
writ of habeas corpus if they uncovered illegal conditions of detention.

7. In May 2011, the minimum amount of criminal compensation had been raised to
ensure appropriate monetary compensation for victims of false allegations. The Crime
Victim Protection Act had been amended to stipulate that crime victims must be
informed of their rights. An emergency monitoring system had been implemented for
victims, who wore emergency pagers that looked like wristwatches so as to protect
them from retaliatory crimes.

8. His Government had enacted the Personal Information Protection Act in 2011
and had established a Personal Information Protection Commission to ensure that
citizens were shielded from privacy invasion. In the light of the increased theft of
resident registration numbers, his Government had prohibited their use except in cases
of taxation or when necessitated by legislation.

9. The Republic of Korea had been in confrontation with the Democratic People’s
Republic of Korea for approximately 60 years, with the latter continuously threatening
its national security. The National Security Act was necessary to protect the existence,
security and basic liberal democratic order of the Republic of Korea. Article 7 of the
Act was to apply only when there was a clear risk of actual harm to the basic order of
liberal democracy. There were hardly any cases of abuse of the Act.

10. The Public Official Election Act had been amended in 2012 to abolish time
limits on Internet campaigning and the use of other information network systems
during election campaigns. An online identity verification system had initially been
established to prevent violations of the human rights of third parties by concealing
one’s own identity, but it had been declared unconstitutional and had been abolished.
Amendments to the election law had been made to allow convicts sentenced to less
than 1 year of imprisonment and persons with suspended sentences to exercise the
right to run for election without any limitations.

11. By upholding human rights as the core value underpinning society, his
Government was committed to continuously carrying out its role and responsibilities
in promoting world peace and human rights.

12. Sir Nigel Rodley, noting that the period covered in the report ended in 2010,
thanked the delegation for the supplementary information provided and pointed out
that it could submit further information in writing up to 48 hours after the end of the
dialogue with the Committee. The Committee was aware of the very real political
tensions on the Korean peninsula.

13. Senior civil servants in many countries engaged in policymaking processes and
supervised lower ranking officials. It was therefore unclear to him why the situation in
the State party was so unusual as to require a reservation to article 22 of the Covenant,
especially since it could potentially be considered invalid on the basis of its very
broad and vague nature. The fact that the Committee’s Views on individual
communications did not have direct legal effect in the country was not that unusual.
What the Committee wished to know, however, was whether any institutional or
legislative measures had been taken to ensure the full implementation of those Views.
He found it regrettable that the Views on communications concerning conscientious
objectors had not been implemented, and that the State party had given no indication
that it intended to do so.

14. While noting the information provided on measures taken by the National
Human Rights Commission of Korea to develop a process for the selection and
appointment of its members that would ensure its independence, he asked what the Government was doing to facilitate that work. He requested an update on the status of the draft partial amendment to the National Human Rights Commission Act and on the implementation of the new internal regulation that enabled the Commission to publicize vacancies three months in advance. It would be very useful to have the latest information on the complaints handled by the Commission since 2010 and on why such a small percentage of complaints had been accepted.

15. While the Covenant did not require States parties to adopt a specific definition of torture, it did require that all the elements of torture set out in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment should be reflected in their domestic law. As the law of the Republic of Korea appeared not to recognize psychological torture as a serious crime, he asked whether the State party planned to amend its law to rectify that omission; to prescribe penalties that were commensurate with the gravity of that offence; and to extend the statute of limitation applicable to that offence accordingly.

16. He requested additional information on how complaints of torture and ill-treatment in police detention were investigated and on the role, if any, played by the National Human Rights Commission in investigating such complaints. He enquired as to the reasons for the apparent discrepancy between the high number of complaints of police violence lodged and the extremely low number of disciplinary cases and prosecutions brought against the police for such acts over the period 2011-2014. The Committee had also received reports that solitary confinement was often imposed as a form of punishment in correctional facilities. He questioned whether the requirement for medical personnel to perform checks on the state of health of detainees in solitary confinement was compatible with their obligations under the relevant codes and guidelines adopted by international medical bodies. He asked whether there was a time limit for solitary confinement and how the independence of the body responsible for imposing it could be guaranteed if it was indeed the case that the members of that body were appointed by the prison warden.

17. The Committee had received information from various sources that, despite the legal prohibition on the use of “protective devices” as a form of punishment in correctional facilities, they were regularly used for that purpose. Who authorized their use? Was the decision to use them subject to review? Could such decisions be appealed? How was the prohibition on the use of such devices as a form of punishment enforced in practice?

18. **Mr. Iwasawa**, noting that companies domiciled in the Republic of Korea could be held liable for human rights violations committed in the course of their domestic and overseas activities, welcomed the measures taken by the State party to deal with the offences relating to forced labour committed by the Korea Minting, Security Printing and Identification Card Operating Corporation (KOMSCO) and Daewoo International in Uzbekistan, and to remedy the human rights abuses committed by the multinational steel manufacturer, POSCO, in India. However, those measures had been criticized by civil society as being inadequate: he requested the delegation to respond to that criticism and to reports that foreign crews of fishing vessels were often subjected to abuse. He enquired as to the State party’s general approach to providing effective remedies to victims of human rights violations committed by companies domiciled in the Republic of Korea. Noting that concerns had been raised over the effectiveness and independence of the national contact point appointed to oversee the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, he requested additional information on the contact point’s role and on the measures taken to guarantee his or her independence. In the absence of plans to adopt a separate law to ensure that companies domiciled in its territory and/or under its jurisdiction complied
with the human rights standards laid down in the Covenant, he asked whether the State party had considered adopting a set of guidelines or regulations or revising its existing civil or criminal law for that purpose. Had it considered taking legislative measures or concluding trade agreements to prevent the use of forced labour to manufacture products abroad? Would it be willing to introduce a human rights assessment into overseas investment schemes as a prerequisite for negotiations?

19. The Committee was concerned to hear that single mothers received considerably less support than adoptive parents and that the majority of teenage mothers dropped out of school. He asked how the State party planned to counteract those phenomena. He requested the delegation to comment on reports that homophobia was rife within the Government and that the newly adopted guidelines on sex education made no mention of homosexuality. He asked for additional information about the measures taken to prevent and combat discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. Did the State party plan to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations in the military by repealing the relevant article of the Military Criminal Act? Had it considered taking steps to ensure that individuals having undergone a sex change could have their new gender legally recognized without discrimination of any kind?

20. Noting that marriage migrants, who had enjoyed the right of dual citizenship since 2012, could lose that right upon the death of their spouse or if they obtained a divorce, he enquired as to reasons for restricting that group’s right to dual citizenship. While welcoming the fact that, under the Immigration Control Act, marriage migrants who had suffered domestic abuse at the hands of their spouse could be granted special leave to stay in the country until they obtained a remedy, he asked whether the requirements of the naturalization process could be mitigated for victims of domestic violence.

21. While the number of women sitting on local councils had increased in the 2000s following the introduction of a gender quota system, the proportion of women occupying managerial positions was still low in both the public and private sectors. He asked what measures the State party envisaged taking to increase the number of women in managerial and decision-making positions. While the State party maintained that women’s low level of participation in the labour market and high level of participation in irregular forms of employment were primarily attributable to their role as childbearers, the Committee had received information suggesting that a male-dominated office culture and the prevalence of gender stereotypes were more likely causes. He asked how the State party planned to remedy that situation.

22. Noting that marital rape was not criminalized in the State party’s legislation, he asked whether the State party planned to act upon the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its 2011 concluding observations (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/7) to the effect that it should take all legislative measures necessary to criminalize marital rape. Despite toughened penalties for sexual crimes against children, the number of rape cases involving persons under 20 years of age remained high. He requested the delegation to explain the growing tendency to sentence perpetrators of acts of violence and sexual abuse against children to probation.

23. Ms. Waterval asked whether the State party had taken steps to adopt legislation that addressed discrimination in all spheres, including in the private sphere; contained a comprehensive list of grounds for discrimination, including sexual orientation; and provided for effective administrative and judicial remedies.

24. Referring to the statistical data on complaints of discrimination contained in paragraph 50 of the State party’s report, she questioned why only one case of racial
discrimination had been recorded in 2008, when the Committee had been informed that racial discrimination had been rising steadily in recent years. She also asked whether the State party had taken steps to incorporate a definition of racial discrimination and penalties for incitement to racial discrimination and racially motivated violence into its domestic legislation.

25. She requested clarification on the last sentence of paragraph 8 of the replies to the list of issues, which stated that, in the context of legislative initiatives to criminalize racial hate speech, consideration was still being given to how to reconcile the constitutional principle of *nulla poena sine lege* with the right to freedom of expression. Freedom of expression was dealt with under article 19 of the Covenant, which set out the restrictions to which that right could be subject, and in the Committee’s general comment No. 34 (CCPR/C/GC/34).

26. **Mr. Shany** said that, while the State party was obliged to adopt measures to protect its population against terrorist attacks, such measures must strike a balance with the principle of personal liberty and other important principles set out in the Covenant. In its 2006 concluding observations (CCPR/C/KOR/CO/3), the Committee had regretted the lack of information provided on existing or proposed counter-terrorism legislation and the absence of a definition of terrorism in domestic legislation, and had highlighted the fact that national regulations on the interception of communications, searches, detention and deportation must be in conformity with the provisions of the Covenant. He noted with regret that, nine years later, the State party had taken next to no action to give effect to the Committee’s recommendations. Its continued reliance on administrative regulations and guidelines to frame its counter-terrorism policy was inappropriate, given the potential impact on the rights enshrined in the Covenant. He enquired as to reasons for the prolonged delay in adopting comprehensive counter-terrorism legislation. He asked whether the counter-terrorism bills before the National Assembly contained a definition of terrorism and whether they regulated the State party’s counter-terrorism powers in a manner compatible with the Covenant. It was the Committee’s understanding that the new bills would authorize the National Intelligence Service to designate an organization as a terrorist organization and to collect information on the immigration status, financial affairs and communications of individuals belonging to such organizations. What safeguards would be introduced to prevent abuse of such broad powers? Had the State party adopted the broad definition of cyberterrorism contained in the 2013 counter-cyberterrorism bill, or did it use another working definition of that phenomenon?

27. He asked how the State party planned to reduce the number of involuntary hospitalizations of persons with mental disabilities. He requested an update on the progress of the reforms aimed at halving the time that elapsed between reviews of the need for detention of such persons in mental health facilities, and at amending the Habeas Corpus Act so that ex officio reviews of such detention might be conducted. The State party should direct its efforts not only towards shortening periods of detention but also towards preventing unnecessary detentions in the first place. He referred the delegation to the Committee’s general comment No. 35 (CCPR/C/GC/35), which provided that detention in a mental health facility should be imposed only as a measure of last resort. The Committee harboured doubts over whether that legal standard was adequately incorporated into the domestic legislation of the Republic of Korea. He requested information on whether persons with mental disabilities who were detained in mental health facilities under article 24, paragraph 1, of the Mental Health Act had the right to appear before an independent authority to challenge the detention decision and whether they could be represented by a lawyer in such proceedings.
28. He requested the delegation to confirm whether, following the abolition of the policy of forced sterilization of persons with a mental disability, that measure now constituted and could be prosecuted as a criminal offence. He also asked what steps the State party had taken to investigate repeated reports of the excessive use of restraints, medication and solitary confinement in mental health facilities, and whether it was true that each facility could draft and apply its own guidelines on the application of such measures without external oversight.

29. Ms. Seibert-Fohr said that the State party’s ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant would be welcome. She noted with concern that the Republic of Korea had the highest suicide rate among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and requested information on the root causes of suicide. It appeared that the elderly were particularly affected. She asked whether that was because of social pressure or insufficient care facilities, why the suicide rate among women had risen and what specific measures had been adopted under the Five-year Basic Plan for Suicide Prevention and the Act for the Prevention of Suicide and the Creation of a Culture of Respect for Life.

30. Since the State party was developing legislation to address violent acts committed in military barracks, she wondered whether that meant that they were not adequately punishable under the current law. She wished to know how many reported cases of violence had resulted in criminal sentences and requested statistics on the sanctions imposed: the Committee had been informed that only 1.5 per cent of cases led to imprisonment. She asked what the causes of violence and sexual crimes in the military were and when the Government planned to review the effectiveness of the measures taken to address them. Lastly, she said that the Committee had been informed of concerns relating to arbitrary use of imprisonment as a disciplinary measure in the military, and she wished to know what safeguards were in place to ensure that the military prison system complied with articles 9 and 14 of the Covenant.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

31. Mr. Lee Won-Doo (Republic of Korea) said that freedom of association was guaranteed by law and the Constitution, but high-ranking public officials were not permitted to join trade unions because they were classed as employers. The State party was therefore unable to withdraw its reservation to article 22 of the Covenant.

32. Ms. Oh Yoojin (Republic of Korea) said that human rights legislation had been passed at the recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. A task force was considering how the Committee’s decisions on individual communications could be implemented, either under criminal law or by establishing specific legislation, although the country’s legal framework made that difficult.

33. Mr. Song Kyooyoung (Republic of Korea) said that torture was defined in the Criminal Code, and public officials convicted of torture or ill-treatment in the exercise of their duties were punishable by up to 5 years’ imprisonment. There had been one prosecution for that crime each year in 2012, 2013 and 2014; two of the alleged perpetrators had been acquitted and one had been subjected to disciplinary measures. The impartiality of investigations into allegations against the police was guaranteed, for example by ensuring that they were undertaken by officers from different police stations.

34. Mr. Shin Kyoung-Woo (Republic of Korea) said that inmates who violated prison regulations could be punished by up to 30 days’ solitary confinement, prior to which they received a medical examination. They were permitted to exercise, bathe and write letters during that confinement. The decision to impose solitary confinement was made by a committee comprising at least three external members. Inmates could make a statement before the committee and appeal its decision.
35. Protective devices were used if an inmate posed a significant risk of flight or suicide, or as a punishment. Their use was recorded in writing and they were immediately removed once they were no longer necessary. The use of protective devices was subjected to careful scrutiny; an inmate could lodge a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission or file a claim with the courts if he or she believed that they had been used inappropriately.

36. Mr. Kim Joo Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that the number of complaints against prison officers was low because the use of solitary confinement measures and protective devices was subject to oversight, and external parties were involved in taking the relevant decisions. Prisoners could file complaints if they felt that such measures had been used inappropriately. Furthermore, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the courts conducted an ex post review of the legality of their use.

37. Mr. Yang Ghiwuk (Republic of Korea) said that to promote respect for human rights by companies that invested abroad, publicity campaigns, seminars and education sessions were carried out by the national contact point for implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Violations of the OECD Guidelines were identified by the national contact point and addressed through mediation and arbitration. The national contact point benefited from the expertise of members of the private sector and of the Government’s commercial arbitration committee.

38. Mr. Kim Hae Ki (Republic of Korea) said that the human rights violations committed in 2011 in waters off New Zealand against foreign crew members of a vessel flying the flag of the Republic of Korea were deeply regrettable. The ship owners had been ordered to pay all wages owed to the crew, and the perpetrators of the assault had been prosecuted. Measures resulting from a Government investigation into the incident included a hotline for advice to foreign crew members, human rights education for crews and ship owners, provisions for preventing forced labour and an inquiry on the employment of foreign crews.

39. Mr. Yang Ghiwuk (Republic of Korea), referring to the issue of forced labour on cotton farms, of which the Government was aware, said that companies that invested abroad were monitored by the national contact point. Recommendations were made, in cooperation with the World Bank, on how the approach to human rights of such companies might be improved.

40. Mr. Lee Won-Doo (Republic of Korea) said that the State party endeavoured to ensure that its trade partners complied with the International Labour Organization standards on the prevention of forced labour.

41. Mr. Choi Chang-haeng (Republic of Korea) said that a range of measures had been adopted, including grants and assistance with housing, to ensure that single adolescent mothers could continue their education and raise their children in a favourable environment. There were welfare facilities in 58 locations across the country offering them housing support, medical care during childbirth and support in bringing up their children. A recently established agency provided assistance in the management of such services and grants.

42. Mr. Kang Byeonggu (Republic of Korea) said that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology was working to ensure that any school rules that prevented pregnant girls or young mothers from completing their studies were revised. Guidelines had been drawn up for that purpose, and civil servants throughout the country had received training to help them ensure that they were followed in the schools in their districts. The Government had also provided incentives for the establishment of private facilities where adolescent mothers could continue their schooling.
43. **Mr. Park** Jin-young (Republic of Korea) said that the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, was offering courses to military personnel on the protection of human rights. The budget for such educational activities had recently been increased. As a result, the number of cases of assault and ill-treatment had fallen sharply.

44. **Mr. Cha** Kyung Hwan (Republic of Korea) said that school curricula covered such issues as the importance of respecting the rights of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

45. **Ms. Kim** MinJi (Republic of Korea) said that sex reassignment required court authorization, to be granted only if the applicant had undergone sex reassignment surgery, had the appearance of the opposite sex, including external genital organs, was not married and did not have minor children. The aim of the latter requirement was to protect young children from the shock they would surely suffer if, for example, their mother suddenly became a man. No plans had been made to alter those requirements.

46. **Ms. Song** So-young (Republic of Korea) said that if they were not at fault, marriage migrants who were victims of domestic violence in the Republic of Korea or had been divorced by its nationals were entitled to have their residence permits extended. Since the amendment to the Nationality Act of 2014, they could also apply for naturalization. The Immigration Control Act had been amended to grant special protection to marriage migrants who were victims of sexual violence.

47. **Mr. Choi** Chang-haeng (Republic of Korea), referring to the representation of women in positions of leadership, said that political parties had been asked to nominate women for half of the seats in the National Assembly and for membership of local governing bodies. A mandatory quota system was being considered.

48. A plan to increase the numbers of women in high-ranking positions in the public sector included annual numerical targets. A name-and-shame policy applied to all businesses in which the proportion of female employees was significantly less than the average across all the country’s private sector employers. An academy to prepare women for management positions had been opened, and the maintenance of a database of potential female leaders, which currently contained information on more than 63,000 women, was an ongoing priority.

49. **Mr. Kim** Jong-ho (Republic of Korea) said that the Government was developing policies to improve work-life balance. Those policies included the introduction of expanded childcare leave and the provision of incentives for men to take more of the childcare leave that they were entitled to. To help change the country’s male-dominated corporate culture, a system had been devised whereby family-friendly companies were awarded certification, and a public-awareness campaign was being waged. As a result of those efforts, women’s participation in economic life was increasing, and the difference between men’s and women’s wages was narrowing.

50. **Mr. Kim** Joo Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that, in the committees established to facilitate public decision-making, the Government sought to ensure that no single gender ever accounted for more than 60 per cent of the membership.

51. **Ms. Hong** Jonghee (Republic of Korea) said that at present, no provisions in the Criminal Code ruled out the possibility of charging a person with spousal rape. In May 2013, the Supreme Court had ruled that, although married couples had the duty to cohabit, that duty did not include submitting to forcible intercourse. In time, with more judicial precedents, it would become clearer that spousal rape was punishable as rape under the country’s laws.

52. **Mr. Nam** Hoohee (Republic of Korea) said that the number of reported cases of child abuse was increasing, partly because of an actual increase in their occurrence
and partly because the police and child protection services were investigating them more actively. There was also greater public awareness of the problem. Considerable efforts were being made to ensure that the institutions responsible for the protection of children were properly funded and equipped. Some 25.2 billion won had recently been set aside for that purpose. The Government was working with the private sector to ensure that child protection institutions had emergency vehicles and information technology.

53. Mr. Kim Jun Yeon (Republic of Korea) said that the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination act had been on the Government’s policy agenda since 2013. The Ministry of Justice had set up a task force to study the issue, but efforts to move forward had been stymied, as the project had generated considerable controversy, especially as regards such proposed grounds for discrimination as sexual orientation. The Government was well aware that anti-discrimination legislation was needed, but it considered it preferable first to win broader public support for what would be a major change.

54. On occasion, the perpetrators of racially motivated acts had been penalized by the courts. In 2014, for instance, a foreign national who had been the target of hate speech on a bus had reported the incident to the public prosecution service. The alleged malefactor had been charged and subsequently fined. By law, insult constituted a criminal offence only when a complaint was filed. Few people bothered to file complaints, however, and that was why there had been very few convictions.

55. Although racial animosity as a motivation for a crime was not specifically punishable under the Criminal Code, it could increase the severity of the sentence imposed on any convicted offender. In addition, persons who posted racially discriminatory content on the Internet could be charged with defamation, and there was a procedure in place to request the removal of such content. A supervisory board considered complaints against the country’s broadcasters, penalized them as necessary and required broadcasters to inform their audiences of the penalties.

56. The country did not currently have a law on racial discrimination that was compatible with the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Legislative efforts to ensure that racially motivated hate speech was penalized were being made, however.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*