



**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

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**Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**  
**Twenty-ninth Meeting**

**Summary record of the 35th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 September 2010, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chairperson:* Ms. Nicholson . . . . . (Representative of the Secretary-General)

*Chairperson:* Mr. Appreku . . . . . (Ghana)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.*

### **Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General**

1. **The Temporary Chairperson**, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the Twenty-ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. She said that in the past two years, the Bahamas, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vanuatu had become parties to the Covenant; Brazil and Kazakhstan had become parties to the Optional Protocol; and Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Uzbekistan had become parties to the Second Optional Protocol. Finally, following its ratification on 23 June 2010, the Covenant would enter into force in Pakistan on 23 September 2010, bringing the total number of States parties to 166, of which 113 were also parties to the Optional Protocol and 72 to the Second Optional Protocol.

2. The consideration of initial and periodic reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant was an essential tool for fostering an informed and high quality dialogue between members of the Human Rights Committee and State party delegations. Since 2008, the Committee had considered 26 reports submitted by States parties and adopted concluding observations on those reports. The Committee's procedure for following up on concluding observations, initiated in 2001, had been further developed and the majority of States parties had provided the Committee with timely follow-up information.

3. Since the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, a total of 1,960 communications had been registered. Since September 2008, the Committee had adopted Views on 95 communications under the Optional Protocol procedure, and had declared 14 communications admissible and 53 inadmissible. The consideration of 23 communications had been discontinued. Through its Special Rapporteur for follow-up on Views, the Committee had continued to seek to ensure implementation of its Views by arranging meetings with representatives of States parties that had not responded or had given unsatisfactory replies to the Committee's request for information about the measures taken to give effect to its Views.

4. The Committee's workload under article 40 of the Covenant and the Optional Protocol had continued to grow, with 24 initial or periodic reports and 398 communications currently awaiting consideration. The Committee was considering special measures to remedy the situation, such as lengthening one of its sessions.

5. The Committee had adopted a revised general comment (No. 33) on States parties' obligations under the Optional Protocol at its ninety-fourth session, held in October 2008, and was currently working on General Comment No. 34, which would replace General Comment No. 10 on article 19 of the Covenant (freedom of expression).

6. The Committee had continued to contribute to the discussion prompted by the Secretary-General's proposals for the reform and streamlining of the treaty reporting system and viewed favourably ongoing efforts to harmonize the treaty bodies' working methods. Its Chairperson and representatives had participated in all consultative processes in that regard, in particular the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh inter-committee meetings.

7. At its most recent session, in July 2010, the Committee had adopted its revised reporting guidelines in order to ensure their compatibility with the guidelines on a common core document, as contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1). At the same session, the Committee had agreed upon a paper outlining the practical modalities for implementing a new optional reporting procedure adopted in October 2009 with the aim of facilitating the reporting process for States. States parties that had agreed to the new procedure would receive a list of issues prior to reporting and their written replies would be considered by the Committee in lieu of a periodic report. All periodic reports would potentially fall under that new procedure, which should apply to as many States parties as possible. The Committee would start implementing that new procedure as of 2011 for reports due in 2013. However, it would not apply to States parties' initial reports or to periodic reports already submitted and awaiting consideration by the Committee.

8. On 29 October 2010, the Committee would celebrate its 100th session with a full day meeting in Geneva to which all States parties to the Covenant as

well as other relevant stakeholders would be invited. The discussion would provide an opportunity to reflect on the Committee's achievements and discuss future prospects for its work for the protection of civil and political rights.

### Election of the Chairperson

9. **Mr. Hermoso** (Republic of the Philippines) nominated Mr. Appreku (Ghana) for the office of Chairperson.

10. *Mr. Appreku (Ghana) was elected Chairperson by acclamation.*

11. *Mr. Appreku (Ghana) took the Chair.*

### Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/SP/74)

12. *The agenda was adopted.*

13. **The Chairperson** drew attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CCPR/SP/2/Rev.1). Rule 2 provided that the credentials of representatives and the names of delegation members should be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than one week before a Meeting, and that such credentials should be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The content of that rule had been communicated to States parties by the Secretary-General in his note of 30 July 2010, but a number of States parties had not yet submitted credentials.

14. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the States parties in question should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting. He urged those representatives to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

15. *It was so decided.*

### Election of other officers

16. **The Chairperson** said that Mr. Eat (Cambodia), Mr. Gheghechkori (Georgia) and Mr. MacDonald (Suriname) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

17. *Mr. Eat (Cambodia), Mr. Gheghechkori (Georgia) and Mr. MacDonald (Suriname) were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.*

### Election, in accordance with articles 28 to 32 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of nine members of the Human Rights Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2010 (CCPR/SP/75 and Add.1 and 2)

18. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the particulars of candidates nominated by States parties to fill the nine vacancies on the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/SP/75 and Add.1) and informed the States parties of the withdrawal of two nominations (CCPR/SP/75/Add.2). Following the issuance of that addendum, on 31 August 2010, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen had informed the Secretary-General that it had withdrawn its two candidates. The Kenyan delegation had also withdrawn its candidate. Accordingly, there were 16 candidates for the nine vacancies. He also drew attention to the voting procedure and other relevant provisions of articles 30 and 31 of the Covenant.

19. He invited representatives to elect by secret ballot nine members of the Human Rights Committee.

20. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Fiori (Brazil), Ms. Parado-Brillo (Republic of the Philippines) and Ms. Steele (United Kingdom) acted as Tellers.*

21. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	163
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	163
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	163
<i>Required majority:</i>	82
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Amor (Tunisia)	141
Mr. Iwasawa (Japan)	141
Ms. Keller (Switzerland)	131
Mr. Flinterman (Netherlands)	129
Mr. Neuman (United States of America)	129
Ms. Motoc (Romania)	117
Ms. Chanet (France)	112
Ms. Majodina (South Africa)	107
Ms. Waterval (Suriname)	101
Mr. Rakotoniaina (Madagascar)	86
Mr. Vardzelashvili (Georgia)	65
Mr. Al-Ibrahim (Iraq)	44

Mr. Kamara (Mauritania)	33
Mr. Moubangat Moukonzi (Congo)	29
Mr. Lukunda (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	27
Mr. Mohamdy (Mauritania)	21

22. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Amor (Tunisia), Ms. Chanet (France), Mr. Flinterman (Netherlands), Mr. Iwasawa (Japan), Ms. Keller (Switzerland), Ms. Majodina (South Africa), Ms. Motoc (Romania), Mr. Neuman (United States of America) and Ms. Waterval (Suriname) were elected members of the Human Rights Committee for a term ending on 31 December 2014.*

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*