

## **CERD, A/59/18 (2004), Chapter VII**

...

### **CHAPTER VII. THEMATIC DISCUSSION**

462. In examining the periodic reports of States parties, the Committee has found that some forms of discrimination within the terms of article 1 of the Convention are common to several States and can usefully be examined from a more general perspective. In August 2000, the Committee organized a thematic debate on the issue of discrimination against Roma and, in August 2002, it held a discussion on descent-based discrimination. These two thematic debates led to the adoption of general recommendation XXVII on discrimination against Roma and general recommendation XXIX on descent-based discrimination. At its sixty-third session, the Committee decided to hold at its next session a third thematic discussion on non-citizens and racial discrimination, with a view to possible further action. In this connection, it requested information from States parties concerning non-citizens residing in their respective territories, their economic and social situation, and policies for eliminating racial discrimination against them.

463. This third thematic discussion to be organized by the Committee was held at its 1625th meeting, on 2 March 2004; it was preceded by a meeting with concerned NGOs, Governments, and other United Nations human rights mechanisms and entities held on 1 March 2004 (see CERD/C/SR.1624).

464. The Committee was able to draw upon extensive information from its own activities, including that contained in periodic reports submitted by States parties and its dialogues with State delegations. In addition, a number of States replied to the invitation extended by the Committee to submit additional written information. Furthermore, the Committee had relevant information from other United Nations human rights mechanisms and from other United Nations agencies and bodies. In particular, the Committee considered the final report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of non-citizens of the Sub Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Mr. David Weissbrodt (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/23). NGOs representing non-citizens claiming to be victims of racial discrimination and global human rights organizations also submitted written information.

465. During the informal meeting, NGOs raised many issues of concern. In response to the invitation addressed to them, some government representatives, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of non-citizens, two mandate-holders of the Commission on Human Rights and representatives from other United Nations entities addressed the gathering.

466. A majority of the Committee members addressed the issues in the general debate, which took place in the morning of 2 March 2004 (see CERD/C/SR.1625). The working group convened by Mr. Kjaerum met twice for the elaboration of a draft general recommendation.

467. Based on the information submitted and collected for the thematic discussion, on the outcome of the general debate and on the draft prepared by the working group, the Committee, following extensive debate adopted, at its 1649th meeting, its general recommendation XXX on non-citizens and racial discrimination (see chapter VIII).

468. At its sixty-fifth session, the Committee decided that it would organize a thematic discussion on the prevention of genocide at its sixty-sixth session. In addition, the Committee decided to entrust Mr. de Gouttes with the task of drafting a new general recommendation on racial discrimination in the administration of justice, to be discussed at that session. It also decided to hold general debates at its future sessions on various issues of interest. Such a debate will be held at the Committee's sixty-sixth session on the question of multiculturalism.