

## **CERD, A/60/18 (2005), Chapter VII**

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### **CHAPTER VII. THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND GENERAL DEBATES**

1. 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. At its sixty-fourth session held in March 2004, the Committee held a third thematic discussion on non-citizens and racial discrimination. These three thematic debates led to the adoption of general recommendation XXVII on discrimination against Roma, general recommendation XXIX on descent-based discrimination and general recommendation XXX on discrimination against non-citizens.

2. At its sixty-fifth session, the Committee decided to hold at its next session a fourth thematic discussion on the prevention of genocide, with a view, *inter alia*, to identifying indicators of a developing genocidal process. In this connection, it requested the views of States parties concerning the prevention of genocide.

3. This fourth thematic discussion to be organized by the Committee was held at its 1684th meeting (sixty-fifth session), on 1 March 2005 (see CERD/C/SR.1684); it was preceded by a meeting with concerned NGOs, Governments, and other United Nations human rights mechanisms and entities held on 28 February 2005 (see CERD/C/SR.1683).

4. The Committee was able to draw upon extensive information from its own activities, including under its early warning and urgent action procedures. In addition, a number of States replied to the invitation extended by the Committee to submit written information. The Committee also had relevant information from other United Nations human rights mechanisms and from other United Nations agencies and bodies.

5. During the informal meeting, NGOs raised many issues of concern. In response to the invitation addressed to them, some government representatives, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and a representative of OHCHR addressed the gathering.

6. Based on the information submitted and collected for the thematic discussion, the Committee, following extensive debate, adopted at its 1701st meeting, a declaration on the prevention of genocide (for the text, see chapter VIII), which had been prepared in an informal drafting group chaired by Mr. Shahi.

7. At its sixty-seventh session, the Committee issued a decision on follow-up to its declaration on the prevention of genocide in which it identified indicators of massive and systematic patterns of racial discrimination (see chapter II).

8. At its sixty-fifth session, the Committee decided to hold general debates at its future sessions on various issues of interest. Following the decision taken at its sixty-fifth session, the Committee held a general debate on the question of multiculturalism on 8 March 2005 at its 1694th meeting (see CERD/C/SR.1694) on the basis of a working paper prepared by Mr. Lindgren Alves. It decided to continue this debate at its sixty-seventh session on the basis, inter alia, of a working paper prepared by the Secretariat, including a compilation of its past concluding observations referring to issues relevant to the debate. This debate took place at its 1724th meeting (see CERD/C/SR.1724), on 17 August 2005. Several members expressed their views and suggested working towards the adoption of a new general recommendation on multiculturalism.