



**International Convention on the
Elimination of All Forms of Racial
Discrimination**

Provisional

27 January 2006

Original: English

**Meeting of the States Parties to the International
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Racial Discrimination
Twenty-First Meeting**

Provisional summary record of the 30th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 January 2006, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairperson: Mr. Ndiaye (Representative of the Secretary-General)

Chairperson: Ms. Bethel (Bahamas)

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2006, in accordance with article 8, paragraphs 1 to 5, of the Convention

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 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-First Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Since the Twentieth Meeting, one country — the Comoros — had ratified the Convention, thus bringing the number of States parties to 170. While that was a matter of satisfaction, there remained some way to go towards the goal of universal ratification.

2. At its sessions in 2004 and 2005, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had considered the reports of some 30 States parties and had continued to review the implementation of the Convention in States parties whose reports were seriously overdue. It had also continued to carry out the functions assigned to it pursuant to article 14 of the Convention, whereby it considered communications received from individuals or groups alleging that their rights under the Convention had been violated. Over the previous two years, the Committee had adopted four opinions and decisions on that matter.

3. The Committee had adopted two general recommendations with a view to assisting States parties to improve the implementation of the Convention at the national level: General Recommendation No. 30 on discrimination against non-citizens; and General Recommendation No. 31 on the prevention of racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. The Committee had also adopted a declaration on the prevention of genocide, following the holding of a thematic discussion on the issue. In a follow-up decision, it had identified indicators of patterns of systematic and massive racial discrimination.

4. The Committee had devoted considerable attention to the review of its working methods. It had focused on developing a mechanism to ensure adequate follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations it addressed to States parties and to the opinions and decisions adopted under the individual and group communications procedure. At its most recent session, in August 2005, it had discussed the reform proposals made on the basis of the plan of action of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular, the proposals concerning the human rights treaty bodies.

5. As important as the Committee's contributions had been to date, there were obviously some areas for improvement. For example, only 46 States parties had so far made the declaration under article 14 permitting communications to be considered by the Committee. The individual communications procedure was thus underutilized.

6. With regard to the financing of the activities under the Convention, the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/111 of 16 December 1992, had endorsed the amendment to the Convention providing for the financing of the Committee from the regular budget of the United Nations and had requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to provide for the financing of the Committee on that basis, beginning with the biennium 1994-1995. The Secretary-General had taken the necessary measures but, in order for the amendment to enter into force, acceptance must be received from two thirds of the States parties. To date, however, only 41 States parties had ratified the amendment, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly.

Election of the Chairperson

7. **Mr. Towpik** (Poland), speaking as the Permanent Representative of his country and as Chairperson of the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, nominated Ms. Bethel (Bahamas) for the office of Chairperson of the Meeting.

8. *Ms. Bethel (Bahamas) was elected Chairperson by acclamation.*

9. *Ms. Bethel (Bahamas) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CERD/SP/67)

10. *The agenda was adopted.*

11. **The Chairperson**, drawing attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure (CERD/SP/2/Rev.1), said that the Secretary-General had not yet received credentials from a number of States parties represented at the Meeting. She therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of those States parties should be authorized provisionally to participate in the Meeting, and she urged the States in question to submit the

credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

12. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers of the meeting

13. **The Chairperson** said that, under rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting should elect one to four Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the States parties. She had been informed that Mr. Badji (Senegal), Mr. Anshur (Indonesia) and Ms. Antonijević (Serbia and Montenegro) had been nominated for the posts of Vice-Chairperson by their respective regional groups.

14. *Mr. Badji (Senegal), Mr. Anshur (Indonesia) and Ms. Antonijević (Serbia and Montenegro) were elected Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.*

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to replace those whose terms of office will expire on 19 January 2006, in accordance with article 8, paragraphs 1 to 5, of the Convention (CERD/SP/68 and Add.1 and 2)

15. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the list of candidates nominated by the States parties, and their biographical data, contained in documents CERD/SP/68 and Add.1. The names of the nine members who would continue to serve until 19 January 2008 were given in annex II to document CERD/SP/68. In document CERD/SP/68/Add.2, the Secretary-General informed the States parties that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago had decided to withdraw its nominee. Altogether, 13 candidates had been nominated for the nine vacancies. In that connection, she drew attention to the provisions of article 8 of the Convention relating to the election of members of the Committee, particularly paragraphs 1, 2 and 4.

16. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Soni (Canada), Ms. Ioannou (Cyprus) and Mr. Chernenko (Russian Federation) acted as tellers.*

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

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	169
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	168
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	168
<i>Required majority:</i>	85

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil)	150
Mr. Sicilianos (Greece)	145
Mr. Amir (Algeria)	134
Mr. Kjaerum (Denmark)	133
Mr. Aboul-Nasr (Egypt)	132
Mr. Shahi (Pakistan)	132
Mr. de Gouttes (France)	126
Mr. Thornberry (United Kingdom)	114
Mr. Ewomsan (Togo)	80
Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia)	80
Mr. Hadi (Iraq)	76
Mr. Castro Herrera (Panama)	68
Mr. Al-Hussami (Syrian Arab Republic)	64

18. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Aboul-Nasr (Egypt), Mr. Amir (Algeria), Mr. de Gouttes (France), Mr. Kjaerum (Denmark), Mr. Lindgren Alves (Brazil), Mr. Shahi (Pakistan), Mr. Sicilianos (Greece) and Mr. Thornberry (United Kingdom) were elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

19. *No other candidate having obtained the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot, restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes without having obtained the required majority.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	167
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	167
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	166
<i>Required majority:</i>	84
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Ewomsan (Togo)	86
Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia)	80

20. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Ewomsan (Togo) was elected a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.