



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

Provisional

8 February 2008

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

**Provisional summary record of the 31st meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 January 2008, at 10 a.m.

*Temporary Chairman:* Mr. Mokhiber . . . . . (Representative of the Secretary-General)

*Chairman:* Mr. Chidyausiku . . . . . (Zimbabwe)

**Contents**

- Opening of the Meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General
- Election of the Chairperson
- Adoption of the agenda
- Election of other officers of the Meeting
- 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  
2008, in accordance with article 8, paragraphs 1 to 5, of the Convention

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 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-second Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Since the Twenty-first Meeting, Andorra, Montenegro and Saint Kitts and Nevis had become parties to the Convention, thus bringing the number of States parties to 173. While that was a matter of satisfaction, there remained some way to go towards the goal of universal ratification.

2. At its sessions in 2006 and 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had considered the reports of 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 five opinions and decisions in that connection.

3. At its seventy-first session, the Committee had adopted new reporting guidelines (CERD/C/2007/1), in line with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1). The Committee had also decided to begin drafting a new general recommendation on special measures at its seventy-second session.

4. The Committee had continued to devote considerable attention to the review of its working methods. In particular, its procedure for following up on concluding observations had developed further through the adoption of guidelines on follow-up at its sixty-eighth session. At its seventy-first session, the Committee had discussed its working methods in what had been only its second ever meeting with States parties. At that session, the Committee had also modified rule 40 of its rules of procedure so as to reflect its practice since 2005 concerning interaction with national human rights institutions accredited to take part in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council. Those institutions could, with the consent of the State party concerned, address the Committee in an

independent capacity at official meetings on issues related to the dialogue between the Committee and the State party when the latter's report was being considered by the Committee.

5. As important as the Convention's impact had been to date, there remained areas for improvement. For example, only 51 States parties had thus 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 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 43 States parties had ratified the amendment, despite repeated calls by the General Assembly.

7. With regard to the election of nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms of office would expire on 19 January 2008, it should be recalled that the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 27 July 2007, had invited the States parties to submit their nominations by 27 September 2007. The names of the nominees and an indication of the States parties that had nominated them were contained in documents CERD/SP/69 and Add.2. The two documents also contained the biographical data of the nominees. The candidate nominated by Madagascar on 10 October 2007 had been withdrawn on 23 November 2007, before publication of the candidate's biographical data in an addendum to document CERD/SP/69. In addition, in document CERD/SP/69/Add.3, the Secretary-General informed the States parties that the Government of Azerbaijan had decided to withdraw its nominee. The names of the nine members of the Committee who would continue to serve until 19 January 2010 were listed in annex II to document CERD/SP/69.

### Election of the Chairperson

8. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking as Chairperson of the Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, nominated Mr. Chidyausiku (Zimbabwe) for the office of Chairperson of the Meeting.

9. *Mr. Chidyausiku (Zimbabwe) was elected Chairperson by acclamation.*

### Adoption of the agenda (CERD/SP/70)

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. He therefore suggested that, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of those States parties should be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting, and he urged the States in question to submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

### Election of other officers of the Meeting

12. **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. He had been informed that Ms. Grabianowska (Poland), Mr. Peralta (Paraguay) and Ms. Ioannou (Cyprus) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairperson by their respective regional groups.

13. *Ms. Grabianowska (Poland), Mr. Peralta (Paraguay) and Ms. Ioannou (Cyprus) 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 2008, in accordance with article 8, paragraphs 1 to 5, of the Convention (CERD/SP/69 and Add.2 and 3)

14. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the list of candidates nominated by the States parties and their biographical data, contained in documents CERD/SP/69 and Add.2 and 3. Altogether, 11 candidates had been nominated for the nine vacancies. In that connection, he 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.

15. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Harmanovský (Slovakia), Mr. Subianto (Indonesia), Ms. Williams (Jamaica) and Mr. Flueck (Switzerland) acted as tellers.*

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

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	166
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	165
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	165
<i>Required majority:</i>	83
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Lahiri (India)	152
Mr. Cali Tzay (Guatemala)	144
Mr. Avtonomov (Russian Federation)	143
Ms. Dah (Burkina Faso)	143
Mr. Prosper (United States of America)	143
Mr. Huang Yong'an (China)	139
Mr. Diaconu (Romania)	133
Mr. Peter (United Republic of Tanzania)	131
Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia)	130
Mr. Louis (Haiti)	118
Mr. Mokbil (Yemen)	60

17. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Lahiri (India), Mr. Cali Tzay (Guatemala), Mr. Avtonomov (Russian Federation), Ms. Dah (Burkina Faso), Mr. Prosper (United States of America), Mr. Huang Yong'an (China), Mr. Diaconu (Romania), Mr. Peter (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Murillo Martínez (Colombia) were elected members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

*The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.*