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CHAPTER V

Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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B. Half day of general discussion on draft general comment No. 20 on non-discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights (article 2, paragraph 2, of the Covenant)

549. At its 48th meeting, on 17 November 2008 (forty-first session), the Committee held a half day of general discussion on draft general comment No. 20 on non-discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights (article 2, paragraph 2, of the Covenant). The aim of the day of general discussion was to assist the Rapporteurs responsible for the drafting of a general comment on this provision, Mr. Eibe Riedel and Ms. Barbara Wilson, and to enable them to draw on the comments and suggestions made by Committee members, experts in the field, and other participants in the half day of general discussion.

550. The following experts were invited to participate in the thematic debate:
Mr. Malcolm Langford, Norwegian Centre on Human Rights, University of Oslo
Mr. Bruce Porter, Executive Director, Social Rights Advocacy Centre
Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda, United Nations independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty
Mr. Patrick Taran, Senior Migration Specialist, International Labour Organization

551. Representatives of States parties, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations also attended the day of general discussion.

Programme of work

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| 15.00-15.10 | Welcoming remarks,

Mr. Philippe Texier, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| 15.10-15.20 | Current challenges in the field of equality rights

Mr. Bruce Porter, Executive Director, Social Rights Advocacy Centre |

- 15.20-15.30 Overview of the draft general comment No. 20 on non-discrimination
Mr. Eibe Riedel, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- 15.30-15.40 Characterizing the obligations of States parties to the Covenant
Mr. Malcolm Langford, Norwegian Centre on Human Rights, University of Oslo
- 15.40-15.50 Prohibited grounds of discrimination
Mr. Christian Curtis, Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 15.50-16.00 Indigenous peoples and minorities
Mr. Julian Burger, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 16.00-16.10 Non-nationals
Mr. Patrick Taran, Senior Migration Specialist, International Labour Organization
- 16.10-16.20 National policy, law and remedies
Ms. Barbara Wilson, member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- 16.20-17.40 Discussion
- 17.40-18.00 Evaluation and way ahead
Mr. Eibe Riedel and Ms. Barbara Wilson, members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights