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Chapter V

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

A. Day of general discussion on the right to sexual and reproductive health

453. At its fortieth session, the Committee decided to draw up a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health (arts. 10 and 12 of the Covenant). To this end, it decided to organize a day of general discussion at its forty-fifth session as part of the preparatory work leading to the formulation of a general comment on the subject.

454. At the 49th and 50th meetings of its forty-fifth session, on 15 November 2010, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held its day of general discussion on the right to sexual and reproductive health. The discussion day provided an opportunity to exchange views with, and gather insights from, practitioners and experts on the right to sexual and reproductive health.

455. The following experts were invited to participate in the thematic debate:

Ximena Andion, International Advocacy Director, Center for Reproductive Rights;

Catherine d’Arcangues, Coordinator, Office of the Director of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization;

Sofia Gruskin, Director, Program on International Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health;

Leah Hoctor, Legal Advisor, International Commission of Jurists;

Rajat Khosla, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Coordinator (Health), Amnesty International;

Rafael Mazin, Regional Advisor on HIV Prevention and Comprehensive Care, Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization;

Madhu Mehra, Executive Director, Partners for Law in Development;

Luz Melo, Human Rights Advisor, United Nations Population Fund;

Dainius Puras, Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child;

Dubravka Šimonović, Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

Karen Stefiszyn, Programme Manager, Centre for Human Rights,
University of Pretoria; and

Alicia Yamin, Joseph H. Flom Fellow on Global Health and Human
Rights, Harvard University.

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

**Programme of the day of general discussion on the right to
sexual and reproductive health, 15 November 2010, Palais
Wilson**

Monday, 15 November 2010

10.00– 10.20	Introductory remarks Jaime Marchán Romero, Chairperson, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Rocio Barahona-Riera, member and rapporteur for the formulation of a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – day of general discussion and general comment
10.20– 11.40	Panel 1: Concept of right to sexual and reproductive health – Chair: Luz Melo, United Nations Population Fund Alicia Yamin, Harvard University – Concept of right to sexual and reproductive health Catherine D’Arcangues, World Health Organization – Components of the right to sexual and reproductive health Rajat Khosla, Amnesty International – Elements of the right to sexual and reproductive health and limitations
11.40– 13.00	Panel 2: Normative aspects – Chair: Jane Connors, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Sofia Gruskin, Harvard University – Obligations of States parties in guaranteeing the right to sexual and reproductive health Luz Melo, United Nations Populations Fund – Vulnerable and marginalized groups Rafael Mazin, Pan-American Health Organization – Health

systems, States parties obligations and the right to sexual and reproductive health

Leah Hoctor, International Commission of Jurists – Violations and implementation at the national level

15.00–
16.25

Panel 3: Cross-cutting issues – Chair: Craig Mokhiber, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Madhu Mehra, Partners for Law in Development – Cross-cutting issues

Karen Stefiszyn, University of Pretoria – The right to sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS

16.25–
17.45

Panel 4 — Conclusions — Chair: Rocio Barahona-Riera, member and rapporteur for the formulation of a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Dainius Puras, Committee on the Rights of the Child – Child rights and a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health

Dubravka Šimonović, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women – Women’s rights and a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health

Ximena Andion, Center for Reproductive Rights – Critical issues for further discussions

17.45–
18.00

Closing remarks

Rocio Barahona Riera, member and rapporteur for the formulation of a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Jaime Marchán Romero, Chairperson, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
