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## Third Committee

### Summary record of the 39th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 30 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Molina Linares (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Guatemala)

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*In the absence of Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan), Mr. Molina Linares (Guatemala), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 72: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**  
(continued) (A/73/18)

**(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**  
(continued) (A/73/312)

**(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action** (continued) (A/73/98, A/73/228, A/73/305, A/73/305/Corr.1, A/73/354 and A/73/371)

**Agenda item 73: Right of peoples to self-determination** (continued) (A/73/303 and A/73/329)

1. **Mr. Mokbil** (Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination), presenting the report of the Working Group (A/73/303), said that, since its establishment in 2005, the Working Group had conducted numerous country visits and carried out extensive research on mercenarism and mercenary-related activities. In its report, the Working Group detailed the adverse impacts of those activities on human rights and, in particular, on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, with a specific focus on selected targets. The report also contained recommendations for strengthening the implementation of that Goal, with a view to contributing to activities related to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and creating effective mechanisms to achieve that objective.

2. The Working Group had found that mercenaries, foreign fighters and private military and security companies could significantly destabilize a country by violent means; that children were very often victims of human rights violations in situations where those actors operated; and that fighting impunity for violations committed by such non-State actors was a significant challenge, in part owing to weak national justice systems and ineffective or non-existent legal frameworks. Holding private military and security companies to account posed particular challenges owing to regulatory gaps in legislation and a lack of monitoring bodies and accountability mechanisms.

3. Voluntary regulatory mechanisms were insufficient to hold those involved in mercenary-related activities and human rights violations accountable for the resulting threats to human rights. It was therefore necessary to establish an international legally binding instrument to ensure consistent regulation worldwide and a single, dedicate body to address related issues and ensure human rights protection; enact effective national legislation and procedures to regulate the oversight, registration, licensing and vetting of private military and security companies; develop and strengthen the capacity of justice and human rights institutions; and establish independent complaints mechanisms to ensure adequate remedies for victims.

4. **Ms. Wacker** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union remained committed to raising standards in the legitimate global private security industry, which provided essential services to public and private sector clients and supported diplomatic, commercial and humanitarian activity in complex environments around the world. Her delegation welcomed the suggestion to consider membership in the Montreux Document Forum and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers' Association as an important part thereof. Although the Working Group's mandate included work on issues relating to mercenaries, for which there was a clear and universal definition under international humanitarian law, her delegation remained concerned about the confusion and lack of clarity caused by extending its mandate to cover private military and private security companies and wished to reiterate its position that the Working Group would be more effective if its mandate focused more clearly on the specific issue of mercenaries.

5. **Mr. Al Khalil** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was regrettable that, in its report, the Working Group had used ambiguous terms on which no consensus had been reached, including "foreign fighters" and "non-State armed groups". Those terms could refer to a wide range of groups and individuals, many of whom were not covered by the mandate of the Working Group. In particular, Syria objected to the reference made in the report to the recruitment by non-State armed groups of foreign fighters under the age of 18 year of age to fight in the Syrian Arab Republic, even though there was broad consensus that those individuals were, in fact, foreign terrorist fighters who were recruited to fight with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist groups. Similarly, the individuals referred to in the report as "foreign fighters" involved in the sale and recruitment of people on behalf of armed groups in Syria were also foreign terrorist

fighters, which would have been a more appropriate term to use in the report. Indeed, the term “foreign terrorist fighter” had been repeatedly used in Security Council resolutions concerning terrorism.

6. Undue emphasis had, moreover, been given in the report to good governance, development, social policies and other matters that constituted the internal affairs of States, while the report barely mentioned the need for international cooperation with a view to ending the use of mercenaries or the need to hold accountable those States that recruited, transported and provided financial support to mercenaries, particularly when mercenaries, like private security and military companies, were increasingly being used by certain States as instruments to further their foreign policy agendas.

7. **Mr. Ustinov** (Russian Federation) said that the potential for conflict across the globe had been heightened by socioeconomic differences between countries and regions and systemic economic and political problems. A succession of armed conflicts had made it clear that measures must urgently be developed to counter the unlawful activity of mercenaries, foreign terrorist fighters and private military and security companies. States that engaged non-State actors should be responsible both for the protection of non-combatant civilians and the institution of legal proceedings if those groups or individuals violated international humanitarian law. Given that non-State actors currently acted in a legal vacuum, the Russian Federation supported proposals to create a legally binding international instrument to regulate the activities of private military and security companies. All initiatives to counter the unlawful activities of non-State actors should be based on respect for the sovereignty and equality of States and non-interference in their domestic affairs. Attention should be paid not only to military and law enforcement measures, but also to initiatives to accelerate the political settlement of crisis situations, assist States that had economic and political difficulties and promote sustainable development.

8. **Ms. Valle** (Cuba), recalling the resolution on the use of mercenaries presented annually by her delegation, wondered whether the definition of mercenaries should be updated in the light of recent events.

9. **Mr. Mokbil** (Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination) said that questions surrounding the mandate of the Working Group had been raised numerous times, both in the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee. Since the

establishment of the Working Group pursuant to resolution 2005/2 of the Commission on Human Rights, its mandate had been to monitor mercenaries and mercenary-related activities in all their forms and manifestations, including with regard to the activities of private military and security companies; to study and identify trends and emerging issues and their impact on human rights, in particular on the right of peoples to self-determination; and to prepare draft international basic principles to guide the activities of such companies. That aspect of its mandate had been repeatedly renewed by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, most recently in Council resolution 33/4. The Working Group, therefore, had not selected its own mandate, nor had that mandate been exceeded.

10. While the Working Group acknowledged that private military and security companies were not and did not fall under the legal definition of mercenaries, some of their personnel might, in some cases, be considered mercenaries. Linkages had been found between the activities and motivations of mercenaries and those of foreign fighters and some personnel of private military and security companies, as outlined in its current and previous reports. For example, foreign fighters left their countries of residence to go to conflict zones abroad, while some personnel of private military and security companies might also be involved or employed in hostilities in situations of armed conflict. In such cases, their activities could present similar risks to the enjoyment of human rights and the right to self-determination and could thereby violate international humanitarian and human rights law. Additional similarities were noted between mercenaries and foreign fighters, despite the lack of a legal definition for the latter. Both, for example, were external actors intervening in armed conflict such as terrorism and organized crime. Tasks and motivations also overlapped. The cornerstone of those findings was that not all foreign fighters were ideological actors; financial gain was also a factor. It was therefore perhaps time to establish a new definition of mercenaries, in a new resolution and with the support of all States, to take into account new trends, issues and developments that had arisen since the adoption of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries in 1989.

11. **Mr. Edbrooke** (Liechtenstein) said that the right of self-determination was a cornerstone of the Charter of the United Nations and a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of individual human rights. Discussions of that right, however, were outdated, and the Committee’s interpretation of it, as expressed through yearly

resolutions, did not reflect most current discussions conducted outside its walls, which related not to decolonization, but to the desire of some communities to change their relationship with the State of which they formed part. Modern solutions to most issues surrounding self-determination lay not in secession and independence, but in self-governance, minority rights and reconciliation. In conducting a debate that overlooked the majority of self-determination movements worldwide, an opportunity was being missed to demonstrate that self-determination was a right that applied not only at the moment of independence, but that belonged to all peoples, at all times, and could be expressed in various ways.

12. Since joining the United Nations in 1990, Liechtenstein had explored innovative approaches to the implementation of the right to self-determination, in particular in the context of conflict. The proliferation of such unresolved conflicts within States reflected the need for open and honest debate about how to prevent and resolve contentious self-determination claims. Liechtenstein did not recognize the unconditional right to secession outside the context of decolonization, but stressed the need to redefine the concept of self-determination within the principle of territorial integrity. Rather than dismissing the needs of communities seeking greater self-governance as threats to territorial integrity, States needed to harness the power of dialogue by engaging with those communities in good faith and ensuring that they were represented in a way that met their needs and that prevented the escalation of grievances into violence. Liechtenstein would continue to work on enhancing the prevention and successful resolution of such conflicts through the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University, which sought to create an apolitical environment for discussing the root causes of the desire for increased self-governance.

13. **Ms. Valle** (Cuba) said that the best way to promote and protect human rights for everyone, including with regard to racial discrimination, was through cooperation and exchange of experiences and ideas on challenges and possible solutions, taking into account the specific context, traditions and cultures of each country. As part of its foreign policy, Cuba condemned the crimes against humanity committed in the context of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade as being the source of profound social and economic inequality, hatred, fanaticism, racism and discrimination that continued to affect people of African descent worldwide.

14. Within Cuba, the revolution had led to the elimination of exclusion, inequality and poverty for most of its people and the eradication of the institutional

racism and segregation that had existed prior to 1959. Cuba had developed internal programs and activities aimed at implementing mandates set out in such mechanisms as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and would continue its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and to build an increasingly free, democratic, prosperous, just and united society.

15. Dialogue based on objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity and respect for the political, economic, social and cultural self-determination of all peoples was necessary to all international cooperation endeavours on fundamental human rights and freedoms. In that vein, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed upon Cuba by the United States of America was a decades-old system of unilateral sanctions that breached international law and the Charter of the United Nations by violating the rights of a sovereign State to peace, development and self-determination and constituted a permanent threat to the stability of Cuba. The Government of the United States must heed the continued demands of the international community to unilaterally and unconditionally lift the embargo.

16. **Ms. Pishdary** (Iraq) said that the Constitution of her country enshrined the principle of equality and prohibited all forms of discrimination on the grounds, inter alia, of gender, race, nationality, origin, colour, religion, sect, belief or opinion. The Iraqi Government strove to uphold the rights of all Iraqis and, to that end, endeavoured to address the needs of all sectors of society in its development plans and programmes. Educational curriculums stressed the importance of accepting others and respecting diversity, and national media campaigns had been launched to raise public awareness of the need to uphold the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination.

17. Conscious of the fact that many civilians living in areas controlled by terrorist groups in Iraq had been subjected to the most hideous forms of discrimination and sectarianism, the Iraqi Government was making every effort to rehabilitate those civilians, combat any further discrimination that might be perpetrated against them, and facilitate their full reintegration into society. Iraq was a multinational, multireligious and multiracial country, whose strength stemmed from its religious, cultural and ethnic pluralism.

18. Iraq remained fully committed to achieving the objectives set forth in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would consider the combined twenty-

second to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Iraq in November 2018. Iraq would continue to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with a view to sharing best practices and promoting capacity building in order to strengthen respect for human rights in the country.

19. Turning to the issue of self-determination, she reaffirmed her Government's solidarity with the Palestinian people and other Arabs whose lands remained under Israeli occupation. Iraq condemned Israel's ongoing efforts to deny Palestinians their rights as well as its settlement-building programme, house demolitions, and imposition of Israeli law on occupied Arab land. It also strongly condemned Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip and its provocative actions against holy sites in Jerusalem, particularly the Aqsa Mosque compound. The Israeli occupation forces must comply fully with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Conventions, and must withdraw fully from all occupied Arab land, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan and the territories that remained under Israeli occupation in Lebanon.

20. Iraq appealed to Member States to provide adequate support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which played a key role in alleviating the suffering of Palestinian refugees. It also called on the international community to work relentlessly to end the occupation and to provide international protection for the Palestinian people until they could exercise their right to self-determination and establish an independent, sovereign, viable and territorially contiguous State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the 4 June 1967 borders.

21. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the right to self-determination must be exercised freely without coercion or repression, must not lapse over time, and must not be obfuscated by deliberate conflation with terrorism. Despite those clear injunctions of international law and morality, the adoption of several resolutions by the Security Council and promises by the Governments of India and Pakistan, occupying forces in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been ruthlessly suppressing the courageous struggle for self-determination for over 70 years.

22. India continued to hold the future of millions of people hostage, its forces having unleashed a reign of terror to crush the will of the Kashmiri people to free themselves from foreign domination and occupation. The gross violations of human rights committed by the occupying forces had been repeatedly documented by

independent human rights observers, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which had recommended in its report of June 2018 on the situation of human rights in Kashmir that an inquiry commission be constituted to investigate and redress the gross violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people.

23. Pakistan was deeply concerned at the rise of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, which posed a grave threat to international peace and security. Freedom of expression could not be used as a pretext for religious defamation and hate speech. Having always sided with forces working to unite humanity and opposed those seeking to provoke violence, Pakistan was committed to continuing its efforts to build bridges of understanding and to challenge and resist those who sought to construct walls of bigotry and hatred.

24. **Mr. Lukiyantsev** (Russian Federation) said that combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance remained a vital aspect of the work of the United Nations but it required the political will and coordination of the entire international community. The divergent views and approaches of Member States, international organizations and civil society were currently undermining the effectiveness of responses. Racism, xenophobia and intolerance were continuing to proliferate in many countries as political parties and politicians used racist rhetoric in a desperate attempt to win votes and the public space became a wash with extremist ideas and racist slogans, whose dissemination went practically unchecked, especially in the case of information and communication technologies. The irresponsible attitude of some States was to sit back and claim that freedom of expression had absolute primacy. That position was inconsistent with a holistic approach to human rights as well as with the unambiguous requirement under article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to punish by law manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. A clear distinction should be made between manifestations of racism and freedom of speech.

25. The practice of honouring former members of Waffen SS and their collaborators had become common in the heart of Europe, with Nazi sympathizers and war criminals being touted as war heroes and freedom fighters. In some countries, monuments honouring those who had liberated Europe and the world from fascism continued to be under attack.

26. The Russian Federation supported strengthening the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention in every way

possible and would not brook any attempts to restrict its competence, especially its mandate to resolve disputes between States parties.

27. His delegation was concerned that more than 300,000 so-called non-nationals and ethnic minorities in the Baltic region were being subjected to ethnic discrimination and deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms and that the threat posed to languages of ethnic minorities had increased over the past year, particularly in the field of education. Ukraine had followed suit with its own discriminatory measures that diminished the status of the Russian language not only in relation to Ukrainian, but also to other European Union languages. Such measures were unacceptable and violated the international obligations of Ukraine.

28. The right of all peoples to self-determination, which was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, human rights instruments and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, was rooted in centuries of struggles with colonialism and yet remained highly topical. A world order in which all peoples could choose their political future in accordance with the Charter and international law could only be achieved if their rights were upheld without double standards and independently of the competing interests of individual States and groups of States.

29. **Ms. Pritchard** (Canada) said that too many people around the world were still being judged, stigmatized, marginalized or subjected to abuse because of the colour of their skin or their ethnic origin. Like many other countries, Canada had a long history of racism, colonialism and slavery. Numerous studies had shown that the high cost of racism and racial discrimination to society included obstacles to social services and losses to economic potential, as well as transnational instability.

30. To create a more inclusive future, it was necessary to uproot racism through collective and concerted efforts and to build a world where diversity was celebrated. States must amplify the voices of those who promoted inclusion and leaders must set a respectful tone and continue to speak out against hatred and intolerance wherever it occurred. Institutional measures must be established to tackle systematic forms of racism and ensure the full participation of all people in all spheres. At the international level, States were urged to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, if they had not already done so, and to ensure its full implementation.

31. The efforts of the United Nations special procedures mandate holders, including the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, shed light on those issues and challenged Member States to continue to work towards creating more inclusive communities, more inclusive countries and a more inclusive world as a whole.

32. **Mr. Cappon** (Israel), referring to a recent attack on a synagogue in Pittsburgh, United States of America, in which 11 Jewish people had been killed, said that racism was rooted in fear of the other, which could quickly deteriorate into prejudice and violence. The Jewish people had a unique experience with the downward spiral of racism, including the Holocaust and pogroms in Eastern Europe. It was still dangerous for Jews to walk down the street wearing a kippa in many parts of the world. Certain parliamentarians mourned the lives of terrorists who had killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. In early 2018, Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old French Jewish woman, had been killed in an anti-Semitic hate crime. The people of Paris had shown solidarity with her by marching in the streets, but that had been an exception, rather than the rule.

33. According to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the working definition of anti-Semitism included, but was not limited to, demonizing the Jewish people, spreading myths about a so-called world Jewish conspiracy, denying the Holocaust and denying the right of the Jewish people to self-determination. Some Member States of the United Nations were thus guilty of anti-Semitism and some claimed that the only Jewish State in the world had no right to exist. Anti-Semitism, however, was not merely a Jewish problem; other forms of racism could not be defeated as long as anti-Semitism thrived. The fight against anti-Semitism was the first step in pushing back the tide of racial prejudice, hate and discrimination.

34. **Ms. Tripathi** (India) said that expressions of racial prejudice were intertwined with other forms of discrimination that constituted human rights violations. The rise of exclusionist ideologies propagating discrimination and violence threatened to subvert the globalized economic order and social cohesion. Comprehensive legal and administrative responses were needed to combat the trend. Perpetrators must be held accountable, awareness of the issues raised and law enforcement officials trained to deal with them. Poverty and economic disparities were closely associated with racial discrimination. For that reason, action at the national level and international cooperation were needed to implement the Durban Declaration and

Programme of Action and achieve the inclusive growth envisaged under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

35. The growing use of the digital space for the dissemination of racist and xenophobic material and the recruitment, networking and fundraising of groups espousing those ideologies was alarming and required an international response. The issues of racial equality and freedom of expression need not be pursued in a zero-sum manner. Conventional and social media outlets should adopt codes of conduct containing a commitment to racial equality and non-discrimination. Social media platforms required responsible content moderation and norms for removing objectionable content on a voluntary basis.

36. India was a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multilingual society based on principles of peaceful coexistence and tolerance. The principle of equality was enshrined in the Constitution and racial discrimination was expressly forbidden. Those constitutional provisions were embodied in her country's legal framework and safeguarded by the judiciary, human rights institutions, civil society and the media.

37. India had long been at the forefront of the struggle against colonialism. Efforts to conclude the process of decolonization of the remaining 17 non-self-governing territories should be stepped up. The issue of Palestinian self-determination must also be resolved. India had scaled up bilateral development partnerships with Palestine and increased its contribution to UNRWA.

38. India rejected the reference by one delegation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which was an integral part of India. It had become habitual for that delegation to misuse any international forum to serve narrow political aims. The people of India and the broader region suffered from egregious human rights violations caused by terrorism emanating from beyond its borders. The right to self-determination could not be abused or misrepresented with the aim of undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State.

39. **Mr. Moussa** (Egypt) said that there was a need for global cooperation and a firm commitment at the national policy level to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and address the misuse of information technologies as a tool for promoting and spreading hatred. There should be a policy of zero tolerance for hate speech and incitement. Measures must also be taken to provide victims with legal and social protection and hold the perpetrators of racist acts to account. His country regretted the lack of progress in filling normative gaps to combat all contemporary forms of racism.

40. The implementation of the right to self-determination, which was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, contributed to the greater enjoyment of human rights, peace and stability and thereby helped to prevent conflict. Egypt reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, to an independent State of Palestine and to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources. States should assist the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter in that regard.

41. **Mr. Zambrano Ortiz** (Ecuador) said that racism divided communities and created fear in all societies. More than 50 years after the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance persisted. Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which remained the only instrument that prescribed comprehensive measures for combating racism and addressing adequate remedies for victims.

42. Achieving sustainable social, political and economic development was possible only by ensuring social integration and equal rights for all. Diversity was considered a source of wealth and a fundamental pillar in the history and identity of Ecuador, which had protected those rights in its national development plan for the period 2017–2021 through initiatives aimed at strengthening a sense of belonging in a heterogeneous society. Key actions also included a claims and reparations framework provided by the Constitution, the criminalization of hate crimes and acts of discrimination and the adoption of a law on human mobility aimed at protecting the rights of migrants and refugees.

43. The international community must work together to ensure that racism, discrimination and xenophobia are eliminated in the twenty-first century. Education played an important role in combating racial bias and stereotypes by encouraging respect for one another and appreciation for the diversity of cultures worldwide. All forms of intolerance must be addressed as part of the commitment to leave no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

44. **Ms. Turner** (Jamaica) said that her country remained committed to implementing the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Freedom from

discrimination in Jamaica was guaranteed under the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. Moreover, neither Parliament nor any other State body could pass any law or take any action that infringed on the rights contained therein. Violations of those rights were punishable by law. Her country had ratified the Convention against Discrimination in Education and adopted a national policy on culture, with a chapter on promoting cultural diversity. Jamaica would submit its combined twenty-first to twenty-third periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the end of 2018.

45. Much remained to be done to achieve the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. Her country decried the use of racial profiling, especially against people of African descent, which had been highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent ([A/73/354](#)). Given the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in addressing the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Jamaica had joined the Group of Friends on the Elimination of Racism. It had also worked with the African Union and other Member States to erect the Permanent Memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, the Ark of Return. It symbolized the story of four centuries of unspeakable agony inflicted on more than 15 million children, women and men. Her Government believed that a culture of tolerance and understanding was the key to lasting peace.

46. **Mr. de Souza Monteiro** (Brazil) said that the Group against Institutional Racism initiative in his country, which had been mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent ([A/73/354](#)), was an example of how different stakeholders could work together to eliminate racial discrimination. Indeed, the number of tested and evidence-based policies to combat racism had grown since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. However, digital technologies were facilitating the dissemination of hate speech and incitement to violence.

47. Little progress had been made in addressing the specific case of people of African descent. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent had limited resources and, although OHCHR was doing commendable work in that area, available human resources were also limited. People of African descent were underrepresented in international organizations,

non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations. Even States with a significant population of African descent, such as Brazil, needed to improve in that regard. The creation of a permanent forum, as proposed in the programme of activities, would significantly improve their representation in the international multilateral system. It was also time to negotiate a global declaration of rights for them.

48. **Ms. Makwabe** (South Africa), said, with regard to agenda item 72, that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had special significance for South Africa, given the country's tragic history of injustice, dispossession and inequality. The goal of Government policy was to enhance the dignity of all citizens and redress the inequalities of the past, including with regard to the land issue. The Constitution rested on the principle of non-discrimination. Her country had made significant progress in its efforts to fulfil the human rights of all, especially in terms of socioeconomic development, establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights and improve all people's quality of life.

49. During the first 20 years of democracy in South Africa, more than 1,200 laws and amendments had been passed to dismantle apartheid and eradicate all forms of discrimination. A national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance was being finalized in line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and legislation on preventing and combating hate speech and hate crimes was expected to be passed shortly. Her country would continue in its efforts to ensure that everyone shared in its wealth and prosperity.

50. **Mr. Mapokgole** (South Africa), turning to agenda item 73, said that, given that achieving the right of all peoples to self-determination was a fundamental condition for the preservation and promotion of human rights, South Africa traditionally supported and sponsored the draft resolution on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination ([A/C.3/73/L.54](#)). The support of South Africa for the Palestinian people in their struggle for emancipation, self-determination, freedom and justice remained unwavering. An independent international inquiry should be held to investigate war crimes allegedly committed in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. The disproportionate use of force and violence posed an obstacle to a permanent resolution of the conflict, which must come in the form of two States, Palestine and Israel, existing side by side and in peace.



51. South Africa was committed to the struggle of fellow Africans, in particular the people of Western Sahara, against subjugation and deprivation. His country supported the Sahrawi people in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence and was intensifying its solidarity with the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). In the face of dwindling international aid for Sahrawi refugees, the South African Government had recently approved the provision of humanitarian assistance totalling R10 million through the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund. South Africa, which favoured the holding of a referendum on self-determination for the Sahrawi people, would continue to share its experiences in the peaceful settlement of conflict. Human rights violations in Western Sahara and the suffering of the Sahrawi people must be brought to an end.

52. Notwithstanding the established principles of international humanitarian law, civilians in occupied territories were being denied their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. South Africa called for the humane treatment of civilians at all times. The United Nations should continue to emphasize dialogue in support of peaceful solutions as the only viable means of addressing conflict in occupied territories.

53. **Ms. Kipiani** (Georgia) said that, since her country had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, its legal system had been reformed to make it compliant with the Convention. An anti-discrimination law, the implementation of which was being monitored by the Office of the Public Defender, had been passed in 2014. At the same time, other laws had been amended to harmonize provisions serving to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors and to ensure the equal enjoyment of rights by all. The new Constitution, which would come into force shortly, contained comprehensive provisions on equality, the rule of law and the elimination of discrimination.

54. Since 2017, the occupation forces had intensified discrimination against ethnic Georgians residing in the Russian-occupied Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgians had been compelled to register as foreign citizens and obtain so-called residence permits. Georgians in the Gali district of Abkhazia had been obliged to change their surnames and ethnic identity in order to enjoy basic human rights. Since 2015, Georgian had been banned as a language of instruction in the first four grades in the remaining 10 Georgian schools in Gali district, gradually resulting in the total restriction of education in the native language in Abkhazia. A similar process had been initiated in the Tskhinvali region/

South Ossetia, where education in the native language had been banned in Georgian schools in Akhlagori, Znauri and Sinaguri since 2017. The humanitarian and human rights situation in the occupied regions, access to which had been denied to representatives of OHCHR, special rapporteurs and other human rights bodies, remained alarming.

55. **Ms. Inanç-Örnekol** (Turkey) said that her country's Constitution was founded on the principle of the equality of all before the law. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had become an integral part of national legislation. Legislative and administrative measures were also being taken in the areas of education and law enforcement to combat discrimination. Concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels were needed to combat intolerance and Turkey, which was a party to all the relevant international instruments, cooperated closely with their special mechanisms. The common struggle against racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia was today more relevant than ever. Members of religious or ethnic groups were increasingly subjected to hostile acts, people were being stigmatized on the basis of race, colour, descent and national or ethnic origin and the use of racist propaganda in politics was becoming more commonplace. Members of the Turkish community living in Europe had suffered directly from such trends.

56. The world was facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War, as growing numbers of refugees and irregular migrants headed to countries far from their homes. Increasingly, they faced the possibility of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia. Migrants were especially vulnerable and were often targets of hostility, harassment and hate crimes. The international community and, in particular, the receiving countries must do more to ensure that migrants did not fall victim to Islamophobia and other forms of intolerance, discrimination and exclusion. Those scourges constituted a grave threat to global peace and social harmony and must be addressed urgently and comprehensively.

57. The international community had a moral and legal obligation to protect the dignity of individuals and prevent all forms of discrimination. Prominent persons, in particular politicians and media representatives, should adopt an attitude and language that united rather than divided people. Incitement to hatred and religious discrimination against people of all faiths was to be condemned. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative, spearheaded by Turkey and Spain, stood out as a means for building greater cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect.

58. **Mr. McElwain** (United States of America) said that his country was committed to fighting racism, condemned the spread of racist doctrines and would continue to work to eradicate racial discrimination and defend the equality and dignity of all persons.

59. The United States of America took an especially dim view of government and State-sanctioned acts of persecution based on racial, ethnic or religious discrimination. In China, the authorities were fomenting racial intolerance by restricting religious freedom and forcing hundreds of thousands, and possibly millions, of Uighur Muslims into so-called re-education camps. They had acted to repress the freedoms of speech, religion, association and assembly in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. In Tibet, the Chinese authorities targeted monasteries, NGOs and cultural and civic groups seeking to preserve Tibetan identity. His country condemned the ongoing human rights violations and abuses in Kachin, Shan and other states in Myanmar against members of ethnic and religious minority groups. The Rohingya in Rakhine State faced severe discrimination and those still living in Myanmar remained stateless, in part owing to provisions of the Citizenship Act of 1982.

60. Governments, civil society and citizens should work together to eliminate violence and discrimination based on racism and racist ideologies, but Governments should do so in ways that preserved freedom of expression and fundamental rights. His country was concerned that some States advocated limiting freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. The best way to counteract offensive speech was with more free speech.

61. **Mr. Carazo** (Costa Rica) said that eliminating all forms of discrimination helped to strengthen democracy, consolidate peace and foster citizen participation. Nonetheless, notions of racial hatred continued to hold sway throughout the world and posed a grave challenge to human rights. The way in which issues such as migration and minority rights were used to incite hatred and encourage discrimination and violence against such minorities was a source of concern. Populist rhetoric became especially virulent during political campaigns, in which fear and disinformation were used to win votes.

62. The multicultural and multi-ethnic makeup of Costa Rica was recognized in article 1 of the Constitution. Much had been done to build a diverse and inclusive society in which all were treated equally, enjoyed equal opportunities and could participate in the political and social life of the country regardless of their cultural, ethnic, racial, religious or linguistic identity. Costa Rica had been the first State to ratify the

Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance. Among the goals of his Government's national integration plan was to promote social harmony through cultural diversity. The content of school curriculums was being updated with a view to instilling citizens with respect for human dignity without discrimination and so that they might embrace multiculturalism. His country was committed to raising awareness of the problems facing people of African descent and promoting sustainable development for them. Almost five years in to the International Decade for People of African Descent, countries must show greater commitment and political will to achieve the objectives set forth in the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade.

63. **Ms. Shikongo** (Namibia) said that her country relied on international solidarity to help it advance towards self-determination and supported all other countries that sought to claim their right to self-determination. In that vein, her delegation called for the implementation of all United Nations resolutions that might contribute to positive, peaceful and permanent solutions for the people of Western Sahara. It was worrying that the 1991 Settlement Plan on the organization of a referendum, which was backed by the United Nations, and various resolutions pertaining to Western Sahara had yet to be implemented. Her delegation hoped that efforts by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara to relaunch the round-table discussions between representatives of Western Sahara and Morocco in Geneva in December 2018 would yield positive results.

64. Namibia remained concerned by the persistent violence and tension in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The situation in Gaza had been exacerbated by the recent decision of the United States Administration to stop funding UNRWA, which had been a stabilizing factor in the region and a lifeline for Palestinians. A recent proposal by the mayor of Jerusalem to discontinue programmes run by UNRWA would worsen the already dire conditions faced by Palestinian refugees in that city. It was encouraging that Member States had shown strong support for the Palestinian cause at the general debate at the current session of the General Assembly and by electing the State of Palestine to chair the Group of 77 and China in 2019.

65. She called on Israel to cease all construction of settlements and the destruction of Palestinian homes and infrastructure as well as to completely and unconditionally withdraw from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. All parties should return to the negotiating table so that

Palestinians could be granted their inalienable rights and the State of Palestine be recognized as a rightful member of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

66. **Mr. Latrous** (Algeria) said that the continued spread of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia throughout the world was reflected in the accession to power in recent years of extreme right-wing political parties in some countries. Certain media outlets used the cover of freedom of expression to declare particular communities and religions responsible for a given country's difficulties and used speech that incited to racism and xenophobia, which in turn could stir up hatred between communities and encourage violent extremism. The resurgence of discrimination and intolerance in its contemporary forms must be rejected by all available political and legal means.

67. In Algeria, all citizens were equal before the law and the obligation to combat and eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination was enshrined in article 32 of the Constitution. A definition of racial discrimination, replicating article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had been incorporated into the Criminal Code. Offences thereunder were punishable by prison terms ranging from six months to three years. Those reforms had been welcomed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its concluding observations on the combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports of Algeria. His country had taken note of the recommendations and reservations expressed by the Committee therein. National policy was directed at maintaining peace and promoting fraternal links, religious dialogue, understanding among people, complementarity of cultures and the rapprochement of civilizations. His country had endorsed General Assembly resolution [72/130](#) on declaring 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace. All States must assume their responsibilities for combating hate speech and stereotypes and adopt stronger measures to fully implement the Durban Declaration and its Programme of Action.

68. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking under agenda item 73, said that June 2018 had marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. It was currently the longest-running military occupation in the world and over the past year had become more entrenched and merciless than ever. Israel had demonstrated that it was more interested in a colonial, expansionist agenda than in ending its illegal policies, despite repeated requests by the international community and the requirements of various United

Nations resolutions. Over 230 Israeli settlements had been established on confiscated Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and more than 500,000 Israeli settlers were residing there illegally. The purpose of the settlements was clearly to fragment the territory, separate Palestinian towns and villages, isolate and seal off regions into walled enclaves and exploit natural resources. Checkpoints, obstacles to movement and a permit regime further restricted movement and impaired social and economic life. The 11-year blockade of the Gaza Strip constituted a further violation of Palestinians' right to self-determination and a constant affront to the dignity and security of the 2 million Palestinian people living there. For over seven decades, over half of all Palestinians had been stateless, refugees and deprived of their right to return home. It was time for the Palestinian people to finally realize their right to self-determination and to live peacefully in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

69. Speaking under agenda item 73 (b), she said that the Palestinian people living both in the Occupied State of Palestine and Israel suffered racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Since 1967, the occupying Power had institutionalized a vicious system of discrimination to enable the economic and social subjugation of Palestinians, strip them of their rights and segregate them into underprivileged population centres. The settlement enterprise was the most glaring example of that system as Israel did its utmost to Judaize the occupied West Bank, especially East Jerusalem. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had condemned the occupying Power's illegal settlement practices and urged it to take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate policies or practices of racial segregation and apartheid. The country's continued indifference to that Committee and to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid proved that it would continue pursuing its policies at the expense of an entire people and of peace.

70. Throughout the duration of the illegal occupation, over 65 laws had been passed that explicitly or implicitly discriminated against Palestinians, including Palestinians in Israel, who made up one fifth of the national population. The Nation-State Law established elements of an apartheid regime, while granting the right to self-determination exclusively to Jewish citizens. Moreover, the new law undermined Israel's claim to democracy, jeopardized the prospect of a peaceful two-State solution and incited fear of deliberate discrimination against Palestinians living in Israel. In that context, the surge in racist and xenophobic acts and

discourse against Palestinians and their property, especially by Israeli settlers, was particularly alarming. Even though the occupying Power had a duty to protect Palestinians from such violence under international law, offenders and high-ranking Israeli officials enjoyed a high degree of impunity.

71. She urged all members of the international community not only to condemn Israel but also to show the moral and political courage to hold Israel accountable for its grave crimes and countless breaches of internationally binding agreements and put an immediate end to the occupying Power's long-standing impunity. The subjugation of millions of Palestinians was comparable to colonization and apartheid and undermined all hopes for peace and civility between the parties.

72. **Mr. Ajayi** (Nigeria) said that his country had the largest concentration of black people in the world and therefore a manifest destiny to combat racial bias and related narrow-mindedness. His delegation condemned the recent resurgence of hate campaigns and discrimination and called upon all Member States to redouble their efforts to eradicate all forms of racial intolerance. At the national level, his Government had enacted the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act and established mechanisms to arrest and punish persons who manipulated technology to promote racial superiority and ethnic or religious intolerance. A national council was used as a platform to foster discussion and understanding among religious and ethnic groups. At the central and grassroots level, Nigeria applied the federal character principle, a provision under its Constitution that encouraged fair representation in the distribution of governmental and political appointments. At the international level, it was committed to its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and encouraged all Member States to accede to the Convention and remove reservations to its article 4.

73. Nigeria firmly supported the establishment of the forum for people of African descent as a mechanism for promoting understanding and dialogue and building a legally binding regime to recognize such persons. The midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent in 2020 would provide an additional opportunity to find further priorities for people of African descent and amplify the scope of the current outcome document. Lastly, his delegation called for the full implementation of the final Declaration and Programme of Action of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which remained a watershed

achievement in the global commitment to the elimination of all forms of prejudice.

74. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the world was witnessing a resurgence of racist and xenophobic attitudes, online and offline hate speech in the guise of freedom of expression, hate crimes, violence and anti-immigrant sentiments; the justification and promotion of racial hatred by political parties and public figures; and the enactment of racist laws. The United States, for example, in violation of the Convention, had imposed illegal and inhumane sanctions that deprived Iranians worldwide of their fundamental human rights. Moreover, its Administration routinely engaged in hate speech against non-nationals and minority groups and had institutionalized discrimination through a blanket immigration ban. While his delegation was deeply concerned by rising levels of Islamophobia worldwide, the situation in the West was especially troubling. A 2016 report on hate crime by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights had confirmed that Muslims were unfairly targeted in everyday life, while the American Muslim Poll 2018 had revealed that American Muslims experienced more religious discrimination than any other faith or non-affiliated group. The pledge by the newly elected right-wing government in Quebec to bar the use of religious symbols for people in a position of authority was an additional example of the recent wave of Islamophobia.

75. Despite affirming the right to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations for decades, some Member States continued to violate the enjoyment of that right by indigenous peoples. Similarly, military force, forced displacement, occupation and the ever-expanding illegal Israeli settlements had been used to systematically deprive the people of Palestine of their rights to return to their homes. The Israeli Nation-State Law was a further affront to the inalienable right of Palestinians to self-determination, as it effectively legalized racial supremacy and apartheid.

76. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that millions of people worldwide were subjected to racial discrimination or were denied their fundamental right to self-determination. In that connection, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to perpetrate grave human rights violations, some of which amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity, against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories. As part of its efforts to legitimize its illegal occupation and colonialist policies, Israel had imposed Israeli law on the occupied Syrian Golan, against the wishes of its native inhabitants and in

clear violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Meanwhile, certain States continued to shield Israel from all attempts to hold it accountable for its crimes.

77. The occupied Syrian Golan was an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian Government would continue its efforts to ensure the return of that occupied territory to the homeland. The Syrian Government also affirmed the right of the Syrian inhabitants of that occupied territory to resist the racist policies of the Israeli occupation authorities. Israel must end its occupation of all Arab territories and desist from all hostile and provocative actions. The Syrian Government also categorically rejected all interference in the internal affairs of States as well as all attempts to undermine States' security and stability or to overthrow their legitimate governments.

78. In closing, he called for further efforts, under the auspices of the United Nations, to combat hate speech, racist discourse, the rise of extremism, all acts of terrorism and related violence, and the ongoing support provided to terrorist groups by certain States, which impeded the enjoyment of human rights and constituted a serious threat to international peace and security.

79. **Mr. Onanga Ndjila** (Gabon) said that all forms of racism, as well as ethnic, religious and racial discrimination, were punished under his country's Constitution. A culture of dialogue, peace and acceptance of others was at the heart of his Government's policies as well as the belief that the best way to fight and eliminate racial discrimination was through specialized regional and national institutions. Gabon was currently examining a law on the suppression of xenophobia, racism, tribalism and religious intolerance. A study conducted the previous year by the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research had found that racism and xenophobia barely existed in Gabon. The country also hosted many migrants and asylum seekers from Africa and beyond and was a party to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Observatory of Inequalities, which had been established in 2017, continued to be an important tool in shaping Government policies with regard to combatting discrimination and inequality.

80. **Ms. Niculae** (Romania) said that her country framed its anti-discrimination strategies around the premise that legislation to combat discrimination existed but that better coherence was required for its implementation. Since education was one of the most

effective ways of combating discrimination, the Romanian National Agency for Equal Opportunities had organized several campaigns to raise awareness of the engagements undertaken by Romania to promote gender equality, including the HeForShe campaign. Increases in the number of individuals requesting protective measures and reporting discriminatory treatment proved the effectiveness of the current system. The National Council for Combating Discrimination was also receiving a higher number of complaints invoking ethnic origin or disability as criteria for discriminatory treatment and was increasingly being called on to provide expert opinions during judicial proceedings. Courts also now had more cases relating to discriminatory treatment.

81. During its chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance from 2016 to 2017, Romania had facilitated the adoption of a working definition of anti-Semitism. In June 2018, the Romanian parliament had incorporated that definition into a law on anti-Semitism that criminalized the promotion of anti-Semitic ideas, the dissemination of anti-Semitic material and the creation of anti-Semitic organizations. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and various law enforcement agencies had been encouraged by the Government to incorporate the definition into their activities, including into professional training programmes. Romania would support all initiatives to promote the adoption of the Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism by other States and international organizations.

82. **Ms. Banaken Elel** (Cameroon) said that racist acts were proliferating worldwide, chiefly fuelled by a resurgence of groups with racist agendas that targeted ethnic, religious, linguistic or other minorities. Her delegation shared the concern that the increase in nationalist and populist discourse exacerbated practices and policies of exclusion. There were numerous examples of efforts to promote non-discrimination and bilingualism in Cameroon. Her Government had established a national commission on multiculturalism and interculturalism in January 2017 to ensure that the English and French languages were of equal value in public institutions. Cameroon had also ratified numerous relevant international instruments, including the Convention. While recognizing the importance of combating racism within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and expressing concern at the racial profiling of persons of African descent in some cases, her delegation called for the engagement of all Member States in the 2020 midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

83. **Ms. Stepanyan** (Armenia) said that her country recognized the importance of promoting the right to self-determination as a fundamental and binding norm of international law and rejected any hierarchical, preferential or arbitrary interpretations of that right. In some instances, its realization had been denied by force, and the situation had deteriorated into mass atrocities and grave human rights violations. The use of force could only exacerbate the situation and eventually trap the parties in a protracted conflict. Greater attention should therefore be paid to creating an environment that was conducive to the enjoyment of the right to self-determination, including through early warning mechanisms of humanitarian crises and discussions and actions that promoted tolerance and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international level. The international community must also respond promptly whenever xenophobia was elevated to the level of national ideology or became the central pillar of a Government's conduct.

84. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh had exercised their right to self-determination in full conformity with international norms. The conflict in that area was a result of the outright denial of their right to determine their governance and social, cultural and economic development. Nagorno-Karabakh now had a genuine democratic society which respected the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the importance of civil society.

85. **Mr. Gorman-best** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that reports of violent attacks and hate crimes against migrants had been on the rise in recent years and that anti-migrant rhetoric was having an increasing impact on the political environment. The international community had an obligation under international law to protect migrants from such violence; Member States must recognize the profound impact of the advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred on people's lives and prevent intolerance-based violence, which history had shown could result in persecution and conflict. Xenophobia, which often disproportionately impacted those on the move, was one of the main sources of contemporary racism and human rights violations and represented a first step on a dangerous road towards the disrespect of all rights.

86. Greater awareness was needed of the fact that attacks on rights holders through digital technology platforms had an impact on everyone in society. Bearing in mind the importance of the successful integration of migrants, IOM advocated the adoption of policies that facilitated their engagement with the host society from a socioeconomic, political and cultural perspective. It had collected many migrant stories as part of the I am a

Migrant campaign in order to highlight the positive impact of migration.

87. IOM considered the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be a blueprint for good governance of migration and the protection of migrants' rights. The recognition under the Compact that open debate contributed to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration was particularly important. IOM would continue to work with civil society, the private sector, academia, international organizations and Governments to challenge the negative depiction of migration.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*