



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
111th session

**Summary record of the second part (public)\* of the 3049th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 8 December 2023, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Shepherd

**Contents**

Closure of the session

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\* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document [CERD/C/SR.3049](#).

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*The public part of the meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.*

### **Closure of the session**

1. **Mr. Guissé** (Rapporteur) said that the Committee's 111th session had been attended in person by all but one of its members. At the public opening, a statement had been delivered by Mr. Boychenko, Chief of the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who had observed that, while 2023 marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the promotion and protection of human rights remained far from reality for millions of people. Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons faced racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia daily and in many areas of their lives.

2. During the session, the Committee had conducted reviews and adopted concluding observations on the reports of six States parties – Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, South Africa and Viet Nam. The Committee appreciated the information contributed by all delegations, non-governmental organizations and the national human rights institutions of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Germany and Morocco.

3. The Committee had considered communication No. 79/2021 (*S.H. v. Switzerland*), which concerned a petitioner who had been turned away at the Swiss border on account of measures to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The petitioner claimed that the State party had violated his rights under the Convention, as the authorities had authorized the entry of other passengers travelling on the same day. The Committee had decided that the communication was inadmissible since the author had failed to submit his communication to the Committee within the six-month deadline and had not provided any justification for the late submission.

4. During the session, the Committee had also considered follow-up reports submitted by Azerbaijan, Slovakia and the United States of America. Under its early warning and urgent action procedure, the Committee had considered a number of situations and would send letters to the States parties concerned. The Committee had continued to review its rules of procedure and methods of work.

5. The Committee and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had held a public event to hear from different stakeholders as a first step towards developing a joint general recommendation on policies to prevent xenophobia and mitigate its impact on the rights of migrants. A meeting had been held with States parties to the Convention at which the Committee had provided an update on recent developments in the treaty body strengthening process and had called upon States to accept the Committee's individual communications procedure and to provide the treaty bodies with the necessary resources for their functioning. States parties had been reminded of the need to ensure equitable geographic representation in the Committee's membership. The Committee had also met with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance to discuss issues of common interest and opportunities for synergy and cooperation.

6. At its next session, scheduled to take place from 8 to 29 April 2024, the Committee would examine the reports of Albania, Mauritius, Mexico, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino.

7. **The Chair** said that her term as Chair of the Committee was coming to an end. It had been her privilege to serve the Committee and the United Nations in that capacity. The mission of human rights defenders was to pull people out of conditions of marginalization, socioeconomic oppression and racial discrimination and to advocate for peace in a world of widespread conflict. Equal rights, justice and peace required an end to racial discrimination and notions of racial superiority. Collective efforts were needed to mend fractured global relations and make a better world for all.

8. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared the 111th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination closed.

*The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.*