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Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai (Oman)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 117: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (A/56/3, 18 and Corr.1, 48, A/56/71-E/2001/65, A/56/79, 94, 228, 364, 481, 647, 649 and 673; A/CONF.189/12)

1. **Ms. Robinson** (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that the elimination of racism and racial discrimination was a central tenet of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of virtually every international human-rights instrument adopted by the United Nations. Her Office was committed to achieving universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the key treaty in the field.

2. The fact that racism and racial discrimination persisted despite the existence of those instruments clearly demonstrated the need to look for new ways to address the problem. The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance had been organized with that in mind. Although the Conference had involved difficult negotiations and differences of view, it had nevertheless been ultimately successful in adopting a Declaration and a Programme of Action by consensus. A welcome common ground had been reached on difficult issues relating to slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and on the issues relating to the Middle East. Agreement had also been reached on the need for national action plans, tougher national legislation and stronger national institutions, improvement in the administration of justice, and more legal assistance to victims of racial discrimination.

3. The Declaration and the Programme of Action emphasized the need to take a victim-oriented approach. Specific reference was made to Africans and persons of African descent, Asians and persons of Asian descent, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and various minorities, the Roma and others. The gender dimension of racial discrimination had also been underscored, as well as the question of multiple discrimination. Furthermore, the Conference had highlighted the importance of involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people in the struggle against racism. A wide variety of educational and consciousness-raising measures had been adopted, as well as measures to ensure equality in

the fields of employment, health and the environment and to counter racism in the media and through the use of new technologies, such as the Internet.

4. The documents adopted in Durban were historic, and they had become all the more important in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks, because their vision of a world which embraced diversity and stood for equality was an antidote to terrorism. The real question from that point on for the international community was to live up to those commitments and thus respond to the enormous consensus around the world on the need to hasten the process.

5. She urged members to adopt the draft resolution on the World Conference by consensus in order to send a clear message to the rest of the world. The Programme of Action referred to the establishment of an anti-discrimination unit within her Office, whose major tasks would be the mainstreaming of the Declaration and the Programme of Action in the activities of her Office and of other United Nations bodies; preparing the annual progress reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly; undertaking public-awareness and information activities worldwide; providing input to her Office's technical assistance programmes; organizing seminars; and establishing a database on best practices and national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination. The Unit, set up at the beginning of the year on an interim basis, would require additional budgetary funds to continue functioning.

6. The Programme of Action also recommended the establishment of a group of five independent eminent experts appointed by the Secretary-General, whose mandate would be to monitor the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action. That too would require budgetary support.

7. The World Conference must be seen as a beginning and not an end. The Secretary-General had prepared a report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/56/481), and there was a close association between the subject matter of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade and that of the World Conference. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had also prepared a report (A/56/18 and Corr.1), which would be considered by the General Assembly at its next session.

8. **Mr. Ndiaye** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), delivering a statement on behalf of Mr. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, said that the World Conference would have a lasting impact on consciences and ways of acting. The international community had fulfilled its duty to remember by its welcome recognition that slavery and the black slave trade had been crimes against humanity. The Special Rapporteur himself, in exercising his mandate, had endeavoured to denounce laws and practices around the world that violated the dignity of the human being, such as the economic and social marginalization of indigenous peoples and minorities; discrimination against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; the resurgence of racist ideologies, especially as disseminated on the Internet; racist violence committed by police forces or extremists of all persuasions; racial discrimination in the administration of justice; and the use of ethnic differences by politicians for their own purposes. All those issues had been taken up at the World Conference, and what was needed next was to keep the “spirit of Durban” alive in daily life by promoting ways of acting that respected and accepted others in all their cultural difference and in all dignity.

9. The information that the Special Rapporteur had gathered on contemporary manifestations of racism would be included in his March 2003 report to the Commission on Human Rights. His conclusions following his mission to Australia from 22 April to 2 May 2001 would be presented in an addendum to the report. The goals of that mission had been to study: the impact of the Native Title Amendment Act 1998, considered discriminatory by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the legislation prescribing mandatory minimum sentencing of minors who were first-offenders, which affected Aboriginals primarily and should therefore be abolished as discriminatory; the process of reconciliation between the Aboriginal Peoples and the rest of the population; the rehabilitation of Aboriginals taken away from their parents and forced to assimilate; and the implementation of the Australian multiculturalism policy. The mission which the Special Rapporteur was to have conducted in Canada had been deferred to 2002.

10. **Mr. Arias** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey and, in addition, Iceland, hailed the spirit of compromise of the various regional groups which had made it possible ultimately to adopt the Declaration and the Programme of Action at the conclusion of the World Conference. While those documents expressed a genuine political will to put an end to racism, lessons should nevertheless be drawn from the difficulties encountered in producing the final texts and, looking ahead to conferences to come, care should be taken to respect the established rules in that area in order to ensure that worthwhile texts were adopted.

11. The European Union was convinced that any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin constituted a denial of the rights of the individual. During the World Conference, the European Union had recognized and condemned the enormous suffering caused by past and contemporary forms of slavery and the slave trade and by the reprehensible aspects of colonialism. However, the European Union, given its profound conviction that all human beings formed a single family and were born free and equal in dignity and in law, rejected any theory seeking to determine the existence of distinct human races and welcomed the fact that the documents adopted in Durban had also rejected that spurious concept.

12. The European Union believed that the time had come to look to the future and to build a new relationship among people based on mutual respect, solidarity and partnership. That would require taking a number of specific steps on the national, regional and international fronts. Among the measures that the European Union regarded as particularly important were: reinforcing the legal framework for combating racism, especially by adopting effective national laws and establishing judicial and administrative remedies for human rights violations; hastening the implementation of national measures to improve education, training, information and prevention in relation to racism and intolerance; fighting contemporary forms of racism, such as trafficking in persons or racial discrimination in the workplace; recognizing the crucial role played by civil society as an indispensable channel to public opinion; and

combating the dissemination of racist ideas on the Internet. The European Union also attached special importance to fighting anti-Semitism, and welcomed the specific steps taken to combat that manifestation of racism.

13. Racism and racial discrimination stood in the way of the full enjoyment of human rights and threatened democratic societies and their basic values, whereas the promotion of tolerance, a respect for diversity and the active participation of all members of society were factors that contributed to stability and social cohesion. It was the responsibility of States to take all appropriate steps to prevent and eliminate racism. In particular, they must treat all their citizens impartially in protecting their economic, social and cultural rights and their civil and political rights. They must also apportion their resources effectively and fairly for a lasting impact and endeavour to offer equal opportunities to all.

14. The struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance was a key element in the policies pursued by the European Union and each of its member States. Some of the steps it had taken in that direction had been the adoption of specific national and European laws and the solemn proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which contained a provision clearly prohibiting any discrimination based, inter alia, on sex, colour, social origin or religion. The European Observatory of Racist and Xenophobic Phenomena had been established with the same end in view. Elsewhere, a specific reference to the struggle against racism appeared in the treaty establishing the European Community.

15. The European Union, believing it essential to draw up regional action plans to combat racism, had put a great deal of effort into promoting the activities of regional organizations like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, the latter having been given the task of overseeing the European follow-up to the Durban Conference. The European Union was especially supportive of the OSCE efforts to prevent violent conflicts by promoting inter-ethnic relations and tolerance. It should be added that the human dimension was one of the three dimensions of security as it was conceived by the European Union. Accordingly, it was of primary concern to combat discrimination, especially on an ethnic basis.

16. The European Union was pleased that the States attending the World Conference had recognized the central role of the United Nations in combating racism and had made the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by 2005 a goal. It also endorsed the appeal made to all States to cooperate with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It supported the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as well as the work of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It considered it important that the follow-up to the Durban Conference should be done by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in conjunction with the five independent experts to be appointed, and wished to highlight the efforts being made by the Office of the High Commissioner to combat racism and racial discrimination.

17. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and of Mauritania, said that those countries attached particular importance to eliminating racism. They were still feeling the disastrous effects of the slavery and colonization that had victimized them all and had, in the course of four centuries, destroyed their native African structures, laying the groundwork for the impoverishment of the subregion in particular and the African continent in general.

18. The West African States had actively participated in the preparations for the World Conference and in the Conference itself, which had marked a historic turning point in the struggle against racism. The Declaration and the Programme of Action were major documents in which the international community made a commitment and showed its determination to eliminate racism in all its forms and manifestations, whether traditional or contemporary, blatant or insidious. The West African States reaffirmed their own determination to live up to the commitments they had undertaken in Durban to build democratic societies respectful of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, and to remain poised to combat all forms of discrimination.

19. The ECOWAS member States and Mauritania welcomed the fact that the World Conference had firmly and unambiguously condemned the racist tragedies of the past, emphasizing that the latter had without a

doubt contributed to Africa's underdevelopment, marginalization, exclusion, instability and lack of security. They considered that the duty to remember and the reinstatement of historical truth were a crucial basis for a fruitful dialogue among civilizations and cultures. The international community had taken an important step in that direction by recognizing that slavery and the slave trade, which had made victims of Africans and people of African descent, were crimes against humanity and tragedies of human history.

20. The West African States believed that it was vitally important to protect émigrés and migrants in the host countries, and called for the implementation of appropriate laws and the adoption of measures to arrest and try perpetrators of the racist or xenophobic acts that had come to be so frequent and were often treated as commonplace. The use of the new information and communications technologies to spread racist propaganda must also be resisted by all available legal means.

21. The struggle against racism and racial discrimination must not be the province only of Governments or public institutions; the private sector must be involved, including business leaders, transnational corporations, international financial institutions, the media, associations of young people and women, non-governmental organizations and other actors in civil society.

22. The West African States gave high priority to the follow-up to the World Conference and especially welcomed a number of the follow-up measures, namely, the establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Unit within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the plan to proclaim a year or a decade against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the recommendation to draft an international convention on the disabled. They would spare no effort to establish a new kind of partnership for the social and economic development of African countries and the African diaspora in the fields outlined in the Durban Declaration. They believed it was time to act, and to act rapidly, to bring about the transfiguration yearned for by the peoples of the earth.

23. **Mr. Lamba** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the 14 member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the region, which had suffered from the aftermath of colonialism

and from political and economic destabilization because of apartheid, had been joined by a number of countries in its struggle against the worst forms of institutionalized racism. The success of that past cooperation should encourage the international community to mobilize again in order to combat all forms of racial discrimination. The Durban Conference represented a historic turning point; for the first time, slavery and the slave trade, in particular the transatlantic slave trade, had been termed crimes against humanity. The legacies of those practices continued to manifest themselves in abject poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities.

24. The southern African States welcomed the proposal to set up a working group to study racial-discrimination problems faced by people of African descent and the establishment of an anti-discrimination unit in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which, in order to be effective, should remain focused on racism and should not be broadened to encompass other forms of discrimination. They welcomed also the appointment of experts and goodwill ambassadors to give greater impetus to the global drive for the total elimination of all forms of racism. They hoped in that regard that the experts and ambassadors would be selected and appointed on an equitable geographical basis. They hoped that, unlike the objectives of the Third Decade, the objectives established at Durban would benefit from the political will of all States and from sufficient resources.

25. SADC regretted that there had been no decision to have the results of the Durban Conference followed by a five-year review, as in the case of other major United Nations conferences. It believed that the international community should accord the same priority to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination as against terrorism. It regretted that some delegations had walked out of the Conference or threatened to do so, which was an attitude that might have been perceived as condoning racism and its manifestations. The delay in the issuance of the Conference report was regrettable because it raised some doubt regarding the genuine will of the United Nations to put an end to racism and racial discrimination. SADC hoped that everyone's efforts would provide a basis for effective implementation of the Conference objectives.

26. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil) said that the outcome of the Durban Conference was a watershed. It was the first time that the international community had considered racism and racial discrimination as a global scourge that spared no society and no region. The Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at Durban represented a landmark. They recognized that slavery and the slave trade constituted a crime against humanity, and that colonialism had contributed to lasting social and economic inequalities in many parts of the world. Those were important steps towards the reconciliation of States with their own past. The Conference had marked an important stage in the recognition of specific groups of victims of racism, such as Africans and people of African descent, indigenous peoples, women and children, and had lent particular attention to the victims of multiple forms of discrimination. The condemnation of legislation, organizations and political platforms based on racism as incompatible with democracy made it impossible to identify a major obstacle to the strengthening of democratic values and institutions.

27. Given that the whole process leading to the Durban Conference had been marked by controversy, it was high time to take action. Intolerance was at the root of many of the scourges that nowadays plagued the developed and developing world. The fight against all sorts of discrimination required that the prejudices that had thwarted everyone's enjoyment of human rights should be set aside. Diversity was inherent to the human condition and, as paradoxical as that might appear, the recognition of human differences was the precondition for accepting the universality of human rights.

28. His delegation wished the final document to be fully endorsed by the General Assembly in order to move on to the implementation of the Programme of Action. His Government had already taken some initiatives in that regard. The concrete recommendations formulated in the Conference report should guide the action of the international community to protect from persecution and social exclusion those considered to be different and inferior, while keeping constantly in mind the interests of the victims.

29. **Ms. Gálvez Ruiz** (Mexico), recalling the diversity of the groups and minorities which had participated at the Durban Conference, and the questions of compensation for the victims and the restoration of their dignity, said her country believed

that national and international policies must rest on the ethical principle of compensation for the harm caused by colonialism, slavery and the slave trade. In the world today, more than 600 million persons were victims of aggravated forms of discrimination. In December 2001, following the Durban Conference, the General Assembly had decided to establish a committee for the drafting of a comprehensive and detailed international convention aiming to protect and promote the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. Mexico was already working on the drafting of an agreement.

30. The Durban Conference had made it possible to shed light on the particular forms of discrimination of which women — in particular those who were indigenous, of African descent, migrants or disabled — were victims. Mexico, a country of migrants, had always expressed its deep attachment to respect for human rights. The recognition of the valuable economic and cultural contribution of migrants to the countries of destination reflected a considerable advance in how the international community viewed the question of migrants. The recognition of the special identity of indigenous populations should permit some progress to be made in negotiations on the United Nations draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people. She welcomed the recommendation made to the Secretary-General to conduct an evaluation of the results of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and appealed to all Member States to adopt the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

31. Mexico had taken a number of measures to eliminate all discriminatory practices: legislative reform which prohibited, under the first article of the Constitution, any form of discrimination against citizens' rights; creation of a pluralist and representative citizenship commission on the question of discrimination, which had, inter alia, prepared a draft law on the prevention and elimination of discrimination; adoption by the Senate, in December 2001, of two decrees on the optional declaration provided for by article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Those measures testified to the will of the Mexican Government and people to participate in the development of a new

world that was more tolerant and respectful of the diversity of cultures and identities of the human mosaic, which was essential for a peaceful, honourable, just and equitable coexistence. The fundamental problems that the community of nations encountered stemmed not from such diversity but from poverty, inequalities and intolerance.

32. **Mr. Xie Bohua** (China) said that racism constituted one of the most blatant violations of human rights. Despite the strenuous efforts made by the peoples of the world to combat that phenomenon, various forms of racism persisted in many parts of the globe. The convening of the World Conference in South Africa, a country steeped in a tradition of struggle against racism, was of historic importance.

33. During the Conference, the delegations had put forward many important ideas on the strategies or measures to eliminate racism, and had finally adopted the Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action. It was time to look for ways to implement them. His delegation would like, in that regard, to make a number of observations.

34. All nations should demonstrate their political will by seizing the opportunity offered by the Conference. Based on the Charter, the recognized norms of international law, the principles enunciated in the outcome documents of the Conference, mutual respect, and the desire to learn on an equal footing from one another, all countries should undertake to struggle untiringly against all forms of racism, to eliminate the deep-rooted causes of old and new manifestations of racism and to create a new international political and economic order that would be just and equitable, so that all peoples, whatever their colour, race, language or culture, could be truly able to live together in an ideal environment characterized by peace and equality.

35. The General Assembly and other competent United Nations bodies should take effective measures to follow up on the Conference, so that the outcome documents could truly translate into concrete action against racism. As a United Nations agency responsible for ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights assumed the important function of coordinating international efforts to combat racism. His delegation hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner would carry out broad consultations when formulating its work programme and would allocate sufficient human,

material and financial resources in order to advance the struggle against racism.

36. Colonialism, foreign occupation, the slave trade and apartheid were all symptoms of racism that in the past had ravaged the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. His delegation invited the countries which, in the past, had subjected other countries to aggression, colonial rule or enslavement to confront historical truth, to draw lessons from past errors and to take effective measures to help the victimized countries to develop, overcome as soon as possible their economic backwardness and eliminate the gap between rich and poor.

37. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba) said that the World Conference had been of historic importance. It had made it possible to denounce crimes against humanity throughout history, particularly slavery and colonialism, and to identify the causes and origins of racism. It had also condemned contemporary manifestations of racism and had formulated concrete proposals to fight that evil. In that regard, the international community had upheld the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity, recommending cooperation among States. Cuba hoped that the General Assembly would proceed, without delay, to the adoption of the Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Conference, together with the follow-up and full implementation of the agreements and commitments reached at the Conference.

38. The Durban Conference was characterized in particular by the breadth of participation and the wealth of topics discussed. Like other international conferences on economic and social matters, it should benefit from a coordinated follow-up by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and, of course, the Commission on Human Rights. Despite the voices which would be raised to question the universal character of the Durban documents, the agreements concluded should be honoured and the necessary measures should be taken for the Declaration and the Programme of Action to act as a reference for the establishment of a just and equitable world.

39. In an unprecedented statement, the Conference had recognized that slavery and the slave trade were and had always been crimes against humanity, and that those practices had been among the main sources and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination.

Colonialism, which had favoured racism and racial discrimination, should also be condemned. The Conference had demonstrated that those historical injustices had contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment and social exclusion that the peoples of developing countries in particular were suffering from. Despite the moral reparation made to the victims of those practices, there were still important questions to be resolved pertaining to restoring the dignity of the victims and remedying those injustices, whose consequences were still being felt. Cuba hoped that the States concerned would fulfil their moral obligation and adopt effective measures to correct the consequences of those practices.

40. In assessing the current situation, the Durban Conference had noticed that the objectives of the three decades of struggle against racism had not been attained. In different regions of the world, particularly the developed countries of Europe and North America, violent manifestations of racism continued to occur, while neo-Fascist and neo-Nazi theories proclaiming the superiority of certain races and cultures were becoming institutionalized. Racism and racial discrimination persisted in the implementation of justice and sometimes in the attitudes of law-enforcement bodies and officials. In view of that situation, an appeal should be made to all United Nations organizations, bodies, funds and programmes to widely publicize the Durban accords and to systematically integrate them in their programmes.

41. The question of racism and racial discrimination was very topical in the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks against the American people and during the war in Afghanistan. The Durban Conference had rightly condemned the resurgence of movements founded on racism and discrimination against certain communities, such as the Muslims and the Arabs. Justice, development and the struggle against discrimination were an integral part of the struggle for peace and against all forms of terrorism. It was necessary to pass from words to deeds, and to strive to implement, as soon as possible, the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the Durban Conference.

42. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that, in order to ensure the follow-up to the World Conference and to give fresh impetus to the struggle against racism and discrimination, actions should be forward-looking and targeted. Focus should be placed on education and awareness-raising and on strengthening legal

frameworks. Governments should draw up national strategies to combat racism. His Government was drawing up a new national plan and was improving its legislation in that domain.

43. Governments should also create conditions to enable vulnerable groups, including migrants, to participate in decision-making, and should integrate a gender perspective into their policies. As was stressed by the World Conference, lack of democracy and the violation of human rights were serious sources of discrimination and intolerance. Racism and racial discrimination were in themselves serious violations of human rights. The follow-up to the Conference provided a unique opportunity to address that evil.

44. The struggle against racism involved all countries. They should use the momentum created by the Durban Conference to give a new direction and fresh impetus to the fight against all forms of racism and intolerance.

45. **Mr. Hadjiargyrou** (Cyprus) said that, in view of the dangers of intolerance, particularly ethnic and religious, the international community should intervene with determination.

46. Everyone's actions should be centred on a common approach within the framework of the United Nations. Cyprus welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Organization, the most recent being the convening of the World Conference against racism. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission of Human Rights and to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights for their contributions to the debate. It also supported the work carried out by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Irrespective of the difficulties encountered during and after the World Conference, that event was an important step in the right direction. Cooperation should be strengthened and a preventive approach to fighting racism should be adopted. In that regard, priority should be given to the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the model legislation drawn up by the United Nations should be publicized, and the participation of non-governmental organizations should be encouraged.

47. Recalling that his delegation had already associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, he said that his country was one

of the first States to ratify the International Convention, and to have made a declaration under article 14 of the Convention. In its efforts to conform to the Convention and, taking note of the suggestions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Cyprus had amended its legal framework on the protection of refugees and displaced persons, as well as the procedure for acquiring Cypriot citizenship. The Government had also established various institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. One of those, the National Institution for the Protection of Human Rights, had been particularly active in disseminating the texts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and of all human rights conventions.

48. In the field of education, Cyprus had sought to eliminate indirect and structural forms of racial discrimination by reinforcing academic curricula pertaining to human rights. Special attention had been devoted to the education of children belonging to minorities. For instance, they benefited from grants in order to attend private schools. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Culture subsidized cultural activities for all religious groups in the country.

49. Because of the Turkish invasion of 1974, Cyprus could not extend to the whole country the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a fact that had been underlined by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its report of 10 August 2001. He hoped that the direct talks begun recently between the Cypriot President and the Turkish Cypriot leader would lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions and would allow all Cypriots to live in a reunited, democratic country, a member of the European Union, with their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully protected.

50. The consensus that had guided the United Nations in the struggle against racism should enable everyone to counter the new challenges stemming from a constantly changing world, and especially from new forms of racism and intolerance.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.