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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 20 June 2006, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. DE ALBA (Mexico)

later: Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HOLY SEE

1. Mr. LAJOLO (Observer for the Holy See) said that the establishment of the Human Rights Council was an important step in efforts to place the human being at the centre of all political activity, both national and international. Procedures were currently being established with a view to ensuring the effective enjoyment of human rights and the Holy See would endeavour to contribute to the ongoing debate by providing an ethical perspective.
2. The world human rights situation was a serious cause for concern. There was not one right contained in the various international human rights instruments that had not been seriously violated in many countries, including certain members of the new Council. Some Governments continued to consider that human rights should be determined by those in power. Compulsory birth control, denial of the right to life, restriction of citizens' access to information, refusal to hold public trials and denial of the right to a defence, suppression of political dissent, arbitrary immigration control, degrading conditions of work, discrimination against women, and the restriction of the right to association were only a few examples of rights that were regularly flouted.
3. The inalienable value of the human person, which was the source of all human rights and every social order, had two corollaries. First, the right to life must be respected from the moment of conception until life's natural end. No Government, group or person should assume the right to take a decision about the life of a person as if he or she were not a person but an object. Secondly, human beings had a transcendental and inherent right to freedom of conscience and to freedom of religion, and any denial of those freedoms was a serious affront to human dignity. Freedom of conscience transformed individuals into active members of society, while freedom of religion allowed them to experience the most important relationship of their lives: their relationship with God.
4. No country, regardless of its circumstances and level of economic development, could neglect its duty to uphold human rights. The Holy See appealed to all members of the new Council to engage in a sincere and in-depth examination of the constraints unfairly imposed on human rights, first and foremost within their own borders, with a view to fully restoring those rights, in accordance with the impartial guidelines established by the international community. The Council's response to the challenges to freedom in many countries would be decisive for the credibility of the United Nations and the entire international legal system. As a permanent observer to the United Nations, the Holy See would cooperate actively with the Council in order to ensure that the dignity of all men and women was respected everywhere and at all times.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

5. Ms. KALALA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Human Rights Council must give equal attention to the fight against terrorism, extreme poverty and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Similarly, the right to development and other second-generation rights must be treated on an equal footing with civil and political rights.

6. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had made significant efforts to improve its human rights situation. Many areas of tension and insecurity had been brought under control by the army and the national police. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had played a decisive role in restoring peace to the country, and she paid tribute to those peacekeepers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in carrying out their mission. She hoped that the militias in Ituri would soon release the seven Nepalese peacekeepers who had been taken hostage.

7. Most of the Congolese warlords had been arrested and were standing trial; others had already been sentenced. One had even been brought before the International Criminal Court. The Government had made intensive efforts to halt the recruitment and use of children by armed groups. The National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration had assisted some 17,840 children who had previously been involved in such groups. The Government, certain United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization (NGOs) were engaged in concerted efforts to prevent sexual violence against women and children; a bill on that subject was being considered by Parliament.

8. The Government had taken steps to promote democratization and good governance and had sought to achieve a gender balance in local, provincial and national political institutions. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was committed to ensuring peace and stability in Central Africa and was currently involved in measures to promote peaceful coexistence in the Great Lakes region

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR STATE ADMINISTRATION OF TIMOR-LESTE

9. Ms. PESSOA (Timor-Leste) said that, since it was directly elected by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council would better reflect the universality of human rights, and the Council's universal periodic review mechanism would strengthen the human rights work of the United Nations as a whole. The new body would preserve the best features of the Commission on Human Rights, including the use of independent rapporteurs and the participation of NGOs. The Government of Timor-Leste strongly endorsed the view of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that human rights treaties were of strategic importance and that reporting under those treaties should provide States with an opportunity to clarify their treaty obligations, assess progress in implementing those obligations, and identify ways of ensuring their effective implementation.

10. Timor-Leste was a country in crisis. Its Minister for Foreign Affairs had written to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, extending a standing invitation to all persons holding special procedures mandates under the auspices of the Human Rights Council to undertake investigations into the events of 28 and 29 April 2006. Given the seriousness of the subsequent events that had occurred in May, the Government had requested the United Nations to establish a special commission of inquiry in order to ensure that there would be an independent, credible and internationally accepted investigation into specific incidents and other related events. It was hoped that the commission would be able to submit a final report within three months after beginning its work.

11. Large numbers of internally displaced persons in Timor-Leste had received assistance from the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Working Group, which brought together representatives of government ministries and agencies, the United Nations Country Team, the International Organization for Migration, international and national NGOs, and the heads of working groups active in specific sectors. In particular, she wished to thank the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for its assistance and for launching a flash appeal for donor support and the Catholic Church of Timor-Leste and other religious institutions for their unwavering support for the population of Dili.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF MEXICO

12. Ms. GONZÁLEZ (Mexico) said that, if the Human Rights Council was to accomplish its primary tasks of setting standards and ensuring that States met their international obligations, it was essential to create conditions conducive to the reconciliation of a wide diversity of views. Technical cooperation and assistance mechanisms must therefore help to build bridges within and among countries, and enable countries to meet their objectives without confrontation or politicization. Human rights education was another crucial element in bridge-building.

13. The universal periodic review mechanism must be applied to every Member State objectively and without double standards. The Council must demonstrate boldness and creativity in adopting methods of work that would prevent polarization and foster consensus.

14. By adopting the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Council would close a chapter in the history of racism and institutionalized discrimination. The Council at its current session should also adopt the draft international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

15. Lastly, it was important to revise the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group with a view to considering options regarding the elaboration of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in order to enable it to initiate the drafting process.

STATEMENT BY THE VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CYPRUS

16. Mr. ZACKHEOS (Cyprus) said that one of the priorities of the Human Rights Council was to put an end, as a matter of urgency, to gross and systematic violations of human rights and ensure that perpetrators of such violations did not go unpunished. The Council should make every effort to avoid theoretical approaches and political confrontation.

17. The international community's fight against terrorism must not lead to a weakening of human rights standards. Moreover, since religious discord within societies led to gross human rights violations, there was an urgent need for an open dialogue among cultures, religions and civilizations with a view to promoting respect for religious beliefs.

18. One third of Cyprus' population comprised refugees who had been evicted from their properties by invading forces. In that connection, he welcomed the Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons as an instrument for conflict resolution,

peace-building and justice. It was disturbing when an occupying power not only denied refugees the right to return but sold their property to foreigners in order to consolidate the process of ethnic cleansing. The implantation of settlers in the occupied territories constituted a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and systematically destroyed Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage.

19. Cyprus welcomed the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the study on the right to the truth, and supported the early adoption of the draft international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

STATEMENT BY THE VICE-MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHINA

20. Mr. YANG Jiechi (China) said that, although the Commission on Human Rights had accomplished a great deal in 60 years, its inability to free itself from the Cold War mentality had eroded its credibility. The world was watching to see whether the Human Rights Council would live up to expectations and whether its members would show the political commitment to make it dynamic and effective.

21. The enjoyment of human rights was possible only in an environment of peace, and the Council should focus its attention on widespread and gross human rights violations caused by wars and conflicts, and support efforts to prevent conflicts, rebuild peace and combat terrorism. In particular, the Council should monitor the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to guarantee the Palestinian people's exercise of its human rights, including the right to self-determination.

22. The enjoyment of human rights went hand in hand with sustainable development. In that regard, the Commission's approach to economic, social and cultural rights had been characterized more by words than by action. The Council should encourage effective measures to help countries, particularly the least developed countries, to gain the right to development and achieve the goals of the Declaration on the Rights to Development.

23. The enjoyment of human rights also called for greater harmony and tolerance. The Council should pay particular attention to the rights of vulnerable groups and promote human rights education.

24. The enjoyment of human rights required constructive dialogue and cooperation. The success of the Council would depend on whether countries with different social systems and levels of development could establish trust, treat each other as equals and address their differences in a constructive manner. In addition to the introduction of the universal periodic review, the mechanism on country-specific human rights situations must be reformed in order to ensure that it addressed only widespread and gross violations of human rights.

25. The enjoyment of human rights required effective institutional safeguards. The Council should retain the positive elements of the Commission's mechanisms and make them more relevant. The special procedures should be rationalized and a code of conduct should be drawn up to make them more credible, impartial and effective. The Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Human Rights should improve the geographical representation and professional competence of its staff. The Office should also improve transparency and openness and subject its work to the oversight of Member States.

26. China was making efforts to promote social justice and advance political reform. In accordance with its own constitutional principles, it would continue to promote human rights and conduct a human rights dialogue and exchanges with other countries. China was ready to work with the other Council members in formulating fair rules of procedure and feasible working methods.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

27. Mr. YAKOVENKO (Russian Federation) said that, although in recent years, the Commission on Human Rights had been said to be in a state of crisis, its contribution to the gradual development of international human rights law should not be forgotten. All core human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, had been drafted and adopted within the framework of the Commission, which had established the special procedures system for monitoring human rights. The Human Rights Council should maintain the positive aspects of the Commission's work, while adopting working methods that would allow it to function effectively.

28. The Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights must be preserved as a subordinate body to the Council with a mandate to carry out research and give advice on pressing human rights issues. The Commission's special procedures should also be maintained, although their role and methods of work should be reviewed to improve their efficiency. Particular attention should be paid to the role of NGOs in the Council, since they could make a significant contribution to strengthening the international system for human rights protection. The work of the Council should not be hampered by confrontation, politicization or double standards. The new universal periodic review could serve as an effective mechanism for maintaining impartiality.

29. The reform of the United Nations human rights system was directly related to measures to improve the effectiveness of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and increasing the Office's transparency and accountability to Member States. He welcomed the steps taken by the High Commissioner to improve management and financial accounting procedures in her Office. The Russian Federation supported the High Commissioner's efforts to strengthen international cooperation in the area of human rights, and in December 2005 had contributed US\$ 2 million to the Office's budget.

30. Despite the efforts that had been made to promote and protect human rights, violations occurred every day, even in countries that were generally considered to have a good human rights record. Discrimination against minorities and infringement of their rights, the problem of non-citizenship, and failure to observe the basic principles of the judicial process would only lead to new conflict situations. An efficient international system was required to respond to contemporary threats and challenges to human rights. The reform of the United Nations human

rights protection system must therefore not be limited to organizational and technical measures. It was also important for States to change their attitude towards international cooperation in the field of human rights.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE OF POLAND

31. Mr. STAŃCZYK (Poland) said that the Human Rights Council had been established as a body that was intended to be more powerful and influential than the Commission on Human Rights, and the members of the Council must therefore ensure that it was also more credible, effective and responsive than its predecessor. His delegation welcomed the commitments made by all the States that had been elected to the Council to uphold the highest human rights standards.

32. It was important to prevent serious violations of human rights, which could cause thousands of casualties and undermine the foundations of peace and security. The Council must serve as a forum for dialogue to identify structural obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights and develop methods of eliminating them. The Council should encourage States to cooperate in building viable national human rights protection systems based on the rule of law, democracy and good governance. The strength of the Council would also depend on cooperation with other partners, particularly NGOs.

33. The Council should establish the modalities of the universal periodic review mechanism as soon as possible. The review of the special procedures should also be completed without delay. The Council should take the necessary measures to implement and enforce human rights standards and instruments. Efforts must be made to improve human rights education and to build national and international capacities to protect human rights through international cooperation for development and solidarity.

34. Poland was committed to promoting good governance in order to protect human rights and ensure sustainable development and security. Good governance was a tool for the implementation of effective, well-executed and transparent policies, and to counteract corruption, misuse of public funds and foreign aid, organized crime, poverty and epidemics. It was also important to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including victims of racial discrimination, persons infected with HIV/AIDS, as well as national and ethnic minorities.

35. The Council should focus on dialogue, cooperation and exchanges of experience as the basis of its approach to the promotion and protection of human rights. Time was a crucial element in the prevention of human rights abuses, and the Council must act promptly when such abuses occurred.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AZERBAIJAN

36. Mr. MAMMADQULIYEV (Azerbaijan) said that the Human Rights Council should focus on observing States' fulfilment of their obligations and commitments. The number of resolutions adopted should be reduced, and an effective mechanism should be established to monitor their implementation. His delegation supported the idea of increased interaction between the Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights. The Office should pay closer attention to human rights education and to providing technical assistance in order to enable countries to protect human rights more effectively. The role of the Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights should be reviewed; the Sub-Commission should become a subsidiary body of the Council that provided the latter with much-needed expert advice. The role of the special procedures was particularly important, and mandates and methods of work should be reviewed in order to ensure that they were efficient and effective. The special procedures should be actively engaged in dialogue with States and provide practical recommendations for the improvement of human rights situations.

37. His delegation supported the proposal to establish two intersessional working groups to review all mandates remaining from the Commission on Human Rights and to establish the modalities of the universal periodic review mechanism. The review procedure should be based on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and cooperation. Other international and regional organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European Union, the African Union and the Organization of American States, could play an active role in the Council's efforts to promote and protect human rights worldwide.

38. Gross and systematic violations of human rights generally occurred in situations of armed conflict. As a result of Armenia's military aggression, a large part of Azerbaijani territory was under occupation. Hundreds of thousands of people had been subjected to the policy of ethnic cleansing and had been forced to leave their homes. A large number of people were missing. The conflict between the two States had not been resolved owing to Armenia's obstructive position. Armenia's activities in Azerbaijan constituted a gross violation of international humanitarian law and posed an obstacle to the establishment of sustainable peace.

39. Millions of people throughout the world were involved in protracted conflicts that had been forgotten by the international community. The plight of those victims must receive due attention in order to prevent perpetrators of human rights violations from acting with impunity.

40. The Human Rights Council must become a credible, effective and responsive human rights body that based its work on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, consistency and persistence, and should endeavour to make a significant contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF GUATEMALA

41. Ms. ALTOLAGUIRRE LARRAONDO (Guatemala) said that, in 1996, Guatemala had signed the peace agreements that had ended more than three decades of internal conflict, paving the way for a new era in which democratic values and human rights dominated public life. The Commission on Human Rights had greatly assisted in bringing about positive changes in Guatemala, and the United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms had helped to rebuild confidence in Guatemala over the past decade. In 2005, the Government had issued an open invitation to the Commission's special mechanisms and procedures to visit the country. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people had been in Guatemala for a follow-up visit the previous week.

42. In addition to strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples, the Guatemalan authorities were committed to improving economic, social, cultural rights and combating discrimination and violence. The Presidential Commission on Discrimination and Racism and the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, had coordinated consultations throughout the country on a public agenda for indigenous peoples. In that context, she urged the Council to adopt the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples at its current session so that the draft could be submitted for adoption by the General Assembly.

43. Guatemala had been an active participant in the intersessional open-ended working group to elaborate a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, which she hoped would also be adopted at the current session.

44. Only a few weeks earlier, Guatemala had submitted its report to the United Nations Development Programme on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In keeping with its strong commitment to eradicating poverty, her country supported the speedy adoption of the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

45. A national office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had opened in Guatemala in 2005. The High Commissioner had recently visited the country to discuss human rights challenges and action against fear and want.

46. Guatemala looked forward to the Council's establishment of the universal periodic review mechanism. She trusted that NGOs and civil society would continue to play an important role as a source of background information and that the role of national institutions in the Council would be reinforced. The option of holding special sessions of the Council to deal with emergencies was a welcome innovation. The former Commission's mechanisms and mandates should be reviewed in order to avoid duplication, and a balanced agenda should be drawn up to ensure that issues were addressed in an equitable and non-selective way.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA

47. Mr. JUSYS (Lithuania) said that, as a new institution, the Human Rights Council should embody a new human rights culture based on dialogue and cooperation, in keeping with the principles set out in General Assembly resolution 60/251. Although there were many procedural questions to be addressed at the current session, the Council should implement its mandate from the outset and should not neglect substantive issues.

48. The provision for at least three sessions each year would enable the Council to spread out its tasks and to respond more rapidly to serious situations. The periodic review of all States' human rights performance would ensure compliance with the core principles of universality, impartiality and objectivity. The fact that some States' membership would expire after one year should not undermine the review process.

49. The Council must engage even more closely with NGOs than the Commission in order to incorporate inputs from civil society into its work.

50. As in the case of the Commission's 1503 procedure, every individual should have the right to submit a complaint to the Council. The Council should maintain the principle whereby only complaints revealing a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested human rights violations were admissible.
51. Lithuania supported the idea of setting up a body composed of widely recognized human rights experts, which would operate as a think tank and provide the Council with independent advice in the form of recommendations.
52. All Council members should implement the pledges that they had made prior to their election and treat them as performance benchmarks with a view to setting examples for other States. An objective and impartial system for assessing compliance should be established, since the actions of current members might well set a precedent for years to come. States that had made pledges and were not elected should also honour their commitments.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF VIET NAM

53. Mr. LE VAN BANG (Viet Nam) said that the international community expected the Council to achieve major advances in the protection and promotion of human rights. That would require an unprecedented measure of balance, efficiency and good faith on the part of its member States.
54. The Commission deserved deep respect for its achievements, including the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many other human rights instruments. The Council should learn both from the Commission's achievements and from its shortcomings, namely undue politicization and emphasis on civil and political rights to the detriment of economic, cultural, social rights and the right to development. The Commission had been abused by some countries and NGOs as a forum for naming and shaming in which the rich and strong put pressure on the poor and powerless. The Council must be more cohesive and effective and eschew selectivity, double standards and excessive politicization. It should be a forum based on mutual trust and understanding, in which independence and sovereignty were respected.
55. Viet Nam had a long tradition of promoting and protecting human rights and placed people at the centre of its economic and social policies. In the context of the five-year review of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Viet Nam had been singled out for commendation.
56. Alongside shared international standards, approaches to human rights issues should take into account specific historical, political, economic and social conditions as well as national and regional religious values, beliefs and customs. Viet Nam supported constructive bilateral and multilateral human rights cooperation based on equality and mutual respect.
57. Mr. Loulichki (Morocco), Vice-President, took the Chair.

STATEMENTS IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY

58. Mr. CHOE Myong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the statements by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea were at variance with the constructive atmosphere of the session. The

Japanese Vice-Minister's reference to the abduction case, which had been resolved fundamentally and completely, was nothing short of politically motivated abuse. By contrast, Japan had unresolved issues in its relations with his country, namely the crimes of mass abduction, genocide and military and sexual slavery committed during its colonial rule in Korea. Japan had a moral and legal obligation to acknowledge those crimes if it wished to achieve its ambition of becoming a political power.

59. The confrontational tone of the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea betrayed the spirit of the North-South Joint Declaration, which provided for reconciliation and cooperation. The Minister for Foreign Affairs was regrettably unaware that the so-called "human rights problems" of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, had been politically fabricated. Pressures and sanctions by outside forces were the real obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights in his country. The Minister should be held responsible for the consequences of his irresponsible allegations.

60. Ms. DE PIRRO (United States of America) said that, instead of explaining how Cuba intended to comply with the pledges it had made prior to its election to the Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba had engaged in gratuitous and unfounded attacks on the United States. Perhaps it was because the pledges sounded hollow, especially in the ears of the Cuban people. The United States had led the world's efforts to spread freedom, democracy and justice in the past century and would continue to fight for the rights of the abused and repressed, working with the Council to support the United Nations historic human rights mission.

61. The American people needed no one to speak for them, certainly not officials of an autocratic Government. They were free to speak through free and fair elections, open and active participation in civil society, and free and uncensored media.

62. Mr. FUJISAKI (Japan) said that the abduction issue not only had a bearing on the lives and security of Japanese citizens but also constituted a grave human rights violation involving a series of internationally wrongful acts. As the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had failed to provide any satisfactory explanation of the victims' fate, he could on no account consider that the file was closed. The survivors should be allowed to return immediately to Japan or their own countries. A thorough investigation should be undertaken and the perpetrators brought to justice.

63. The Japanese Government had acknowledged its history and had apologized and expressed remorse on a number of occasions. Since the end of the Second World War, Japan had respected human rights and democracy and had contributed to world peace and prosperity.

64. Mr. CHOE Myong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that he categorically rejected the charges made by the representative of Japan. The abduction case had been resolved fundamentally and completely. It made no sense to raise the issue again in any forum. Japan's first and foremost obligation was to settle the issues arising out of its crimes against humanity.

65. Ms. HERRERA CASEIRO (Cuba) said that, while it was true that Cuba had made pledges prior to its election to the Council, the Cuban people required no such pledges since the full enjoyment of human rights had already been achieved in their country. She was surprised to

hear that the people of the United States needed no one to speak on their behalf. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba had not attacked the United States but had told the truth. The election fraud of 2000 in the State of Florida was still fresh in everyone's memory. The victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans were still waiting in vain for assistance. African-Americans in the United States were still treated as second-class citizens. The Committee against Torture had also recently told the truth about the situation in the United States. The United States' own allies had condemned what was happening in Guantánamo, as well as prison conditions and the killing of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan.

66. Mr. FUJISAKI (Japan) said that, during Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Pyongyang in September 2002, Chairman Kim Jong Il had confirmed and apologized for the abduction of Japanese nationals. The issue had not been resolved and Japan strongly urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to admit its wrongdoing for the sake of respect for human rights.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.