



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

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Summary record of the 2057th meeting

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Chairperson: Mr. Kemal

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

Sixteenth to twentieth periodic reports of Uruguay (CERD/C/URY/16-20; CERD/C/URY/Q/16-20; HRI/CORE/1/Add.9/Rev.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Uruguay took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Mr. González Arenas** (Uruguay) said that his Government's fight against racial discrimination was guided by two essential principles: firstly, recognition of the inherent dignity of the human being regardless of race or creed, which in all likelihood made Uruguay the most egalitarian country in Latin America; secondly, the belief that democracy was the only political system able to guarantee equal enjoyment of, and respect for, human rights. Uruguay's commitment to human rights was at the centre of its public and foreign policies.
3. Having already ratified the major human rights treaties, the legislature was currently preparing to endorse the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
4. Uruguay had issued an open invitation to all United Nations special procedures in the area of human rights in 2005, which it had extended to include the inter-American human rights system in 2007. Those invitations had reflected the country's openness to the system and its desire to improve Government policy and the situation of human rights. Furthermore, Uruguay, together with other Latin American countries, had contributed to the consensus reached on the designation of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.
5. Uruguay still considered the scourge of poverty, which had afflicted generation after generation, to be the most serious and widespread violation of human rights in the world, as it denied millions the full enjoyment of their human rights and left them vulnerable to abuse and discrimination.
6. In 2001 and 2002, the Government's efforts to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms had been jeopardized by the worst economic crisis the country had ever faced. The crisis had resulted in widespread unemployment, the deterioration of living conditions and the marginalization of a large number of Uruguayans. It had forced the Government to implement an emergency action plan in an attempt to turn the tide of poverty. The eradication of poverty remained a priority for the current Government.
7. Education was a powerful tool in pre-empting and combating racist and discriminatory practices. It should aim to eradicate all forms of discrimination motivated by prejudice and cultural taboos handed down from one generation to the next. Significant legislative developments in the fight against discrimination had included: the adoption of Act No. 17,817 of September 2004, declaring that it was in the national interest to combat racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination; Act No. 18,104 of 15 March 2007 relating to equal opportunities for men and women, which required the State to incorporate the gender perspective into every aspect of public policy; the establishment of the National Plan for Opportunities under the National Institute for Women; Act No. 18,065 of 27 November 2006 relating to domestic service; and Act No. 18,441 of 24 December 2008 limiting the working hours of rural workers.
8. In addition to those legislative advances, Uruguay had gradually strengthened its institutions engaged in protecting human rights and combating discrimination. It had

established the Ministry of Social Development in 2005, the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Other Forms of Discrimination under Act No. 17,817, and the National Human Rights Institution under Act No. 18,446 of December 2008.

9. Uruguay, in conjunction with civil society organizations such as Mundo Afro, had devised methods of ensuring the participation of people of African descent in State institutions with a view to incorporating a racial dimension into State programmes.

10. With regard to housing, agreements had been reached between the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment, Montevideo City Council and Uruguayan women's cooperatives to repair the damage caused by the expulsion of people of African descent from their traditional areas of residence during the military dictatorship and to facilitate their return through the construction of adequate housing.

11. A new strategy adopted in 2010 had led to the incorporation of Mundo Afro into the Advisory Commission on Housing within the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment. That Commission had been instrumental in the establishment of the Five-Year Housing Plan.

12. As to health, the Programme on Gender and Women's Health had taken into account the double or, in some cases, triple discrimination suffered by women of African descent and introduced an ethnic variable to facilitate the collection of data on Afro-descendent women's health.

13. The Five-Year Strategic Plan forming part of the Programme for the Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections and AIDS had incorporated an ethnic variable into its areas of work in order to address more effectively the health issues faced by people of African descent. All institutions working with those people were called upon to carry out qualitative research on HIV.

14. On the question of access to justice, the Supreme Court of Justice had concluded that the Brasilia Rules on Access to Justice for Persons in Vulnerable Situations, adopted at the Fourteenth Latin American Judicial Summit, should be incorporated into domestic law. The ruling had been circulated to all branches of the judiciary for implementation.

15. The contribution of ethnic and racial minorities to the State and culture of Uruguay had been reflected in the adoption of Act No. 18,059 of 20 November 2006, which established 3 December as the National Day of *Candombe*, Afro-Uruguayan Culture and Racial Equity, and Act No. 18,589 of 18 September 2009, which established 11 April as the Day of the Charrúa Nation and Indigenous Identity.

16. The new enactments and the resultant strengthening of institutions had provided more effective means of incorporating racial equality issues into State policy, increased the level of priority accorded to discrimination in the formulation of public policies, and given wide publicity to non-discriminatory values and principles. While Uruguay possessed the second best track record for according recognition to people of African descent in the Southern Cone, it still had a long way to go before it could rid its territory of all forms of discrimination.

17. **Mr. Miranda** (Uruguay), responding to the Rapporteur's request for more information on the national plan against discrimination, said that the plan had not yet been adopted. However, a draft of the plan was being prepared in conjunction with civil society organizations with the aim of reconciling differences of opinion. The draft, due to be completed by September 2011, would lead to the development of the national plan itself, which would contain a plan of action for 2012–2015 to coincide with the end of the current Government's term of office. A general outline of the process leading to the development of the national plan, including diagnosis and proposals, would be transmitted to the Committee in due course.

18. **Ms. Saura** said that the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Other Forms of Discrimination had been the first institution responsible for formulating national policies and practical measures designed to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination. Under article 7 of the regulatory decree issued on 30 May 2006, the Commission could submit reports for consideration by the competent authorities. It was first and foremost a body of experts and did not possess the decision-making powers of a legal body. It could receive and process information relating to discriminatory conduct and, when necessary, file a complaint with the competent legal authorities. In that context, it had participated in numerous cases concerning discrimination through the submission of expert reports to various legal bodies and had endeavoured to incorporate the racial perspective into the decisions of various State institutions.

19. **Ms. Esquivel** said that function of the Department for Women of African Descent was to guarantee those women their rights and access to services and goods. It had proposed two lines of action for the period 2005–2010: firstly, ensuring that State institutions conformed to the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination on grounds of gender or race; and secondly, the social empowerment of women of African descent. In 2005, it had implemented an emergency poverty-reduction plan, which it had supplemented with a plan for equal opportunities for men, women and people of all ages. The latter plan had contained an enabling clause that had given priority to the needs of people of African descent.

20. In 2005, a social emergency plan focusing on poverty reduction had been adopted. It had been followed by an equity plan for the promotion of equality of opportunity between men and women. The latter plan provided, in particular, for action in support of people of African descent. In 2006, an ethno-racial component had been incorporated in the gender information system of the National Institute for Women. In December 2009, the Minister of Social Development had decided to promote an ethno-racial approach in all the Ministry's departments, plans and programmes with a view to fostering affirmative action for people of African descent. The Department for Women of African Descent monitored compliance with the policy and had organized awareness-raising and training programmes for 425 public officials, decision makers and technical teams. She drew the Committee's attention to two publications: "The population of African descent in Uruguay from a gender perspective" and "The inclusion of the ethno-racial dimension in the production of information: An analysis of programmes and policies for gender and racial equity in State agencies".

21. Five local promoters had been assigned to departments with a large population of African descent to promote development opportunities for girls. A database concerning women of African descent and their organizations at the local level had been established. Their groups formed part of the National Network of Afro-Uruguayan Women, a network organized by the Department for Women of African Descent and supported by civil society. A training plan had been developed for the promotion and formal recognition of productive and cultural projects involving women of African descent in six departments. Eighty women had been granted microloans and support for such activities.

22. A public awareness campaign against racism and sexism had been launched with considerable media publicity and had been well received by the general public. As all public-sector schools were equipped with computers, an interactive game on the subject had been designed and would be included in the curricula of primary schools. A manual for teachers on multiculturalism and the fight against racism had also been published.

23. Many workshops had been organized since 2007 on the reaffirmation of ethno-racial identity and the prevention of gender and racial discrimination. The most recent, in December 2010, had been attended by 50 local delegates. The Department for Women of African Descent held regular meetings with representatives of civil society, an ongoing

dialogue that was highly appreciated by activists, whose calls for action had gone unheeded in the past. There was an urgent need to remedy past injustices and to pursue resolute affirmative action.

24. **Mr. Miranda** (Uruguay) said that the National Human Rights Institution had been established by Act No. 18,446 of 24 December 2008. It complied fully with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (Paris Principles). The designers of the Institution had been inspired by the former United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The five members of the Executive Board were selected by Parliament. The basic qualification was that they should be entirely independent of political parties and the Government. Provision had also been made for a national human rights assembly. The Executive Board would work with State agencies and civil society organizations that enjoyed consultative status with the Institution.

25. The budget of the National Human Rights Institution was currently being adopted. No action had been taken in 2009 because of the forthcoming elections, which had precluded the approval of additional budgetary expenditure. It was hoped that the Institution would become fully operational during the current year.

26. Just as the United Nations Sub-Commission had frequently established thematic working groups, so also it was hoped that the National Human Rights Institution would set up a working group on racial discrimination involving independent experts and representatives of civil society.

27. **Mr. González Arenas** (Uruguay) said that anyone who promoted or participated in an organization based on advocacy of racism or incitement to hatred or violence on ethnic or racial grounds and anyone who committed racist acts was punishable under Uruguayan law. Decree-Law No. 10,279 of 1942 stipulated that anyone who promoted, constituted, organized or directed associations, bodies, institutions or sections for the purpose of inducing or provoking racial strife or hatred would be liable to 10 months' to 5 years' imprisonment, and that anyone who participated in such groups would be liable to 3 to 15 months' imprisonment. The legislation had since been fine-tuned to take into account new phenomena of organized racial discrimination.

28. Act No. 16,048 of 16 June 1989 had introduced two new provisions, articles 149 bis and 149 ter, pursuant to which incitement to hatred, contempt or violence against one or more persons on account of their skin colour, race, religion, or national or ethnic origin was punishable with 3 to 18 months' imprisonment, and the commission of such acts was punishable with 6 to 24 months' imprisonment. The foregoing list had been expanded in 2003 to include offences committed against a person on grounds of sexual orientation or sexual identity.

29. Uruguay had ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and incorporated it in Uruguayan law through Act No. 18,026 of 2006. Article 16 of the Act cited as one of the motives of the crime of genocide the intention to completely or partially destroy a national, ethnic or racial group. Uruguay was therefore under a legal obligation to prosecute such conduct.

30. **Ms. Saura** (Uruguay) said that the criminal courts had heard a number of cases involving offences defined as discriminatory conduct. For example, a skinhead group had been prosecuted under article 149 of the Criminal Code for conducting a propaganda campaign against Jews. Another case had involved the sending of email messages containing "black jokes" to a person of African descent. A judicial employee had been dismissed for making insulting references to the ethnic or racial origin of fellow employees.

31. The courts treated racial discrimination as an aggravating factor in cases concerning employment offences, and when assessing the amount of damages to be awarded. One such case was mentioned in paragraph 132 (b) of the report.

32. The Government planned to raise awareness of such offences among the law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and public officials. Special courses were being organized for police officers, who were frequently unaware of the fact that certain acts of violence also constituted discriminatory acts. The Human Rights Directorate was developing an anti-discrimination module to be used by the Centre for Judicial Studies.

33. **Mr. González Arenas** (Uruguay) said that the State was required by the Constitution to provide free legal aid to persons who were unable to afford the services of a lawyer. Such aid was therefore guaranteed to all defendants throughout Uruguay. In 2009, the Supreme Court had further facilitated access to free legal aid by ruling that the Brasilia Rules on Access to Justice for Persons in Vulnerable Situations, adopted at the Fourteenth Latin American Judicial Summit, should be made binding on the country's judges. The Rules included persons belonging to ethnic or racial groups in the definition of persons in vulnerable situations.

34. **Ms. Álvarez** (Uruguay) said that the results of a national prison census conducted in January 2011 were currently being analysed. Questions about self-identification had been drafted in the light of consultations with public officials, representatives of civil society and members of the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Other Forms of Discrimination.

35. **Ms. Saura** (Uruguay) said that a commission for the promotion of ethno-racial equality in work and employment was currently being established. It would be a tripartite body, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Ministry of Social Development, as well as representatives of employer and employee organizations and of civil society. The executive branch would consult the commission on all matters relating to discrimination in the area of employment on grounds of race, colour, ethnicity, sex, religion or national origin. Action would be taken to promote greater balance and equality in the employment market by means of special programmes and projects. The commission would recommend, where appropriate, affirmative action policies for women and young people. It would monitor hiring procedures to promote fairness and discourage discrimination. It would also promote training programmes, including access to new technology, and disseminate information on international law and conduct that was incompatible with the principle of equality in the labour market.

36. With regard to the right to housing, in the 1970s the Uruguayan dictatorship had been responsible for a series of evictions in a part of Montevideo inhabited by a large community of people of African descent. Affirmative action had since been taken to enable those who had been evicted to return to their homes. An agreement had been concluded between Montevideo City Council and the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment on the building of housing cooperatives in the neighbourhoods concerned. One cooperative was fully operational and the other two were in the pipeline.

37. Under Executive Decree No. 346/07 of 2007, priority had been given to students of African descent in the allocation of Carlos Quijano scholarships for postgraduate studies abroad. The Decree had established a board composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture to submit recommendations to the Ministry. Out of a total of eight scholarships granted in 2008, one had been awarded to the sole applicant who had identified himself as being of African descent. In 2009, after an awareness-raising campaign, four out of seven scholarships had been granted to students of African descent. In 2010, five scholarships had been granted but no application had been submitted by students of African descent.

38. **Mr. Miranda** (Uruguay) said that education was an area in which the State was encountering the greatest difficulties in eradicating discrimination. Since the promulgation of the Public Education Act in 2008, a more comprehensive policy had been formulated in support of the full exercise of the right to education. Access to education at all levels had proved particularly difficult for people of African descent. His country would appreciate any guidance that the Committee could offer on ways and means of ensuring full access to the right to education. Members of the executive branch had held a meeting the previous week with the country's education authorities with the aim of reaching an agreement on action to address the educational emergency in Uruguay and, in particular, to ensure the access of people of African descent to education.

39. The national human rights education plan provided for in the Public Education Act was currently being drafted. The idea was to include mandatory human rights courses in curricula at all levels of education. It was also hoped that the plan would promote universal access to the right to education.

40. **Ms. Esquivel** (Uruguay) said that 10 per cent of secondary school scholarships awarded by the National Institute for Youth were intended for pupils of African descent.

41. **Mr. González Arenas** (Uruguay) said that various State bodies had agreements with the Ecumenical Service for Human Dignity (SEDHU), which represented the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Uruguay and provided assistance to refugees. The greatest difficulties facing refugees were housing and work, problems that also affected a significant portion of the local population. Refugees and asylum-seekers were entitled to work-training grants under an agreement between the Montevideo City Council and SEDHU, and could obtain meals free of charge under another agreement between the city council and the National Food Institute. The Ministry of Social Development had begun discussions with the Canelones municipal council and trade unions with a view to including refugees in their planning.

42. Refugees could continue their studies in Uruguay and illiterate refugees, mostly from Africa, had joined adult learning programmes to complete their primary school education. A decree on the implementation of Act No. 18,076 of 5 January 2007, on the right to asylum and refugees, was expected in 2011.

43. **Mr. Lahiri** (Country Rapporteur), in a brief overview of the State party, said that Uruguay's population of 3.4 million, of whom half lived in Montevideo and 87 per cent were white, was likely to remain stable for the foreseeable future because of low birth rates, emigration and limited immigration. According to the 2006 census, 9 per cent of the population were of African descent, 3 per cent were indigenous and 1 per cent belonged to other groups. Of the original inhabitants of the State party, the Guaranís and the few remaining Charrúas had been largely assimilated. Even after the abolition of slavery, people of African descent had not been treated equally in terms of educational, economic and social opportunities.

44. Uruguay was a middle-income country that ranked high in most aggregated development indices. Those statistics, however, masked the difficulties encountered by persons of indigenous or African descent in the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights. Although efforts were now finally being made to produce disaggregated population statistics, little had yet been done to reverse structural discrimination. What had been done was more procedural than substantive. As a relatively prosperous State, Uruguay should not have such great difficulty in improving the lot of its small, disadvantaged population of indigenous or African descent. One school of thought in the State party viewed the problem as one of poverty and class rather than as one of race.

45. He was somewhat surprised by the affirmation that the National Human Rights Institution was fully compliant with the Paris Principles and assumed that that meant it

would apply for category A status once it became operational in 2011. He asked if NGOs representing persons of African descent and other similar organizations would have a say in drafting the national plan against racism and discrimination and also wished to know if more recent and reliable population statistics than the 2006 census were available. Noting that a census of the prison population had been carried out recently, he underlined the importance of such data to the Committee in its efforts to assess the extent of race bias, if any, in the justice system. He also asked what had been the outcome of the decision to include a question on self-identification and racial descent in the university student register as part of the State party's new education management system.

46. He requested clarification on the applicability of human rights treaties in the State party, given that racial and gender-based discrimination were not specifically mentioned in article 8 of the Constitution. He also wished to know why no studies of the racial or ethnic origin of elected representatives had been carried out.

47. Referring to legislation aimed at ensuring that one out of every three holders of electoral office was a woman, he asked whether the State party had considered similar legislation to ensure racial and ethnic equity among elected representatives. He also wished to know if any measures were being taken to combat the high unemployment rate among women of African descent and the tendency to employ people of African descent in low-skilled jobs. Commenting on Act No. 18,437, the General Education Act passed in 2008, he asked if measures had been taken to reverse the tendency of pupils of indigenous or African descent to leave school earlier than whites.

48. He suggested that several recommendations be made to the State party, among them (a) the inclusion of the ethno-racial dimension in plans aimed at reversing structural discrimination; and (b) greater transparency in the funding of such plans. Funds earmarked for plans aimed at persons of indigenous or African descent had at times been diverted to more general plans. The State party should therefore consider including the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action in its domestic legislation to ensure the uniform interpretation of such plans.

49. The collection of data disaggregated by race and ethnicity must be accelerated and a deeper study of the racial dimension of gender-based discrimination undertaken. Special measures should be taken to aid persons of indigenous or African descent in the areas of health, education, employment and representation in public bodies.

50. Penalties for acts of racial discrimination, which should be treated as serious offences, should be increased, and the availability of complaint mechanisms and opportunities for redress for such acts made known. More should be done to raise public awareness of racial discrimination.

51. He suggested that the tripartite commission for the promotion of racial equity could examine racism in the labour market and promote opportunities for persons of indigenous or African descent. The history of those minorities and their contributions to Uruguayan society should be taught in schools and public training institutes. Lastly, racial equality should be upheld in the judicial system and data should be collected on how ethnicity and race affected access to justice.

52. **Mr. Calí Tzay** welcomed efforts by the State party to combat racism and, in particular, to restore the dignity of the Charrúa people. He also welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Institution but noted that the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Other Forms of Discrimination had no budget. He urged the State party to rectify the situation and make the Commission operational.

53. He noted that the burden of proof in cases of racially motivated offences lay with the victims, who generally did not have the means to defend themselves, and that such offences

therefore went unpunished. With regard to population statistics, it would be useful to know what percentage of the population identified itself as indigenous and why people of African descent earned, on average, 35 per cent less than the rest of the population. He asked the delegation how the State party viewed its cultural identity and requested more information on indigenous culture in Uruguay. He also asked what progress had been made towards ratification of the ILO Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169).

54. **Mr. Avtonomov** requested the delegation to provide the Committee with the text of the legislation providing for the establishment of the new National Human Rights Institution. It was only by examining that document that the Committee would be able to assess that body's level of compliance with the Paris Principles.

55. He would welcome information on how the State party planned to assess the effectiveness of the measures it was taking to improve the situation of people of African descent, and how all the measures would be coordinated. In that regard, he drew the Government's attention to the Committee's general recommendation No. 32 on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention.

56. In order to reduce the school dropout rate, he suggested increasing the level of assistance available in the form of scholarships to ensure that child labour was not more lucrative than winning a scholarship. The State party might also consider organizing courses of study at times when young people did not work, such as evening classes. He asked whether people who self-identified as members of an indigenous group had access to education in their native language.

57. He would appreciate additional information on the treatment of stateless persons and persons who arrived in the State party illegally. He asked whether they had the right to apply for refugee status.

58. The Committee would welcome an indication of the State party's position on ratification of the amendment to article 8 of the Convention.

59. **Mr. Diaconu** requested additional information on the situation of indigenous communities in the State party. Given that Uruguay had undertaken in 2009 to draw up an action plan to combat racial discrimination, he urged the Government to expedite that process and ensure that the plan took full account of the Committee's recommendations.

60. It was regrettable that the Constitution did not include a specific prohibition of racial discrimination. It was unclear whether any other enactment incorporated such a provision. He asked which laws were implemented by the institutions listed in paragraph 37 of the periodic report. While the delegation had explained that international human rights instruments could be directly invoked in domestic courts, the examples of cases of discrimination cited in paragraph 132 of the report made no reference to the Convention. It was therefore imperative that the State party should introduce legislation specifically banning racial discrimination in all spheres, including the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and not just incitement to racial discrimination. The legislation should also include the prohibition of organizations that promoted and incited racial discrimination and hatred, and not just participation in such organizations.

61. Given the admission in paragraph 70 of the periodic report that there was a large discrepancy between the proportion of people of African descent in the population as a whole and their representation in Parliament, he recommended that the State party gather relevant data. They should be used to develop policies to promote the participation of people of African descent and indigenous people in public life in general and in Parliament in particular. Moreover, the report described a clear example of double discrimination in the case of women of African descent; the rate of unemployment among those women was

much higher than the average (para. 73). The State party should indicate what special measures it planned to take to remedy that situation.

62. He asked how many of the persons of African descent who had been evicted from their traditional neighbourhoods in Montevideo in 1978 and 1979 had not yet been permanently rehoused. He recommended that the special measures being taken to improve the level of education of persons of African descent should be continued. While commending the recognition of *candombe* as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the proclamation of the annual Day of the Charrúa Nation and Indigenous Identity, he urged the State party to ensure that such symbolic acts were followed up with practical measures to improve the human rights of the groups concerned.

63. **Mr. Lindgren Alves** asked whether all eight institutions listed in paragraph 37 of the periodic report were continuing their work, as NGOs had reported that some of them had ceased to function. He welcomed the recognition of the contribution of the Charrúa nation and asked whether all Uruguayans celebrated the Day of the Charrúa Nation and Indigenous Identity. He requested clarification of the meaning of the delegation's somewhat surprising statement that the State party was probably the most egalitarian in Latin America.

64. **Mr. Prosper** said that while it was clear that the State party was taking steps to target the effects of racism, he would welcome an indication of what it regarded as the root causes of the racial discrimination that existed in Uruguay.

65. **Mr. de Gouttes** welcomed the frankness with which the State party's periodic report recognized the difficulties and challenges it faced in combating racial discrimination. The Committee looked forward to receiving more detailed information about the measures the State party was taking to improve the situation of people of African descent and indigenous communities. The implementation of such measures was particularly necessary in the light of the fact that those sectors of society were increasing in number, in contrast to the number of white people. The Committee would welcome data from the 2012 census as they would provide updated information on that demographic development.

66. He requested additional information on how the various human rights institutions ensured that they all adopted a coordinated approach and avoided duplication. He urged the State party to ensure that all the provisions of article 4 of the Convention were incorporated into its domestic legislation. While welcoming the example provided in the periodic report of complaints that had been brought before the courts concerning racial discrimination, the Committee would appreciate the inclusion of a full account of all such cases in the next report.

67. He requested updated information on the measures the State party had taken to follow up the recommendations that had been made in the wake of the universal periodic review by the Human Rights Council in May 2009. In particular, he drew attention to the recommendations concerning the sexual exploitation of women, human trafficking, forced labour, the sale of street children, the high school dropout rate among vulnerable children, domestic violence, extreme poverty, corruption involving law enforcement officials and prison conditions. Lastly, he asked why progress had been so slow in establishing the new human rights institution and the Honorary Commission against Racism, Xenophobia and All Other Forms of Discrimination.

68. **Mr. Murillo Martínez** commended the State party for the efforts it had made domestically and internationally to improve the situation of people of African descent. It would appear, however, that those efforts had diminished in recent years. He asked whether that was the result of a conscious change in focus or whether the Government had encountered obstacles that had affected its political will to pursue that policy. He wished to know the extent to which the significant gap between the situation of the white population

and that of people of African descent was likely to affect Uruguay's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It would be useful to have details of the budget allocation the State party made for action specifically targeting people of African descent. He asked how the State party planned to commemorate 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, and would welcome information on any general policies for children that included special measures for children of African descent. Lastly, he urged the State party to disseminate a revised version of the alternative report which the Asamblea Afrodescendiente had submitted to the Committee in order to promote dialogue within Uruguay.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.