



## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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### Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Twelfth session

#### Summary record of the 143rd meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 15 September 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Cisternas Reyes

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*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 35 of the Convention**

*Initial report of New Zealand (CRPD/C/NZL/1; CRPD/C/NZL/Q/1 and Add.1)*

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of New Zealand took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Ellis** (New Zealand), introducing her country's initial report (CRPD/C/NZL/1), recalled that, under the leadership of its former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Don MacKay, New Zealand had played a leading role in developing and negotiating the Convention. The commitment to implementing the Convention was shared across all levels of society, and two important milestones had recently been reached in that regard. The first had been the establishment, in 2009, of the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues, a coordination mechanism tasked with improving the Government's response to issues affecting disabled people through, inter alia, the development of disability action plans. The second had been the creation of an independent monitoring mechanism comprising the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Convention Coalition, a group of disabled people's organizations. She noted that, in New Zealand, the preferred term was "disabled people" rather than "persons with disabilities", since, according to disabled people themselves, that term better reflected what the social model of disability meant to them.
3. In 2013, the independent monitoring mechanism had helped to ensure that disabled people, through their representative organizations, were involved in the drafting of the new Disability Action Plan. The purpose of the Plan, which covered the period from 2014 to 2018, was to ensure equal rights of citizenship to all New Zealanders, particularly in the areas of safety and autonomy, well-being, self-determination, representation and access in the community. The working groups set up to develop projects under the Plan included representatives from all seven national disabled people's organizations, who would have the opportunity to provide advice directly to the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues. Those arrangements were intended to improve the Plan's implementation, and, more broadly, to give fuller effect to article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention.
4. Another accomplishment of note was the Enabling Good Lives project, which was under way in two regions of the country. The project brought together the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development so as to integrate funding and services for disabled people, who were helped to identify their everyday goals and aspirations and put in place plans to achieve them. Under the project, those persons could decide when, where and how they received support, rather than have that decision made for them by the Government or service providers.
5. Measures had also been taken to promote and maintain New Zealand sign language, an official language since 2006, as a Human Rights Commission report from 2013 had indicated that deaf people continued to encounter barriers when using it. In response to the report, the Government had worked with an expert advisory group composed of members of the deaf community and had allocated 6 million New Zealand dollars to fund projects. Support was being provided to interpreters fluent in the country's three official languages, English, Te Reo Maori, and New Zealand sign language, in order to improve access to Maori culture.
6. The Household Disability Survey, which was conducted every five years, provided a valuable source of information about the lives of disabled persons, who made up a quarter of the total population. It was also useful for comparing the enjoyment of rights by disabled

and non-disabled people, and would help to shape future policies, services and programmes. One such service, a telephone dictation system, would be introduced during the general election in September 2014, allowing disabled people who required assistance in marking their ballot papers to cast their vote secretly and independently for the first time. The possibility of online voting was being considered and a trial would be carried out in 2016.

7. In spite of all the achievements mentioned, there was still significant progress to be made in the field of disability rights. The Disability Action Plan 2014–2018 was designed to address a number of outstanding issues, including the accessibility of transport services and public buildings. In early 2014, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Office for Disability Issues had conducted a review of the building regulatory system, and they were currently working with the Government to develop a long-term plan to improve accessibility. Efforts were also being made to assist decision-making and guarantee equal recognition before the law for disabled people, who sometimes received unequal treatment as a result of negative attitudes and difficulties in implementing domestic legislation. Through the Vulnerable Children Act 2014, and amendments to other laws, steps were being taken to improve the care afforded to vulnerable children and ensure that disabled children had the same right as other children to live either with their families or, if that was not possible, in the community.

8. **Mr. Gibson** (Human Rights Commission, New Zealand) said that, while the Government was to be commended for its work with disabled people's organizations, New Zealand, like many countries had a history of violence against, abuse and institutional neglect of persons with disabilities. It was only through acknowledging the past and issuing an apology that the Government could fully address those problems.

9. During the process of deinstitutionalization in New Zealand, families had been promised that their adult children would have safe places in which to live. That had not happened to the extent desired, resulting in a number of court cases. Since New Zealand had signed and ratified the Convention, access to paid care had been reduced and opportunities to file discrimination complaints with the Human Rights Commission curtailed; the Government should develop recommendations to deal with that situation.

10. Equal recognition before the law was also an issue for disabled people, and the Mental Health Act, in particular, was in need of review. He highlighted the importance of broadening the population's understanding of disability, engaging with older persons with disabilities and building a people-driven system as part of efforts to promote disability rights. Lastly, he said that the field of education, in which there had been only piecemeal change, should undergo wide-scale reform to render the system inclusive and enable disabled children to learn and feel safe at school.

11. **Mr. McCallum** (Country Rapporteur) said that he welcomed the State party's achievements in the area of disability rights, which included, the development of the New Zealand Disability Strategy, the decision to recognize New Zealand sign language as an official State language and the country's vigorous foreign aid programme.

12. A number of key issues, however, warranted further examination. In particular, the delegation should supply further details about the Public Health and Disability Amendment Act of 2013 and about programmes to raise the status of women and girls with disabilities and combat violence against them. Noting that concerns had been raised over the role of the Accident Compensation Commission, which reportedly applied a charitable rather than a rights-based approach, he said that he would appreciate updated information on the proposed Accident Compensation Appeal Tribunal and asked whether persons with disabilities had been consulted during the planning process. The delegation should also elaborate on any amendments to the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act of 1989, specifically sections 141 and 142, under which children with disabilities did not seem

to enjoy the same access to out-of-home care as other children. Similarly, he would welcome information on the State party's plans to guarantee the right to fully inclusive education for all. He also wished to know about efforts to improve the health and employment prospects of Pacific island and Maori people, which were less favourable than those of other New Zealanders.

13. Lastly, he urged the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible, so that persons with disabilities would have an avenue to bring complaints before the Committee.

#### *Articles 1–10*

14. **Ms. Degener** invited the delegation to provide a time frame for ratifying the Optional Protocol. She also sought clarification as to why the Government was not considering amending section 52 of the Human Rights Act of 1993, given that the use of unambiguous language in domestic legislation would further the Convention's implementation.

15. **Ms. Mulligan** said that she would appreciate statistics, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity, on the membership of the Convention Coalition, as well as information on any mechanisms in place to guarantee the full participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, particularly Pacific island and Maori people. The delegation should indicate what steps were taken to ensure that such processes were transparent.

16. **Mr. Tatić** asked whether there was a time frame for achieving the goals set out in the Disability Action Plan 2014–2018 and whether the State party had set aside resources for its implementation. He also wished to know how the State party ensured that mainstreaming was carried out in a consistent and continuous way.

17. Referring to paragraph 31 of the State party's report, he requested an update on efforts by the Ministry of Justice to develop guidance on reasonable accommodation for public activities. He would also appreciate information on sanctions for persons who failed to comply with accessibility standards under the Building Code and on any measures taken to overcome the challenges in the area of transport mentioned in paragraph 49 of the report.

18. **Mr. Lovász**, referring to paragraph 22 (a) of the report, sought further data on educational qualifications, disaggregated by disability, which would allow the Committee to assess dropout rates among different groups. He invited the delegation to provide additional details on the system of government support and financial incentives for disabled persons' organizations and asked whether funds were available to help such organizations meet their operational costs.

19. Turning to paragraph 18 of the replies to the list of issues (CPRD/C/NZL/Q/1/Add.1), he said that he would welcome information on the nature and applicability of the compensation mentioned. In the light of recent legislative developments favouring the rights of vulnerable children, he asked whether the Domestic Violence Act of 1995 contained any specific references to further aid for children with disabilities, who, according to the replies, were three to four times more likely to be abused or neglected than their peers.

20. With regard to accessibility, he wished to know how the costs incurred in creating a barrier-free environment were calculated, what progress had been made in terms of self-assessment in the public sector and whether such self-assessment had proved effective in enhancing the accessibility of Internet-based services.

21. **Mr. Kim Hyung Shik** said that NGO representatives did not seem to share the Government's view that persons with disabilities were partners in implementing the Convention and asked whether their representation in New Zealand was merely tokenistic.

He wished to hear the delegation's comments on the activities of the Office of Disability Issues and whether it truly worked in partnership with persons with disabilities. He enquired to what extent the Accident Compensation Corporation took a rights-based, as opposed to a traditional medical, approach to disability; the Corporation appeared to be operating a compensation scheme rather than a rehabilitation system. He requested clarification regarding information he had received suggesting that not all workers with disabilities benefited from minimum wage protections. Lastly, he asked what indicators were applied to measure the effectiveness of the State party's aid programme in developing countries and to what extent it ensured that development was disability-inclusive.

22. **Mr. Langvad** asked whether multiple and intersectional discrimination and discrimination by association were recognized in domestic legislation. He wished to know how disabled persons' organizations were supported by the Government, whether there was a national organization representing persons with psychosocial disabilities and why factories with fewer than 10 employees were not required to comply with building regulations, meaning that many were inaccessible to persons with disabilities, who were thereby excluded from the labour market.

23. **Ms. Quan-Chang** asked how the State responded to multiple and intersectional discrimination, given that those forms of discrimination were not prohibited by law. Could the Human Rights Commission nevertheless provide a remedy for victims of those forms of discrimination?

24. **Mr. Ben Lallahom** asked whether the high levels of disability, unemployment and poverty among Maori people were due to discrimination or other factors. He requested further information on the discrimination suffered by a significant number of persons with disabilities, as revealed in the survey mentioned in the State party's report, and enquired whether specialized education for children with disabilities took place within mainstream schools or in separate establishments.

25. **Mr. Buntan** said he understood that disability-specific human rights complaints were not properly dealt with through the implementation of mainstream human rights legislation in New Zealand and requested information on efforts to resolve that situation. He asked whether rebuilding efforts following the earthquake in Canterbury had provided an opportunity to make buildings and infrastructure more accessible. Regarding accessibility, he enquired whether more stringent standards had been developed in respect of design and access to information, as called for by the Human Rights Commission.

26. **Ms. Peláez Narváez**, referring to a survey carried out by the Ministry of Women's Affairs according to which 33 per cent of victims of sexual violence had disabilities, asked what specific measures the State party had adopted to combat sexual violence against women and children with disabilities and requested information on the settings in which that violence usually occurred. She wished to know how organizations working with children included those with disabilities.

27. **Mr. McCallum** asked the delegation to comment on hate speech that appeared automatically when phrases such as "autistics are ..." were entered in Internet search engines. Although the problem was not specific to New Zealand, States parties were responsible for tackling the problem under article 4 of the Convention.

28. **Ms. Maina** said that the use of the term "disabled children" in the replies to the list of issues and by the delegation was a cause for concern. Noting that the Government seemed to accept the voluntary institutionalization of children with disabilities by their parents, she asked whether the best interests of those children were respected, to what extent they could communicate their views, including through the use of alternative modes of communication, and whether their views were taken into account. The delegation should clarify whether the State party was moving towards a rights-based approach to disability

that would enable persons with psychosocial disabilities to live in the community rather than being institutionalized. While the Government had indicated its intention to reduce the isolation and seclusion of such persons, it should endeavour to eliminate those practices.

29. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh**, commending the good example set by the State party for developing countries in the area of disability, asked whether the measures it adopted also reached suburban and rural areas of New Zealand and whether they applied to foreigners residing in the country.

30. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her personal capacity, asked whether policies regarding indigenous peoples took persons with disabilities into account, and vice versa, and whether the national mechanism to prevent torture considered the needs of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, particularly with regard to their liberty and safety.

*The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.*

31. **Ms. O'Dea** (New Zealand) said that the Cabinet had agreed to initiate the process to accede to the Optional Protocol. Work would begin in earnest in January 2015, after the general election.

32. **Mr. Linkhorn** (New Zealand) said that the current Disability Action Plan prioritized the development of guidance on reasonable accommodation, particularly regarding employment. The concept was already considered part of domestic anti-discrimination legislation. Complaints of intersectional discrimination were admissible in New Zealand. Where possible, discrimination complaints were resolved through discussion, explanation and mediation. If those means failed, the case could be taken to a human rights review tribunal. Prohibited grounds for discrimination included disability and family status, and in some cases family members of disabled people had received compensation after suffering discrimination.

33. **Ms. O'Dea** (New Zealand) said that the Disability Action Plan had been drawn up after independent monitors had identified lack of real involvement in policy and service development as a major challenge for disabled people. The Plan had been developed during meetings between representatives of each of the seven national disabled persons' organizations and the main government agencies responsible for policy and services for disabled people. A working group had been established for each priority area identified in the Plan. Some activities undertaken by the working groups had existed previously, some were new and some were still being planned; their scope and time frames would be finalized the following month. Monitoring meetings were attended by the disabled persons' organizations, the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues and ministers.

34. All of the activities under the Plan were funded from new resources or existing resources that had been reprioritized. One of the most important initiatives under the Plan was to promote the involvement of disabled persons' organizations in designing and monitoring changes to the disability support system; that would require a study into the capacity they needed in order to participate. Each working group was identifying evaluation mechanisms and the Plan would be reviewed and renewed every year, in partnership with disabled persons' organizations.

35. Funding had been allocated so that disabled persons' organizations could monitor the Disability Action Plan and other activities. They also received funding for meetings with other organizations on 12 days per year and for participation in the working groups associated with the Disability Action Plan.

36. There was a disabled persons' organization representing persons with psychosocial disabilities and another representing Maori people with visual impairments. Various groups were involved in developing policies and services, such as the Maori and Pacific peoples' advisory groups to the health sector and the sign language expert group, which included

two Maori representatives, reflecting the disproportionate representation of that group in the deaf community. The Enabling Good Lives project advisory groups also included representatives of the Maori and Pacific peoples.

37. The Government was examining how it could give greater consideration to the views of children and young people in fulfilment of her country's responsibilities under the Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Ministry of Social Development had youth engagement mechanisms that could be used in the context of disabilities, and disabled person's organizations were encouraged to promote the views of young people. The Enabling Good Lives project focused on young people in particular and it was planned to include a young school-leaver in the project's local advisory group.

38. Concerning access to services, the Government was attempting, in the first instance, to ensure that mainstream services met the needs of disabled people. Specialized disability services were seen as a means of facilitating access to mainstream services or of supplementing them when additional needs could not be met. Indeed, the idea that disabled people should enjoy as much access to services in their communities as their non-disabled peers was one of the principles underpinning the Enabling Good Lives project. Disabled person's organizations were involved not just in the development of services and policies specific to disabled people but also in consultations on ways of making mainstream services more broadly accessible. Nonetheless, the authorities were aware that there would always be a need for some disability-specific services.

39. As had been suggested, the Canterbury earthquake in 2011, for all its disastrous effects, had indeed provided an opportunity to build an accessible city. In that connection, immediately after the earthquake, a group led by disabled people had advocated for the rights of disabled people during the recovery and rebuilding. The group had received funding from the Office for Disability Issues to develop a framework for a genuinely accessible Christchurch. The framework was near completion, and endorsement by the local authorities, including the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, was expected shortly. Accessibility audits would be done at every stage of 10 major rebuilding projects currently under way.

40. In general, accessibility requirements were laid out in the Building Code, itself a part of the regulations under the Building Act, which provided for a range of enforcement mechanisms. Those mechanisms could be accessed online. The authorities were well aware, however, that enforcement could be improved. For that reason, pursuant to the Disability Action Plan, a comprehensive review of disabled people's experiences accessing buildings had been undertaken. The findings had recently been issued, and the Government, along with disabled persons' organizations, was developing a longer-term plan to ensure that the Building Code and the Building Act did what they were designed to do in terms of accessibility.

41. **Mr. Reaich** (New Zealand) added that all legislation, including regulations and draft laws, as well as many court decisions, was freely available online at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz).

42. **Mr. Linkhorn** (New Zealand) said that, under the Human Rights Act, dispute resolution began as informally as possible. If the effort was unsuccessful, a claim could be brought before the Human Rights Review Tribunal, a specialist body that would investigate the claim and make a determination. Monetary remedies and declarations were among the forms of redress provided for in the legislation under which the Tribunal operated. Not all claims led to monetary remedies, however, because many were settled through the alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

43. **Ms. O'Dea** (New Zealand) said that the Government had agreed that addressing the exemption from the minimum wage protections was a priority. For that reason, the

Disability Action Plan included a component on developing better alternatives to the exemption. She acknowledged that additional work was still necessary.

44. **Mr. Linkhorn** (New Zealand), responding to a question on hate speech, said that enabling the law to keep up with changes in technology was very important. The New Zealand Law Commission had released a report on the issue, and a bill on harmful digital communications had subsequently been introduced in the House of Representatives. Both the bill and the Law Commission's report were available online.

45. **Ms. O'Dea** (New Zealand) said that poorer outcomes were experienced by Maori people in general, not only by Maori with disabilities. Improvements in all areas were being sought. Whānau Ora, a programme that made services available to Maori families rather than to individuals and helped them to develop workable solutions to their problems, was one of the main initiatives taken to enhance outcomes for Maori people. Particular emphasis had been placed on easing the acute shortage of interpreters capable of working in Te Reo Maori, New Zealand sign language and English. That shortage had meant that many deaf people from the Maori community had been cut off from aspects of their culture.

46. According to a survey taken in 2013, 26 per cent of disabled people aged 25 to 64 had no educational qualifications, an improvement on the 38 per cent noted in the report before the Committee. However, the percentage of non-disabled people with no qualifications had also decreased, to 12 per cent. As a result, no progress had been made towards closing the gap between the two groups. Regrettably, she did not know whether data on educational outcomes, disaggregated by type of impairment, was available. She would confer with her colleagues in Wellington overnight.

47. Legal residency was required for access to some services and benefits; that was the case for income-support payments for people who were not working, for example. Most, however, including health services, were available to all, regardless of citizenship. Ensuring that residents of rural areas had access to disability support services on a par with their counterparts in suburban or urban areas was a considerable challenge. Suitable transport, for example, was not always available throughout the country, which was rather large and quite thinly settled.

48. **Ms. Atkinson** (New Zealand) confirmed that there were specific challenges in rural areas. For example, young physically disabled people did not always have access to an appropriate residential facility, and as a result, some had had to be housed in residential care facilities for older persons. Nonetheless, since 2008 the number of people under 65 years of age in such facilities had dropped considerably. In addition, individualized funding was being offered on a trial basis to families of disabled people and disabled people themselves to enable them to choose providers of support services. The trial had been particularly successful in rural communities. Another initiative being tested, local area coordination, had also proved successful, particularly in the eastern Bay of Plenty, a predominantly rural Maori area.

#### *Articles 11–20*

49. **Ms. Mulligan** enquired whether the State party, given the many measures put in place in the wake of the 2011 earthquake, had shared the lessons learned with other countries. Information on support to capacity-building would be especially welcome. She also wished to know whether civil-defence information was now available in such accessible formats as video with sign language, in easy-to-read versions and in translations into Maori.

50. **Mr. Ríos Espinosa** asked whether the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation really did make an impact in all areas of the lives of persons with disabilities in New Zealand. His first impression was that it did not, as the accessibility



requirements contained in the Building Code, for example, applied only to buildings designed to receive 10 people or more. Was the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation met in the areas of employment and education?

51. He enquired what practical effect it had when a person accused of an offence was declared not criminally responsible and whether due process was guaranteed on sentencing, assuming that the accused was guilty of the offence. Lastly, he wondered whether “risk of harm to self or others” (CRPD/C/NZL/1, para. 84) triggered the detention only of persons with disabilities or of non-disabled persons too.

52. **Ms. Degener** commended the State party for using the term “disabled persons” rather than “persons with disabilities”. It was regrettable that the term had not been used in the text of the Convention. Returning to the matter of the earthquake, she said she was under the impression that the 2013 Building Code exempted building owners who made their premises earthquake-resistant from accessibility requirements and wondered whether that exemption was in conformity with the Convention. Regarding article 12 of the Convention, she understood that very little supported decision-making was taking place and that family courts had considerable leeway to appoint so-called welfare guardians. In that respect, she wished to know whether New Zealand was willing to serve as a model to the world for the necessary transition from substitute to supported decision-making and if so, what specific plans it was developing to effect that transition.

53. The number of disabled people subject to compulsory treatment was rising and Maori people, in particular, were at disproportionately high risk in that regard. Of particular concern was the reliance on community treatment orders, which required patients to accept treatment at a specified place and were more widely used in New Zealand than almost anywhere else in the world. Were there any plans to change the situation? Sterilization of minors, was apparently allowed in the country subject only to parental consent. Television reports had even mentioned a case of Australian parents travelling to New Zealand to get around the tougher Australian laws and have their disabled daughter sterilized there. She enquired whether the Government had any plans to change its legislation on the matter and whether it was aware of a recent paper on forced sterilization in which the World Health Organization concluded that such laws were not in compliance with the Convention. Lastly, she would like to know whether the State party agreed that it was important for an apology to accompany an acknowledgement of the historic abuse of disabled people who had been under State care and the ongoing detrimental impact on their lives.

54. **Mr. Lovász** asked what had justified the discharge of a deaf person from jury duty, an incident mentioned in the replies to the list of issues, whether judges had to comply with the Convention in such cases and how the State party intended to ensure that in future no deaf person would ever be excluded from a jury on grounds of his or her impairment. He wondered whether the report of a single social worker was sufficient to inform a court’s decision on an application to adopt a child. Did disabled people have any way of challenging the social worker’s report during the judicial procedure?

55. **Mr. Tatić** requested additional details on the legal aid available to persons with disabilities filing complaints of discrimination. He asked whether free legal advice was available to the general population in New Zealand and, if so, whether that advice was equally accessible to persons with disabilities. Lastly, he enquired whether members of the judiciary, who were among those responsible for implementation of the Convention, received any training on it as part of their professional development.

56. **Mr. Langvad** requested information on the kinds of residential institution for persons with disabilities in New Zealand and on the number of residents in the two largest such institutions. Size alone did not make an institution, of course, but it was nonetheless a useful indicator. He also wished to know what services were available to help younger

persons living in residential homes for the elderly to become active partners in their local communities, whether there was support for independent living for indigenous people and whether the personal budget system could be used by persons with what were commonly considered more severe disabilities.

57. **Ms. Peláez Narváez**, noting that forced sterilization could apparently be practised in exceptional circumstances, asked what those circumstances were. That the Paediatric Society of New Zealand should have developed guidelines for the management of menstrual bleeding and fertility in girls with intellectual disabilities, as mentioned in the State party's report, struck her as indicative of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. She would therefore appreciate information on the steps the State party was taking to bring the practices of its Paediatric Society entirely into line with the basic principles of the Convention.

58. **Mr. McCallum** asked whether the Government had any plans to repeal the Public Health and Disability Amendment Act. Concerning the bill on digital hate speech, he understood that, since a human actor was required, auto-suggested search terms, which, as operators of search engines argued, were not generated by humans, would not be covered. Lastly, he noted that, under New Zealand law, judges had considerable discretion to exclude persons with disabilities from juries and said that the Government might do well to survey the ways that such discretion was exercised.

59. **Mr. Buntan** enquired whether the Government had devised a mechanism to ensure that all disaster risk reduction processes were accessible to persons with disabilities. In the event of a disaster, persons with disabilities were often left behind. He also wished to know whether New Zealand had a policy of affirmative action to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in the justice system, as judges, lawyers or jurors. Since persons with disabilities rarely worked in the justice system, a system-wide understanding of the hurdles they faced when seeking justice was often lacking.

60. **Ms. Quan-Chang** asked whether there was an independent mechanism for the oversight of residential facilities for older persons with disabilities and whether there were means of helping such persons to live independently and be included in their communities.

61. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her personal capacity, noted that she had not heard a reply to her question on how policies for indigenous people addressed persons with disabilities and vice versa. She requested an explanation of the ways in which the concept of a disproportionate or undue burden was interpreted. Lastly, she asked how the State party intended to deal with the overrepresentation of persons from the Maori community, some of them with disabilities, in the prison population.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*