



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Summary record of the 147th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 17 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 (*continued*)

Initial report of the Republic of Korea (CRPD/C/KOR/1; CRPD/C/KOR/Q/1 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of the Republic of Korea took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Mr. Choi** Seok-young (Republic of Korea) said that, under the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, human dignity and worth were assured to all citizens, who were equal before the law. In the letter and spirit of the Constitution, the Government had done its utmost to put in place laws, regulations and institutions to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The Republic of Korea had participated actively in the formulation of the Convention. It had ratified the instrument in late 2008 and was committed to implementing it. The Republic of Korea would chair the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015/16.
3. The delegation wished to highlight the progress made thus far with respect to disability rights but was also well aware that the country still faced challenges. Efforts to combat social and cultural prejudice against persons with disabilities, as well as violations of their rights, must be constant; in that context, guidance from the Committee and recommendations on implementing the Convention would be most welcome.
4. **Mr. Yun** Hyun-duck (Republic of Korea), introducing his country's initial report (CRPD/C/KOR/1), said that it had been drawn up mainly by relevant government bodies. Since the Government recognized that cooperation with civil society organizations contributed to effective implementation of the Convention, input had also been sought and received from disabled persons' organizations. The Government had established the Policy Coordination Committee for Disabled Persons to coordinate and monitor national policies on disability. Its members included persons with disabilities and representatives of disabled persons' organizations.
5. Even before the Convention had come into effect, the Government had endeavoured to enact and implement disability-specific legislation and policies to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Ratification of the Convention had led to the adoption of new texts featuring a rights-based approach to disability. Thus, under the 2007 act on the prevention of discrimination against persons with disabilities, denial of reasonable accommodation was deemed to be discriminatory in and of itself. The act prohibited discrimination on grounds of disability in such areas as employment, education and the provision of goods and services. In addition, it provided for persons with disabilities whose rights had been violated to appeal to anti-discrimination institutions.
6. To ensure equality before the law, the Government had amended the Civil Act and put in place an adult guardianship system, thus recognizing the capacity of persons with disabilities and their right to self-determination. Moreover, a bill to overhaul the Mental Health Act, in order to prevent abuses in mental health centres, had recently been introduced. Legislation had been passed to ensure that the social rights of persons with disabilities were respected. The Disability Pensions Act of 2010, for example, guaranteed a basic income to persons with severe disabilities who were unable to work. The Government had also made more people eligible for disability pensions and gradually raised the amounts paid out.
7. A quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities had been in place since 1991. Currently, the quota stood at 3 per cent of the workforce in the public sector

and 2.7 per cent in the private sector. In 2013, persons with disabilities had accounted for 2.4 per cent of all workers, up from 1.37 per cent in 2008. Some of that considerable increase was the result of a system that counted the employment of a person with severe disabilities as equivalent to the employment of two persons with mild disabilities. The subsidies available to employers of persons with disabilities had also contributed to the rise in employment rates, as had support for businesses that employed more than a certain number of persons with disabilities. There were plans to raise the mandatory employment quota by 0.2 per cent every two years.

8. Little by little, persons with disabilities were finding jobs in higher-status fields. In 2012, for the first time, a person with a visual impairment had been appointed a judge, and between 2008 and 2014 the number of persons with severe disabilities working as public officials had increased by 61 per cent.

9. Other recent developments included the passage of the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act, which provided for personal assistance to enable persons with severe disabilities to live independently, and the adoption of acts on the welfare of children with disabilities and on support services for persons with developmental disabilities.

10. The Ministry of Education sought to promote inclusive education for persons with disabilities. An educational support system, starting with free education for infants with disabilities, had been put in place for the entire life cycle. Disability awareness education was provided to teachers and parents, and disability awareness programmes were being incorporated in the general educational curriculum. Consequently, the number of students who delayed enrolling in school as a result of a disability had fallen sharply, and currently 71 per cent of students with disabilities were in inclusive education.

11. The Guidelines on Judicial Support for Persons with Disabilities, published by the Supreme Court in 2013, would enhance access to justice for persons with disabilities. An integrated judicial support centre had been established.

12. Those achievements notwithstanding, there remained room for improvement. A fully operational system for supported decision-making needed to be put in place, for instance, and more effective measures to prevent the abuse of persons with disabilities must be developed. Greater human and financial resources needed to be devoted to the promotion of the social rights of persons with disabilities. Lastly, the existing medical approach to disability must give way to a biopsychosocial model.

13. **Ms. Jang Myung-sook** (National Human Rights Commission, Republic of Korea) said that the Government had been endeavouring to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Despite those efforts, however, and despite a number of positive results, there were still challenges facing the country. First, the Government had yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Moreover, the presence and degree of a disability were currently determined on the basis of almost exclusively medical criteria, with little consideration for the individual's needs and circumstances. The maternity and child-rearing rights of women with disabilities were insufficiently protected, and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities were at high risk of sexual and domestic violence. Ensuring the right to mobility would require a substantial effort, while due provision of reasonable accommodation would depend on increased awareness of disability.

14. In 2013, the Government had introduced an adult guardianship system. The recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission on criteria for assessing decision-making capacity had not been accepted, however, increasing the likelihood that decisions on capacity would be made arbitrarily. A person's eligibility to purchase life insurance, even after an amendment to the Commercial Act, still depended on whether he or she had decision-making capacity. Complaints regarding discrimination against persons with disabilities by insurance companies were numerous, and the discrimination was based

not on data showing a correlation between disability and insurance claims but on groundless assumptions and prejudices. None of the Commission's recommendations in that respect had been accepted.

15. The percentage of hospitalizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities that were involuntary was a good deal higher than in many other countries, and the average stay was longer. In addition, planned amendments to the Mental Health Act were still pending, indicating the need for the Government to take a more proactive approach to improving the human rights situation of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

16. Persons with disabilities who were living in poverty became ineligible for benefits when they had a guardian or someone responsible for their support. The compulsory guardian support system thus foisted the responsibility for ensuring a life with dignity for persons with disabilities onto their families; that system had to be abolished.

17. Bills pertaining to the recognition of sign language as an official language and Braille as an official script were still awaiting passage. Greater efforts were required on the part of the State to make various forms of information more accessible to persons with visual impairments. In that connection, the Government would need to continue to follow up on the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which it had recently signed. Some 70 per cent of polling places currently made it difficult for some persons with disabilities, such as those in wheelchairs, to exercise their right to vote. Moreover, such sources of information as campaign bulletins and broadcasts did not have to be provided in accessible formats. Data collection could be improved too. The Government would do well, for instance, to develop a statistics system to gauge the status of domestic implementation of the Convention.

18. The National Human Rights Commission had been working for the protection of human rights since its creation in 2001. Despite the dramatic increase in the number of complaints the Commission received, its membership had been reduced in recent years. In view of its considerable workload, it was essential for the Commission not merely to be restored to its original size but to be made larger still.

19. **Mr. Buntan** (Country Rapporteur) said that the Republic of Korea had been one of the first countries in the Asia-Pacific Region to ratify the Convention and had played a leading role in the crafting of article 6. Ratification, however, had been only a start, and since then the country had also made numerous contributions to regional implementation of the Convention. For instance, it had hosted events that had led to the development of the so-called Incheon Strategy, a regional policy strategy to make the rights of persons with disabilities real. Considerable progress had been made domestically as well, including the enactment of several pieces of legislation meant to ensure that the country was in compliance with the Convention in both letter and spirit, although it was true that one was well within one's rights to wonder whether the definition of persons with disabilities in the most recent legal reforms was truly inclusive.

20. Unconfirmed reports had been received describing, among other things, the enslavement of persons with disabilities in a salt pan. That damages had apparently been awarded in only one or two cases in the six years since the promulgation of the act providing for remedies for persons with disabilities who had been victims of discrimination prompted questions. In addition, there were doubts about the range of coverage of the Disability Pensions Act and how inclusive it was. Moreover, it was unclear if the most recent amendments to the Commercial Act would afford persons with disabilities equal access to life insurance. At any event, the amendments should allow the Republic of Korea to withdraw its reservation to article 25, subparagraph (e), of the Convention. Good news on the ratification of the Optional Protocol would also be welcome.

21. As a result of the work the country and its people had done, the overall situation in the Republic of Korea could be considered very positive for persons with disabilities. What remained to discuss was simply how to make it better still.

Articles 1–10

22. **Ms. Degener** said that the Republic of Korea was clearly a model when it came to its anti-discrimination law, which specifically mentioned disabled women. Maternity services were available to disabled women, as were so-called harmony centres. At the same time, the parallel report from the National Human Rights Commission stated that the system of services for people with disabilities was centred on physically disabled people; intellectually disabled people found themselves at a disadvantage. In addition, that report noted that the policies for the advancement of women with disabilities did not focus sufficiently on education. According to a 2011 study, more than 20 per cent of women with disabilities had no education at all, a percentage much higher than that for their male counterparts. A parallel report from a coalition of disabled persons' organizations and NGOs indicated that employment rates for women with disabilities were alarmingly low and that the rates at which they experienced domestic violence were high. She wished to know what plans the State party had to address those issues.

23. **Mr. Ríos Espinosa** said that it was made entirely clear by the preamble that the Convention covered all persons with disabilities, including those with greater needs. In that connection, he asked what short-term plans the State party had to withdraw its plainly discriminatory reservation to article 25, subparagraph (e), of the Convention and thus to allow persons with disabilities to buy life insurance policies. He also requested clarification of the way in which the concept of reasonable accommodation was incorporated in national legislation.

24. **Mr. McCallum** said that, while he acknowledged the many good provisions of the anti-discrimination act, which had been in force for some six years, he wondered whether it was really working. Complaints, many of which had been resolved, could be lodged with the National Human Rights Commission. The Government could be petitioned to issue correction orders but, to all appearances, had done so in very few cases, and it seemed that damages had been awarded in only one court case. He would welcome additional information about the law, which was ripe for review.

25. **Ms. Quan-Chang** said that she, too, wished to commend the State party on the advances it had made, including major legal reforms, to comply with the Convention. That progress made it all the more surprising that, as the parallel reports noted, the State party should apparently have failed to closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities. The main consultation mechanism, the Policy Coordination Committee for Disabled Persons, for instance, apparently met only once or twice a year and was not fully representative of persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities. She therefore wished to know whether the State party intended to have that Committee meet more frequently, which would increase the likelihood of the opinions of persons with disabilities being taken into account.

26. **Mr. Lovász** asked the delegation to provide further information on the nature and scope of the correction orders issued under the anti-discrimination act, including their impact on national jurisprudence, and on the procedural safeguards available for parties involved in proceedings, in particular persons with disabilities. He wished to know what specific channels had been made available to children with disabilities so that they could express their views on matters concerning them, particularly in regard to their education

and health-care needs, and how their views were taken into consideration. Lastly, he enquired whether steps had been taken to build an inclusive education system, including provision of appropriate teacher training programmes and reasonable accommodation for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

27. **Ms. Maina** asked whether there were plans to abolish the disability rating system provided for by the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act and to amend the definitions of disability contained in national legislation, particularly in regard to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. She wondered what efforts had been made to reduce the number of children with disabilities living in institutions and to include them in the community, and what arrangements had been put in place, if any, to ensure that children with disabilities could freely express their views on their preferred living arrangements.

28. **Mr. Tatić** asked whether the Government intended to strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission in order to increase its effectiveness in promoting and protecting the equal rights of persons with disabilities and combating discrimination against them. In the light of the State party's failure to meet the targets on accessibility contained in the previous Second-stage Five-year National Plan for Convenience Promotion (2005–2009), he would like to know what progress had been made in achieving the targets under the current Third-stage Five-year National Plan (2010–2014).

29. **Mr. Langvad** asked whether the Government intended to strengthen its cooperation with disabled persons' organizations, including through the provision of additional financial support to them. He also wished to know whether awareness-raising programmes aimed at changing societal attitudes towards persons with disabilities and combating discrimination had been introduced. Lastly, he enquired whether the State party intended to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

30. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** asked whether efforts had been made to combat the neglect, ill-treatment and abandonment of children with disabilities, including allocating financial assistance to single mothers of children with disabilities. She enquired whether the State party had considered amending its legislation to clearly prohibit physical ill-treatment of children with disabilities and inserting relevant provisions in its anti-discrimination act. She would also like to know whether children with disabilities had access to professional skills training courses and what measures had been taken to address the multiple discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, particularly in regard to their access to education.

31. **Mr. Buntan** asked what had been done to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities to mobile communication technology and to establish mobile accessibility standards for private mobile communication providers.

32. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** asked whether persons with disabilities had access to the national electronic filing system for court cases and, if so, whether the system complied with accessibility standards. He requested further information on the outcome of cases brought under the anti-discrimination act and on the specific measures adopted, if any, to guarantee persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against all types of discrimination. Lastly, he enquired whether steps had been taken to ensure that persons with disabilities had equal access to transportation, in both urban and rural areas, and whether incentives had been provided to encourage building owners to meet accessibility standards pursuant to the Act on Promotion of Convenience for the Disabled, Senior Citizens, and Pregnant Women.

33. **Ms. Mulligan** asked the delegation to provide further information on the membership of the Policy Coordination Committee for Disabled Persons, disaggregated by age, gender and ethnicity. She expressed concern that that Committee's decision-making

process was not open to the public and enquired whether measures would be taken to include persons with disabilities and their representatives in the Committee's meetings. Lastly, she wished to know what efforts would be made to involve disabled persons' organizations in the preparation of the State party's future reports.

34. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her personal capacity, asked what steps had been taken to amend or abolish the 81 laws and regulations found to be in direct contravention of the Convention and to what extent disabled persons' organizations had been involved in the legislative review process.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

35. **Mr. Yun** Hyun-duck (Republic of Korea) said that the Policy Coordination Committee for Disabled Persons was chaired by the Prime Minister; its members included government ministers as well as 15 representatives from various disabled persons' organizations. The Government placed great emphasis on working closely with disabled persons' organizations on all areas of disability policy and had provided financial support to a number of organizations. In addition to their participation in the Policy Coordination Committee for Disabled Persons, disabled persons' organizations had also been involved in the development of a number of specific disability policy measures.

36. The Welfare of Disabled Persons Act contained provisions to protect children with disabilities and the Child Protection Agency thoroughly investigated any complaints of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The Government provided financial assistance to single mothers and helped to arrange foster care for children with disabilities whose families were unable to care for them.

37. The scope of the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act had been extended to encompass 15 different types of disability so as to provide a greater number of persons with disabilities with appropriate support. The Government recognized that the current disability rating system required amendment and intended to establish a new rights-based model by the end of 2017 in order to be able to respond to the individual needs of persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Health and Welfare would take the necessary steps to bring national legislation into line with the Convention and had already amended or repealed 44 discriminatory laws and regulations.

38. The anti-discrimination act had served as an effective tool for preventing discrimination and had enabled a number of cases of discrimination to be brought before the courts. Correction orders had been issued in response to 330 of the 3,000 complaints filed under the Act. Emphasis was placed on reconciliation between the parties concerned and correction orders were issued only in the most serious cases of discrimination involving multiple victims or repeat offenders.

39. The Government acknowledged the multiple discrimination faced by women with disabilities. It recognized their difficulties in accessing education and had taken a number of measures to increase their enrolment rate. A series of education and professional training programmes had been launched and a lifelong learning institute had been established for adult learners with disabilities.

40. The Government's responsibility to support independent living was established in law, in the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act. Persons who left psychiatric hospitals to live in the community were entitled to 20 hours of personal assistance per month for the first six months. Steps had also been taken to ensure that they had a minimum income, and up to 50 per cent of any earnings was discounted when calculating their eligibility for means-tested benefits. Moreover, the maximum benefit amount available under the disability pensions system had increased significantly since 2009, as had the number of persons with severe disabilities who were eligible. Workshops in institutional settings were being phased out in

order to run them in vocational rehabilitation facilities, which were legally required to ensure that 50 per cent of their users were living independently. The Government supported such facilities by covering their rental costs.

41. All persons with disabilities enrolled in national health or social insurance plans were offered government subsidies for the purchase of assistive devices. The value of the subsidies available to persons with no coverage, which were funded from tax revenue, had almost doubled between 2006 and 2013, and the range of devices subsidized was being expanded continually.

42. Regarding accessibility, modifications to public buildings were required by law and had been carried out increasingly in recent years. The Government was aware of the need to enforce existing regulations more stringently, particularly those related to clear floor space, but did not want to impose an undue burden on facility owners. Despite that, policies were in place to continue to improve accessibility in the future.

43. The Government would review the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol if and when the need arose. The rights enshrined in the Convention were already adequately protected in the Republic of Korea, including through the work of the National Human Rights Commission. The Government would, however, be able to withdraw its reservation to article 25, subparagraph (e), of the Convention following the adoption of an amendment to article 732 of the Commercial Act that would come into effect in 2015.

44. **Mr. Kang** Mi-young (Republic of Korea) said that the Government was endeavouring to combat sexual and domestic violence against women with disabilities through a number of laws, regulations and policies, including the Sexual Violence Prevention and Victims Protection Act. Efforts were also under way to develop comprehensive plans to promote and protect the rights of such women. Counselling centres, victim protection facilities and call centres were all available to victims, and the Government was working closely with representative organizations in order to further improve services.

45. **Mr. Oh** Ki-Hun (Republic of Korea) said that the percentage of low-floor city buses had increased by more than 5 per cent between 2010 and 2013. It was hoped that, by 2016, 41.5 per cent of city buses would have been thus adapted. High-speed trains already had priority seating for wheelchair users and there were plans to fit high-speed intercity buses with wheelchair access equipment on a pilot basis.

46. **Ms. Noh** Seon-ok (Republic of Korea) said that the Government was committed, through the enforcement of the Act on Special Education for Persons with Disabilities to improving the school enrolment rate of all children with disabilities, including girls, who had historically been excluded from the education system owing to a social preference for boys. Education in the Republic of Korea was compulsory from kindergarten to high school. In addition, a law enacted in 2008 provided for free schooling for children with disabilities under the age of 5, while those who wished to pursue their studies beyond high school were entitled to free further education for three years.

47. The Government was working to raise awareness of disabilities through a range of media, including radio and television. A disability awareness module had been included in school curricula, and, in 2014, persons with disabilities had visited a number of schools in order to provide training. Moreover, teacher training courses were required to include a module on understanding and viewing disability from a human rights perspective.

Articles 11–20

48. **Ms. Mulligan** invited the delegation to provide an update on any revisions made to legislation to ensure the safety of persons with disabilities in emergencies. She said that she

would welcome information on the national situation for persons with disabilities in terms of emergency preparedness and response, and looked forward to hearing concrete proposals on matters such as secure evacuation. Lastly, she asked whether the State party provided any humanitarian aid relief through the Korean International Cooperation Agency and, if so, whether the aid was distributed in an accessible manner.

49. **Mr. Tatić** said that he wished to know whether emergency information was made available to persons with disabilities through sign language, captioning or other means. With regard to the process of deinstitutionalization, he asked what kind of assistance was provided to persons leaving psychiatric hospitals. Noting the limited entitlement to personal assistance, he enquired what measures were in place for persons requiring round-the-clock care.

50. **Mr. Lovász**, referring to the Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety, asked what steps were taken to guarantee that persons who were deaf or hard of hearing had access to crucial information during emergencies. Given that the State party was renowned for its communications and technology industry, he would welcome information on any recent developments or new services available to such persons.

51. **Mr. Ríos Espinosa** asked whether the State party intended to amend the Mental Health Promotion Act to expressly prohibit involuntary committal. With regard to criminal proceedings, he wished to know what reasonable accommodations were made to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who could not distinguish between right and wrong, had equal access to due process.

52. **Ms. Degener** asked whether there were plans to bring the Civil Act and the Mental Health Promotion Act into line with articles 12 and 14 of the Convention, particularly in the light of the Committee's general comment No. 1 on article 12.

53. **Ms. Quan-Chang** invited the delegation to comment on reports of violence against persons in psychiatric hospitals, including one case that had resulted in the death of a patient. She asked whether an independent mechanism had been set up to monitor such institutions and whether there was a body empowered to provide redress for serious violations of patients' rights.

54. Turning to article 18 of the Convention, she asked whether the Government planned to amend the relevant legislation in order to ensure that children with disabilities were registered immediately after birth. The delegation should also indicate whether there had been any improvements in the services afforded to persons with disabilities who were migrants or living in refugee camps.

55. **Ms. Maina** wished to know what measures the Government took to guarantee that persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities had full access to websites and national library resources. She invited the delegation to comment on reports that, although some children with disabilities attended mainstream schools, the education provided was not fully inclusive as, *inter alia*, learning was not individualized and sign language interpretation was not available.

56. Noting that, under the Mental Health Promotion Act, the provision of medical treatment, support and services was not subject to informed consent, she asked whether the State party intended to amend the Act and relevant public health laws. She also wished to know what steps were taken to ensure that persons with psychosocial disabilities could exercise their right to legal capacity, and whether there were plans to end the involuntary confinement of such persons in psychiatric hospitals.

57. **Mr. Langvad** said that article 11 of the Immigration Control Act could be considered to discriminate against persons with psychosocial disabilities and invited the

delegation to comment on the matter. He also sought clarification as to whether foreign nationals had the same access to disability services as citizens of the Republic of Korea.

58. Turning to article 19 of the Convention, he said that he would appreciate information and statistics on persons benefiting from independent living schemes, disaggregated by type of disability. He asked whether there had been an increase in the number of persons with disabilities living in institutional set-ups since the State party's ratification of the Convention and whether there was a time frame for deinstitutionalization.

59. **Mr. Al-Tarawneh** asked whether the Government had developed a national framework for the closure of residential institutions and set aside resources for the provision of support enabling persons with disabilities to live in the community. The delegation should indicate whether women and children with disabilities, who were vulnerable to sexual and domestic violence, had access to legal aid, hotlines, counselling and other services. He also wished to know whether the State party intended to introduce an explicit definition of multiple and intersectional discrimination in national legislation, in addition to a comprehensive anti-discrimination law providing for a complaints mechanism and monetary damages in cases involving such discrimination.

60. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** said that she wished to know what measures were taken to protect persons with disabilities from labour exploitation and working conditions akin to slavery. She asked whether the State party had incorporated the offence of torture in domestic law and whether legislation prohibiting forced sterilization protected all persons with disabilities.

61. **Mr. Buntan** asked whether there were plans to raise awareness of the Guidelines on Investigations Regarding Human Rights Protection, for example by providing relevant training, or even to make them binding, in order to enhance access to justice for persons with disabilities.

62. With regard to the recent human trafficking cases in Sinan County, he asked what steps the Government was taking to investigate and address the situation. Lastly, he wished to know whether the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act could be amended to cover persons with psychosocial disabilities, or, alternatively, whether the Mental Health Promotion Act could be amended to ensure the enjoyment of their rights by such persons when accessing medical and other services.

63. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her personal capacity, asked whether the State party intended to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and whether a national preventive mechanism had been set up to avoid a recurrence of the events in Sinan County. She also wished to know whether persons with psychosocial disabilities had access to due process and, if not, what was done to monitor respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of such persons when they were subjected to security measures. Lastly, she would welcome information on any investigations into incidents of bullying of children with disabilities in schools.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.