



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 June 2013
English
Original: French

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Fiftieth session

Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 14th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 7 May 2013, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Kedzia

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* No summary record was prepared for the second part (closed) of the meeting.

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

Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant *(continued)*

Initial report of Togo (continued) (E/C.12/TGO/1; E/C.12/TGO/Q/1 and Add.1; HRI/CORE/1/Add.38/Rev.2)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Togo took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Mr. Marchán Romero** asked whether there was a register of ethnic groups and, in the affirmative, whether it was based on the principle of self-identification.
3. **Mr. Sadi** wished to know whether there were interreligious tensions between students. He would welcome additional information on the quality of the school environment, particularly in rural areas, given that the lack of latrines and drinking water often accounted for the high school dropout rate, especially among girls. He also asked to what degree students had access to new technology and the Internet.
4. **Mr. Hamadou** (Togo) said that each ethnic group identified itself in terms of its particular practices and language, and that coexistence was not a problem between ethnic groups and religious groups, as illustrated by the fact that they lived in the same neighbourhoods and that there was a church and a mosque on the University of Lomé campus. Denominational schools were open to everyone and State schools were attended by students of all denominations and faiths.
5. A partnership between the universities of Lomé and Kara and the Ministry of Telecommunications had provided students with wireless Internet access on the two university campuses. The National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy and the work of the new Ministry of Water and Village Water Supplies would improve sanitary conditions in schools, particularly thanks to assistance from the international community.
6. **Mr. Sessenou** (Togo) said that, every year, there were as many traditional festivals organized in Togo as there were ethnic groups in the country. Each ethnic group expressed its world vision through dance, song, story-telling and cooking.
7. **Mr. Atangana** (Country Rapporteur) thanked the delegation for its openness and the information it had provided. However, he drew attention to two persistent elements: the lack of information on case law concerning the implementation of the Covenant by national courts, and the lack of statistics. Nonetheless, he welcomed the importance the State party attached to the Covenant, as illustrated by the composition of the delegation, and hoped that the forthcoming periodic report would contain the relevant information.
8. **Ms. Wilson de Souza** (Togo) expressed deep appreciation for the Committee's sincerity and its comments, of which she had taken note, and reiterated her Government's unswerving commitment to human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, despite the current situation. She urged all stakeholders to support the Government in its efforts to improve the situation of the entire population, especially the most vulnerable.
9. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee had been impressed by the professionalism of the high-level delegation and the abundance of initiatives that had been taken by the Government and society. Despite the difficulties, numerous steps were being taken, amply demonstrating that the country was undergoing a significant transformation. The development and formulation of a plan for the implementation, with all the stakeholders, of the treaty bodies' recommendations, would set an example to many

countries. The consideration of the initial report of Togo had come to an end and the Committee's concluding observations would hopefully be the beginning of ongoing cooperation between the Government and the Committee until the submission of the forthcoming periodic report.

The first part (public) of the meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.