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Chair: Mr. Thórsson (Vice-Chair) (Iceland)

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In the absence of Mr. Tafrov (Bulgaria), Chair, Mr. Thórsson (Iceland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (continued)
(A/68/121)

(a) **Advancement of women (continued)** (A/68/38, 178, 179, 184, 340 and 487; E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11)

(b) **Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (continued)** (A/68/175)

1. **Mr. Ulibarri** (Costa Rica), citing his country's many laws protecting women, said that his Government had recently enacted legislation criminalizing organ trafficking, sex tourism and labour exploitation. Outlining the objectives of Costa Rica's comprehensive gender equality policy for 2007-2017, he said that a major achievement thus far had been the establishment of childcare networks and senior citizen centres. Costa Rica had a woman head of State, and almost 40 per cent of its legislators were women. Its experience demonstrated the importance of affirmative action to strengthen the participation of women.

2. The gender perspective should be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda by mainstreaming gender equality issues in all objectives and by setting a specific gender equality goal. The United Nations should make greater efforts to integrate a gender perspective in the work of the Organization, particularly in the areas of disarmament, decolonization, legal affairs and the budget. Among the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11), he highlighted the Commission's recognition that the illicit use of and trade in small arms and light weapons aggravated violence against women and children and that transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, resulted in violence against women in particular. Furthermore, as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women indicated in her report (A/68/340), a growing number of women were being incarcerated for low-level drug trafficking crimes committed under coercion. Costa Rica reiterated its call for universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and would continue to

support the work of the Committee of the Convention as well as that of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

3. **Ms. Hewanpola** (Australia) urged the international community to give immediate attention to the gender dimensions of the Syrian conflict, including the use of sexual violence against women and girls as a weapon of war, and the ever-increasing number of women refugees. Concerted efforts must be made to implement the Security Council's women, peace and security agenda and to ensure the harnessing of women's contributions as agents of peace and security. Australia was working within the Security Council to advance that agenda and had also held panel discussions on that topic. It was committed to raising awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence in conflict, ending impunity, providing comprehensive services to survivors and supporting efforts to build national prevention and response capacities; in that regard, it welcomed the Arms Trade Treaty, which would help to reduce violence against women and girls. However, gender-based violence was not limited to war; its pervasive nature underscored the need to implement the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

4. Under the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children, Australia had established dedicated institutions, including a national centre of excellence that would build a knowledge base to drive reform. Other domestic measures included a paid parental leave scheme; a national disability insurance scheme, and a digital literacy programme, all of which would benefit women. Internationally, Australia's development agency invested in women and girl's health, education, training and leadership and helped women start businesses and access credit and markets.

5. **Ms. Fathimath** (Maldives) said that as a party to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, and as a member of the Human Rights Council and the Executive Board of UN-Women, the Maldives was according high priority to gender equality. It had achieved low maternal mortality as well as gender parity in primary and secondary education and there was no gender discrimination in wages in either the public or the private sector. The Maldives' Constitution upheld the principles of equality and non-discrimination and there were various laws that provided for the equal participation of women.

6. Nevertheless, women in the Maldives faced de facto discrimination, worsened recently by emerging conservative religious interpretations that defined woman's place as in the home, opposed educating girls, encouraged under-age marriages and discouraged the vaccination of infants. Despite gains in education and employment, women remained significantly under-represented in politics and government. Furthermore, according to a 2007 survey, one in three women in the Maldives suffered some form of abuse during her lifetime. To counter those phenomena, her Government had developed programmes to raise awareness of gender-based violence, develop social support and counselling, provide women with legal options and advise them on economic opportunities that would empower them to leave abusive relationships. The Maldives joined UN-Women in urging the inclusion of a stand-alone gender equality goal in the post-2015 development agenda.

7. **Ms. Abubakar** (Libya) said that her country had enacted a wide range of laws domesticating the provisions of the Convention and its Optional Protocol. Libyan women were participating actively in the country's economic and social reconstruction. More than 16 per cent of the national congress and a number of ministers and deputy ministers were women. Women were seeking to ensure that the new Constitution would provide for gender equality and prohibit discrimination against women, and several new woman-led civil society organizations were working to educate women about their rights and encourage them reject any discriminatory policies or rules.

8. Welcoming the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on women and political participation (A/68/184), she expressed her country's deep gratitude to UN-Women, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the United Nations Development Programme for their ongoing assistance in promoting women's political participation. A recently adopted plan of action focused on increasing the number of women in the Constituent Assembly, enhancing initiatives to strengthen women's participation in the national dialogue and collecting statistics on women.

9. Libya condemned all forms of violence and aggression against women, either at home or in conflict settings, including the massive use of rape as a weapon of war by pro-Qadhafi forces during the Libyan revolution. Her Government was drawing up plans to

train counsellors and social workers to assist rape victims. Libya rejected any link between religion and violence, particularly domestic violence, and considered the trafficking of women and girls a crime against humanity.

10. Her delegation reiterated its concern about the flagrant violations of the rights of Palestinian women in the occupied territory and the discriminatory and degrading practices to which they were subjected by the Israeli occupying forces. The international community must honour its commitments to protect those rights.

11. **Mr. Grima** (Malta) said that in Malta, all ministries and government departments were encouraged to mainstream gender in all policies, laws, projects and programmes and were evaluated on how well they did so. His Government accorded priority to promoting women's economic independence and increasing their participation in the labour market, and was consolidating measures such as tax credits, subsidized childcare and paid maternity leave. The national commission for the promotion of equality encouraged equal treatment in the workplace by certifying companies deemed equal opportunity employers and assisting others in achieving that goal. His Government was committed to increasing the number of women on boards and commissions; it was also developing a mentoring programme, as well as a directory of Maltese professional women to increase their professional visibility. As one of the first countries to sign the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Malta had conducted a survey that showed that one in four Maltese women had experienced domestic violence. It offered shelters for women victims and their children and had developed support services to help women move out of violent situations.

12. The post-2015 process should reinforce the international community's commitment to empowering women and girls, ensuring gender equality and preventing and combating violence against women. However, his delegation reaffirmed that the right to life was one of the most fundamental human rights; no recommendation related to the post-2015 agenda should create an obligation on any party to consider abortion a right or a legitimate part of reproductive health.

13. **Ms. Kazragiené** (Lithuania) said that her country participated actively in international initiatives and deliberations concerning the post-2015 development agenda and in regional discussions through the European Institute for Gender Equality, based in Lithuania. Domestically, its ongoing national programme on equal opportunities for women and men set comprehensive objectives for eliminating gender inequalities. Lithuanian women were more highly educated than Lithuanian men and were employed in almost equal numbers.

14. To address violence against women, Lithuania was drawing up a national programme for the prevention of domestic violence and provision of assistance to victims for 2010-2014. It consistently invested in developing women's entrepreneurial skills in order to give them the financial independence they might need to leave abusive relationships. It had established specialized centres offering integrated assistance to victims and operated temporary shelters for victims and their children. To raise awareness, it had expanded the human rights curriculum for schools to include domestic violence. It had also launched publicity campaigns featuring male and female celebrities, who, by sharing their stories, helped to overcome the stigma often attached to victims and to redefine perceptions of masculinity and violence. Local NGOs played a vital enormous role in combating violence against women and providing support to victims, especially victims of human trafficking.

15. **Mr. Mnisi** (Swaziland) said that his country had acceded to most of the regional and international instruments relating to the advancement of women. As a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it believed in integrating the rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels. To combat the heinous crime of human trafficking, his Government had established a secretariat to coordinate and implement the people trafficking and people smuggling act of 2009 and was a party to the relevant international instruments.

16. His Government had developed a national gender equity policy which provided guidelines and indicators and would create strategic synergies with stakeholders. It was working to empower rural women, recognizing their role in poverty and hunger eradication, and striving to overcome the disparities between rural and

urban areas through a decentralisation policy, ensuring development and services at all levels. However, the economic and financial crisis, the food and energy crisis and climate change had together taken a tremendous toll on the Kingdom and its women, who were disproportionately affected by unemployment, poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS. His Government therefore deeply appreciated the technical and capacity-building assistance provided by its development partners, which it hoped would be further strengthened.

17. **Mr. Belhaj** (Morocco), welcoming the Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign and reiterating his country's support for UN-Women, stressed the vital role of women in peacebuilding and national reconstruction. Morocco's laws, institutions and government actions illustrated its concern for the advancement of women, whose presence had increased in public administration and in decision-making at all levels. The national gender equality plan for 2012-2016 included measures to promote women's equitable access to education, health services and management positions, as well as equal employment opportunities for women and the empowerment of rural women. To combat violence against women, and in consultation with components of civil society, his Government was drafting an amendment to the penal code that would increase penalties for perpetrators and ensure the protection of victims and witnesses. To facilitate victims' access to justice, social workers had been assigned to courts, a telephone helpline had been set up, and judges had been specially trained.

18. Legal reforms with a positive impact on women's rights included the new family code, the new nationality code and a constitutional amendment reaffirming the principle of equal civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for women and providing for the establishment of a government authority to promote equality and combat all forms of discrimination. Budgetary reform had been undertaken to ensure gender-sensitive budgeting based on gender performance indicators.

19. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that since the collapse of the Taliban in 2001, his country had made tremendous progress on enabling women to regain their historic roles as proactive citizens. Girls were back in school, and the number of female teachers and public servants had increased substantially. Women continued

to play a role in Afghan peace talks, including through participation in the High Peace Council, and were among the ranks of the country's security and police forces. They played important roles in the National Assembly and civil society. In the upcoming elections, almost 240 women had declared their candidacy for provincial office; eight, for vice-president, and one, for president.

20. In keeping with the principle of equality enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, the advancement of women was central to Afghanistan's national development strategy, which included specific gender equity benchmarks. The national action plan for the women of Afghanistan sought to promote women's inclusion in government entities, reduce illiteracy, ensure equal pay for equal work, lower maternal mortality and provide greater economic opportunities for women.

21. He expressed gratitude to the international community for its tremendous and consistent support for his Government's efforts to empower women, who faced towering obstacles, including poverty, low levels of education, unfamiliarity with the relevant laws, especially in remote and rural areas, and, most significantly, vulnerability in time of war. He noted with profound regret the killings and brutality against many women and girls, including women activists, NGO workers and police officers, by anti-government elements. Peace and reconciliation were crucial for Afghan women and girls to further consolidate the rights they had achieved.

22. **Mr. Kogda** (Burkina Faso) said that to ensure women's participation in inclusive, sustainable development, Burkina Faso, in implementation of its national gender policy adopted in 2009, had launched a campaign to provide birth certificates for 2 million women and girls. His Government believed that investment in the economic empowerment of women was the best way to promote gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth; to that end, it had established a national women's forum and set up numerous policies, programmes and funds. Implementation of the gender quota law during the 2012 legislative and municipal elections had increased the participation of women in political life and in decision-making positions. However, many obstacles remained to women's economic, social and political development. In particular, more must be done to combat gender-based discrimination, which condemned

women to precarious, poorly remunerated employment, violence and inequality and was a factor in female genital mutilation and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

23. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba) said that despite progress made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, much remained to be done, including reversing the feminization of poverty. For developing countries, gender equality and women's empowerment hinged on the achievement of sustainable development and a just, democratic and equitable international order; those difficult goals were rendered more elusive by climate change and the ongoing economic, financial, food and energy crises.

24. Eliminating violence against women and girls required eliminating all unilateral coercive measures. For Cuba, the economic and commercial blockade by the United States of America was the biggest impediment to the advancement of women and girls.

25. Long before the adoption of the Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Cuba had worked hard for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the promotion and protection of women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights. Education and health services were guaranteed, free of charge, at all levels. Women in Cuba had a life expectancy of 80 years. They accounted for 67 per cent of university graduates, 70 per cent of workers in health and education and 56 per cent of the judiciary. Cuban women made up some 48 per cent of parliamentarians and over 40 per cent of members of the Council of State. With the active participation of the federation of Cuban women, a leading NGO, her Government was working to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and to incorporate a greater emphasis on prevention in its legislation.

26. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that the heroic contribution of Eritrean women during the struggle for independence had entrenched in the national psyche the belief that nation-building could not be realized without the active participation of women. Yet historically rooted cultural and social structures continued to perpetuate inequalities, restrict access to essential resources and make women vulnerable to violence. Women and men were equal under the Constitution, and since independence her Government had pursued policies and programmes aimed at

eradicating gender-based violence. Implementation of a 2007 law criminalizing female genital mutilation had substantially reduced its prevalence. Eritrea had made protecting victims and combating trafficking in persons a priority by working closely with its neighbours to eradicate that phenomenon.

27. During 2011-2012, Eritrea had achieved near gender parity in education at the pre-primary, elementary, middle and secondary levels. With about 60 per cent of the population living within five kilometres of a health facility, Eritrea was on track to achieve the MDG on maternal mortality and access to reproductive health. With a view to easing the burdens of rural women, her Government had introduced renewable energy and rural electrification programmes and installed flour mills, pumps, energy-saving stoves and solar facilities.

28. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia) said that the principle of gender equality was enshrined in her country's Constitution and many other laws. In 2004 a gender equality advisory council had been established to advise Parliament, and her Government had taken steps to ensure gender equality in employment and equal access to the political and managerial spheres. Working in close cooperation with UN-Women and civil society, it had developed a national action plan to implement the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, which had been approved by Parliament in 2011. In June 2013, Parliament had adopted amendments to the Labour Code providing greater protection for women. Women represented more than 5 per cent of the armed forces and 50 per cent of civilian military personnel, and women police officers received regular training to enhance their skills.

29. Unfortunately, 20 per cent of Georgia's sovereign territory remained under foreign military occupation; gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms had been committed during the war between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008, including violence, rape and torture of women and children. Recently, as the installation of barbed wire fences along the occupation line had been intensified, the Russian occupation forces had imposed further severe restrictions on freedom of movement, extending even to persons in need of medical assistance and expectant mothers; three women had died on route to the hospital after having been refused passage. Up to 500,000 internally displaced persons and refugees

continued to be deprived of the right to a safe and dignified return.

30. **Ms. MacIntosh** (Suriname) said that the data on violence against women and girls should serve as a wake-up call to scale up efforts to combat it; in that regard, the involvement of men and boys was crucial. Furthermore, any comprehensive strategy should also address support for victims. Her Government had launched a gender work plan for 2013 that gave priority to education and training, poverty eradication, violence against women, health, and participation which would be implemented in close cooperation with civil society as well as international partners and would form the basis for the formulation of a gender policy for 2014-2016. Pending and continuing initiatives included revision of the school curricula to eliminate gender stereotypes; preparation and passage of legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace; measures to implement the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value and campaigns to prevent HIV infection and teenage pregnancy.

31. **Ms. Katongo** (Zambia) said that her Government's work to domesticate the Convention would be finalized upon the adoption of the new Constitution. It guaranteed free basic education under the Education Act of 2011 and had appointed women to senior management positions in various public institutions. In 2002, her Government had enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6, one of whose objects was to incorporate a gender perspective in the promotion of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities. Its National Strategy on Financial Education for Zambia was designed to enhance the participation of all persons, including women, in national development; it was partnering with the private sector and civil society to provide financial education for women in rural areas.

32. Despite those positive steps, Zambia faced challenges in key areas: keeping girls in school, bringing more women into politics and identifying and prosecuting gender-based violence. To address them, it was revising its national gender policy and its Constitution and would be implementing a strategy to increase the number of women in politics and decision-making public service positions. Her Government would welcome further partnerships in support of the full emancipation of women in Zambia.

33. **Ms. Peña** (Peru), noting that her country was a co-founder of the Equal Futures Partnership, said that her Government had undertaken to ensure the political empowerment of women through elections and to promote the financial inclusion of women users of social programmes. For the first time in its history, Peru had as many women with ministerial portfolios as men, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Its national plan for gender equality 2012-2017 provided a strategic policy axis for implementing national and international gender equality obligations, including those arising under its law on equal opportunity. In June 2013, her Government had unveiled a new computer-based gender indicator system. A 2011 law penalizing the murder of women in the context of an intimate relationship had been amended to increase the penalties and include murder committed by a person with whom the victim had no direct relationship.

34. Her delegation had been one of the sponsors of an event celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child, sponsored by the Working Group on Girls; at the national level, her Government had organized two panel discussions on girls' issues. Although Peru would no longer be represented on the Executive Board of UN-Women as of January 2014, it remained committed to the goals of UN-Women and would contribute to its 2014 budget.

35. **Mr. Le Hoai Trung** (Viet Nam) said that, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, strengthening women's rights and addressing barriers to their political participation were critical to women's empowerment, poverty reduction and the achievement of development goals. The engagement of women as full stakeholders had been proven to enhance sustainable livelihoods of local communities and national economies. A comprehensive and all-inclusive approach was needed to end discrimination and violence against women.

36. Since the enactment of a gender equality law in 2006, his Government had adopted various laws and programmes to protect and promote the rights of women, including a law against domestic violence, the national programme on gender equality (2011-2015) and a gender indicator system, as well as initiatives for the economic empowerment of women. It had established a centre for women in politics and public administration in June 2013. Gender was mainstreamed in all new laws and policies. As a result, Viet Nam was close to achieving gender parity in the workforce; more

than 90 per cent of women and girls were literate, over half of university students were women, and about 80 per cent of Vietnamese women were employed. However, it continued to face challenges, including limited numbers of full-time staff available to work on gender issues, especially at the provincial level, limited budgets, low representation of women in the National Assembly and in influential political positions and a persistent disparity between women and men's incomes.

37. **Ms. Nama** (Cameroon) said that with the assistance of civil society, the media, religious denominations, traditional leaders and development partners, Cameroon had made significant progress in promoting the advancement of women and ensuring their full participation in development, despite the barriers of custom and tradition. In the legal arena, it had enacted a law on trafficking in persons in 2011 and was in process of amending the civil and penal codes to remove provisions that discriminated against women. A national gender policy had been formulated and gender focal points had been established to ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues in policies, sectoral programmes and budget preparation.

38. Her Government's strategy to address violence against women included the establishment of a pilot centre to provide psychological and social counselling for victims and the activation of help lines. Outreach initiatives were carried out, including initiatives to raise awareness of the dangers of cyber-marriages. Protecting victims and punishing perpetrators involved cooperation among the courts, the police, civil society and the media. Radio programmes were produced in local languages and French to combat violence against women.

39. Following the adoption of the 2012 Electoral Code, which included provisions to increase women's participation in politics, 20 women had been elected to the Senate, and nine women had been appointed to ministerial or similar posts in the reorganized Government. The governing bodies of the various parties had been opened to women, who were being encouraged to register to vote and stand for election. With regard to access to justice and to land, awareness-raising campaigns had been conducted and women were provided with free legal counselling on request. Cameroon was confident that it could count on the cooperation of the international community to maximize its efforts to create an environment of

respect for human rights, including in particular the rights of women.

40. **Mr. Kimpolo** (Republic of the Congo) said that Congolese women were making a major contribution to national development. Congo's 2012 Constitution guaranteed women the same rights as men. Since women were inadequately represented in decision-making positions, her Government was pursuing a policy of encouraging training that would prepare women for positions of responsibility, and had prepared a guide for women candidates in elections with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme. Other initiatives involved training women in political leadership, advocacy to help women gain positions of authority in political parties, wide-scale popularization of the national gender policy and lobbying for the effective implementation of laws and conventions that benefitted women.

41. Improving the life of rural women was a priority of the 2012-2016 national development programme, which called for providing technical and vocational training and basic supply kits for rural women and teenage mothers. In implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth World Congress of Rural Women, held in Durban in 2007, her Government was striving to facilitate the access of rural women to health services, promote literacy and incorporate their concerns in its policies and programmes.

42. **Mr. Richter** (Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that women constituted nearly half of international migrants. Increasingly, they moved on their own, and as they moved, they were more exposed to the risk of exploitation and gender-based violence than men. He welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/68/178) and its recognition of the efforts of IOM to enhance the safety of female migrant workers. He was pleased to see an increase in the number of States parties to relevant international instruments, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011, which had entered into force in September 2013. Echoing recommendations made in the report, he called for improved collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data, which was essential to carrying out research and analysis on migration and violence against migrant women workers, as well as for greater coherence among migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies. Turning to the report on improvement of the

situation of women in rural areas (A/68/179), he noted that the varying circumstances of rural women led to varied rural migration scenarios, including recourse to unregulated recruitment agencies or smugglers. Alongside many other actors, IOM strove to promote safe migration for women in rural areas, prevent trafficking in human beings, and facilitate rural women's access to legal information on migration, identity and travel documents and migration services.

Rights of reply

43. **Ms. Bar-Sadeh** (Israel) said that perhaps the Syrian delegation's baseless accusations against Israel during the morning meeting had been made in an attempt to distract attention from the Syrian regime's horrific crimes against civilians in general and women and children in particular. Israel's reputation regarding the protection and advancement of women was well known and recognized.

44. **Ms. Al-Derham** (Qatar) said that the statement made against her country by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic during the morning meeting was a desperate attempt to distract the attention of the international community from the violence perpetrated by that regime against the Syrian people; The sickening allegations made by the Syrian representative had no basis except in the imagination of the Syrian regime, which alone was responsible for the desperate plight of Syrian women and girls. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry had documented rape and sexual violence by Government forces.

45. **Mr. Rakovskiy** (Russian Federation) said that he saw no need to repeat his country's position regarding the clichéd accusations of the Georgian delegation. He called on Georgia to cease its demagoguery and instead seek a comprehensive solution to the problems in the region.

46. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that international reports confirmed Qatar's role in financing terrorists in her country, in particular the Syrian opposition council. The Syrian Arab Republic had proof that Qatar was sheltering Wahhabi terrorists and inciting terrorist attacks, and the Syrian people would demand that it be held accountable. The representative of the Zionist regime claimed to protect the rights of women while attacking Palestinian men, women and children. To cite just a few violations of the rights of women for which that regime was

responsible, she mentioned the rape of women in Israeli prisons and a woman who had given birth while detained at a checkpoint.

47. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed regret that, once again, the representatives of the Russian Federation had tried to mislead the international community on current developments in Georgia. The regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia were integral parts of Georgia, and Georgia's borders were recognized by the international community. The Russian Federation, had a responsibility under international law to desist from the violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people residing in the occupied regions. It should become more involved in addressing the humanitarian situation in those regions. The recent installation of barbed wire fences had resulted in a new wave of forced displacements, and the ongoing illegal activities and their humanitarian implications once again underscored the urgency of setting up international security and human rights monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting rose at 5:40 p.m.