

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 17 March 1982.

The second through eighth periodic reports of Solomon Islands (covering the period 1985–1997) have not been submitted; the eighth periodic report was due 16 April 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 10 April 1995.

The initial report of Solomon Islands was due 9 May 1997.

**SRI LANKA**

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Sri Lanka has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.48) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and information on the general political structure.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is established in the preamble and articles 10 to 16 of the Constitution. In addition to constitutional and legal provisions, there is an Ombudsman the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration who has the duty to investigate and report on complaints or allegations of infringements of fundamental rights and other injustices by public officers and officers of public corporations, local authorities and other similar institutions. There is, as well, the Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination and Monitoring of Fundamental Rights, Citizens Rights Watch Committees to act as a link between the public and police, and the Human Rights Task Force (which was subsequently replaced by the Human Rights Commission). The Commission of Inquiry Act No. 17 of 1948 provides for the appointment of commissions of inquiry as required. The Sri Lanka Law Commission is charged with the responsibility to review legislation to ensure compatibility with international human rights standards, the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary laws, and the simplification and modernization of law.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 11 June 1980.

Sri Lanka's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.32) was considered at the Committee's June 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 11 June 1980.

Sri Lanka's fourth periodic report was due 10 September 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 3 October 1997.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 18 February 1982.

Sri Lanka's seventh and eighth periodic reports were due 20 March 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 5 October 1981.

Sri Lanka's third and fourth periodic reports were due 4 November 1990 and 1994 respectively.

Torture

Acceded: 3 January 1994.

Sri Lanka's initial report (CAT/C/28/Add.3) was considered at the Committee's May 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 1 February 1999.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 12 July 1991.

Sri Lanka's second periodic report was due 10 August 1998.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES**Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Sri Lanka's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.32, March 1996) was considered by the Committee at its May 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains information on, *inter alia*: the Samurdhi (prosperity) programme, a national development programme to eliminate poverty; policies on equal income distribution, including the tax system; the Land Reform Law 1972; constitutional provisions related to political parties, elections and voting rights; constitutional protections for minority groups; the labour force, employment/unemployment, vocational and technical training; wage fixing mechanisms, including a minimum wage; occupational health and safety; trade unions, the National Workers' Charter and the Trade Unions Ordinance as amended in 1970; the Industrial Disputes Act No. 43 of 1950, as amended; social security; the family; nutrition, food and food security — food stamps, poverty alleviation programmes and Thripasha, a supplementary feeding programme; the National Steering Committee on Nutrition; the National Housing Development Authority (NDHA); the national health policy, health care, access to medical services; the National Education Commission; copyright protection, patents and trademarks; the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority; programmes related to religious and cultural affairs; the minority Tamil and Muslim communities; and the Veddas, indigenous people.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (E/C.12/1/Add.24) noted that despite the relatively low per capita income in Sri Lanka progress has been made in