

TONGA

Date of Admission to UN: Tonga is not a member of the UN.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Tonga has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 February 1972.

Tonga's 11th through 13th periodic reports have been submitted as one document (CERD/C/319/Add.3) which was considered at the Committee's August 1998 session; the 14th periodic report is due 17 March 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph (d) (v) of article 5 and articles 4, 6, and 15.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 6 November 1995.

Tonga's initial report was due 6 December 1997.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Tonga's 11th through 13th periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/319/Add.3, March 1997) which was considered by the Committee at its August 1998 session. The brief report prepared by the government stated that Tonga is racially and ethnically homogeneous and racial discrimination seems to be non-existent. Demographic data is included in the report as well as information on, *inter alia*: the structure of government; constitutional provisions related to non-discrimination; access to remedies for complaints of racial discrimination; education on human rights; and culture and the establishment of the Tonga National Center.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/304/Add.63) welcomed provisions in the Constitution prohibiting the practice of racial discrimination and ensuring equal rights for all the people in Tonga. The Committee took note of: the statement in the report to the effect that measures taken to encourage integration and multi-racial organizations have been promoted by allowing non-Tongans to participate in schools, business, religion, and other aspects of public life; constitutional provisions allowing any individual to bring complaints about discrimination on racial grounds before the courts; and the statement in the report indicating that there have been no court decisions on any case relating to racial discrimination.

Principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: that the report does not contain sufficient information to allow an assessment of the level of

implementation of the Convention in Tonga; the lack of legislation intended to enforce the provisions contained in article 4 (prohibition of racist organizations and hate speech); the fact that Tonga has no express policy on the elimination of racial discrimination; the failure to incorporate the Convention into domestic law and that the Convention cannot be invoked in the courts. The Committee also referred to the ethnic characteristics of the population, the structure of power in the country and the configuration of the Legislative Assembly and expressed regret that detailed information about the implementation of the provisions of article 5 (generally, civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights) was not provided vis-à-vis the different ethnic groups.

The Committee recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ♦ include in the next report updated information about the population and detailed information about the practical implementation of the Convention, especially articles 4 and 5;
- ♦ provide to the human rights treaty system a core document as soon as possible; and
- ♦ incorporate in the school curricula subjects intended to promote tolerance among different ethnic groups.



TURKMENISTAN

Date of admission to UN: 2 March 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Turkmenistan has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 1 May 1997.

Turkmenistan's initial report is due 30 June 1999.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 1 May 1997.

Turkmenistan's initial report was due 31 July 1998.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 1 May 1997.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 29 September 1994.

Turkmenistan's initial and second periodic reports were due 29 October 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 1 May 1997.

Turkmenistan's initial report was due 30 May 1998.