

# APPENDIX I: METHODOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES

Section A of this Appendix discusses the format of this report and the methodology used to compile the information. Section B contains descriptions of bodies, procedures and terminology used but not defined in *For the Record 1998*.

## SECTION A. FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY

### I. Presentation of the Material

The time-period covered by *For the Record 1998* is the calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December, 1998. This means that any documents which were not available to us by the end of the year are not summarized in this report and/or are not hyperlinked on the website. If these documents become available later, they will be dealt with either by adding them to *For the Record 1998* on the website, or treating them in the context of *For the Record 1999*, whichever seems most appropriate.

The focus is on the main bodies that take action in the area of human rights. Thus, the report covers the work of the Commission on Human Rights (March/April), the Sub-Commission (August), ECOSOC (July), the Third Committee of the General Assembly (November) and other relevant resolutions, decisions or reports of the GA, the sessions of the treaty-bodies whenever they meet throughout the year, actions or decisions of the Security Council when relevant, and UN field presences when reports are issued.

The report has been produced in three formats in both English and French: in hardcopy (six volumes in each language); on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.hri.ca/fortherecord1998>>, with full hyperlinks to almost all the original documentation in both languages; and as a CD-ROM of the Website.

### 2. The Geographic Volumes

In preparing the main section of this report (volumes 2-6), we divided the world into five broad regions which, with one exception, follow geographic lines: Africa (53 entries), Asia (55), Latin America and the Caribbean (34) and Central and Eastern Europe (21). The fifth grouping, Western Europe and Other (30), includes the countries of Western Europe, Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. In the geographic volumes, we include not only States, but also territories which have ratified at least one of the six major international human

rights conventions, and one area (Palestine) which has its own political authority and is the subject of several UN reports and resolutions.

For every geographic entry, the following format was used, although not every entry has information under each heading or sub-heading:

#### Date of admission to the United Nations

#### Treaties: Ratifications and Reservations

- (a) **Land and People:** The report indicates whether or not the country/territory has submitted a "core document" (intended to provide general background information for all the treaty bodies) to the UN. If so, a brief summary of document is provided which focuses on how the government describes its national institutions and procedures for the protection of human rights.
- (b) **Ratifications, Reservations and Reports Due:** The reports indicate when a country signed, ratified, or acceded or succeeded to one of the six main human rights treaties and their optional protocols; whether they have made any reservations or declarations to the treaties; and the due dates of their next reports to the treaty-bodies, as well as a listing of overdue reports not yet received.

The six treaties covered in the report are the following:

1. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which entered into force 3 January 1976.
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which entered into force on 23 March 1976.
  - (i) Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, entered into force 23 March 1976
  - (ii) Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, entered into force 11 July 1991.
3. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which entered into force 4 January 1969.
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which entered into force 3 September 1981.
5. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, entered into force 26 June 1987.