

HUMAN RIGHTS

A total of 57 instruments are listed in the UN Document "Human Rights: a Compilation of International Instruments" produced in 1983. With the adoption of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in December 1984, the Declaration on the human rights of individuals who are not nationals of the country in which they live and the Convention against Apartheid in Sports, both in December 1985, and the Declaration on the Right to Development in December 1986, there are now 62 instruments. Of these 62, 32 are treaties (this term includes covenants, conventions and protocols). The remainder are declarations, codes and standard minimum rules.

Canada is party to 21 of these 32 treaties. More importantly, we are party to five of the six major human rights instruments, i.e. the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The one major human rights convention to which Canada is not a party is the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

On June 24, 1987 Canada ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, following extensive discussions with the provinces and territories and amendments to the Criminal Code to allow full implementation of the Convention.

CANADIAN REPORTS UNDER UN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

Canada's eighth report under the CERD was considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, along with its seventh report, in March 1987 (the most recent report of this Committee is contained in document A/42/18). The ninth report under the CERD is in preparation and will be presented to the Committee in the coming months. The second report under CEDAW is being finalized and will be submitted to the CEDAW Committee in the near future.