

difficulties, arising in part from hostilities in the Balkan region, have hindered implementation of the Convention. The Committee commended the government for the adoption of a number of laws in order to comply with the Convention, including: the Act on Public Information and the Act on Telecommunications, which prohibits the use of mass media to incite national, racial or religious hatred or intolerance; the Act on Political Rights, which prohibits the establishment of parties whose aim is to incite hatred and intolerance; and, the Act on Social Organizations and Citizens' Associations, which prohibits activities that violate human rights or encourage hatred or intolerance.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee were: the fact that representation by various ethnic groups in the judiciary, Parliament and other public bodies and agencies of government is less than their respective percentages in the population; the lack of sufficient information on the participation of ethnic minorities in public life; the lack of information on the economic and social situation of ethnic minorities, particularly with regard to access to employment, health, education and housing; the fact that it is impossible to conduct a census in the whole territory; the low levels of participation, in particular in secondary and higher education, of certain minorities, notably Roma children and Albanian girls in rural areas; and, the fact that there is little or no reference to the Convention in human rights educational programmes.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ provide more information in the next report on the participation of various minorities in public life and the implementation and enjoyment by them, on a non-discriminatory basis, of the human rights set out in various laws;
- ▶ continue programmes of affirmative action in order to increase the representation of ethnic minorities in public life, including in the civil service, army and police;
- ▶ provide information in the next report on whether the Convention is directly applicable before the courts, the effectiveness of remedies in cases of racial discrimination, the number of complaints of racial or racially motivated offences, and judicial action taken on complaints, redress or compensation;
- ▶ continue efforts to facilitate the participation of different ethnic minorities in the educational system, especially at the secondary and higher education levels;
- ▶ provide for the training of teachers for minority languages in public establishments;
- ▶ consider incorporating the Convention into human rights programmes in school curricula; and,
- ▶ provide greater educational and cultural opportunities to the Albanian minority.

On the last point regarding the Albanian minority, the Committee expressed the view that this minority should see its future as lying with the FYR Macedonia.

Discrimination against Women

Succeeded: 18 January 1994.

The initial report of the FYR Macedonia was due 17 February 1995.

Torture

Succeeded: 12 December 1994.

The initial report of the FYR Macedonia was due 11 December 1995.

Rights of the Child

Succeeded: 2 December 1993.

The initial report of the FYR Macedonia (CRC/C/8/Add. 36) has been submitted and was pending for consideration at the Committee's January 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 16 September 1998.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/ 477, paras. 21, 33, 37)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes, with regard to conscientious objection to military service, that the duration of alternative service is such as to make it appear a form of punishment.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The 20 November 1997 report of the Secretary-General (S/1997/911) contains information on, *inter alia*, the activities of UN organizations, agencies and programmes; inter-ethnic tensions, arising in part from incidents of incitement to national, racial and religious hatred; socio-economic difficulties; strains between the ruling coalition and opposition parties; and, abuse of police authority. The report refers to efforts undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights aimed at defining a technical cooperation project focussing on human rights. Elements under consideration for the project were incorporation of human rights education into school curricula, development of human rights documentation resources and special programmes to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman. Consideration was being given to enabling the participation of the academic community, non-governmental organizations and groups in civil society in the project.

* * * * *

MOLDOVA

(Republic of)

Date of admission to UN: 2 March 1992.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 26 January 1993.

Moldova's initial report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 26 January 1993.

Moldova's initial report was due 25 April 1994.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 26 January 1993.