

Convention submit periodic reports to the CRC every five years. In addition to reviewing these reports with the governments concerned, the CRC interprets substantive articles of the Convention; it also devotes a day from its sessional meetings to a general discussion of specific issues. In 1997, the discussion focused on the rights of children with disabilities.

Core document: See *Land and People*.

Declaration: A declaration is a statement made upon becoming a State party to an agreement. In certain treaties, States parties can make declarations whereby they recognize the competence of a committee to hear and review complaints.

Declaration under Article 21 of the *Convention Against Torture* means that the State party recognizes the competence of the Committee Against Torture (CAT) to receive and consider communications by a State party claiming that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. The Committee will only consider complaints if they are: (a) made by States parties that have made declarations under Article 21, and (b) made about States parties which have made declarations under Article 21.

Declaration under Article 22 of the *Convention Against Torture* means that the State party recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals who claim that a State party has violated their rights under the Convention. The Committee only considers complaints against States parties which have made a declaration under Article 22.

Declaration under Article 41 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*: When a State party makes a declaration under Article 41 of the ICCPR, it recognizes the competence of the Human Rights Committee to receive and consider communications by States parties claiming that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. The Committee will only consider a complaint if: (a) it is submitted by a State party which has made a declaration under Article 41; and (b) the complaint concerns a State party which has made a declaration under Article 41.

Declaration under Article 14 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*: When a State party makes such a declaration under Article 14, it means that the State Party recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction who claim that a State party has violated their rights under the Convention. The Committee will only consider complaints against those States parties that have made declarations under Article 14.

General Assembly (GA) and its Third Committee: The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. Because of the large number of questions it is called on to consider, the Assembly allocates most questions to its six Main Committees. These Committees then draft resolutions and submit them to the General Assembly for approval. The Third Committee of the General Assembly, also called the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, is the Committee which most often addresses human rights questions.

Human Rights Committee (HRC): HRC, one of the six treaty-bodies, was established under article 28 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Covenant was adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1966 and entered into force 23 March 1976. The Committee, comprised of 18 independent experts, meets three times a year for three-week long sessions. The mandate of the HRC is to monitor the effective implementation of the Covenant and of its two optional protocols. The First Protocol, which was adopted and entered into force at the same time as the Covenant, allows individuals to submit complaints against a State party alleging violations of human rights or fundamental freedoms protected by the Covenant. The Second Protocol, which was adopted on 15 December 1989 and entered into force on 11 July 1991, seeks the abolition of death penalty. The Committee examines reports which States parties are required to submit every five years describing the measures they have adopted to ensure respect of the human rights included in the Covenant and the Protocols; it makes recommendations to States parties based on their reports; and it issues General Comments interpreting articles of the Covenant. The HRC also examines individual complaints made under the First Optional Protocol.

International Bill of Human Rights: The term is used to refer to articles in the United Nations Charter which make reference to human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols.

Land and People or the core document: To facilitate the reporting process for States parties to international human rights instruments, the treaty-bodies have prepared consolidated guidelines for the development of a "core document" or country profile. The document is also referred to as "Land and people", the title of the first section of the core document.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR): The Office of the HCHR is the UN office with principal responsibility for UN human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The post of HCHR was established by General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, after the idea was strongly endorsed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993). In September 1997, in the context of the programme for reform of the United Nations, the Office of the HCHR and the Centre for Human Rights (formerly the Geneva secretariat for the UN's human rights procedures and machinery) were consolidated into a single Office. The mandate of the Office of the UN HCHR is to: (a) promote universal enjoyment of all human rights by giving practical effect to the will and resolve of the world community as expressed by the United Nations; (b) play the leading role on human rights issues and emphasize the importance of human rights at the international and national levels; (c) promote international cooperation for human rights; (d) stimulate and coordinate action for human rights throughout the United Nations system; (e) promote universal ratification and implementation of international standards; (f) assist in the development of new norms; (g) support human rights organs and treaty monitoring bodies; (h) respond to serious violations of human rights; (i) undertake preventive human rights action; (j) promote the establishment