

ANDORRA

Date of admission to UN: 28 July 1993.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 15 January 1997.

Andorra's initial report was due 14 February 1998.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 2 October 1995; ratified: 2 January 1996.

Andorra's initial report was due 31 January 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 38; articles 7 and 8.

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AUSTRALIA

Date of admission to UN: 1 November 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Australia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.44) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data as well as information on the federal system, the general legal framework for the protection of human rights, including State and Territory anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation, and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is a permanent independent statutory authority with responsibility for provisions in the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act 1986, the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. The Commission also assists the Privacy Commissioner in administering the Privacy Act 1988. Additional institutional bodies include a Commonwealth Ombudsman with the mandate to investigate complaints about administrative actions of all Commonwealth government departments and some agencies, the office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Social Justice Commissioner, the Office of the Status of Women and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Federal human rights legislation operates throughout Australia and there are some areas of overlap with state and territory legislation. International human rights treaties are not self-executing and require legislative implementation to be effective in Australian law. An individual cannot complain in a domestic court about a breach of Australia's international human rights obligations unless the right has been incorporated into domestic law.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 18 December 1972; ratified: 10 December 1975.

Australia's third periodic report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 18 December 1972; ratified: 13 August 1980.

Australia's third and fourth periodic reports were due 12 November 1991 and 1996 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and 3 of article 10; paragraph 6 of article 14; article 20; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 25 September 1991.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 2 October 1990.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 13 October 1966; ratified: 30 September 1975.

Australia's 10th and 11th periodic reports were due 30 October 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph (a) of article 4; declaration under article 14.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 28 July 1983.

Australia's fourth periodic report was due 27 August 1996; the fifth periodic report is due in August 2000

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 11.

Australia's third periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUL/3) was considered at the Committee's July 1997 session. The report prepared by the government, which reflects the multi-jurisdictional nature of the country, contains information on federal and state actions in such areas as: the new national agenda for women; the report of the Inquiry into Equal Opportunity and Equal Status of Women in Australia; the Office of the Status of Women; policy advising mechanisms on issues related to the status of women; the Affirmative Action Act; violence against women; exploitation and traffic in women; women in politics; the National Women's Consultative Council; the National Action Plan for the Education of Girls; employment; women in the armed services; health care; the Law Reform Commission Inquiry on equality before the law; and, marriage and family relations.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1997/II/L.1/Add.8) noted that Australia has prepared a comprehensive national action plan to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action but noted that the government's report essentially reiterated information that had been considered at the time of presentation of Australia's second periodic report in 1994.

Among the factors hindering implementation of the Convention, the Committee referred to the changing role of government in terms of public expenditure and the ongoing decentralization of responsibility in a number of areas, from the federal to territorial/state governments, including in health matters. The Committee also referred to the fact that aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women continued to face discrimination and disadvantages in terms of access to rights, opportunities and resources.

The Committee acknowledged Australia's commitment to full implementation of the Convention, as reflected in such legislative and administrative efforts as the New National Agenda for Women of 1993, the Sex Discrimination Act of 1984 and Amendment of 1995, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act of 1986 and its amendments, the review of the Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act of 1986, the annual Women's Budget Statement, the Register of Women maintained by the Office of the