

adopted the declaration, which will be considered by the UN General Assembly this fall. The CHR has also developed a draft declaration on the forced disappearance of persons. The Working Group on Indigenous Peoples of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities is currently drafting a declaration on indigenous rights. A text is expected to be submitted to the CHR in 1994. An inter-sessional working group of the Commission on the Status of Women CSW recently adopted a Declaration on Violence Against Women which is expected to be adopted by the CSW early in 1993. It is expected that the declaration will be considered by the UN General Assembly in the fall of 1993.

Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS), which Canada joined in 1990, has a long history of activity in the field of human rights. The most important instruments are the 1948 Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights. The former, while not legally binding, serves as an interpretative guide to the human rights obligations of member states under the OAS Charter. The American Convention is a binding instrument that not only elaborates basic human rights and freedoms, but also establishes important implementing mechanisms such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The federal government is currently consulting with the provinces and territories concerning adherence to this Convention.

The OAS also has a number of other human rights instruments. Canada has adhered to three conventions on the rights of women and is currently involved in the development of an OAS Convention on Violence against Women. Canada is also actively involved in the drafting of an Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.