

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee (Fact Sheet No. 15) was established to monitor the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the two Protocols to the ICCPR. The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts and meets three times a year (March -- New York, and July and November -- Geneva). The Committee has two pre-sessional working groups which meet prior to each session. The first is entrusted with the task of making recommendations regarding communications received under the Optional Protocol; the second is mandated to prepare concise lists of issues concerning the state reports to be examined by the Committee at the upcoming session.

States parties must submit reports to the Committee every five years on the measures they have adopted to give effect to the rights set out in the Covenant and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights. The reports are examined by the Committee in public meetings and, on the final day of the session, the Committee adopts concluding observations and comments summarizing its main concerns and making appropriate suggestions and recommendations to the government concerned. The Committee encourages non-governmental organizations to submit written information and reports for its consideration when examining state reports.

The provisional schedule of reports to be considered by the Committee at March and July 1999 sessions is:

March 1999

Cambodia	Initial report	CCPR/C/81/Add.12
Cameroon	3rd periodic report	CCPR/C/102/Add.2
Canada	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/103/Add.5
Chile	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/95/Add.11
Costa Rica	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/103/Add.6
Lesotho	Initial report	CCPR/C/81/Add.14

July 1999

Kuwait	Initial report	CCPR/C/120/Add.1
Korea (South)	2nd periodic report	CCPR/C/114/Add.1
Poland	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/95/Add.8
Romania	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/95/Add.7
Mexico	4th periodic report	CCPR/C/123/Add.1