

shortages of supplies and equipment; a rising incidence of waterborne diseases, such as typhoid fever, dysenteries and viral hepatitis; an increase in mortality rates from acute diarrhoeal disease and morbidity rates from amoebic and bacillary dysentery; delays in AZT treatment for a total of 176 HIV patients; heart disease; and, shortages or lack of anti-cancer drugs, particularly affecting women with breast cancer and children with leukaemia.

#### Resolution of the General Assembly

In the resolution adopted at the 1997 session (A/C.3/52/L.73), the General Assembly: expressed concern about continuing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba, as outlined in the interim report submitted to the General Assembly by the CHR Special Rapporteur; deplored the arbitrary arrest, detention and harassment of Cuban citizens, in particular members of the Dissident Working Group and the independent press; recalled the continued refusal of the government to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights, including its repeated opposition to a visit by the Special Rapporteur; commended the CHR Special Rapporteur for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba; expressed full support for the SR's work; again called on the government to cooperate fully with the SR by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the government and citizens; regretted the numerous violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba; urged the government to ensure freedom of expression and assembly and the freedom to demonstrate peacefully, including by allowing political parties and non-governmental organizations to function freely in the country and by reforming legislation in this area; called on the government to release the numerous persons detained for activities of a political nature, including those specifically mentioned in the SR's report who suffer from inadequate medical care while imprisoned or whose rights as journalists or jurists are impeded or denied; and, called on the government to carry out the recommendations contained in the SR's interim report to bring its observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms into conformity with international standards, to end all violations of human rights including, in particular, the detention and imprisonment of human rights defenders and others who are engaged in the peaceful exercise of their rights, and to grant access to its prisons to non-governmental humanitarian organizations and international humanitarian agencies.

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## DOMINICA

**Date of admission to UN:** 18 December 1978.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 17 June 1993.

Dominica's initial report was due 30 June 1995.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 17 June 1993.

Dominica's initial report was due 16 September 1994.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 15 September 1980; ratified: 15 September 1980.

Dominica's initial and second through fourth reports were due 3 September 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1994 respectively.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 13 March 1991.

Dominica's initial report was due 11 April 1993.

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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 October 1945.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Land and People:** The Dominican Republic has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 4 January 1978.

The Dominican Republic's third periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

The Dominican Republic's second periodic report (E/1990/6/Add.7) was considered by the Committee at its November/December 1997 session. The report prepared by the government covers articles 1 through 15 of the Covenant and includes information on: the right to self-determination; measures to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights for both nationals and aliens; the equal right of women and men to the enjoyment of the rights set out in the Covenant; the right to work, including information on technical and vocational training, the Labour Code, conditions of work and trade union rights; social security and the Compulsory Social Security Act; the protection of the family, mothers and children, the Minors' Code, the Civil Registry Act and the Civil Code; standards of living; physical and mental health; free primary and second education; and, the right to take part in cultural life.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (E/C.12/1/Add.16) expressed appreciation for the fact that the government accepted a proposal that two Committee members visit the Dominican Republic and subsequently cooperated with the mission, which took place from 19 to 27 September 1997. The mandate of the mission had been to acquire information on the right to housing and the situation of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic. The Committee noted that assistance from both the government and NGOs enabled the mission to fulfil this mandate.

Referring to the government report the Committee noted that the independence and effective functioning of the judiciary is a necessary element to the protection of economic, social and cultural rights. The Committee therefore welcomed: the measures taken to combat the problem of corruption of public officials, including judges; the increase in the salaries of government officials and judges; and steps taken to make the procedure for nominating judges to the new Supreme Court public and transparent, with the objective of guaranteeing the impartiality of the judiciary and its independence from the executive.