

in which the torture occurred and establishes an international committee to oversee its implementation. Canada was among the most active promoters of this Convention and expects that it will prove a useful tool in continuing international attempts to eradicate torture.

At the UN Commission on Human Rights, considerable progress was achieved in the drafting of a convention on the rights of the child, in the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to deal with torture on a global basis, and in the addition of two more countries, Iran and Afghanistan, to the list of states whose human rights situation will be considered at the UN General Assembly. These were among the issues supported by the Canadian delegation.

For the first time in ten years, Canada was not a full member of the UN Commission on Human Rights. After serving three consecutive three-year terms, Canada decided not to seek re-election so that another of the 20 western member states might serve as one of the ten members drawn from this geographic grouping. Canada was nevertheless represented by a strong observer delegation at the forty-first session of the Commission held in February and March. Although it did not vote, the delegation participated fully in the debate and co-sponsored and supported almost as many resolutions as in previous years.

By the end of the period under review, conference arrangements and preliminary consultations had been completed for the Human Rights Experts Meeting to be held in Ottawa, May 7 to June 17, 1985, in the process emanating from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The Ottawa meeting resulted from a Canadian initiative at the Madrid follow-up meeting, and is the first in this series to focus on the implementation by participating states of their human rights obligations under the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent review meetings. The Experts Meeting was expected to produce a frank exchange of views on the status of human rights in participating states and to point the way towards the more effective handling of this important issue in East-West relations. The Canadian delegation, as the host, has completed a round of consultations with each of the other 34 participating states.

In the bilateral expression of Canadian policy on human rights, Canadian missions abroad continued to report upon the human rights developments in their countries of accreditation and to make representations to host governments on particular situations or cases of interest to Canada. Visits by Canadian ministers and senior officials to the countries concerned, and visits to Canada by their counterparts from these states, also provided opportunities for the private but forceful expression of Canadian views on human rights issues.

Commission on the Status of Women

Canada was re-elected to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 1984 for a second consecutive three-year term. The 32-member Commission is the central body within the United Nations considering matters relating to the advancement and integration of women. It meets biennially in Vienna to formulate recommendations on the concerns of women within the UN system for review by the Economic and Social Council and, subsequently, by the UN General Assembly.

CEDAW

Canada presented its first report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) at its fourth session in Vienna in January 1985. The report concerned implementation of Canada's obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Convention requires those states party to the Convention to submit a national report every four years, and to take appropriate measures, including legislation, particularly in the political, social and economic fields, to achieve *de facto* equality between men and women and to ensure the full development and advancement of women in society.

The Canadian delegation which presented the report consisted of representatives from Status of Women Canada and the Departments of the Secretary of State, Justice and External Affairs, as well as provincial representatives from Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. The Canadian delegation outlined the responsibilities of the federal, provincial and territorial governments in implementing the provisions of the Convention within Canada. The members of the Committee demonstrated a high level of interest in the Canadian experience in implementing the essential goals of the Convention.

Third World Conference on Women

The Third World Conference on Women will be held in Nairobi, July 15-26, 1985, to review and appraise the achievements of the UN Decade for Women (1976-1985). At its third preparatory meeting for the Conference in March 1985, the UN Commission on the Status of Women met in Vienna to review the principal document for the Conference entitled *Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000*. Although a frank exchange of views took place, there was no agreement on any portion of the document. As a result, it was decided that a resumed preparatory meeting would be held in New York in April 1985.

International Youth Year

The United Nations has designated 1985 as International Youth Year, with the themes of Participation, Development and Peace. During 1984-85, Canada participated as an observer at two meetings of the UN Advisory Committee on International Youth Year, and contributed funds to the UN International Youth Year Trust Fund and the major Youth Festival held in Jamaica in April 1985. As the focus for the Year is mainly on activities at the national and local levels, the International Youth Year Secretariat within the Department of the Secretary of State co-ordinated Canada's observance of the Year, primarily by a system of grants to worthy youth projects and activities undertaken by non-governmental organizations.

Second World Population Conference

The Second World Population Conference was held under UN auspices in Mexico City, August 6-14, 1984. The Canadian delegation consisted of representatives from federal and provincial governments and non-governmental organizations. The Conference reaffirmed the validity of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest ten years earlier and approved the Mexico City Declaration on Population and