

pean Union, the Commonwealth and the United States to start lifting sanctions on Nigeria in the light of the progress made towards the restoration of democratic government and respect for human rights; and welcomed the invitation to visit the country extended to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Nigeria.



## RWANDA

**Date of admission to UN:** 18 September 1962.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's second and third periodic reports were due 30 June 1990 and 1995 respectively.

*Reservations and Declarations:* General reservation.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's third periodic report was due 31 January 1995.

#### Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's eighth through 12th periodic reports were due 16 May 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998 respectively.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 22.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 1 May 1980; ratified: 2 March 1981.

Rwanda's fourth and fifth periodic reports were due 3 September 1994 and 1998, respectively.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 24 January 1991.

Rwanda's second periodic report was due 22 February 1998.

### REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

#### Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

At its March 1998 session, the Committee recalled that in August 1996 the government was invited to submit a report for consideration in 1997. The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/52/Misc.42/Rev.1) note that no report was ever received. Previous concerns were recalled, including: the climate of impunity persisting in some areas and the lengthy detention of accused persons under deplorable condi-

tions, which did not assist the processes of ethnic reconciliation; the slowness of the process of rebuilding civil institutions, especially those of an independent judiciary; and reports that a new round of genocidal violence had commenced. The Committee decided to reschedule consideration of Rwanda for the August 1998 session, and expressed the hope that the government would accept the invitation to attend and engage in dialogue with the Committee.

The government did not send any representative to the Committee's August 1998 session and did not provide any written information. Notwithstanding the absence of a representative and information, the Committee discussed the implementation of the Convention in Rwanda. In its concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/53/Misc.45/Rev.1) the Committee: expressed great concern over reports of ethnic violence occurring in the north-west of the country and along the Congolese border, as well as reports that the violence has spread to the central region of the country and across the Congolese border into the DR Congo; called on the government and all parties to these conflicts to respect human rights and humanitarian law obligations at all times, including under provisions in the Convention; expressed concern over the continued flow of arms into the region and called on all states to enforce applicable arms embargos in the region; and called on the government to enhance its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and to take additional steps to publicize its proceedings.

The Committee further: called on the government to investigate allegations of serious ethnic violence and humanitarian law violations that may have been committed in 1996 and 1997 by, or under the command of, the Rwandan Patriotic Army, in Rwanda or in the DR Congo; endorsed the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General's Investigative Team to expand the competence of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to cover such violations; noted with concern that the mandate of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda had come to an end and that the government had refused to approve a new mandate with a human rights monitoring mission; expressed the strong opinion that a human rights mission in Rwanda must be established as a matter of urgency; and called on the government and the UN to initiate a new round of discussions to ensure an international monitoring presence in the country.

The Committee also acknowledged that the Rwandan Constitution guarantees all citizens equality before the law without distinction based on race, colour or ethnic origin. Concern was expressed related to: the under-representation of ethnic Hutus in important political and social institutions of the country; the slow pace of national genocide trials and the legal deficiencies, including significant due process concerns; and, the deplorable conditions in which those accused of having participated in the genocide are being detained.

The Committee welcomed reports that members of the Rwandan Patriotic Army have been tried for grave