

- ▶ changes be made to school curricula to incorporate a balanced gender perspective; and,
- ▶ mandatory gender-sensitization training be given in medical and legal schools with regard to issues related to violence against women.

Other Reports

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 15, 18, 44)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, in South Africa, there is neither compulsory military service nor conscription. The report also notes that the exclusive liability for military service of white males is no longer applicable but the law still has to be amended to that effect and that there is a moratorium on prosecution for not reporting for military service. All references in existing laws still requiring amendment to prosecutions, sentences and detention for failing to report for military service (except in cases of absence without leave and desertion) are no longer applicable.

Economic, social and cultural rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/17, para. 2)

The report of the Secretary-General on the need for a political dialogue within the UN between creditor and debtor countries notes that South Africa would provide information in future on measures to achieve a durable solution to the debt crisis of developing countries.

HIV/AIDS, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/37, Appendix)

The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, September 1996) notes that law reform programmes focussing on human rights have been ongoing in South Africa and that networks of legal advocates, practitioners and activists at governmental and community levels have been successful in lobbying for general anti-discrimination legislation at national and local levels which defines disability broadly and sensitively enough to include HIV/AIDS.

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SUDAN

Date of admission to UN: 12 November 1956.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 18 March 1986.

Sudan's initial report was due 30 June 1990; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 18 March 1986.

Sudan's fourth periodic report is due 16 June 2002.

Sudan's second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CCPR/C/75/Add.2) and considered by the Human Rights Committee at its October/November 1997 session. The report prepared by the government contains, *inter alia*: detailed commentary on the right to self-determination

and the Southern Provinces Regional Self-Government Act 1972; summaries of a number of laws related to rights set out in the ICCPR, including the Seventh Constitutional Decree, the Political Charter, the Public Elections Act and the Thirteenth Constitutional Decree; information on the situation of women, related to, for example, equality, health, education, employment and family relations; and, stipulations related to a declaration of a state emergency. Information is also included on: the death penalty; due process and the administration of justice; freedom of religion; freedom of opinion, expression and the media; national security provisions related to rights such as expression and assembly; and, trade unions and the prohibition on political parties.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CCPR/C/79/Add.85) note receipt of the reports by the independent judicial commission which investigated events in Juba in 1992, and the investigation by the Advisory Council on Human Rights into allegations of slavery in Southern Kordofan and disappearances.

With regard to the factors and difficulties affecting implementation of the Covenant, the Committee referred to the armed conflict originating in the southern part of the Sudan and the lack of reconciliation between different racial, religious, cultural and legal traditions in the north and the south.

The Committee welcomed: all initiatives directed towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict; the progressive steps which have been taken to reduce the impact of the declared state of emergency; the existence of committees which are formulating a new Constitution; and steps which are being taken to establish a formal system of pluralistic democracy; and, the efforts made to resettle people displaced by the armed conflict and assist them to return to their places of origin.

The subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: the imposition of the death penalty for offences which cannot be characterized as the most serious, including apostasy, committing a third homosexual act, illicit sex, embezzlement by officials, and theft by force; the fact that some forms of execution fail to comply with the prohibition against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, especially for women; flogging, amputation and stoning, which are recognized as penalties for criminal offences and are not compatible with the ICCPR; the high maternal mortality rate; the practice of female genital mutilation; the fact that a woman's consent to marriage (under customary arrangements) is mediated by a guardian, and that recourse has to be made to the courts to override any such prohibition within the family on a woman's choice of husband; the absence of a legal provision on a minimum age for marriage; the number of reports of extrajudicial executions, torture, slavery, disappearances, abductions and other human rights violations and the government's assertions that such human rights violations are relatively infrequent; reports of child abductions by security forces; the vague and legally undefined concept of "national security"; the fact that the procedures for pretrial detention allow the National Security Council, chaired by the President, power to detain persons for excessively long periods of time; the fact that visas for foreign travel may be arbitrarily refused and that immigration officers