

restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. This included the Constitution, articles of the Civil Code, and the Ilois Trust Fund Act 1982 which deals with the payment of compensation to the population which was removed from the Chagos Archipelagos.

Terrorism, Note by the S-G: (E/CN.4/1997/39, Section I)

The note by the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government which recalls that the government supported the General Assembly's initiative to establish a UN voluntary fund for victims of terrorism and suggested that one of the ways to finance the fund could be the confiscation of all funds and properties tainted by terrorism. The government invited the Secretary-General to urge states to enact laws to empower courts to confiscate funds or properties intended for use in terrorist acts, and provide for the removal of any existing confidentiality obligations imposed on financial institutions. The government also noted the need to rationalize international judicial cooperation procedures to improve the exchange of information between competent authorities and to facilitate the prosecution and punishment of acts of terrorism.

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MOROCCO

Date of admission to UN: 12 November 1956.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Morocco has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.23) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data and information on the political and judicial systems.

The national courts are responsible for ensuring that human rights are respected. A human rights advisory council has been set up to monitor the human rights situation and give opinions on specific cases involving human rights. Remedies for violations of human rights are available before the commune and district courts, the courts of first instance, the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court. There are provisions as well for appeal of administrative decisions causing harm through appeals to authorities and, if the plaintiff is not satisfied, through appeal to the Supreme Court. The rights set out in the international human rights instruments to which Morocco has either acceded or ratified are protected by the Constitution and there is no constitutional provision for derogation from that protection. The provisions of these instruments may be automatically invoked before Moroccan courts.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 19 January 1977; ratified: 3 May 1979.

Morocco's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 19 January 1977; ratified: 3 May 1979.

Morocco's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/115/Add.1) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report is due 31 October 2001.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 18 September 1967; ratified: 18 December 1970.

Morocco's 12th periodic report was due 17 January 1994; the 13th periodic report was due 17 January 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 22.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 21 June 1993.

Morocco's second periodic report is due 21 July 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 2; paragraph 4 of article 15; paragraph 2 of article 9; article 16; article 29.

The Committee considered Morocco's initial report (CEDAW/C/MOR/1) at its January 1997 session. The report prepared by the government includes information on, for example: provisions in Islam related to the rights and equality of women; reforms in family law; the Ministry of Human Rights; the Parliamentary Commission on justice, law and human rights; the programme on the integration of women into development; education in human rights; civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights; the Consultative Committee on human rights; the national Council on youth and the future; the national strategy for the promotion of women to the year 2000; women in politics and public service; education, culture and health; and, restrictions in law or practice affecting the full enjoyment of women's human rights.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1997/L.1/Add.2) stated that, while ratification was welcome, implementation of the Convention was seriously hindered by the declarations and reservations entered by Morocco on the substance of the Convention. The Committee noted the obvious contradictions between the obligations deriving from the undertaking made by Morocco at the time of signing the Convention and the persistence of considerable discrimination against women in Morocco, particularly in the field of family law.

The Committee viewed with satisfaction: the revision of the Constitution, which strengthened the rule of law in Morocco and proclaimed the country's commitment to internationally recognized human rights; and the establishment of a "women's unit" within the Ministry of Human Rights; efforts to revise and amend the Personal Status Code (Moudouana); and, the emergence of a women's movement which had managed to give expression to women's demands and to give their concerns a national dimension.

Among the principal subjects of concern raised by the Committee were: the number and importance of the reservations made by Morocco, noting that the combination of reservations to articles 2 and 16 leave no room for evolving concepts of Islamic law; the failure of the government to mention, publicize or publish the Convention in the Official Gazette, unlike the practice established for other treaties; the absence of specific women's machinery to coordinate and guide activities and projects for women in order to improve and better inform women about their rights; the minimal representation of women at the policy-making level despite efforts made in the political sphere; the profound inequalities affecting the status of women in Morocco; the considerable discrimination against women in the areas of marriage, conjugal relations, divorce and the custody of children, and with regard to the punishment of adultery, and the ability to pass