

of nutrition and living conditions for persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty, with the purpose of improving the conditions of detention in conformity with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The SR welcomed the establishment of minimum standards of nutrition and living conditions for persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty, but noted that in the past existing standards in the same fields had remained unimplemented because of the lack of resources allocated to the administration of places of deprivation of liberty. The SR expressed particular concern about the more acute problem of torturous conditions of detention in pre-trial detention centres (SIZOs), which appear to persist on a widespread scale. With regard to investigations, the SR stated that national and international misgivings about the effectiveness of such investigations will continue as long as the procuracy remains responsible for both prosecution of ordinary criminal suspects, and investigation of abuses committed by law enforcement officials.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/10, para. 73)

The report refers to fraudulent practices by exporters of toxic wastes and products, compounded by bribery of officials at the various stages of the movement of toxic products across borders. The Special Rapporteur stated that consignment documentation, laboratory analyses and permits are frequently falsified by carriers and shippers, and that the lack of any monitoring or control mechanism, in conjunction with the loopholes in the international conventions, allow arrangements to be made at the very fringes of the law. Russia is identified as one of the countries in Eastern Europe targeted as a destination for wastes and products moved through such practices.



## SLOVAKIA

**Date of admission to UN:** 19 January 1993.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's initial report was due 30 June 1995.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 26.

**Civil and Political Rights**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's second periodic report is due 31 December 2001.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 48.

**Optional Protocol:** Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

**Second Optional Protocol:** Signed: 22 September 1998.

**Racial Discrimination**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's initial report was due 28 May 1994; the second and third periodic reports were due 28 May 1996 and 1998 respectively.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Articles 17 and 22.

**Discrimination against Women**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's initial report (CEDAW/C/SVK/1, CEDAW/C/SVK/1/Add.1) was considered at the Committee's June 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 27 June 1998.

**Torture**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's initial, second and third periodic reports were due 27 May 1990, 1994 and 1998 respectively.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

**Rights of the Child**

Succeeded: 28 May 1993.

Slovakia's initial report (CRC/C/11/Add.17) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's January 2001 session; the second periodic report is due 31 December 1999.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 7.

### REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Slovakia's initial report (CEDAW/C/SVK/1, July 1996) was considered by the Committee at its June 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains statistical and demographic data, as well as information on, *inter alia*: constitutional and legal protections and guarantees; the right to work, equality in employment, the Labour Code; family and marriage, spousal and parental rights and responsibilities; provisions in the Penal Code related to violence against women and trafficking in women; participation in public and political life; education and access to education; pensions, benefits, social security; health and access to health care; and equality before the law.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1998/II/L.1/Add.2) noted developments since the government's report was prepared, including the establishment of the Coordination Committee for Women's Issues (1996), the elaboration of the National Action Plan for Women in Slovakia (1997), and proposals to include pay equity in the proposed Civil Act and the State Service Act.