

HUMAN RIGHTS

A total of 67 instruments are listed in the UN Document "Human Rights: a Compilation of International Instruments" produced in 1988. With the adoption of the Body of Principles for the Protection of all Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, there are now 68 instruments. Of these 68, 32 are treaties (this term includes covenants, conventions, and protocols). The remainder are declarations, codes and standard minimum rules.

Canada is party to 21 of these 32 treaties. More importantly, we are party to six of the seven major human rights instruments, i.e. the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The one major human rights convention to which Canada is not a party is the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

Canadian Reports under UN Human Rights Conventions

Canada's ninth report under the CERD was submitted on August 12, 1988 to the Committee established by that Convention and is expected to be considered within the next year. Canada's tenth report is currently being prepared and is expected to be submitted in November 1989. The second report under the CEDAW was submitted to the Committee in February 1988 and will be considered by it in early 1990. The second report under the ICCPR was submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Committee on August 1, 1989 and is expected to be considered in 1990. Canada's report under the ICESCR for Articles 6-9 was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in February 1989. Canada's next report, on Articles 10-15, is due for submission by June 1990. The first report under the Convention Against Torture will be considered by the Committee Against Torture in November 1989.

Draft Instruments

An open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has met for a week prior to the regular session of the CHR since 1979 to draft a Convention on the Rights of the