

and coordinating increased UN system-wide assistance in the area of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Programme covers the countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)/Indian Ocean Group of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa.

Under the joint supervision of OHCHR and the UN Resident Coordinators of the participating countries, the Office is mandated to perform the following functions: provide advice, assistance and information to governments in the sub-region, as well as the SADC Secretariat, on human rights, democracy and rule of law issues; provide technical backstopping to UN Resident Coordinators in the region on human rights, democracy and rule of law issues; ensure access to human rights information and documentation for UN Country Teams and develop and facilitate human rights briefings and training sessions for concerned UN field staff; develop joint initiatives with UNDP and other UN programmes and agencies, and coordinate OHCHR technical cooperation activities with them and other multi- and bi-lateral actors, including donor governments and NGOs; facilitate and coordinate the formulation and monitoring of human rights technical cooperation projects at the national and sub-regional levels; and, develop and carry out activities at the sub-regional level with a view to strengthening sub-regional networks in support of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Regional Human Rights Programme Office was provisionally established in July 1998 and formally launched in August 1998.



SUDAN

Date of admission to UN: 12 November 1956.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Sudan has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.99) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains information on the structure of the political system and the judicial system. Within the context of human rights education, a national plan of action has been formulated aimed at eliminating the obstacles to human rights awareness. Some of the measures in the plan of action are to: protect the strengthening of human rights and fundamental freedoms and disseminate the human rights instruments; eliminate the present gap between the existence and the realization of fundamental rights, and compile and publish reports and statistics on the subject; and encourage the pursuit of a clear and active policy on gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes with a view to guaranteeing and declaring the full realization of human rights by women. The national machinery related to human rights includes the Sudan Advisory Council for Human Rights.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 18 March 1986.

Sudan's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.41) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its November 2000 session; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 18 March 1986.

Sudan's third periodic report is due 7 November 2001.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 21 March 1977.

Sudan's ninth, tenth and eleventh periodic reports were due 20 April 1994, 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Torture

Signed: 4 June 1986.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 24 July 1990; ratified: 3 August 1990.

Sudan's second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan

The Special Rapporteur (SR) on the situation in Sudan was appointed by the Commission at its 1993 session. In 1998 Gáspár Biró was the SR.

The report to the 1998 Commission (E/CN.4/1998/66) was based, in part, on a mission to Khartoum between 2 and 10 September 1997. In addition to the traditional tasks of investigation, verification and discussion with authorities of reports of violations, the mission had two main objectives: first, to discuss with officials and other interested parties the human rights dimensions and implications of the peace agreement signed between the government and representatives of several southern political organizations and rebel groups on 21 April 1997 (the Khartoum Agreement); and second, to receive first-hand information on the latest measures taken by the government — through its Consultative Council for Human Rights (also known as the Advisory Council for Human Rights) — to improve both the situation of human rights in Sudan and communication between the government, the Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The subject areas covered in the report to the 1998 Commission include, *inter alia*: extrajudicial killings and summary executions, torture and ill treatment, arbitrary arrest and lack of due process of law, slavery and servitude, the slave trade, forced labour and similar institutions and practices, freedom of religion, the rights of the child, the rights of women, the independent verification of reports, an assessment of possibilities for technical assistance and cooperation in the field of human rights, and reprisals.