

- ▶ review further existing national laws in the light of the Convention and protection of human rights in general;
- ▶ include fully in the training of members of the Police Department, the National Defence Force, the Prison Service, other law enforcement personnel and medical officers courses on the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, with special emphasis on the definition of torture as contained in article 1 of the Convention and the criminal liability of those who commit acts of torture;
- ▶ appoint independent governmental bodies to take over the inspection of detention centres and places of imprisonment;
- ▶ establish an independent police complaints authority dealing with complaints against members of the Police Department;
- ▶ introduce measures to reduce the accumulation of criminal cases resulting in long and illegal pre-trial detention;
- ▶ provide the Namibian Office of the Ombudsman with the personnel and the financial means required to start exercising its functions in the field of protection of human rights as foreseen by the Namibian Constitution;
- ▶ investigate the specific allegations of ill-treatment which have been brought to the Committee's attention and transmit to the Committee the results of those investigations;
- ▶ conduct prompt and impartial investigations into the cases of disappearance of former SWAPO members, provide fair and adequate compensation to the dependants of the deceased victims in those cases where reasonable grounds exist to believe that these disappearances amounted either to torture or to other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice;
- ▶ require traditional leaders in Community Courts in Namibia to comply with the legal limits of their power to order pre-trial detention of suspects or strip them of their power to order such pre-trial detention;
- ▶ institute proper procedures to enable refugees to apply for residence in cases where substantial grounds exist for believing that those refugees would be in danger of being subjected to torture if expelled, returned or extradited to another country;
- ▶ promptly abolish corporal punishment to the extent that it is still permitted under the Prisons Act of 1959 and under the Criminal Procedure Act of 1977;
- ▶ give standing to victims of torture to institute, apart from civil action for damages, criminal procedures against the perpetrators of torture; and,
- ▶ eliminate the legal dependence of disciplinary proceedings against the perpetrator of torture upon the outcome of criminal proceedings.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 September 1990; ratified: 30 September 1990.  
Namibia's second periodic report was due 29 October 1997.

## **THEMATIC REPORTS**

### **World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/36, para. 85)**

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, on Human Rights Day, the UN Information Centre (UNIC) organized the launch of the book *Human Rights Education and Advocacy in Namibia in the 1990s*, which is the report of a human rights workshop jointly organized by the University of Namibia, UNESCO and UNIC in Windhoek in 1993. The launch was followed by a panel discussion on human rights. The reports also notes that the Centre's Director participated in a live television panel discussion on human rights issues, along with the Minister of Higher Education, a representative of the Red Cross and the Executive Director of the National Society of Human Rights.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **NIGER**

**Date of admission to UN:** 20 September 1960.

### **TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES**

**Land and People:** The core document prepared by the government in 1994 (HRI/CORE/1/Add.45) provides demographic and statistical data as well as information on the economy, the political system, and the judiciary.

Two national institutions on human rights have been established—Democracy, Freedom and Development and the Human Rights Association — which deal with freedom of association. Efforts have been made to publicize and disseminate information on various human rights instruments on radio (in French and national languages) and television as well as through the newspapers, plays and songs. The freedom and independence of media, including the press, are guaranteed by the Supreme Communications Council that is an independent administrative authority. The Council monitors media ethics and fair access of political parties, associations and citizens to official information and communications media.

#### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Acceded: 7 March 1986.

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

#### **Civil and Political Rights**

Acceded: 7 March 1986.

Niger's second periodic report was due 31 March 1994; the third periodic report was due 6 June 1997.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 7 March 1986.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Signed: 14 March 1966; ratified: 27 April 1967.

Niger's 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> periodic reports have been submitted as one document (CERD/C/299/Add.18); the 15<sup>th</sup> periodic report was due 4 January 1998.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 30 September 1990.

Niger's initial report was submitted (CRC/C/3/Add.24) but will be revised; the second periodic report was due 29 October 1997.