

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

The treaty system is confronted with a number of specific implementation problems: large numbers of overdue reports, significant backlogs of reports and individual communications, inadequate meeting time for the treaty bodies, inadequate access to procedures for victims of human rights violations, and poor follow-up of the conclusions of the treaty bodies by the political organs of the United Nations. Furthermore, the resources available to institute substantial improvements in implementation are seriously inadequate.

(A) RATIFICATION

While universal ratification of human rights treaties is desirable, ratification is marred by widespread and radical reservations, and by failures to comply.

1. States should refrain from diluting their obligations through reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaties.

(B) STATE RESPONSIBILITY

The human rights treaties embody obligations of, and between, state parties. States parties have the right, and the responsibility, to call violators to account by appropriate means.

2. States parties should exercise their capacity, where available, to lodge complaints that other states parties are not fulfilling their obligations under the treaty.

3. States parties should exercise their capacity to object to reservations which are incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty.

(C) THE REPORTING PROCESS

The state reporting process is intended to encourage a comprehensive review by a state of its national legislation, administrative rules, and procedures and practices in relation to the treaty. It should result in the integration of international human rights obligations into domestic policy-making.