

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 18 September 1967; ratified: 18 December 1970. Morocco's 12th and 13th periodic reports (CERD/C/298/Add.4) were submitted as one document which has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the 14th periodic report was due 17 January 1998. *Reservations and Declarations*: Article 22.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 21 June 1993. Morocco's second periodic report was due 21 July 1998. *Reservations and Declarations*: Article 2; paragraph 4 of article 15; paragraph 2 of article 9; article 16; article 29.

Torture

Signed: 8 January 1986; ratified: 21 June 1993. Morocco's second periodic report has been submitted (CAT/C/43/Add.2) and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's May 1999.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 21 June 1993. Morocco's second periodic report is due 19 July 2000. *Reservations and Declarations*: Article 14.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Morocco's 12th and 13th periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/298/Add.4, November 1997) which was considered by the Committee at its August 1998 session. The government stated that the problem of racial discrimination does not arise in Morocco. The report contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on, *inter alia*: various institutions established for the promotion and protection of human rights; the functions of the Ministry of Human Rights; judicial and administrative remedies available in the event of violation of human rights; constitutional and legal provisions related to non-discrimination on the basis of race or religion; legal provisions that would apply to punishment of any association formed for the purpose of spreading racist propaganda or based on ideas or theories of racial superiority; equality before the law, security of person, participation in political and public life; economic and social rights; access to public places; the system of human rights education; and respect for and preservation of the Berber culture.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (A/53/18, paras. 400–420) welcomed the government's new policy of giving greater attention to human rights issues, including the objectives of the Convention, and noted with interest the activities of the Human Rights Advisory Council and the Ministry of Human Rights. Note was also taken of the project between the government and the OHCHR to introduce human rights education in primary and secondary school curricula and to set up a national centre for human rights studies. The Com-

mittee welcomed the establishment in 1995 of regional councils for culture, and the increased attention being paid to Berber culture, particularly in respect of measures to include Berber dialects in school curricula.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: the lack of a specific legal provisions prohibiting racial discrimination; the lack of legislative, judicial and administrative measures to give effect to the Convention; and the lack of information on the number of complaints and judicial decisions concerning acts of racism, regardless of their nature, and the compensation granted as a result.

The Committee recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ♦ provide information on the ethnic composition of the population in its next periodic report;
- ♦ develop provisions of the Penal Code so as to conform with the Convention in terms of a prohibition on racist organizations, propaganda and activities;
- ♦ provide information on other legal reforms and on the results of the amendment of the Labour Code, from the standpoint of the provisions of the Convention;
- ♦ include, in the next report, detailed information on racially motivated offences, including the number of complaints and judicial decisions concerning racist acts, regardless of their nature;
- ♦ provide information on the activities of the Human Rights Advisory Council vis-à-vis the Convention; and
- ♦ provide additional information, in the next report, on: socio-economic indicators for the situation of the Berbers, blacks, nomads, Sahrawis and other minorities, and the results of the human rights education project, with particular reference to the components of the project relating to racial discrimination.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1998 session, under the agenda item on self-determination, the Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a resolution (1998/5) on the question of Western Sahara. In the text, the Commission, *inter alia*: reaffirmed the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination; recalled the August 1988 agreement between Morocco and the Frente para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to proposals of the Secretary-General and the OAU; recalled Security Council resolutions of 1990 and 1991 approving a settlement plan for Western Sahara; noted the cease fire in the region and stressed the importance of maintaining the cease fire as part of the settlement plan; noted agreements reached by the two parties on implementation of the settlement plan; urged the two parties to continue their cooperation with the Secretary-General (S-G) and the S-G's Personal Envoy; reaffirmed the UN's responsibility towards the