

66. Provide advisory services and technical assistance to states parties, in co-operation with field offices of UN agencies, which are directed at encouraging implementation of treaties at the national level. Assist in the development of programs of action in states parties for implementing concluding observations.

67. Prepare annual press releases on follow-up activities.

(iii) Other UN bodies should

68. The General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Human Rights Commission, and the Commission on the Status of Women, should take up and reinforce the concluding observations, decisions and recommendations of the treaty bodies.

(iv) NGOs should

69. Encourage the use at the national level, including in domestic litigation, of the results of the treaty body process such as: undertakings in state reports, General Comments and Recommendations.

(v) Private bodies and foundations should

70. Sponsor research into the impact of the work of the treaty bodies at the national level, specifically, documentation and analysis of the impact of the treaties and the operation of the treaty bodies, and collections of case studies on the use of the treaty regime by individuals, and national and international NGOs.

(E) INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Given the limitations, inherent and otherwise, of the state reporting system of implementation, an ability to implement the legal standards through individual complaints and remedies offers an important alternative.

The international complaint process is activated following an exhaustion of domestic remedies. International machinery cannot replace the obligation and capacity of national institutions and courts to implement human rights standards.

The objectives of an individual complaint procedure are to provide individual victims with an effective and timely remedy; to bring about systemic changes to law and practice which will benefit others in a similar position, and to provide guidance to states parties, national institutions and courts on the requirements of the treaty through the elaboration of the meaning of the treaty provisions.