

standards set out in the Convention are both protected and enhanced. While this Committee will be similar in structure to other UN monitoring bodies, it has been imbued with certain features designed to make it an active protagonist in the defence and enhancement of the rights of the child. That active role can only be realized if two developments occur. We must accept the proposition that the Committee is a creation and instrument of the UN itself. As such, it must have both the moral and financial support of this body if it is to fulfill its mandate. Those states that eventually will nominate and elect the 10 members of the Committee must respect the independent, expert character of that body. Only through the election of truly independent, well qualified experts will the Committee serve as an instrument to assist the basic needs of the world's children.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation, along with several others, has worked actively in recent years on the issue of effective implementation of international human rights. As we all know, the UN has been extremely active in recent years in standard-setting, a role in which my delegation continues to attach great importance. Nonetheless, it is my view that it is only recently that sufficient attention has been focused on the equally important issue of effective implementation of these standards. A number of attendant themes emerge from this general question, such as financing of UN monitoring bodies, reporting obligations of states, and the question of the role and nature of existing and future monitoring bodies. In my view, careful attention must be paid to these issues before the UN embarks on major new initiatives in the standard-setting field. For this reason, my delegation welcomes the impending release of the Secretary-General's note on effective implementation, which we believe will provide the necessary focus for further consideration of this important subject.

Effective implementation is an important factor in ensuring the protection of human rights. We must also, however, rededicate ourselves to achieving greater numbers of ratifications of existing human rights instruments and to compliance with the reporting obligations of those instruments. For example, the number of states parties to the International Covenants has remained largely static over the past few years. Those countries already party to these instruments have, I believe, a moral obligation to work within their regional groups and outside to encourage non-parties in adhering to these fundamental human rights instruments.