

Most of us can point to impressive national constitutions and extensive domestic legislation to protect rights, both civil and political and economic, social and cultural. But it requires a genuine and persistent political will to implement human rights provisions. And when we fail, there must be recourse through both national and international procedures to protect and promote respect for human rights.

The Charter of the United Nations has clearly made human rights a legitimate subject of international concern and debate. The United Nations will continue to articulate international standards against which we can measure the achievements of states in promoting and protecting human rights. We have created mechanisms designed to monitor our efforts to realize these standards. The challenge for the next few years will be to further develop the implementation mechanisms that will better encourage member states to achieve these standards.

In concluding, my delegation would like to propose three objectives to guide the work of the United Nations to promote the implementation of human rights standards. The first would be to encourage wider ratification of the existing instruments, particularly the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These instruments are the basis of efforts to promote and protect human rights. The second objective would be to strengthen procedures for the implementation of human rights instruments. As I have already said, recourse through national and international procedures is essential for the protection of rights. And the third objective would be to balance the concentration on particular country situations with the study of types of human rights violations, and the development of mechanisms to redress these.

It is the view of my delegation that these objectives could provide useful signposts for the work of the United Nations in human rights for the years ahead. What remains however will be to fire our political will, both individual and collective, to implement these standards. Let us all rise to meet the challenge of creating a world where the full dignity of each individual can be realized.

---

S/C