

the 1993 National Pact; noted that legislative elections were scheduled for 1998; welcomed the first National Economic Conference held in September 1997 which included the participation of all political forces and national and international economic actors and adopted a better and more transparent administrative and economic programme for national development; encouraged the government to continue efforts aimed at effectively integrating women into the socio-economic, cultural and political development of the country; encouraged the government to promote conditions in which economic, social and cultural rights are enjoyed by everyone; called on the government to take appropriate measures to avoid any form of discrimination against ethnic groups; invited the government to become a party to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; encouraged the government to continue efforts to improve the functioning of the judiciary and the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers; encouraged the government to publish regularly laws, decrees and other governmental acts; encouraged the government to ensure that forces of law and order respect the rights to security, physical integrity and freedom; encouraged the government to continue efforts aimed at the eradication of impunity; called on the government to adopt the necessary measures to ensure transparency and respect for the electoral process in the 1998 legislative elections; requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide technical assistance, in particular in support of the government's effort to establish the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights and Democracy, and renewed the mandate of the SR for another year.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, enforced or involuntary, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 172–174, 417)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The three cases of disappearance reported on concerned members of political opposition parties who were reportedly arrested in Malabo in August 1993. Information indicated that police authorities refused to disclose any information on their whereabouts. The Working Group noted that although several reminders have been sent, no information has been received from the government on these outstanding cases.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/38, paras. 94–95; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 115–118)

Four urgent appeals were sent to the government which replied to one of them. The Special Rapporteur (SR) recalled the statement in the 1997 report that cases of tor-

ture and ill-treatment of prisoners continue to occur, although the number of complaints received is lower and that the impunity of the perpetrators of human rights violations is still continuing.

The appeals were sent on behalf of: a member of the Progress Party who was arrested in Cogo in June 1996, allegedly tortured and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment by a military court, and whose request for an examination by a physician had not been granted; a number of members of the Convergencia para la Democracia Social Party and the Fuerza Demócrata Republicana Party (FDR) who were arrested without a warrant in July 1997 by police officers in Bata and held incommunicado; two other members of the FDR who were arrested after participating in a seminar on the independent press; and a former parliamentarian and leader of the Fuerza Demócrata Republicana, as well as one other FDR member.

In response to the appeal on behalf of the group of FDR members, the government stated that they had been arrested for ordinary offences and not political crimes, and that they had been conditionally released. With regard to members of the Convergencia para la Democracia Social Party, the government stated that they had provoked an incident with the owner of the premises which they were occupying without paying rent, causing the police to intervene; however, they had not been deprived of liberty. The government also stated that no one could be deprived of freedom because of political affiliation or participation in political activities, as recognized by law.



ERITREA

Date of admission to UN: 28 May 1993.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Eritrea has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 5 September 1995.

Eritrea's initial report was due 5 October 1996.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 20 December 1993; ratified: 3 August 1994.

Eritrea's initial report was due 1 September 1996.

