

The report recalls that in 1997 the ICTR set up the Group on Gender Issues to provide advisory services on questions related to gender issues within the Tribunal and to victims and witnesses. The Group was also given responsibility for developing strategies for improving the necessary support for victims and witnesses. Among the issues addressed were: distribution of staff positions between women and men; revisions to the ICTR recruitment policy; and the marginalization of women, sexual harassment, and family problems of female staff. The report notes that the Group represented the Tribunal at various regional and international meetings on questions relating to women, including: equality issues arising from the genocide in Rwanda and the trials in Arusha; a second workshop on crimes of sexual violence; questions of equality and persecution; women, land ownership and property rights; and women, war and justice. The Group has reviewed the problems which arise for women, as described by the victims and the witnesses, and will take up these problems in the context of the project entitled "Programme of assistance for justice and reconciliation".

With regard to cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the report notes that improvements were made in such areas as legal cooperation, exchange of information and experience, a sharing of public information services, institutionalization of meetings between senior officials of the two Registries, and cooperation in key areas related to witnesses and victims, including the protection of witnesses. On cooperation with states, commentary is provided related to, *inter alia*: arrests, the travel and safety of witnesses, receipt of amicus curiae, and the need for cooperation in the enforcement of prison sentences. Information is also provided on the support provided to the ICTR by various organizations, for example, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

### Resolutions of the Security Council

In the resolutions related to the ICTR (S/RES/1165, April 1998; S/RES/1200, September 1998) the Council, *inter alia*: stated that the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law will contribute to the process of national reconciliation and to the restoration and maintenance of peace in Rwanda and in the region; stressed the need for international cooperation to strengthen the courts and judicial system of Rwanda; noted the necessity for national courts to deal with a large number of accused awaiting trial; acknowledged the need to increase the number of judges and Trial Chambers to enable the ICTR to try without delay the large number of accused awaiting trial; established a third Trial Chamber of the ICTR; authorized exceptional measures to enable the third Trial Chamber to begin to function at the earliest possible date; urged all states to cooperate fully with the ICTR; urged the ICTR to continue efforts to increase further the efficiency of the work of the Tribunal; and forwarded to the General Assembly a list of nominations for Judges of the ICTR.

In another resolution, adopted in April 1998, (S/RES/1161) the Council, *inter alia*: condemned the continuing violence in Rwanda, especially the massacre of civilians, including refugees, at Mudende in December 1997; expressed grave concern at reports of the sale and supply of arms and related matériel to the former Rwandan government forces and militias, in violation of the embargo imposed under Security Council resolutions 918 (1994), 997 (1995) and 1011 (1995); underlined the need for governments to take action to ensure the effective implementation of the embargo, and recognized the need for a renewed investigation of the illegal flow of arms to Rwanda; reaffirmed the importance of countering radio broadcasts and pamphlets which spread hate and fear in the region; emphasized the need for states to assist countries in the region to counter such broadcasts and publications; requested the Secretary-General to reactivate the International Commission of Inquiry, with a mandate to: (a) collect information and investigate reports relating to the sale, supply and shipment of arms and related matériel to former Rwandan government forces and militias in the Great Lakes region of central Africa, (b) identify parties aiding and abetting the illegal sale to, or acquisition of arms by, former Rwandan government forces and militias, and (c) make recommendations relating to the illegal flow of arms in the Great Lakes region; called on all states in the Great Lakes region to ensure that their territory is not used as a base for armed groups to launch incursions or attacks against any other state; and urged all states and relevant organizations to cooperate in countering radio broadcasts and publications that incite acts of genocide, hatred and violence in the region.

### FIELD OPERATIONS

The Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) was established in 1994. Its headquarters were in Kigali. Head: Gerard Fischer, Chief of Mission, Room A-523, OHCHR, Palais des Nations, Geneva; Phone: (41-22) 917-6861; Voice-mail: (41-22) 917-2251; Fax: (41-22) 776-2409; e-mail: gfischer.hchr@unog.ch

The objectives and functions of HRFOR are defined as: carrying out investigations into violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including possible acts of genocide; monitoring the ongoing human rights situation and helping prevent possible violations through the presence of human rights field officers; cooperating with other international agencies to re-establish confidence and facilitate the return of refugees and IDPs and the rebuilding of civil society; implementing programmes of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, particularly in the area of the administration of justice; and reporting to the High Commissioner.

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1998/61) contains information on, *inter alia*: the human rights situation in North-Western Rwanda; the human rights situation since March 1997, related to detention, the genocide trials, and the military justice system; the structure and state of operations of HRFOR;