

Annotation: It is obviously a principle objective of all standard setting to see the rules and recommendations put into national legislative, judicial and administrative practice. This goal flows already from the United Nations Charter. To this end, the study would include an examination of the means of promoting and encouraging universal adherence to the full range of existing instruments and the possible disincentives to the widest participation therein. It would also analyse available and new practical measures to facilitate adherence as well as implementation at the national and local levels, and ways of mitigating local difficulties in ratification, accession and implementation.

Another aspect of the study would aim at streamlining implementation procedures set up under existing international human rights treaties and resolutions, and at introducing methods of follow-up to findings and recommendations made by the various implementation organs. These suggestions include those emanating from the joint meetings of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, from the Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission and from the oral and written statements to the Preparatory Committee. Further, the study should prepare a comprehensive analysis of the present system of treaty-based reporting obligations of States Parties and how this could be improved. The study should focus on possible methods for implementation of and reporting on international human rights standards, including the possibility of creating favourable conditions for implementation of international human rights standards. The study should also look into existing responses to alleged or real violations, such as fact-finding, good offices, etc., and examine ways and means of strengthening these procedures, of better co-ordination between them, and of the reduction of overlap.

The study could also focus on equality as the fundamental rule of international human rights law [as spelt out in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration and the two International Covenants, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Apartheid and a large number of other instruments, including those emanating from the International Labour Organisation, UNESCO and the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.] With particular reference to racism, racial discrimination and discrimination against vulnerable groups, the study should address a number of phenomena which cause and flow from breaches of this fundamental rule, in particular discrimination against groups and methods of combatting new and evolving manifestations of such discrimination. The groups in question would include minorities and indigenous and tribal peoples.

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