

municipal law. Such conventions are directly applicable and can be invoked before, and directly enforced by, the courts and administrative authorities.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 9 January 1967; ratified: 2 April 1969.

Cyprus has submitted its third periodic report (E/1994/104/Add.12) was considered by the Committee's at its November 1998 session; the fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 19 December 1966; ratified: 2 April 1969.

Cyprus's third periodic report (CCPR/C/94/Add.1) was considered by the Committee at its March 1998 session; Cyprus' fourth periodic report was due 18 August 1994.

Optional Protocol: 19 December 1966; ratified: 15 April 1992.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 12 December 1966; ratified: 21 April 1967.

Cyprus' 14th periodic report (CERD/C/299/Add.19) was considered by the Committee at its August 1998 session; the 15th report was due 4 January 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 14.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 23 July 1985.

Cyprus' third and fourth periodic reports were due 22 August 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 of article 9.

Torture

Signed: 9 October 1985; ratified: 18 July 1991.

Cyprus's third periodic report is due 16 August 2000.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 5 October 1990; ratified: 7 February 1991.

Cyprus's second periodic report was due 8 March 1998.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The 3rd periodic report of Cyprus (E/1994/104/Add.12, May 1996) was considered by the Committee at its November 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains information on, *inter alia*: constitutional provisions; employment policy and the Strategic Development Plan (1994 to 1998); the Industrial Training Authority (ITA); laws and measures related to women in the workforce; wages, minimum wage; trade unions, the Trade Unions Law of 1965, the right to strike, the Industrial Relations Code; social security, benefits, pensions; the family, the Law for the Prevention of Violence in the Family 1994, the protection of children and

young persons, minimum ages; the standard of living, income distribution and poverty, food and nutrition, housing; health and the health care system, environmental pollution and occupational health and safety, health education, HIV/AIDS; education and the education system; culture, research and development.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (E/C.12/1/Add.28) welcomed, *inter alia*: the fact that international legal instruments are superior to national law in the legal hierarchy and that the provisions of the Covenant can be invoked directly by individuals before the courts; the efforts of the government in continuing to provide services to the population living in the part of the island that it does not control; the recent establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights, noting however that the Institution has not been formally promulgated into law and that its independence has not been guaranteed; the efforts to include human rights in school and university curricula; the abrogation of the provisions of the Penal Code criminalizing homosexual acts; and the appointment of an advisory committee for the purpose of preventing violence in the family. The Committee acknowledged that the continuing partition of Cyprus hinders the ability of the government to exercise control over its entire territory and, consequently, to ensure the application of the Covenant throughout the country.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee include, *inter alia*: the lack of information on the realization of its economic, social and cultural rights by the Cypriot population living in the area that is not controlled by the government; the continued existence of discrimination between women and men in a number of areas, caused by both structural and cultural factors; lack of protection for domestic workers in terms of hours of work; failure to provide adequate protection against repressive and exploitative measures directed at prostitutes; that the legal minimum wage does not guarantee an adequate standard of living; the incidence of domestic violence against women and children and the failure to adopt an adequate prevention policy and to enforce fully the existing legislative measures; and allegations of inhuman or degrading treatment of mentally ill patients in some health institutions.

The Committee recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ♦ promptly promulgate into law the National Institution for Human Rights and guarantee its independence;
- ♦ intensify efforts to guarantee the equal enjoyment by women and men of their economic, social and cultural rights, through, for example: a large-scale public awareness campaign to eradicate social prejudices concerning gender roles; guaranteeing fully the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, in particular in the private sector of the economy; promulgating the draft regulations concerning the employment and working conditions of pregnant women and