

governmental organization active in Togo, indicating that children from Togo are being trafficked to Burkina Faso.

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, paras. 60-77)

The report summarizes information provided by the government, indicating that: harmful traditional practices are so common, and so completely integrated into the systems of beliefs and values, that they affect millions of women. On the issue of female genital mutilation (excision) the report notes that, since 1975, efforts have been made to combat the practice, including activities such as radio broadcasts on the issue. In 1990, of an institutional framework was created the "National Committee for Combatting the Practice of Excision" (CNLPE) as an inter-ministerial structure acting under the Ministry of Social Action and Family Matters, directly answerable to the Minister's Office, but with administrative freedom. It comprises representatives of other Ministries, NGOs, professional women's associations, youth movements, traditional and religious authorities and the human rights and peoples' movement. In December 1996, CNLPE was given a permanent secretariat to handle daily business, implement the Three-Year Plan of Action adopted by the Council of Ministers, co-ordinate with other parties active in the sector, and follow up and evaluate the work being done. Much of the work is actually decentralized to 30 provincial committees and includes: integrating information, education and communication activities for all social classes; working with all institutions that can help in combatting the practice of excision and keeping in regular touch with their members; conducting research into the problems of excision; and, supervising follow-up and evaluation activities. The government also noted difficulties encountered in combatting the practice of excision, including: socio-cultural obstacles; the negative action of health workers who perform excisions; the behaviour of intellectuals who have excision performed on their daughters; and the inadequacy of the resources available to provincial committees and the mobility of their members. On the positive side the report notes: broad and improved information for communities about the ills of excision; the total commitment of the traditional and religious authorities to the struggle; the involvement of ever-more young persons and women in the struggle; and, the permanent support and backing for the work of the Committee by both the Burkinabé authorities and development partners.

Other Reports

Periodic and genuine elections, Report of the S-G to the GA: (A/52/474, Annex)

The report of the Secretary-General notes a request from the government in August 1996 for UN assistance in organizing the legislative and Presidential elections scheduled for 1997 and 1998 respectively. The UN conducted a needs assessment mission and on the basis of the findings of the mission provided assistance, mainly in the form of training, for the electoral authorities.

World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/36, para. 85)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that the UN Information Centre in Burkina Faso provided a lecture on

children's rights to 10 officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs and devoted one of its weekly television programmes to a local NGO "Clubs UNESCO du Burkina Faso" and to the UNESCO contribution to the protection of human rights and the fight against discrimination.

* * * * *

BURUNDI

Date of admission to UN: 18 September 1962.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Burundi has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.16) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government, dated October 1993, includes demographic and statistical data related to population, ethnic characteristics, and social and economic indicators. The information on the general political structure includes a historical overview of the pre-colonial, the colonial and trusteeship period, the period of the monarchy, and the establishment of a republican form of government following independence.

The report states that the principle of respect for individual freedom and human rights has been affirmed through, *inter alia*: normalization of relations between church and state; the creation of the National Security Council; the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments; approval by the government of independent associations for the protection of human rights; recognition of a multi-party political system; and the establishment of the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights. Information on the general legal framework for the protection of human rights is mainly confined to a listing of the competent authorities and various courts and tribunals through which remedies for violations may be sought. Administrative mechanisms related to human rights are noted as including the Economic and Social Council, the National Security Council, the National Children's and Young People's Council and the Refugee Return and Reintegration Commission. The rights set out in the various international human rights instruments to which Burundi is a state party are protected by the Constitution and their provisions may be invoked before the courts or administrative authorities.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 9 May 1990.

Burundi's initial report was due 30 June 1992; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1997.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 9 May 1990.

Burundi's second periodic report was due 8 August 1996.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 1 February 1967; ratified: 27 October 1977.

Burundi's 11th periodic report is due 26 November 1998.

Burundi's seventh to 10th periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/295/Add.1) which was considered at the Committee's August 1997 session. The combined report contains demographic data as well as information on efforts by the government to restore order and peace to the