

cedure, the deliberations of the WG which makes recommendations to the Sub-Commission, the deliberations of the Sub-Commission which makes recommendations to the Commission, and the deliberations of the CHR, which makes recommendations to ECOSOC are all confidential. However, the Commission publicly announces the names of the countries which it is considering under 1503, as well as countries dropped from this list. Governments often go to great lengths to avoid being put on this "black list" of gross violators.

Accession: see *Ratification*.

Commission on Human Rights (CHR): a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 1945 in accordance with article 68 of the United Nations Charter. The CHR, currently comprising 53 member States, meets annually for a six-week session (in March/April) in Geneva. The CHR has played a major role in setting international human rights standards by drafting the International Bill of Human Rights, and many other seminal UN conventions and declarations. The Commission also monitors the implementation of human rights standards and, for this purpose, it has developed a complex system of thematic and country-specific mechanisms, including special rapporteurs and representatives, working groups, and independent experts. In recent years, it has also set up several funds to assist victims of human rights abuses. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC may attend sessions of the CHR and make written or oral interventions.

Committee Against Torture (CAT): see *Treaty Bodies*.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR): see *Treaty Bodies*.

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): see *Treaty Bodies*.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD): see *Treaty Bodies*.

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): see *Treaty Bodies*.

Core document: see *Land and People*.

Declaration: A declaration is a statement made upon becoming a State party to an agreement. In certain treaties, States parties can make declarations whereby they recognize the competence of a committee to hear and review complaints.

Declaration under Article 21 of the Convention Against Torture means that the State party recognizes the competence of the Committee Against Torture (CAT) to receive and consider communications by a State party claiming that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. The Committee will only consider complaints if they are: (a) made by States parties that

have made declarations under Article 21, and (b) made about States parties which have made declarations under Article 21.

Declaration under Article 22 of the Convention Against Torture means that the State party recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals who claim that a State party has violated their rights under the Convention. The Committee only considers complaints against States parties which have made a declaration under Article 22.

Declaration under Article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): When a State party makes a declaration under Article 41 of the ICCPR, it recognizes the competence of the Human Rights Committee to receive and consider communications by States parties claiming that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. The Committee will only consider a complaint if : (a) it is submitted by a State party which has made a declaration under Article 41; and (b) the complaint concerns a State party which has made a declaration under Article 41.

Declaration under Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: When a State party makes such a declaration under Article 14, it means that the State Party recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction who claim that a State party has violated their rights under the Convention. The Committee will only consider complaints against those States parties that have made declarations under Article 14.

General Assembly (GA) and its Third Committee: The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote. Because of the large number of questions it is called on to consider, the Assembly allocates most questions to its six Main Committees. These Committees then draft resolutions and submit them to the General Assembly for approval. The Third Committee of the General Assembly, also called the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, is the Committee which most often addresses human rights questions.

High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR): see *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*.

Human Rights Committee (HRC): see *Treaty Bodies*.

International Bill of Human Rights: The term is used to refer to articles in the United Nations Charter which make reference to human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and