

- ♦ developing plans to open four regional sub-offices in Gitega, Ngozi, Bujumbura-Rural and Bururi to establish closer collaboration of the Mission of observation with provincial and local authorities as well as with the concerned populations.

With regard to the Legal Assistance programme, two national lawyers assisted their Burundese colleagues during the sixth session of the Criminal Chambers in April/May 1998 because the six international lawyers who had been chosen were prevented from taking part in the session due to the lack of funds for the programme. The next session of the Criminal Chambers was scheduled to be held in September 1998.



CAMEROON

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Cameroon has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 27 June 1984.

Cameroon's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.35) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's November 1999 session; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 27 June 1984.

Cameroon's third periodic report (CCPR/C/102/Add.2) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's March 1999 session; the fourth periodic report is due 26 September 2000.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 27 June 1984.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 12 December 1966; ratified: 24 June 1971.

Cameroon's 10th through 14th reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/304/Add.53), which was considered at the Committee's March 1998 session; the 15th periodic report is due 24 July 2000.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 6 June 1983; ratified: 23 August 1994.

Cameroon's initial report was due 22 September 1995.

Torture

Acceded: 19 December 1986.

Cameroon's second and third periodic reports were due 25 June 1992 and 1996 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 25 September 1990; ratified: 11 January 1993.
Cameroon's initial report was due 9 February 1995.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Cameroon's 14th periodic report, incorporating the 10th through 13th periodic reports, (CERD/C/298/Add.3, October 1997) was considered by the Committee at its March 1998 session. The report prepared by the government covers the period from August 1990 to June 1997 and relates to articles 2 through 7 of the Convention. The report contains information on the legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures taken by the government to implement the provisions of the Convention and includes statistical and demographic data, noting that the population is made up of more than 230 ethnic groups defined on the basis of dialect, and divided into five major groups: Bantu, semi-Bantu, Sudanese, Peulh and the Choa Arabs. The report also notes that the Pygmy population is estimated at about 50,000 persons. The report states that the elimination of all forms of discrimination is pursued through programmes focussed on national integration, balanced regional development, the equitable sharing of the fruits of growth, democratization and liberalization, and protection of minorities and underprivileged groups. Measures to assist nomads in northern Cameroon and the Pygmies are noted, and information is provided on the political structure and general legal framework for the protection of human rights. The establishment in 1990 of the National Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms is cited. One of the National Committee's goals is to educate the public about human rights instruments by any means possible, including through the collection and distribution of international documentation on human rights and freedoms, and the organization of human rights training and education seminars.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/304/Add.5.4) noted Cameroon's considerable ethnic, religious, linguistic, cultural, geographical, and economic diversity. The Committee welcomed adoption of a new Constitution in January 1996 which guarantees the protection of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, as well as the establishment of the National Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: inadequacies in present legislation, especially the Penal Code, with regard to a prohibition on individuals and organizations promoting or committing acts of discrimination; protection of the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples to enable them to live in harmony in their environment, especially as regards the Pygmies and Boro; allegations of infringements of the right to security of person; the government's assertion that no cases involving discrimination are ever