

# HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION

NEWSLETTER NO. 11  
JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2011



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legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies with regard to the concept of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred, while also ensuring full respect for freedom of expression, as outlined in articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

In her opening video address to the recent workshop in the European region in Vienna, the High Commissioner stressed the importance of these workshops stating that “In many parts of the world, freedom of expression unfortunately remains a distant dream, facing resistance from those who benefit from silencing dissent, stifling criticism, or blocking discussion on challenging social issues”.

The workshops have been well-attended with a number of civil society organizations, academics, ombudspersons and Member State representatives participating, and the high quality of the debates, praised by all participants, contributed to their success.

A detailed report of all workshops, reflecting the discussions and suggestions made, will be published at a later stage.

Information about the workshops can be found at [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920\\_iccpr/](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920_iccpr/) ■

## MESSAGE FROM IBRAHIM SALAMA, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION

In recent years we have witnessed that the lines between freedom of expression and prohibited forms of speech have come increasingly under focus as the world becomes more interconnected.

Respect for international human rights law is crucial in this regard, and human rights monitoring bodies play a central role in assisting Member States with tackling these challenges. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is organizing, this year, a series of expert workshops on the prohibition of incitement to hatred.



Workshop in Africa (Nairobi, 6, 7 April 2011) © OHCHR

This initiative constitutes a follow-up to the October 2008 OHCHR expert seminar on the links between freedom of expression and incitement to religious hatred.

Expert workshops are planned in the four regions of the world: in Asia-Pacific (in Bangkok on 6, 7 July), and in the Americas (in Santiago on 12 and 14 October). We have just concluded one workshop in Europe (in Vienna, 9, 10 February 2011) and another in Africa (Nairobi, 6, 7 April 2011).

These workshops aim at gaining a better understanding of legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies with regard to the concept of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred, while also ensuring full respect for freedom of expression, as outlined in articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

## A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: A PROTOCOL À LA CARTE

■

### MR. JEAN ZERMATTEN, VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE CRC, SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE DRAFT OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON A COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURE

The final text of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure – providing for individual complaints, inter-state communications and an inquiry procedure – was adopted this February.<sup>1</sup> The CRC Chairperson disappointingly described the text as affirming that children's rights are “mini humans with mini rights”.<sup>2</sup> What is your view of the outcome document and the process leading to its adoption?



*Mr. Jean Zermatten, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

The Committee was very involved in the process of drafting the Optional Protocol. We therefore had high expectations, maybe too high, since ultimately the drafting of a human rights instrument is a political, not only a technical, process. Many proposals submitted by the Committee were not fully taken into account. We are disappointed at the outcome because we believe that the text could have been stronger. In particular, the Committee is disappointed at the following:

First, the abandonment of the collective communications procedure. The Committee was unanimously in favour of the possibility to receive and consider collective complaints. An earlier draft of the Optional Protocol included the collective communications procedure with an opt-in possibility. In the end, we have no such procedure at all, not even with the possibility of opting in. The second disappointment is the possibility of States parties to opt-out of the Protocol's inquiry procedure. Thirdly, States parties can make reservations under the Optional Protocol.

While I share the Chairperson's sentiment that the final text conveys the message that children's human rights are “mini rights”, I have the impression that we have lowered the human rights standards for children. Allegorically speaking, we have a “kid's menu”.

#### **Under the Optional Protocol, will children themselves be able to submit complaints in their capacity as individual rights holders?**

We had extensive discussions on the capacity of the child to complain.<sup>3</sup> Some States were very much in favour while others were strongly against. Those against argued that their domestic legal system does not provide for the possibility of children to act and to complain as individuals; children have to go through parents or legal representatives. Some States held that complaints under the Protocol would have to go through parents. But we know that parents are not always good representatives since they may have been involved in the conflict or are themselves the offenders. Very often the interests of the parents and the child are contradicting, if not directly

<sup>1</sup> Approved and adopted by the Open-Ended Working Group to explore the possibility of elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure, established by the Human Rights Council pursuant to Resolution 11/1 of 17 June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> CRIN Summary of the third and final working group meeting to draft the communications procedure under the UNCRC (CRIN Summary).

<sup>3</sup> The first meeting of the Working Group was held from 16 to 18 December 2009 and the second meeting from 6 to 10 December 2010 (first part) and from 10 to 16 February 2011 (second part).

conflicting. This is important. We cannot impose on children to complain through parents.

The possibility of the child to complain is consistent with the right of the child to be heard.<sup>4</sup> This means that the child who is capable of forming his/her own views has the capacity to act by him/herself in accordance with age and maturity, and his/her evolving capacities. We have to be consistent also in this Optional Protocol and allow children to act directly. It should also be recalled that other groups in society, such as persons with disabilities or minorities, are in a similar position and are not obliged to go through legal representatives. We have to assist these groups in finding a possibility to complain and seek remedy. In the future rules of procedures, the Committee must offer children the concrete possibility to complain.



Mr. Jean Zermatten with Ms. Katarina Mansson (OHCHR) during the interview. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

So, yes, in theory, the Protocol does allow for a child in his or her own right and capacity to complain directly to the Committee. In practice, the vast majority of the complaints are likely to be submitted by representatives of the child, by lawyers, parents and others.

Another weakness in the final text of the Optional Protocol concerns the requirement of written complaints. The possibility to present a complaint through other means was deleted. The Committee is of the view that the written procedure is not always the best one for children. We wanted to extend this possibility and include other means such as video or audio recordings, video-conferences, oral submissions or other means. If we only have the written complaints procedure, we will probably limit the possibility of the child to act directly. This is another issue that the Committee raised and insisted on.

**The Committee advocated during the negotiations for the possibility of hearing the child, or children concerned, when examining the merits of individual communications.<sup>5</sup> Does the Protocol as adopted allow for such child participation, ensuring in**

**practice the general principle of the right of the child to be heard?**

I believe that the text of the current draft is vague enough not to prohibit the possibility for children to be heard by the Committee. The rules of procedure to be drafted and adopted by the Committee will most likely provide for this. To me, it is obvious that, when needed, the Committee must listen to children. We all know at this stage how to interview and listen to children through different technical means – Children of the world should not have to come to Geneva in order to be heard! The reason for not mentioning it in the text was not to make hearings mandatory.

**Among the more controversial issues during the negotiations concerned the possibility of a collective communications procedure which would have allowed non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions to submit complaints to the Committee in the case of recurring violations affecting many children.<sup>6</sup> This would have presented the Committee with a unique preventive tool, enabling it to address situations affecting the rights of many children in one single procedure.<sup>7</sup> In your view, why was the procedure not retained in the final text and what are the main arguments why it should have?**



Mr. Jean Zermatten on the Optional Protocol: "The possibility of the child to complain is consistent with the right of the Child to be heard". © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

I believe that one important argument against collective communications is that this is something new. To date, no other UN human rights treaty body can consider collective communications. The experience of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to receive collective complaints cannot be used as an experience because the African Committee has not yet

<sup>4</sup> Article 12, Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/WG.7/2/3, para. 20.

<sup>6</sup> Footnote 7 in A/HRC/17/36, p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/WG.7/2/3, paras. 13-15, and A/HRC/17/36, para. 46.

received a collective complaint.<sup>8</sup> We have the experience of the European Committee on Social Rights which can receive and consider collective complaints under the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter.<sup>9</sup> Under this procedure, the European Committee on Social Rights has considered several complaints dealing specifically with children.<sup>10</sup>



Ms. Yanghee Lee, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mr. Jean Zermatten and Mr. Peter Newel Expert from the NGO Group on the Rights of the Child during the Second Working Group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (6-10 December 2010). © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

But to date no UN treaty body has this possibility and I believe there is a feeling that “we will not start with children”. This is a *position de principe* for some States. But basically the main arguments against collective communications were two. First, it is impossible because of anonymity. Under this procedure, the victim cannot be identified, which is necessary in order to respond to a communication. Secondly, if the victims are not known, how to determine whether domestic remedies have been exhausted?

<sup>8</sup> Article 44 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: “1. The Committee may receive communication, from any person, group or nongovernmental organization recognized by the Organization of African Unity, by a Member State, or the United Nations relating to any matter covered by this Charter”.

<sup>9</sup> The additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints was adopted in 1995 and entered into force in July 1998. The following entities can submit collective complaints: International organisations of employers and trade unions; Employers’ organisations and trade unions in the country concerned; and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe which are on a list drawn up for this purpose by the Governmental Committee of the Charter for a 4-year period which may be renewed.

<sup>10</sup> Such complaints have concerned, inter alia, child labour in Portugal, educational provisions for autistic children in France, and the absence of effective prohibition against corporal punishment of children in Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Portugal. See Robin R. Churchill and Urfan Khaliq, “The Collective Complaints System of the European Social Charter: An Effective Mechanism for Ensuring Compliance with Economic and Social Rights?”, in *European Journal of International Law*, EJIL (2004), Vol. 15 No. 3, 417–456.

The discussion was long, a debate between yes and no, without any possibility to find a compromise, or even a start of a compromise. Arguments in favour stressed that a collective communications procedure will help children when we have a very large group of victims: With NGOs or others representing children, their anonymity can be ensured since they don’t *want* to be identified. So it is also a protection issue. For example, sexually exploited children or children who are victims of violations committed in a State institution most likely do not want to be identified.

A collective communications procedure would also have been a very good complementary tool in monitoring implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols. It could have allowed for the identification of structural violations or gaps in States parties. The main arguments in favor of the procedure were hence the advantage of anonymity and the complementarity to our existing monitoring mechanism - another avenue to render justice to all children.

**Many delegates, experts and observers involved in the negotiations were disappointed at the absence in the final text of a provision prohibiting reservations to be made under the Optional Protocol and the fact that the inquiry procedure in the case of grave or systematic violations of children's rights is optional for States parties. Are there any possibilities to address these and other shortcomings before the Human Rights Council is expected to adopt the Protocol in June?**



A State delegate during the Second Working Group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (6-10 December 2010). © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

It is difficult to give a very precise answer. We would appreciate to see a change, because the possibility to make reservations to an Optional Protocol which is procedural and already weak seems very odd. It would be excellent if the Committee could strengthen the Optional Protocol by prohibiting reservations, just like the Optional

Protocol to CEDAW.<sup>11</sup> The Committee, however, has very little *marge de manoeuvre* and the final decision lies with States. We can work through rules of procedures but we cannot rule on the substance of the Optional Protocol. NGOs and others concerned can lobby for a strengthening of the Optional Protocol. Maybe the Human Rights Council will ask States to dedicate additional time to amend this draft? Maybe, I don't know. It is a possibility.

In any event, we now have an Optional Protocol, which is certainly a very positive development in protecting and advancing the rights of the child.

### **Admissibility criteria for individual communications under the Optional Protocol (article 7)**

#### **1. The Committee shall consider a communication inadmissible when:**

- (a) The communication is anonymous;
- (b) The communication is not in writing;
- (c) The communication constitutes an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or is incompatible with the provisions of the Convention and/or the Optional Protocols thereto;
- (d) The same matter has already been examined by the Committee or has been or is being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;
- (e) All available domestic remedies have not been exhausted. This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged or unlikely to bring effective relief;
- (f) The communication is manifestly ill-founded or not sufficiently substantiated;
- (g) The facts that are the subject of the communication occurred prior to the entry into force of the present Protocol for the State party concerned, unless those facts continued after that date.
- (h) The communication is not submitted within one year after the exhaustion of domestic remedies, except in cases where the author can demonstrate that it had not been possible to submit the communication within that time limit.

**The Protocol aims at reinforcing and complementing national and regional mechanisms allowing children to submit complaints and encourages States parties to develop appropriate national mechanisms to enable children to access effective remedies at the domestic level.<sup>12</sup> To what**

<sup>11</sup> Article 17 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women: "No reservations to the present Protocol shall be permitted."

<sup>12</sup> Preamble of the Optional Protocol, paras. 6 and 8. NGOs also expressed hope that the OP will encourage the development of strong

**extent do such child-friendly mechanisms and procedures exist today? Do you expect that the Optional Protocol will enhance children's access to remedies at local and national levels?**

I am convinced that the Protocol will have this effect indirectly. As States parties will not be too interested in being judged by an international committee, they are likely to establish mechanisms of control at local and national levels in order to deal with the problem domestically. Some countries provide for such possibilities, but in many States parties it is very difficult for children to have direct access to courts and to appeal court decisions. Considerable progress has been made with the system of Ombudspersons, but many Ombudspersons only have a promotional mandate with respect to children's rights and have no judicial capacity to receive and consider complaints. It will be interesting to see how this mechanism will provide impetus for States to establish at domestic level the possibility for children to obtain redress and justice.



***Jean Zermatten, member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2005, has been, among many activities, President of the Juvenile Court of the Canton du Valais (1980 - 2005), and President of the International Association of Magistrates for Youth and Family (IAMYF). He is currently Director of the International Institute for Children's Rights, in Sion, and is Dr honoris causa at the Fribourg University (Switzerland).■***

#### **TO READ AND LEARN MORE**

- ❖ The final text of the Optional Protocol is available in UN document A/HRC/17/37 (2011)
- ❖ See also Comments by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the proposal for a draft optional protocol in UN document A/HRC/W6.7/2/3 (2010)

and effective national remedies. See statement by Mr. Peter Newell in CRIN Summary.

## COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ELECTS NEW MEMBERS AT 13TH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

The thirteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child was held on 21 December 2010 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The purpose of the meeting was to elect nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to replace those whose terms were due to expire on 28 February 2011.

The nine members elected are the following:

[Ms. Agnes Akosua AIDOO \(Ghana\)](#)

[Ms. Aseil AL-SHEHAIL \(Saudi Arabia\)](#)

[Mr. Jorge CARDONA LLORENS \(Spain\)](#)

[Mr. Bernard GASTAUD \(Monaco\)](#)

[Ms. Maria HERCZOG \(Hungary\)](#)

[Mr. Hatem KOTRANE \(Tunisia\)](#)

[Mr. Gehad MADI \(Egypt\)](#)

[Ms. Kirsten SANDBERG \(Norway\)](#)

[Ms. Hiranthi WIJEMANNE \(Sri Lanka\)](#)

### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

❖ See CV of new members:  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/members.htm>

❖ Read more on CRC 57th session:  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs57.htm>

The new members will take their oath on 30 May 2011, at the beginning of the 57th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in Geneva. ■



*The Committee of the Rights of the Child ending the 56th session (February 2011) at the farewell party to Mr. Dainius Puras (Lithuania), Ms. Azza El Ashmawy (Egypt), Mr. Kamel Filali (Algeria), Mr. Lothar Krappmann (Germany) (on the picture below) and Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz (Paraguay) and Mr Luigi Citarella (Italy) © OHCHR*

## ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ADOPTS GENERAL COMMENT NO. 13 ON ARTICLE 19

### Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

**“No exceptions”. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is unambiguous: However light, all forms of violence against children are unacceptable and preventable. Prevention of all forms of violence is best achieved by securing and promoting children’s rights to respect for their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity. “All other arguments presented here reinforce but do not replace this human rights imperative. Strategies and systems to prevent and respond to violence must therefore adopt a child rights rather than a welfare approach.”<sup>13</sup>**

This human rights imperative stands at the heart of article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee on the Rights of the Child so confirmed as it adopted its most recent General Comment No. 13 on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence in February 2011. Under article 19, States parties have an obligation “to protect the child from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”.<sup>14</sup> The objective of the

General Comment is to guide States parties in understanding this obligation, which requires them to “prohibit, prevent and respond to all forms of physical and mental violence”.<sup>15</sup>



*Children play with garbage in Phnom Penh’s Stung Meanchey slums, where some 2000 people live on the garbage dump and make their living selling recyclable refuse. 28/07/2008. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.*

© UN Photo/Kibae Park.

This is against the backdrop of an “alarming” extent and intensity of the phenomenon and the failure to prohibit by law all forms of violence against children.<sup>16</sup> As recently noted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, 29 countries have today introduced a comprehensive legal prohibition on violence against children in all settings.<sup>17</sup> While this indicates that progress has been made since the completion of the 2006 UN Study on Violence against Children – only 16 countries had such legislation in place then – a majority of States still fail to prohibit all forms of violence against children in domestic legislation. And where it exists, enforcement tends to be weak.

***The Committee emphasises in the strongest terms that child protection must begin with proactive prevention of all forms of violence as well as an explicit prohibition of all forms of violence against children.<sup>18</sup>***

context of the Convention more broadly. General Comment No. 19, para. 6.

<sup>15</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 10.

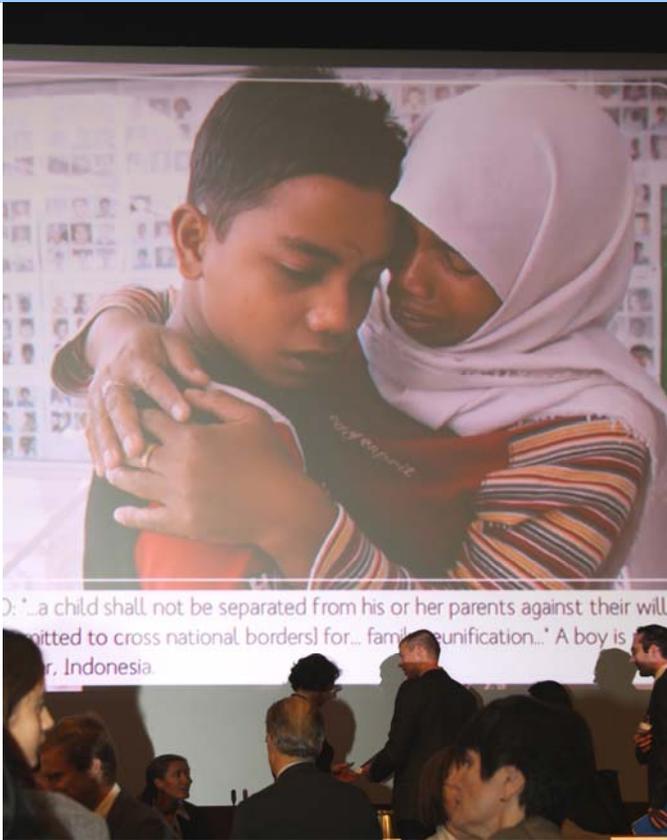
<sup>16</sup> General Comment No. 19, paras. 1, 10.

<sup>17</sup> Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, Marta Santos Pais, UN Doc. A/HRC/16/54, 28 February 2011, para. 16. “All settings” include the school, the home, care and alternative care institutions, and the juvenile justice system.

<sup>18</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 43.

<sup>13</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 12.

<sup>14</sup> While many other provisions in the Convention and its Optional Protocol directly relate to violence, article 19 forms the “core provision” for strategies to address and eliminate all forms of violence in the



Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Geneva, 8 October 2009). UNICEF pictures © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby



In providing guidance to States parties, the General Comment explains in detail the specific terminologies and obligations contained in Article 19. For instance, the Committee not only exemplifies the different types of violence prohibited under article 19 but determines that “all forms of” violence also includes self-harm, harmful practices, and violence through information and communication technologies.<sup>19</sup> Article 19 further obliges States parties to protect children from all forms of violence “while in the care of parent(s), legal

guardian(s) or any other person who has care of the child”.<sup>20</sup> The Committee, however, clarifies that article 19 also applies to children without obvious primary or proxy caregivers, such as children in child-headed families, children in street situations, children of migrant parents or unaccompanied children.<sup>21</sup> In such situations, “the State party is obliged to take responsibility as the de facto caregiver or the one ‘who has the care of the child’, even if these children are not within the context of physical care settings such as foster homes, group homes or NGO facilities”.<sup>22</sup>

The General Comment holds that protection and caregiving must be provided in a holistic manner in line with the Convention’s comprehensive scope of ensuring the right of the child to survival, dignity, well-being, health, development, participation and non-discrimination. A holistic child rights based approach to implementation of article 19 “places emphasis on supporting the strengths and resources of the child him/herself and all social systems of which the child is a part: family, school, community, institutions, religious and cultural systems”.<sup>24</sup> Recognizing that families have the greatest potential to protect children and to prevent violence, the General Comment stresses that strengthening family life, supporting and working with families with challenges must be a priority child protection activity.<sup>25</sup> However, in this context, the Committee underlines that much of the violence experienced by children, including sexual abuse, “takes place within a family context and stresses the necessity of intervening in families if children are exposed to violence by family members”.<sup>26</sup> ■

Regardless of whether violence takes place, States parties have a positive and active obligation to support and assist parents and other caregivers to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities and with respect for the evolving capacities of the child, the living conditions necessary for the child’s optimal development.<sup>23</sup>

#### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

- ❖ The General Comment No.13 is available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/English/bodies/CRC/comments>
- ❖ See also the Annual Report of the SRSG on Violence Against Children A/HRC/16/54 (2011)
- ❖ See also General Comment No.8 on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (2006).

<sup>20</sup> In this respect, the Committee considers that all human beings below the age of eighteen years are either “in the care of” someone or should be “in the care of” someone, noting that “there are only three conditions for children: emancipated, in the care of primary or proxy caregivers, or in the de facto care of the State”. General Comment No. 19, para. 31.

<sup>21</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 33.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 4.

<sup>24</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 52.

<sup>25</sup> General Comment No. 19, para. 65 (d).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> General Comment No. 19, paras. 26 – 29.

## FIRST REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INCITEMENT TO NATIONAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS HATRED, 9 - 10 FEBRUARY 2011, VIENNA



Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Workshop in Europe (Vienna, 9 - 10 February 2011) © OHCHR

**OHCHR held an expert workshop in Vienna, Austria, on 9 and 10 February 2011, on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred. This workshop for Europe was the first of a series of such events that OHCHR will be organizing this year in various parts of the globe.<sup>27</sup>**

The workshop contributed to a better understanding of the patterns and practices in Europe with regard to the relationship between freedom of expression and incitement to national, racial or religious hatred. While recognizing the richness of institutions and measures taken, both at the national and European level, the discussions showed that European laws and jurisprudence can be described as a patchwork, often inconsistent and vague in their application. The workshop was also informed that there is low recourse to (quasi-)judicial mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights in cases that involve incitement to hatred. A detailed report of the workshop, reflecting the discussions and suggestions made, will be published at a later time.

The event was attended by a number of civil society organizations, academics, ombudspersons, and member state representatives. The team of experts included: Ms. Agnès Callamard, the Executive Director of Article 19, a civil society group that promotes and defends freedom of expression; Mr. Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists; Mr. Alexander Verkhovsky, Director of the SOVA Centre, a Moscow-based organization that conducts research on nationalism and racism; Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Ms. Dimitrina Petrova, founding Executive of the Equal Rights

Trust; Mr. Frank La Rue, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Mr. Jose Vera Jardim, Vice President of the Portuguese Parliament; Mr. Mark Lattimer, Executive Director of Minority Rights Group international; Mr. Michael O'Flaherty, Member of

the UN Human Rights Committee; Ms. Nazila Ghanea, Lecturer in international human rights law at Oxford University; and Mr. Ömür Orhun, Advisor to the Secretary-General of the OIC. ■

### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

- ❖ All information on the 2011 Expert - Vienna workshop on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred Vienna workshop, is made available on the following website:  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920\\_iccpr](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/articles1920_iccpr).

<sup>27</sup> Another one just took place in Africa (Nairobi, 6 - 7 April), and information on this will be available in the next newsletter.

## A HIGH-LEVEL PANEL EXCHANGE VIEWS ON TREATY BODY STRENGTHENING



Panel discussion on the strengthening of human rights treaty body system organized by the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Morocco, Poland and Switzerland was held at the Palais des Nations on 7 March 2011. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

On Monday 7 March 2011 a panel discussion on the strengthening of human rights treaty body system, organized by the Permanent Missions of Ireland, Morocco, Poland and Switzerland, was held at the Palais des Nations. The panel was composed of OHCHR representatives (High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division), States representatives (Poland, Morocco, Ireland, Switzerland), treaty body members (Human Rights Committee and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), and an NGO representative (Quaker United Nations Office). The high level of attendance at this event by various stakeholders proved the keen interest in the treaty body strengthening process.

In opening the discussion, the High Commissioner noted that treaty bodies' own success over the past four decades was now straining the system at its seams. She explained that resources have not kept the pace with the system's growth in size, output, and visibility. With the establishment of the 10th treaty body this year (the Committee on Enforced Disappearances), she said the system was probably not far from reaching its limits. The High Commissioner highlighted that the ongoing fragmentation of the system and the multiplication of procedures increased the vulnerability of the system to become unwieldy, cumbersome and unpredictable. She recalled the process of reflection on ways and means to strengthen the treaty body system initiated in 2009 and the series of events that have taken or will take place to gather suggestions of different

groups of stakeholders. The process will culminate in a compilation of proposals stemming from this exercise which the High Commissioner will present at the end of 2011 or in early 2012. The High Commissioner concluded by underscoring that efforts currently underway to strengthen the treaty body system were indeed crucial, but will not replace the dire need for the human and financial resources that are indispensable for a well-functioning and credible treaty body system.

In the course of the discussion the panelists highlighted the importance of the treaty body system and the need to strengthen and harmonize it. States' representatives acknowledged the increased workload generated by the system and the need to increase its human and financial resources. They identified bottlenecks and challenges that the treaty body system as well as States parties face, mentioning,

*inter alia*, the reporting burden, the backlog affecting the consideration of reports and individual communications, and the difficult follow-up to all recommendations emanating from various international human rights mechanisms. The need for far-reaching reforms was also underscored.



In his statement, **Ibrahim Salama, Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division**, stressed the fact that no amount of harmonization would negate the need for additional resources. He said that the current reform effort should be based on vision and innovation and listed some ideas for reform that have emerged so far, including the list of issues prior to reporting, the increased role of Chairpersons, and the nomination and selection processes of treaty body experts.



**Michael O'Flaherty** (Human Rights Committee member) and **Dzidek Kedzia** (member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights who, for health reasons, could not attend - but his statement was read) recalled some of the proposals contained in the Poznan statement. They highlighted the need for enhanced coordination and harmonization among treaty bodies, the importance of creating a national framework for consultation and follow up involving all stakeholders, and the spearheading role Chairpersons should play inter-sessionally. Both experts stressed the importance of

integrated follow-up to treaty body outcomes and of enhanced links between treaty bodies output and the Universal Periodic Review.



**Rachel Brett** from the **Quaker United Nations Office** reminded all participants of the ultimate goal of the strengthening process which is to improve the protection of rights holders at national level.

She underscored the importance of ensuring the independence and expertise of treaty body experts. She noted the webcasting of treaty body sessions as an opportunity to increase awareness about the treaty bodies at national level and encouraged the conduct of follow-up visits by treaty body members.



An exchange of views with the public followed the interventions of the panelists during which **Anastasia Crickley**, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and **Eibe Riedel**, member of the



Committee on Economic, Social, and Economic Rights, took the floor. In their interventions, they stressed the primary responsibility of States parties in the strengthening process as well as the crucial role of non-governmental organizations in bringing new and innovative ideas. The need for increased coherence was also highlighted. Other participants expressed support for the conduct of *in-situ* visits and the use of new communication technologies to facilitate involvement of national stakeholders and improve accessibility of the treaty body work at grass-roots level. The cross-fertilization between various mechanisms was also noted as a positive development. ■

On 1 April 2011, the ICJ ruled out a case brought by Georgia against the Russian Federation under article 22 of ICERD on the ground that the preconditions for the Court's jurisdiction - prior negotiations or the procedures expressly provided for in ICERD - had not been fulfilled. See: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/140/16396.pdf> . A more detailed summary will follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

#### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

❖ NEW LINK on website on the Treaty Body Strengthening Process:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/English/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>

## INTER-COMMITTEE MEETING WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW-UP 12 TO 14 JANUARY 2011 IN GENEVA



Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner and Ms. Yanghee Lee, Chairperson of the Inter-Committee Meeting Working Group on Follow-up met from 12 to 14 January 2011 in Palais Wilson. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

Barbara Bailey (CEDAW), Ms. Ana Elizabeth Cubias Medina (CMW), Ms. Felice Gaer (CAT), Mr. Dzidek Kedzia (CESCR), Ms. Yanghee Lee (CRC), Ms. Ana Pelaez Narvaez (CRPD), Mr. Hans Draminsky Petersen (SPT), and Mr. Victor Rodriguez Rescia (SPT).

The sub-group on follow-up to individual communications was attended by Mr. Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim (CESCR), Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas-Reyes (CRPD), Mr. Regis de Gouttes (CERD), Mr. Yuji Iwasawa (CCPR), Mr. Lothar Krappmann (CRC), Mr. Fernando Mariño Menendez (CAT), Ms. Pramila Patten (CEDAW), and Mr. Mehmet Sevim (CMW).

The Working Group met in plenary on 12 and 14 January and adopted a number of points of agreement which will be presented to the twelfth Inter-committee meeting (27 to 29 June 2011) and subsequently to the twenty-third meeting of Chairpersons of treaty bodies for approval (30 June to 1 July 2011). ■

In July 2010, the twenty-second meeting of Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies recommended the establishment of a working group on follow-up, composed of both the rapporteurs on follow-up to concluding observations and the rapporteurs on follow-up to individual communications of each treaty body, if applicable, or the members responsible for follow-up activities. Following this recommendation, the Inter-Committee Meeting Working Group on Follow-up met from 12 to 14 January 2011 in Geneva.

The working group was divided into two subgroups: one focusing on follow-up to concluding observations and inquiries/visits, and the other one on follow-up to individual communications. The first sub-group was attended by Mr. Nourredine Amir (CERD), Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (CCPR), Ms.



Inter-Committee Meeting Working Group on Follow-up met from 12 to 14 January 2011 in Palais Wilson. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

The full text of the points of agreement can be accessed through the following link:

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/icm-mc/WG\\_followup.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/icm-mc/WG_followup.htm)

**The following points of agreement were adopted to streamline the existing follow-up procedures in respect of individual complaints:**

- ✓ Common procedural guidelines should be drafted in the context of the Inter-Committee's work, with the purpose of complementing the existing rules of procedure and practices on follow-up and harmonizing the follow-up procedure of all of the Committees;
- ✓ Committees should continue to consider ways of further improving their recommendations on remedies to States parties, with a view to enhancing implementation and ensuring effective follow-up to treaty body decisions;
- ✓ All Committees in their decisions should systematically request States parties to publish treaty body decisions, translate them (if necessary) into the official language and distribute them widely, as is currently undertaken by CEDAW and CERD and that decisions are also made available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
- ✓ All Committees should consider extending the deadline for responses from States parties from 90 to 180 days, except in the event of an emergency;
- ✓ Committees should consider reducing the burden on the rapporteurs on follow-up (in particular with respect to the HRC) by encouraging other members of the Committees to take a more proactive role, possibly through the establishment of working groups or co-rapporteurs on follow-up.

**In respect of concluding observations, inquiries and visits, the Working Group recommended that:**

- ✓ Treaty bodies that have a written follow-up procedure and that have not yet adopted procedural guidelines for this procedure should consider doing so and refining their procedure;
- ✓ All committees concerned should consider developing guidelines for States parties to facilitate the preparation of follow-up replies;
- ✓ Committees should strengthen their efforts to increase the visibility of the written follow-up procedure so as to ensure systematic input from United Nations country teams, United Nations entities and mechanisms, including appropriate special procedures of the Human Rights Council, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and international, regional, and national civil society actors;
- ✓ Recommendations should be concise and formulated in a precise manner appropriate to the matter at hand. In this context, the Working Group on Follow-Up discussed the proposal of the High Commissioner to structure concluding observations around immediate, medium-term and long-term deliverables to facilitate implementation of the treaty body recommendations at the national level;
- ✓ Visibility and accessibility of follow-up information should be improved, inter alia, through the creation by OHCHR of a general web page on follow-up procedures in order to enhance awareness about these procedures;
- ✓ OHCHR should assess the feasibility of organizing and funding follow-up workshops where treaty body experts should play a leading role in providing guidance to States parties on concrete steps to be taken to implement the treaty body recommendations
- ✓ Treaty bodies, together with OHCHR, United Nations country teams and other relevant United Nations partners should explore the possibility of conducting in situ follow-up visits, within available human and financial resources

## THE ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ACWC) MEET WITH CEDAW AND CRC -GENEVA, 24 - 28 JANUARY 2011



ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children Representatives meeting with CEDAW on 27 January 2011. © OHCHR

- Assisting States to implement the concluding observations of CEDAW and CRC and other treaty bodies;
- Encouraging States to undertake periodic reviews of national legislations, regulations, policies, and practices;
- Encouraging States to ratify international human rights instruments related to women and children; and
- Advocating on behalf of women and children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, and encourage ASEAN Members States to improve their situation.

During the 48<sup>th</sup> session of CEDAW and the 56<sup>th</sup> session of CRC, Committee members had the opportunity to meet with the visiting members of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The ACWC is one of two newly formed ASEAN regional human rights mechanisms. It was inaugurated on 7 April 2010 following agreement towards its establishment in the Vientiane Action Programme adopted by ASEAN in 2004. The ACWC is an intergovernmental and consultative body comprised of 20 State representatives: two from each ASEAN member<sup>28</sup>, one for women's rights and one for children's rights.

The mandate of the ACWC is closely linked to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which all ASEAN members are parties. The ACWC's Terms of Reference note that the ACWC is to "complement rather than duplicate the function of CEDAW and the CRC by:

- Assisting States to prepare for CEDAW and CRC periodic reports, the UPR and reports for other Treaty Bodies;

Jointly organised by UN Women, OHCHR and UNICEF, the visit of 17 members of the ACWC to Geneva provided them with an opportunity to observe the meetings of CEDAW and CRC, and to learn more about the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. As this regional mechanism is in its early stages of operation, ACWC members met with treaty body members to discuss how the ACWC could complement the work of CEDAW and the CRC. The Chairperson of CRC suggested that ACWC could encourage follow up on concluding observations of both treaty bodies and promote the ratification of the Optional Protocols to CRC. The Chairperson noted that CRC is already working in collaboration with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

CEDAW members noted that collaboration with regional human rights mechanisms can considerably enhance its work. For example, the Committee would welcome relevant reports on country situations and follow up to concluding comments. Advocacy by the ACWC for the removal of reservations and the ratification of the Optional Protocol would also be welcomed. The ACWC could use its inter-governmental status to assess and share good practices on CEDAW implementation, thereby enhancing implementation of this Convention. The Committee also noted the importance of working with NGO partners, national parliaments and Bar Associations.

Parallel to the establishment of the ACWC, ASEAN has also established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), which was inaugurated in October 2009. Although AICHR is not linked to specific treaties such as the ACWC, it has a more general mandate of upholding the international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties. ■

<sup>28</sup> The Association of South East Asian Nations, otherwise known as ASEAN, is a regional intergovernmental organisation made up of ten nation-states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Timor-Leste currently has observer status with ASEAN and will become a fully fledged member once it meets certain criteria (including trade liberalisation requirements), which is likely to be in 2012.

## OHCHR TRAINING IN BURKINA FASO

OHCHR Headquarters in Geneva (Human Rights Treaties Division, and OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar, with the support of Research and Right to Development Division) held from 21 to 23 February 2011 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) a seminar on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights, with support from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

The seminar was attended by judges, lawyers as well as other professionals of the administration of justice from six countries of the West African sub-region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Participants adopted a declaration at the end of the seminar in which they committed, among others, to raise awareness of justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights among judges, lawyers and other professionals of the administration of justice in their respective countries, to encourage the application of international human rights norms and standards in national jurisdictions, and to promote the inclusion of international human rights standards as well as national, regional and international jurisprudence on human rights in the curricula of academic institutions and judicial education programmes.

Participants also agreed on follow-up actions for each country which would include briefings to and exchanges with, judges, lawyers and NGOs on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Philippe Texier, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Ms. Medegan Nougbo, Judge at the Community Court of Justice at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and staff of OHCHR. ■

## ACADEMIC REVIEW OF UN TREATIES

Two recently published articles focus on the work of treaty bodies:

"From Judgment to Justice: Implementing International and Regional Human Rights Decisions", published by the Open Society Foundation (2010), and "Increasing the Impact of Human Rights Litigation: Implementation of Judgments and Decisions" appears in the INTERIGHTS Bulletin (vol.16, 2, 2010).

Both articles after reviewing the work on the TB's individual communications procedures, its successes and failures, essentially point to its non binding quasi-judicial nature as the main problem. While suggesting that states will most likely never change the non binding nature of these procedures, at the same time, both articles suggest there are unexplored ways of developing the system from inside. Among these they note the ongoing strengthening efforts and support providing more resources to the Office; developing the working procedures of the mechanism more in line with CEDAW recent practice with emphasis in a strong follow up procedure, and making the jurisprudence more consistent by developing a *stare decisis* approach. ■

### TO READ AND LEARN MORE

Both articles are available through the links below, and HRTD recommends reading them.

[http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus/international\\_justice/articles\\_publications/publications/from-judgment-to-justice20101122](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus/international_justice/articles_publications/publications/from-judgment-to-justice20101122)

<http://www.interights.org/view-document/index.htm?id=606>

## NEW RATIFICATIONS

### JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH 2011

#### CRPD

- **Togo** (1 March 2011)
- **Romania** (31 March 2011)

#### OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CRPD

- **Togo** (1 March 2011)

#### CEDAW - OP

- **Ghana** (3 February 2011)
- **Seychelles** (1 March 2011)

#### ICPPED (INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS FROM ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE)

- **Switzerland** (Signature) (19 January 2011)
- **Armenia** (24 January 2011)
- **Gabon** (19 January 2011)
- **Netherlands (European and Caribbean part)** (23 March 2011) (this is the 24<sup>th</sup> State party: the Convention has entered into force upon the 20<sup>th</sup> ratification)

- *For information on the status of ratification and signature of UN member states of UN human rights treaties and other international treaties, as well as reservations and declarations, please see:*  
<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en>
- *An overview of the ratification status by UN member states is accessible on:*  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/docs/HRChart.xls> ■

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2011

		<b>AFRICA</b>	
	<b>Angola</b>	CEDAW	Sixth report (CEDAW/C/AGO/6) received on 12 January 2011
	<b>Togo</b>	CAT	Second periodic report (CAT/C/TGO/2) received on 17 January 2011
		CRC	Combined third and fourth periodic report (CRC/C/TGO/3-4) received on 17 January 2011
	<b>Rwanda</b>	CRC	Combined third and fourth periodic report (CRC/C/RWA/3-4) received on 21 January 2011
	<b>Senegal</b>	CAT	Third periodic report (CAC/C/SEN/3) received on 9 February 2011
		CERD	Combined second to fourth report (CERD/C/SEN/2-4) received on 25 February 2011
		<b>NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST</b>	
	<b>Qatar</b>	CAT	Second periodic report (CAT/C/QAT/2) received on 23 March 2011
	<b>Jordan</b>	CRC-OPAC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPAC/JRD/1) received on 31 January 2011
		CRC-OPSC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPSC/JOR/1) received on 31 January 2011
		<b>EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA</b>	
	<b>Andorra</b>	CEDAW	Combined second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/AND/2-3) received on 12 January 2011
	<b>Canada</b>	CERD	Combined nineteenth and twentieth periodic report (CERD/C/CAN/19-20) received on 28 January 2011
	<b>Italy</b>	CERD	Combined sixteenth to eighteenth periodic report (CERD/C/ITA/16-18) received on 23 March 2011

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2011

	<b>Portugal</b>	CESCR	Fourth periodic report (E/C.12/PRT/4) received on 31 January 2011
		CCPR	Fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/PRT/4) received on 10 January 2011
		CERD	Combined twelfth and thirteenth periodic report (CERD/C/PRT/12-13) received on 10 January 2011
		CRC-OPAC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPAC/PRT/1) received on 19 January 2011
		Common Core Document	(HRI/CORE/PRT/2011) received on 31 January 2011
	<b>Serbia</b>	CESCR	Second report (CESCR/C/SRB/2) received on 24 March 2011
	<b>Turkey</b>	CCPR	Initial report (CCPR/C/TKY/1) received on 17 March 2011
	<b>Turkmenistan</b>	CERD	Combined sixth and seventh periodic report (CERD/C/TKM/6-7) received on 20 January 2011
	<b>Uzbekistan</b>	CRC-OPAC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPAC/UZB/1) received on 24 January 2011
		CRC-OPSC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPSC/UZB/1) received on 27 February 2011
		<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	
	<b>Chile</b>	CEDAW	Combined fifth and sixth report (CEDAW/C/CHL/5-6) received on 14 February 2011
	<b>Cuba</b>	CEDAW	Combined seventh and eighth report (CEDAW/C/CUB/7-8) received on 19 January 2011
		CRC-OPAC	Initial report (CRC/C/OPAC/CUB/1) received on 14 January 2011
	<b>El Salvador</b>	CRPD	Initial report (CRPD/C/SLV/1) received on 5 January 2011
		CESCR	Combined third to fifth periodic report (CESCR/C/SLV/3-5) received on 14 February 2011
	<b>Paraguay</b>	CMW	Combined initial and second report (CMW/C/PRY/1-2) received on 10 January 2011
	<b>St Lucia</b>	CRC	Combined second to fourth periodic report (CRC/C/LCA/2-4) received on 8 February 2011

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2011

		<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>	
	<b>Lao PDR</b>	CERD	Combined sixteenth and seventeenth periodic report (CERD/C/LAO/16-17) received on 11 February 2011
		Common core document	(HRI/CORE/LAO/2011) received on 11 February 2011
	<b>Cambodia</b>	CEDAW	Combined fourth and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/KHM/4-5) received on 11 January 2011

## ENGAGE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION!

### YOU CAN BE OF CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TREATY-BODIES

<p><i>- By raising awareness with country-based constituencies about upcoming considerations of reports by treaty body</i></p> <p><i>- By encouraging relevant partners to provide information to relevant treaty bodies</i></p> <p><i>- By facilitating and encouraging implementation of treaty body recommendations</i></p>	<p><b>Human Rights Committee (CCPR)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Kate Fox <b>kfox@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Maja Andrijasevic-Boko <b>mandrijasevic-boko@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Gabriella Habtom <b>ghabtom@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Bradford Smith <b>bsmith@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee against Torture (CAT)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Joao Nataf <b>jnataf@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Allegra Franchetti <b>afranchetti@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Noemy Barrita-Chagoya <b>nbarrita-chagoya@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Safak Pavey <b>spavey@ohchr.org</b></p>
	<p><b>Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Patrice Gillibert <b>pgillibert@ohchr.org</b></p>

## HRTD NEWSLETTER

- ❖ ... Is issued on a quarterly basis since 2008 with a view to provide more in-depth and specific information on the work of the treaty bodies, including interviews, analysis of decisions, activities and reports from OHCHR field presences, etc.
- ❖ ... Is available at the treaty bodies' webpage on OHCHR website:  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/newsletter\\_treaty\\_bodies.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/newsletter_treaty_bodies.htm)
- ❖ ... Can be accessed by OHCHR staff on OHCHR Intranet, together with more information on the work of the Human Rights Treaties Division, at:  
<http://intranet.ohchr.org/Offices/Geneva/HumanRightsTreatiesDivision/Pages/HRCTDpage.aspx>
- ❖ ... Welcomes your input, ideas, contributions and views! Please contact us at:  
[HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org](mailto:HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org)
- ❖ ... NEW LINK on website on the Treaty bodies strengthening:  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/English/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>

## USEFUL TOOLS AND LINKS

- ❖ ... Treaty bodies mailing-list: Regular e-mail notification of treaty body recommendations. To subscribe, go to:  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/tbmailin.nsf/email?Openform>
- ❖ ... Universal Human Rights Index: A user-friendly search engine with access to all recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures and soon the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): <http://www.universalhumanrightsindex.org>
- ❖ ... Civil Society Section mailing-list: subscribe to email updates about UN human rights activities: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>



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[HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org](mailto:HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org)