



**International Convention on
the Elimination
of all Forms of
Racial Discrimination**

**Distr.
GENERAL**

**CERD/C/67/1
14 October 2005**

Original: ENGLISH

**Committee on the Elimination of
Racial Discrimination**

**Decision on follow-up to the declaration on the prevention of genocide:
indicators of patterns of systematic and massive racial discrimination**

At its sixty-sixth session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) adopted a declaration on the prevention of genocide for the consideration of the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, as well as the Security Council. In this declaration, the Committee committed itself to:

- Developing a special set of indicators related to genocide; and
- Strengthening and refining its early warning and urgent action as well as follow-up procedures in all situations where indicators suggest the increased possibility of violent conflict and genocide.

Taking into account that systematic discrimination, disregard or exclusion are often among the root causes of conflict, the present decision intends to strengthen the capacity of the Committee to detect and prevent at the earliest possible stage developments in racial discrimination that may lead to violent conflict and genocide.

I. Indicators

The following key indicators may serve as a tool for the Committee, when examining the situation in a State party under one of its procedures, to assess the existence of factors known to be important components of situations leading to conflict and genocide. If one or more of the following indicators are present, this should be clearly stated in the concluding observations or decision, and the Committee shall recommend that the State party report, within a fixed deadline, to the Committee under the follow-up procedure on what it intends to do to ameliorate the situation. In the following list of indicators, the word “group” shall cover racial, ethnic and religious groups:

1. Lack of a legislative framework and institutions to prevent racial discrimination and provide recourse to victims of discrimination.

2. Systematic official denial of the existence of particular distinct groups.
3. The systematic exclusion - in law or in fact - of groups from positions of power, employment in State institutions and key professions such as teaching, the judiciary and the police.
4. Compulsory identification against the will of members of particular groups, including the use of identity cards indicating ethnicity.
5. Grossly biased versions of historical events in school textbooks and other educational materials as well as celebration of historical events that exacerbate tensions between groups and peoples.
6. Policies of forced removal of children belonging to ethnic minorities with the purpose of complete assimilation.
7. Policies of segregation, direct and indirect, for example separate schools and housing areas.
8. Systematic and widespread use and acceptance of speech or propaganda promoting hatred and/or inciting violence against minority groups, particularly in the media.
9. Grave statements by political leaders/prominent people that express support for affirmation of superiority of a race or an ethnic group, dehumanize and demonize minorities, or condone or justify violence against a minority.
10. Violence or severe restrictions targeting minority groups perceived to have traditionally maintained a prominent position, for example as business elites or in political life and State institutions.
11. Serious patterns of individual attacks on members of minorities by private citizens which appear to be principally motivated by the victims' membership of that group.
12. Development and organization of militia groups and/or extreme political groups based on a racist platform.
13. Significant flows of refugees and internally displaced persons, especially when those concerned belong to specific ethnic or religious groups.
14. Significant disparities in socio-economic indicators evidencing a pattern of serious racial discrimination.
15. Policies aimed at the prevention of delivery of essential services or assistance, including obstruction of aid delivery or access to food, water, sanitation or essential medical supplies in certain regions or targeting specific groups.

As these indicators may be present in States not moving towards violence or genocide, the assessment of their significance for the purpose of predicting genocide or

violence against identifiable racial, ethnic or religious groups should be supplemented by consideration of the following subset of general indicators:

1. Prior history of genocide or violence against a group.
2. Policy or practice of impunity.
3. Existence of proactive communities abroad fostering extremism and/or providing arms.
4. Presence of external mitigating factors such as the United Nations or other recognized invited third parties.
