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## Message from the Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division

**A forward looking report by the Secretary-General for a satisfactory outcome?**



*John W. Ashe, the new President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly has (re)appointed on 6 November 2013 the co-facilitators of the Intergovernmental process to strengthen the treaty body system. © UN Photo/Rick Bajornas*

On 23 October, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, presented her annual report to Member States attending the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. On the treaty body strengthening process she stated:

*I would like to commend the good work of the co-facilitators of the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening, the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Iceland, in steering matters over the course of the past year. The draft substantive text they have already submitted to two readings provides a sound basis for a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the challenges faced by the treaty body system.*

*I have taken note of the procedural resolution (A/RES/68/3) which extends the inter-governmental process until the first half of February 2014 and sincerely hope that a substantive agreement will be reached by this deadline. My office is contributing to the comprehensive and detailed cost assessment requested by 15 November 2013 in this resolution.*

On 15 November, the United Nations will release a unique report providing a detailed cost assessment of the current treaty body system (which requires pulling together the budget of three departments – OHCHR, UNOG and UNIS) and the costing of the current draft elements of the GA resolution. This forward looking Secretary-General report

will also deconstruct key costs of the work of treaty bodies, including with regard to one week of session dedicated to the treaty reporting procedure and one for the individual complaints procedure. The SG report also identifies a number of significant savings in different areas that the treaty body system can generate, if States agree, and that would be then re-invested in to reinforce the system. This report is truly ground breaking as to our knowledge no UN mechanisms in the past has been fully assessed financially, compiling information from three different parts of the UN: the substantive secretariat (OHCHR), the Conference Management Secretariat (UNOG) and the UN Information Service.

Now that States are entering the peak phase of negotiations, it is time to remind all actors involved in the process the principles that the Chairpersons of the ten treaty bodies highlighted adopted last May during their recent 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

- The outcome of the intergovernmental process should strengthen the **human rights protection** that the treaty body system offers and **intensify the scrutiny** of implementation of obligations as provided by the treaty body system
- The **independence** of treaty body members is the source of the credibility and integrity of the system and guarantees the impartial treatment of States parties. The Addis Ababa guidelines enshrine and operationalize these principles
- The outcome of the intergovernmental process should address the challenges faced by the treaty body system in a **comprehensive and sustainable** manner
- All cost-saving and other measures to improve the efficiency of the treaty bodies **must be reinvested in the treaty body system** and, through additional resources, the treaty bodies should be equipped with the proper material and human resources from the **regular budget** to adequately carry out their responsibilities under the respective treaties

The work of the treaty bodies should be modernized so as to take full advantage of **technological developments**, while at the same time making it universally accessible for persons with disabilities, thereby honouring the principle of reasonable accommodation

The President of the General Assembly, Mr. John W. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), has (re)appointed on 6 November the co-facilitators, Ms. Greta Gunnarsdottir (Ambassador of Iceland) and Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari (Ambassador of Tunisia). They will prepare next round of informals and formal meetings of the General Assembly. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stands of course ready to continue supporting the intergovernmental process, as requested. On their side, all human rights treaty bodies will certainly find ways to input in the final phase of the negotiations. We all stand ready for the best possible outcome. ■

***Interview with Patrick Thornberry, outgoing member of CERD***  
***"I feel it is the right decision to step down"***

**T**he Treaties Division interviewed Patrick Thornberry, who is leaving the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) at the end of 2013 after 13 years of service as member and rapporteur of the Committee. He shared with us his insightful views and ideas on the work of the treaty body system as well as CERD.



**Patrick Thornberry, 13 years of service as member of CERD**  
 © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

**Could you share your thoughts and impressions of leaving the Committee after so many years of service? Any regrets?**

I started to work as a member of the Committee from 2001, firstly for a year to cover the remaining term of my predecessor, without the need for an election by States parties. After this, I was elected three times as a member for a term of 4 years in 2002, 2006 and 2010. I functioned as rapporteur from 2002 to 2008.

I have learned a great deal about human rights issues in a wide range of countries and have come to understand better how human rights principles are interpreted and applied in different national contexts, as well as the distress of victims of racial discrimination.

I think it is a great privilege to work with the Committee, but it comes with a huge responsibility. It is important work. In terms of my own feelings, I will certainly miss the engagement with the States parties and other stakeholders as well as colleagues. In personal terms, I feel it is the right decision to step down. Three mandates was enough time to make a decent contribution to the Committee's work.

***One of the achievements (of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) is to disseminate the message that racial discrimination can exist in any country.***

**You have also worked with the Council of Europe on minority rights. How would you compare that experience with your experience of the CERD?**

Most of my work was with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on minority issues – with the High Commissioner on National Minorities. I think the main difference between working with European organizations and working for the UN is the sheer number and cultural variety of States in the UN context. Another difference is the working methodology. When I worked with the OSCE, I went on many country visits – such visits were part of the regular methodology for the OSCE. I guess this is very difficult for the treaty bodies, which have a very large number of States parties. Of course, you also have special procedures and other mechanisms which carry out country visits. While visits help to grasp the immediacy of situations, it is possible to work effectively on the basis of written information transmitted to Geneva, especially when coupled with the presence of representatives of civil society at the dialogues with States parties.

**What is the most remarkable achievement of the Committee?**

One of the achievements is to disseminate the message that racial discrimination can exist in any country. It is important that the States parties recognize that they have racial discrimination issues - there was a tendency in the past to deny the existence of such discrimination. The Committee has really raised awareness of States parties, and thereby helped to forestall some of the negative consequences of racial discrimination.

Further, by putting in place early warning and urgent action procedures, the Committee has assisted in raising the consciousness of States parties on the most serious practices of racial discrimination impacting on vulnerable populations.



**How much impact do you believe that the Committee has made on the ground, through its concluding observations, general recommendations, communications, etc? What do you think we can do to increase the impact on the ground?**

As a professor of a university in the UK, it has been difficult to measure the impact of our research on the ground to gather evidence of human rights improvements which might have resulted from our work. In CERD, we observe that, besides their improved awareness of racial discrimination, governments tend to take their responsibilities seriously and inform their publics on the principles of the ICERD and the concluding observations of the Committee. It is very important that civil society has adequate space to address this crucial human rights issue.

**What change would you like to see in the work of the Committee and the treaty bodies in the future?**

I think this question is also related to the current treaty body strengthening process and I believe that the treaty bodies should actively engage in the process. We have excellent secretariats to support the treaty bodies, but they are severely stretched. More resources should be provided.

I also feel that self-evaluation is important and some systemic questions need to be addressed. There are also many issues regarding how to ensure that the recommendations made by the Committee are better implemented.

There are also human rights questions which I would like the Committee to address or pay attention to in the near future. One is the human rights nexus between development and indigenous peoples, including the relationship between business corporations and indigenous rights. The General Recommendations made so far by the Committee could be supplemented by further recommendations focused on this question. The legal framework to address this important question requires elaboration as it relates to the provisions of the ICERD. Further, there are often important ethnic dimensions behind many human rights problems – the Committee should continue to highlight and indeed intensify its focus on these dimensions.

**Could you tell us about CERD's new general recommendation on racist hate speech and your role in the adoption of this general recommendation?**

We went through quite a tough session to adopt this recommendation. The recommendation suggests that the full resources of the Convention should be mobilised to combat hate speech - procedural as well as normative resources. The issue of hate speech and free speech is and remains controversial. We have tried hard to distinguish hate speech from protected free speech. Inter alia, the general recommendation insists that the criminalization of hate speech should be confined to serious cases, to be proved beyond reasonable doubt, while other means should be pursued to address less serious cases. We have also endeavoured to highlight

the use of other measures to prevent and combat hate speech, including education for tolerance, and counter-speech. Free speech is itself an effective antidote to hate speech. The Committee has tried to clarify the understanding of key terms, and the relationship between hate speech and free speech, bearing in mind that hate speech has the potential to silence the free speech of its victims.

As regards my contribution to this general recommendation, I was a co-rapporteur with Mr. Diaconu and prepared the first draft.



*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its 81<sup>st</sup> session in Geneva (August 2012)*  
© OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

**What advice do you have for new members of the treaty bodies, who have just stepped in the system?**

I think each member will find out in their own way the best means to fulfil their mandate, with all its important responsibilities. It is a challenging job and also hard work. One should study the issues very carefully and try to understand the contexts in which racial discrimination is alleged to occur.

The Committee is composed of members with widely differing backgrounds and experience. It is important to speak with one voice as a group, on the basis of consensus. Members should freely and forthrightly express their views and, at the same time, respect the views of other members - and the principle of consensus.

Leaving the Committee, I have mixed feelings. However, a change in membership is good for the Committee as a functioning whole and for the members themselves. New members bring fresh enthusiasms and new ideas to the system. This is important for the continued viability and success of the Committee. ■

## Adoption of CERD General Recommendation No. 35 on racist hate speech

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has adopted **General Recommendation (GR) No.35 on combating racist hate speech**, at its 83rd session in August 2013. In August 2012, the discussion was launched at a thematic discussion day with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, NHRIs, civil society organizations, academics, and interested individuals.

The GR underlines that effectively combating racist hate speech involves the mobilization of the full normative and procedural resources of the Convention. Thus, it focuses not only on article 4 of the Convention, but also on articles 5 and 7. The GR further emphasizes that the criminalization of forms of racist expression should be reserved for serious cases, to be proven beyond reasonable doubt and governed by principles of legality, proportionality and necessity, while less serious cases should be addressed by means other than criminal law.

The GR identifies five types of conduct which should be sanctioned as offences punishable by law under article 4 of the Convention, namely: (i) dissemination of ideas based on racial or ethnic superiority or hatred; (ii) incitement to hatred, contempt or discrimination against members of a group on grounds of their race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin; (iii) threats or incitement to violence against persons or groups on the grounds in (ii) above; (iv) expression of insults, ridicule or slander of persons or groups or justification of hatred, contempt or discrimination on the grounds in (ii) above, when it clearly amounts to incitement to hatred or discrimination; and (v) participation in organizations and activities which promote and incite racial discrimination. The Committee also recommends that public denials or attempts to justify crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, as defined by international law, should be declared as offences punishable by law, provided that they clearly constitute incitement to racial violence or hatred.

For the qualification of such conduct as offences punishable by law, the GR underscores the importance of the intention of the speaker and the imminent risk or likelihood that the conduct desired or intended by the speaker will result from the speech in question. It also emphasizes that contextual factors should be taken into account, namely: (i) the content and form of speech; (ii)

the economic, social and political climate prevalent at the time the speech was made; (iii) the position or status of the speaker, noting the particular role of politicians; (iv) the reach of the speech, including the nature of the audience and means of transmission; and (v) the objectives of speech, noting that speech protecting or defending the human rights of individuals and groups should not be subject to criminal or other sanctions. The GR also stresses that measures to monitor and combat racist hate speech should not be used as a pretext to curtail expression of protest at injustice, social discontent or opposition.

Because racism can be the product of, *inter alia* indoctrination or inadequate education, the GR highlights that education for tolerance, and counter-speech, may function as especially effective antidotes to racist hate speech, and outlines various measures that should be taken by States parties in this regard. ■

The advance edited version of the GR can be found on our webpage at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx>

## Latest update on the treaty body strengthening process

### Where does the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening stand?

A. On 20 September 2013, the General Assembly adopted a resolution by which it extended the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening until the first half of February 2014 in order to finalize the elaboration of an outcome (A/RES/68/3). The General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to continue open, transparent, and inclusive negotiations. It further asked the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive and detailed cost assessment to provide background context to support the intergovernmental process by 15 November 2013, including based on, but not limited to the report of the former Co-facilitators (A/67/955).



*Meeting on 19 April 2013 in Geneva, between Co-facilitators of the GA treaty body strengthening process and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), with the participation of members of CEDAW, and from left to right: Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson of CEDAW, HE Mr. Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia and HE Ms. Gunnarsdóttir Gréta, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations in New York and Mr. Emmanuel Decaux, Chairperson of CED* © OHCHR/ Danielle Kirby

### Q. On what basis will member States continue negotiations?

A. As a result of the intense efforts of the former Co-facilitators (Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Indonesia to the United Nations in NY), there is a draft substantive text under consideration. This text, which was the subject of two readings already, provides a basis for a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the challenges faced by the treaty bodies and is included in the report of the Co-facilitators which was presented to the General Assembly.

### Q. Can you tell us about the cost-assessment requested from the Secretary-General?

A. OHCHR and UNOG are actively contributing to the cost assessment, requested in resolution 68/3, which is being prepared under the overall leadership of the UN Budget Division in New York and will be presented as a background paper to the President of the General Assembly to support the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening. The assessment gives an overview of the current cost of the system as well as an indication of potential cost implications – both savings and additional resources – of the elements and measures put forward in the substantive text. It is the first time that so much information about the treaty bodies, their work and their resources has been consolidated and analysed in such depth. The information provided in the cost assessment will provide States with all necessary elements to take informed decisions.

### Q. What will be the role of treaty body Chairpersons and members going forward?

A. Informal consultations among member States are expected to resume in January 2014. All indications are that the treaty bodies will continue to be consulted by the Co-facilitators as they have been over the past two years. The presence of most treaty body Chairpersons in New York for the General Assembly has allowed them to express their support for a package agreement in which any savings from efficiency measures will be reinvested directly in the treaty body system in order to strengthen the protection of all right-holders. Once the inter-governmental process concludes, the treaty bodies will of course play a major role in the implementation of the outcome.

### Q. What is the role of OHCHR?

A. OHCHR, including through its New York office, will continue to provide support to the freshly appointed Co-facilitators and the inter-governmental process. The High Commissioner, in her landmark speech delivered in Washington on 1 October 2013, at the American University, Washington School of Law, urged the General Assembly, to act on current proposals to strengthen the treaty body system and thus secure the essential passage from treaty ratification to real implementation for all States parties. The meeting was hosted by Claudio Grossman, Dean of the American University, Washington School of Law and Chairperson of the Committee against Torture. ■

**To read the full statement of the High Commissioner:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13939&LangID=E>



## ***"Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System" by Suzanne Egan, published in Human Rights Law Review (2013),***

**T**his article discusses in detail the potential of the proposals in the High Commissioner's report on treaty body strengthening and their overall feasibility in the current political environment.

The article points to the rapid growth of the treaty body system as a great challenge, which enormously increases the workload of the system without corresponding human and financial resources and imposes heavier burdens on States parties to meet reporting and implementation obligations under the human rights treaties. In this context, treaty body strengthening has become inevitable.

The article notes that the High Commissioner's report is a product of "a sustained and well-executed consultation process". She argues that the proposals made by the High Commissioner in her report are concrete and practical, and, if implemented, will improve the effectiveness of the treaty body system. The article further questions whether the two key main actors in this process, the treaty bodies and States parties, are willing and ready to take up their responsibilities in improving the system.

In the conclusion, the author asserts analyses that "many of the proposals targeted at the treaty bodies are constructive, specific and cost-free and will require mainly a change of mind set to implement. Some of the more ambitious proposals, however, would require significant political will from the States Parties and a corresponding injection of financial resources."

Some excerpts from the paper:

*".... in a context of scarce resources, it is simply unrealistic to expect the treaty bodies to perform a comprehensive follow-up role."*

*"The real question will be whether the treaty bodies will move to implement them [recommendations from the HC report] across the board, given their reluctance to innovate from their individual practices or to heed previous recommendations along the same lines."*

*"... one of the distinguishing features of the 'strengthening process' that has marked it out from previous reform efforts has been the elicitation of stakeholder views. This approach, combined with the assumption of leadership by the OHCHR and her office*

*in exploring ways of improving the system, are recognised elements of transformation methodologies commonly used across a range of entities from businesses, hospitals, to government bodies and agencies. Their deployment by the OHCHR in the context of treaty body reform, however, clearly served to irritate the sensibilities of a number of States during the consultation process. A summary of the Geneva consultation of the States Parties on treaty body strengthening records the view of several States that there was a need for a 'leading role of States Parties in the process'; that States should not be conceptualised as being on a par with civil society or NHRIs and that ultimately the outcome of the process would rely on States to be 'legally valid and meaningful'.*

*"Indeed, despite objections from some of the States Parties, the OHCHR appears to be suitably determined to encourage this process on the part of the treaty bodies."* ■

### ***The five candidates elected to the Committee against Torture at the election of the 14th meeting of States parties***

**T**he five candidates elected to the Committee against Torture, for a term of four years as of 1 January 2014, are (in alphabetical order):

Name of Member	Nationality
Ms. Saadia <b>Belmir</b>	Morocco
Mr. Alessio <b>Bruni</b>	Italy
Mr. Jens <b>Modvig</b>	Denmark
Mr. Bhogendra <b>Sharma</b>	Nepal
Mr. Kening <b>Zhang</b>	China

\* Note that Ms. Belmir and Mr. Bruni are current members of the Committee. ■

## ***Induction workshop for new members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)***

The Induction workshop for new members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on 10 – 13 September 2013. OHCHR's Regional Office for South Africa participated in the Induction Workshop along with experienced members of ACERWC and from civil society representatives.

The ACERWC, established by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, consists of 11 experts serving in their personal capacity. Four of the expert members ended their terms in July 2013 and were replaced by four new elected members. The workshop aimed at helping the new members to understand the mandate, roles and responsibilities, as well as to become familiar with the working environment of the African Union. The workshop also provided an opportunity to exchange information and discuss lessons learned with seven existing experts.

The induction workshop covered a number of topics in the field of children's rights including: the international and regional standards relating to the rights of the child; overview of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the African Union; global emerging issues on children's rights and the current situation of children's rights in Africa; overview of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the ACERWC; and cooperation between the Committee on the rights of the Child (CRC) and the AU (ACERWC). The experts also met with ministerial staff of the Government of Zimbabwe.

OHCHR's presentation on the UN human rights system introduced the UN Charter based human rights

mechanisms and the UN treaty based human rights system/mechanisms. The discussion focused on possible avenues for effective collaboration, particularly in relation to the building for the capacity of the ACERWC. Concrete recommendations include:

- Sharing induction materials and methodologies between CRC and ACERWC;
- Developing strategies to advance children's rights through the UPR process;
- Facilitating a more systematic engagement of ACERWC with the UN Special Procedure, especially those with mandates related to children's rights, and mandate-holders from Africa;
- Briefing ACERWC on the methodologies and best practices of the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) with regard to visits to places of detention for children and explore ways to enhance the cooperation between ACERWC and SPT in this area, including through sharing schedules of visits; and
- Facilitating information exchange between ACERWC and CRC.

ACERWC has made progress in its efforts to meaningfully collaborate with the CRC. Both organizations have established a focal point to facilitate collaboration. The fact that the Chairperson of the ACERWC [Benyam Dawit Mezmur](#) is also a member of the CRC is believed to open up more opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the two bodies. ■



**ACERWC** AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

English  
Français (French)

The Charter About the Committee The Committee's Work Civil Society Participation Documents DATABASE

We are a group of experts mandated by the African Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child to monitor and report on the fulfillment of child rights in Africa



***Human Rights Committee Views regarding  
communications No. 2094/2011/2136/2012  
Australia: Indefinite detention of 46 recognized refugees  
on security grounds***

**D**uring its 108th session, on 20 August 2013, the Human Rights Committee considered communications No. 2094/2011 and No. 2136/2012 and concluded that Australia's indefinite detention of 46 recognized refugees on security grounds amounted to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, inflicting serious psychological harm on them.

The Committee said Australia should release the refugees, who have been held for at least two and a half years, and offer them compensation and rehabilitation.

The refugees -- 42 Tamils from Sri Lanka, three Rohingya from Myanmar and a Kuwaiti -- brought their complaints to the Human Rights Committee, arguing that they were unable to challenge the legality of their detention in Australian courts.

They had been recognized as refugees who could not be returned to their home countries but were refused visas to stay in Australia because they were deemed to pose a security risk, and so were held in immigration detention facilities.

The Committee reached its conclusion based principally on the fact that the refugees were not informed of the reasons for the negative security assessment and so were unable to mount a legal challenge to their indefinite detention.

"The combination of the arbitrary character of (their) detention, its protracted and/or indefinite duration, the refusal to provide information and procedural rights to (them) and the difficult conditions of detention are cumulatively inflicting serious psychological harm", the Committee members wrote in their conclusions adopted on 25 July and made public on Thursday.

The Committee decided that the treatment of the refugees by Australia constituted treatment contrary to Article 7 of the ICCPR, under which "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

It further stated that Australia is obliged, under Article 2 of the Covenant, to provide all 46 refugees with effective remedy. This includes releasing them under individually appropriate conditions, and offering them rehabilitation and appropriate compensation.

Australia is also under an obligation to take steps to prevent similar violations in the future, the Committee concluded.

The Committee monitors implementation of the ICCPR by States parties. It considered this case under the First

Optional Protocol to the Covenant which gives the Committee competence to examine individual complaints.

**BACKGROUND:**

Most of the refugees arrived in Australian territorial waters between March 2009 and December 2010 and were first disembarked on Christmas Island. Five were rescued at sea and initially disembarked in Indonesia before arriving at Christmas Island. At the time of the submission of their complaint to the Committee, they were being held at several detention centres. In their complaints, lodged in 2011 and 2012, the refugees argued that, as they were not informed of the reasons for their security assessment, they were unable to identify any possible legal errors which could allow them to apply for a judicial review in the Australian courts.

The Australian authorities argued that all the claims were inadmissible. They further indicated that solutions were being explored, including resettlement or safe return to the refugees' countries of origin, if the risk of harm no longer existed. In the meantime, the authorities were of the view that it was not appropriate for individuals with an adverse security assessment to live

***The Committee said Australia should release the refugees, who have been held for at least two and a half years, and offer them compensation and rehabilitation.***

in the Australian community. Providing the concerned individuals with the classified details would also undermine the security assessment process and compromise Australia's security.

Since the complaints were lodged, seven of the refugees - a mother and her son, who was born in 2007, and a family of five - have now been granted visas and released from detention to settle into the Australian community. ■

**Human Rights Committee Views on these cases can be found at:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/Jurisprudence.aspx>

***CRPD Views regarding communication,  
Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v. Hungary  
Hungary: Right of persons with disability to vote***

**D**uring its tenth session, on 9 September 2013, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Committee) considered communication No. 4/2011 (Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v. Hungary). Six persons with intellectual disability in Hungary, who are under guardianship, brought their complaint to the Committee in September 2011, alleging that Hungary breached their rights under article 29 (participation in political and public life), read alone and in conjunction with article 12 (equal recognition before the law) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). The six authors claimed that they were automatically deleted from electoral registers by direct application of article 70(5) of the Constitution, could not participate in parliamentary elections and municipal elections in 2010 due to the restriction in their legal capacity, remained disenfranchised, and could not participate in elections. The authors argued that they were able to understand politics and participate in elections, and that the ban, which took no account of the nature of their disability and their individual abilities, was unjustified.

Under article 70(5) of the Hungarian Constitution, applicable at the time of the complaint, all persons under guardianship were automatically excluded from voting. Hungary changed its Constitution in 2012. The Fundamental Law now requires judges to make a decision on suffrage based on an individual assessment. The Hungarian authorities argued that under this new legislation, courts can only remove the right to vote in the case of a complete lack of legal capacity.

The Committee considered that article 29 of the Convention does not foresee any reasonable restriction, nor does it allow exceptions for persons with disabilities. Therefore, it found that an exclusion of the right to vote on the basis of a perceived or actual psychosocial or intellectual disability, including a restriction pursuant to an individualized assessment, constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability. Recalling that States parties must recognize and uphold the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other in all aspects of their lives, including political life, the Committee also determined that, under Article 12 of Convention, States parties have a positive duty to take the necessary measures to guarantee to persons with disabilities the actual exercise of their legal capacity.

Therefore, the Committee found that, by depriving the complainants of their right to vote, based on a perceived or actual intellectual disability, the State party failed to comply with its obligations under article 29, read alone and in conjunction with article 12 of the Convention.

With respect to remedies, the Committee recommended that the State party reinstate the complainants on the electoral roll and provide them with adequate compensation for moral damages as well as for the legal costs incurred in filing this communication. The Committee further recommended that the State party take measures to prevent similar violations by considering repealing legislations which the Committee found to be contrary to the Convention. The Committee also called on Hungary to enact laws that recognize, without any capacity assessment, the right to vote for all persons with disabilities, and provide for adequate assistance and reasonable accommodation for that purpose. In that regard, the Committee stated that the Hungarian authorities should uphold and guarantee in practice the right to vote for persons with disabilities by ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use, and where necessary, at [the person's] request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their choice.■

CRPD Views on this case can be found at:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Jurisprudence.aspx> )



**Mr. Ron Mc Callum, former chairperson of the Committee on the persons with Disabilities on Youtube**  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY6ul\\_P70HY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY6ul_P70HY)

## ***High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (HLMDD)***

**T**he High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (HLMDD) took place at the UN in New York on 23 September, the day before the opening of the General Debate of the 68th session of the General Assembly. The meeting adopted an action-oriented outcome document in support of the aims of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.



The outcome document, which resulted from an extensive participatory process, calls for the full implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol, which are considered as both human rights and development instruments. The document urges the United Nations system and Member States to remain engaged in the realization of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond. It further encourages the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a crosscutting issue in the global development agenda and to give due consideration to disability in the emerging post 2015 UN development agenda with a view to enhancing cooperation, and to provide relevant technical assistance to Member States upon their request.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Committee) adopted a [statement on the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda](#), which is available on the Committee's website. In its statement, the Committee encourages States to mainstream the human rights based approach in their plans, programs and projects related to the post-2015 agenda on development and disability and take into account the full participation of persons with disabilities in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating all public policies. [Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes](#), the Chair of the Committee, spoke at the public opening session of the High-Level Meeting. In her speech, she highlighted that mainstreaming human rights, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015

development agenda was a must and that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) should be consulted as a legal framework as well as guiding principles for policy-making. She also emphasized that all development policies and programmes should be inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities to enjoy all human rights and that States parties should be held accountable for that. She also encouraged the international community to provide necessary technical and financial assistance in this regard. ■

**For more information:**

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1590>

## ***Draft UN Secretary General's Bulletin on Accessibility***

**A** draft UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on accessibility for persons with disabilities in the United Nations has been adopted in July 2013 by the Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility, a UN Secretariat-wide task force, which was established in 2010, under the auspices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to promote the development of accessibility standards across the UN. According to the draft, which is currently the object of consultations within the Secretariat, the Organization shall prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment and take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to physical facilities, conference and services, documentation and information, continuing learning and employment and retention. The organization is called upon to eliminate barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from employment opportunities and to create an inclusive workplace to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. The bulletin further establishes monitoring and compliance mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the accessibility policy. Upon request, the Organization is further called upon to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities, which may include any adjustment of rules, practices, conditions or requirements to take into account the specific needs of an individual with disabilities, with the aim of enabling a staff member with disabilities to fully participate in the work of the Organization on an equal basis with others. The draft is expected to enter into force in early 2014. ■



## ***Adoption of a Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (the Marrakesh treaty)***

**T**he Diplomatic Conference of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) adopted the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (The Marrakesh Treaty) in Marrakesh, Morocco on 26 June 2013.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPG11HGCZNQ&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLsm\\_LOEppJazVKT-dgHIHRI9jGqJqJLBF](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPG11HGCZNQ&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLsm_LOEppJazVKT-dgHIHRI9jGqJqJLBF)

The treaty has been signed by 53 WIPO Member States since its adoption. The treaty requires its contracting parties to adopt national law provisions that permit the reproduction, distribution and dissemination of published works in accessible formats. It also provides for the exchange of accessible formats across borders by organizations that serve persons who are blind, visually impaired, and print-disabled. The treaty seeks to improve access for the blind, visually impaired, and print-disabled to published works in different formats, including Braille, large print text and audio books. The adoption of the treaty is the culmination of years of constructive engagement by organizations representing persons with disabilities, and in particular, persons with visual disabilities. The Marrakesh Treaty will enter into force once 20 States will have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. ■

For more information: <http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh>



**Two-year-old Diasline Joseph, seated in a wheelchair, laughs while playing with a caretaker at New Life Centre, a residential care facility in Port-au-Prince**  
© UNICEF/Dormino

## ***UNICEF launched State of the World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities***

**U**NICEF launched its publication, "State of the World's Children 2013", in May 2013, which focuses on children with disabilities. The report calls for inclusive and equitable approaches in the areas of early childhood development, education, health, nutrition, humanitarian response and protection; and recommends the ways in which Governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector and international donors and agencies, can advance the agenda for the inclusion of children with disabilities in their societies. The report states that social inclusion of children with disabilities is possible but only when the social perception of children with disabilities is changed; that society

should recognize children with disabilities as full right-holders, like other children, not mere beneficiaries of charity; and that their voices must be heard and heeded in the development of policies and programmes affecting them. The report further examines the challenges involved in ensuring that children with disabilities have fair access to services, and explores promising initiatives in the areas of health, nutrition, education and emergency programming. It also discusses principles and approaches that can be adapted to advance the inclusion of children with disabilities. ■

For more information: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2013/>

## ***GA High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD)***

**A** High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) took place on 3 and 4 October 2013 at United Nations Headquarters in New York during the General Assembly's 68th session. The theme of the HLD related to identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important link to development, while reducing its negative impacts. The High Level Dialogue consisted of four plenary sessions, and four interactive round-table meetings:

Round table 1 focused on the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation on the post-2015 development framework;

Round table 2 focused on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well as to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to ensure orderly, regular and safe migration;

Round table 3 focused on strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels; and

Round table 4 focused on international and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

Throughout the two days, there were also numerous side events organized by States, OHCHR, other UN agencies, IOM and civil society.

The engagement of the Committee on Migrant Workers (the Committee) in the High Level Dialogue gave visibility to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (the Convention) and to the Committee and many references were made to the Convention during the HLD by States, OHCHR, UN agencies, IOM, and civil society. The Secretary-General, in his opening statement, called upon all States to ratify the Convention. The High Commissioner in her statement reiterated this call. The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the Committee's General Comment on migrant domestic workers in the side event co-hosted by ILO and OHCHR on migrant domestic workers. Most

importantly, the outcome document, in the form of a declaration, notes the contribution of applicable international conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to the international system for the protection of migrants.

The Committee issued a press release immediately just prior to the HLD. The press release focused on the changing patterns of migration and the exploitation and discrimination faced by migrant workers in sectors such as construction and agriculture, the urgent need to protect the human rights of migrant workers, the fact that no major destination countries have ratified the Convention, and that the Convention is the best strategy to prevent abuses and to address the vulnerability that migrant workers face as well as to maximize the benefits of migration.

The Committee also sent letters to all Permanent Missions in New York. In the letters, the Committee highlighted the benefits of the Convention and addressed the concerns and misconceptions regarding the CMW Convention. The letters also sought to garner support for the request by the Committee for one extra week of meeting time due to the increased workload resulting from the adoption of a fixed reporting calendar and other efficiency measures.

A press conference was organized on 3 October 2013 with Mr. Francois Crepeau, the Special Rapporteur on the protection of migrants, and Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, member of the Committee and former Chair. (<http://www.un.org/News/fr-press/docs/2013/Conf131003-MIGRANTS.doc.htm>). In the press conference, which followed the Lampedusa tragedy in which hundreds of migrants lost their lives, the Committee called upon States to urgently adopt a new approach to migration that places the rights of migrants at the forefront. ■

## ***Human Rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: OHCHR's engagement in the Post-2015 Process***



**S**ince Rio+20, OHCHR has been actively promoting human rights in deliberations to define the post-2015 development agenda, through research, advocacy, consultations and expert meetings.

OHCHR's substantive engagement has primarily focused on supporting the UN-led global thematic and national consultations, through which consistent and clear demands to fully and meaningfully integrate human rights as a central element of the post-2015 development agenda emerged.

In May 2013, [\*"A New Global Partnership" report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons\*](#) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda put forward a number of human rights messages and proposals, in relation to *civil and political rights, universality, accountability and equality*. The report argued that any goal or target should be only considered met once it is met for all groups, so no one is left behind.

At their 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in May 2013, [\*the Chairs of the Human Rights Treaty bodies adopted a joint statement on the Post-2015 development agenda\*](#). The statement underlined the critical link between development and the full range of human rights, including the right to development, and called on the international community to adopt a Post-2015 agenda that engages treaty bodies and special procedures as accountability mechanisms, linking development goals to legal obligations of States under human right treaties.

In July 2013, [\*"A Life of Dignity for All" report of the Secretary-General\*](#) highlighted that human rights should be part of the "far reaching vision" for post-2015, and that new goals and targets should take into account human rights and inequalities.

In September 2013, [\*UNDG's "A Million Voices: The World We Want"\*](#) report reiterated the overwhelming call for the new agenda to be built on human rights and for increased accountability. It further states that it is on the grounds of human rights that the new agenda needs to address inequalities and go beyond national aggregates, and calls explicitly for civil and political rights to be included in the new agenda.

### ***OHCHR involvement at the GA 68th session in New York on the post-2015 development agenda***

The High Commissioner participated in the *High level Roundtable discussion on MDGs and post-2015 sustainable development framework at the Special Event on Accelerating MDGs* organised by the Office of the President of the General Assembly. In her speech, the High Commissioner pointed out the emerging demands for human rights in Post-2015 from the ground and called upon Member States to turn human rights aspirations into concrete goals, targets and indicators. While calling for the integration of human rights in the post-2015 development agenda, the High Commissioner emphasized that a separate, stand-alone goal on human rights was not necessary but stated that the entire development agenda should be built on human rights.

OHCHR also organised an official side event ("From Aspiration to Action"), co-sponsored by the government of France. Panellists included the Tunisian Minister for Social Welfare as well as the French Human Rights Ambassador and senior representatives from UN Women and Social Watch. At the side event, the panellists highlighted the need to address both freedom from want and freedom from fear in the new development agenda and the need to integrate the principles of non-discrimination and equality. The presentations further advocated for strengthening accountability



mechanisms at global, regional and national levels.

***Next steps in the intergovernmental process on Post-2015:***

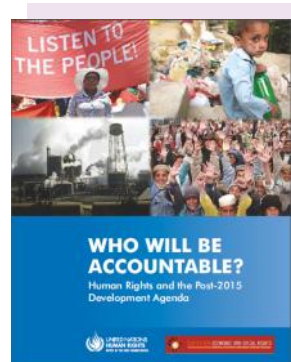
- Intergovernmental negotiations leading to a post-2015 development agenda will be launched at the beginning of the 69<sup>th</sup> GA (i.e. September 2014);
- Rio+20 processes, such as the OWG, the inter-governmental committee of experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism complete their work by then;
- The President of the General Assembly will convene GA events on “The Post-2015 Development Agenda Setting the Stage”;
- The SG is requested to submit a synthesis report drawing on the full range of inputs available by the end of 2014;
- A Summit at the Heads of States and Government level will take place in September 2015 for adoption of the Post-2015 agenda.

***OHCHR’s continued engagement with the post-2015 process***

State deliberations on the post-2015 agenda have now moved to the 30-seat Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) inter-governmental discussions. The OWG is tasked with preparing a proposal on the format and content of the post-2015 framework and proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In March 2013, the OWG started to meet periodically to discuss specific thematic issues selected by the Group.

OHCHR, as member of the UN Task Team, which is mandated to provide technical support to the OWG, has contributed to a number of issue briefs so far, and is co-leading the drafting of the issues brief on ‘human rights and the right to development’ (for OWG 6th session, 9-13 December 2013) and on ‘addressing inequalities’ (for OWG 8th session, 3-7 February 2014). The High Commissioner will deliver a keynote presentation on human rights on 13 December during the OWG 6th session in New York. ■

***New publication -  
WHO WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE?  
Human Rights and the Post-2015  
Development Agenda***



OHCHR published a new publication, entitled “WHO WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” This publication focuses on the question of accountability, understood from a human rights perspective.

It starts from the premise that two key weaknesses have undermined the effectiveness of the current Millennium Development Goal framework in helping to fulfil the rights and aspirations of those living in poverty. The first is that neither the Goals nor the plans for implementing them have been adequately framed in human rights terms. This has meant that States’ pre-existing human rights commitments have been overlooked and undercut in both the design and the delivery of the Goals. A second weakness is accountability. The Goals represent perhaps the most serious global commitment ever made to eradicating the scourge of poverty. In practice, however, robust mechanisms have not been put in place to hold States and others to account for fulfilling these pledges and to answer to the millions of people who continue to suffer avoidable deprivation as a consequence.

The publication notes that it is critical that any new post-2015 accountability mechanism takes careful account of the role played by existing international human rights accountability mechanisms, and avoids unnecessary duplication or drawing resources and priority from the latter. Any new global review mechanism for post-2015 development commitments should explicitly refer to international human rights treaty standards, and should ensure rigorous independent review, effective civil society participation and high-level political accountability.

This publication will be of interest to treaty body members, policymakers, development practitioners, human rights and civil society organizations and all those striving for a more just and sustainable global development agenda. ■

**To access the publication:**

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/WhoWillBeAccountable.pdf>

## **LATEST TREATY SIGNATURES - RATIFICATIONS - ACCESSIONS**

**July - October 2013**

<b><u>CERD</u></b>	<b><i>Convention the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</i></b>
* Signature by <b>Angola</b> (24 September 2013)	
<b><u>CESCR</u></b>	<b><i>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i></b>
* Accession by <b>Haiti</b> (8 October 2013)	
<b><u>OP-ICESCR</u></b>	<b><i>Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i></b>
* Ratification by <b>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> (14 August 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Angola</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Benin</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Ratification by <b>Montenegro</b> (24 September 2013)	
<b><u>OP-ICCPR-1</u></b>	<b><i>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Optional Protocol - Individual Communications</i></b>
* Ratification by <b>Guinea Bissau</b> (24 September 2013)	
<b><u>OP-ICCPR-2</u></b>	<b><i>Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the Death Penalty</i></b>
* Accession by <b>Bolivia</b> (12 July 2013)	
* Ratification by <b>Guinea Bissau</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Angola</b> (24 September 2013)	
<b><u>CAT</u></b>	<b><i>Convention against Torture and Other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment</i></b>
* Signature by <b>Haiti</b> (16 August 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Angola</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Ratification by <b>Guinea Bissau</b> (24 September 2013)	
<b><u>OP-CAT</u></b>	<b><i>Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment</i></b>
* Signature by <b>Angola</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Guinea Bissau</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Mongolia</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Accession by <b>Burundi</b> (18 October 2013)	
<b><u>CRC-OPSC</u></b>	<b><i>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography</i></b>
* Ratification by <b>Czech Republic</b> (26 August 2013)	
* Ratification by the <b>Russian Federation</b> (24 September 2013)	
* Signature by <b>Saint Lucia</b> (8 October 2013)	

## **LATEST TREATY SIGNATURES - RATIFICATIONS - ACCESSIONS**

**July - October 2013**

### **CRC-OPIC *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights to the Child on a communications procedure***

- \* Signature by **El Salvador** (25 July 2013)
- \* Signature by **Benin** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Côte d'Ivoire** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Ghana** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Guinea-Bissau** (24 September 2013)
- \* Ratification by **Montenegro** (24 September 2013)
- \* Ratification by **Portugal** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Seychelles** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Poland** (30 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Mongolia** (4 October 2013)

### **CMW *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families***

- \* Ratification by **Mozambique** (19 August 2013)
- \* Signature by **Armenia** (26 September 2013)

### **CRPD *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

- \* Signature by **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (3 July 2013)
- \* Accession by **Singapore** (18 July 2013)
- \* Accession by **Kuwait** (22 August 2013)
- \* Accession by **Zimbabwe** (23 September 2013)
- \* Ratification by **Papua New Guinea** (23 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Bahamas** (24 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Guinea-Bissau** (24 September 2013)
- \* Accession by **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)** (24 September 2013)
- \* Ratification by **Zimbabwe** (26 September 2013)
- \* Accession by **Kiribati** (27 September 2013)

### **OP-CRPD *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities***

- \* Ratification by **Albania** (2013)
- \* Accession by **Zimbabwe** (23 September 2013)
- \* Signature by **Guinea Bissau** (24 September 2013)

### **CED *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances***

- \* Ratification by **Lithuania** (14 August 2013)
- \* Signature by **Guinea Bissau** (24 September 2013)

**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:**

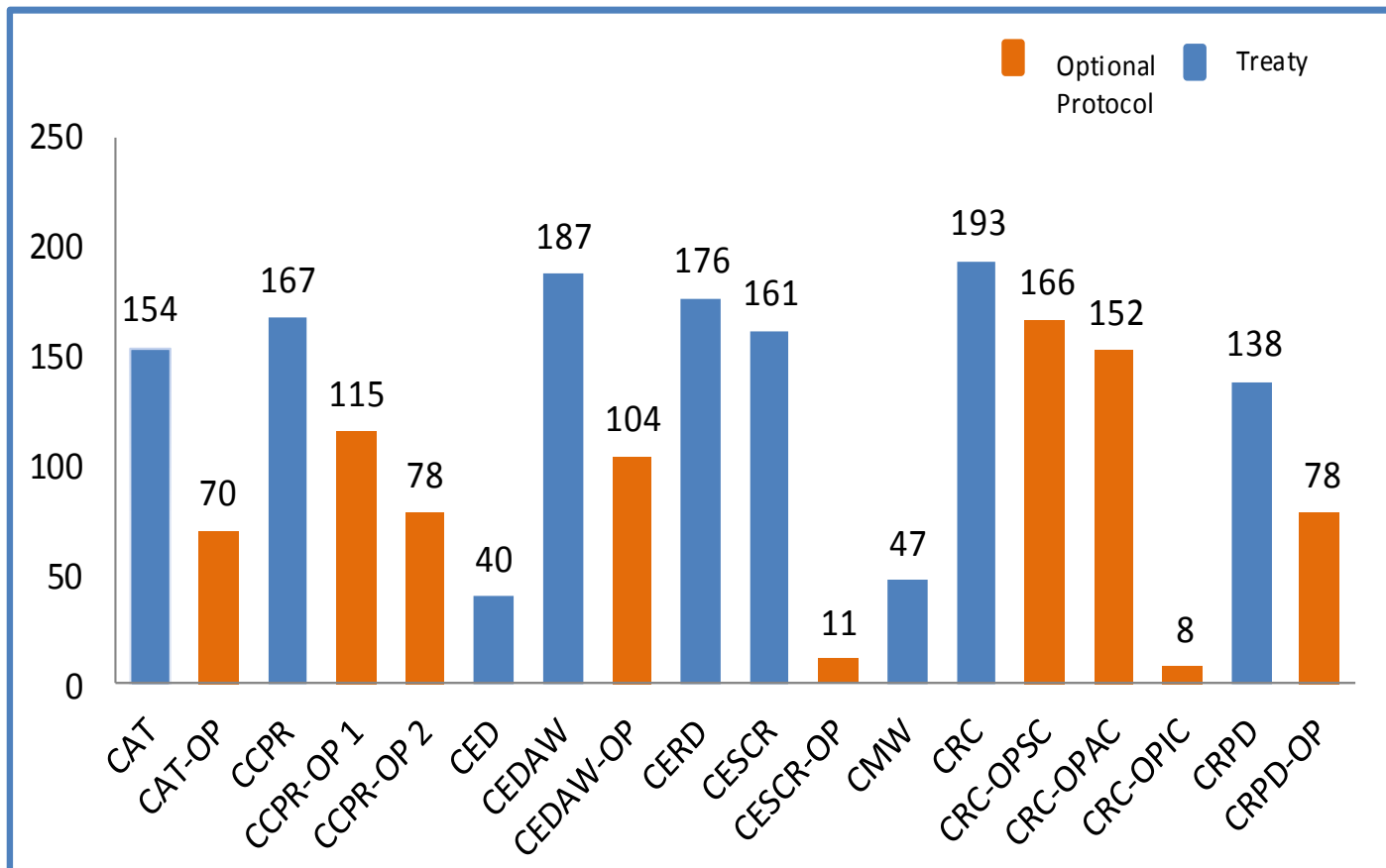
<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en>

**An overview of the ratification status is accessible on:**

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en)



As of 31 October 2013, the status of ratification of international human rights instruments is as follows:


















H.E. Mr. Ryszard Stanislaw Sarkowicz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Poland during the signature on 30 September 2013 in New York of the [CRC-OPIC](#) - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure  
© UN Photo



HE. Ms. Melanie Griffin, M.P. Minister of Social Services and Community Development of Bahamas during the signature on 24 September 2013 in New York of the [CRPD](#) - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
© UN Photo

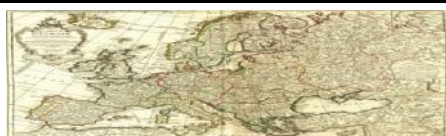
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## LATEST STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

 <b>AFRICA</b>			
	Benin	<a href="#">CRC</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CRC/C/BEN/3-5 (26/07/2013)
		<a href="#">CCPR</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic report CCPR/C/BEN/3 (26/07/2013)
	Ethiopia	<a href="#">CED</a>	Initial report CED/C/ETH/1 (21/10/2013)
	Cameroon	<a href="#">CERD</a>	19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> periodic report CERD/C/CMR/19-21 (09/10/2013)
	Kenya	<a href="#">CESCR</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report E/C.12/KEN/2-5 (01/07/2013)
	Mali	<a href="#">CMW</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> periodic CMW/C/MLI/2 (01/10/2013)
	Namibia	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/NAM/4-5 (23/07/2013)
	Niger	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/NER/2013 (16/10/2013)
		<a href="#">CERD</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> periodic report CERD/C/NER/15-22 (16/10/2013)
	Sierra Leone	<a href="#">CRC</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CRC/C/SLE/3-5 (02/09/2013)
	Zimbabwe	<a href="#">CRC</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> periodic report CRC/C/ZWE/2 (16/07/2013)
 <b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>			
	Australia	<a href="#">CAT</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CAT/C/AUS/5 (31/07/2013)
	Korea, Republic of	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CCPR/C/KOR/4 (16/08/2013)
	Mongolia	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/MNG/2013 (02/07/2013)
	Timor Leste	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/TLS/2-3 (17/09/2013)

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## LATEST STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED



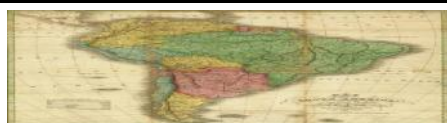
### EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA

	Croatia	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/HRV/4-5 (02/09/2013)
	Armenia	<a href="#">CED</a>	Initial report CED/C/ARM/1 (14/10/2013)
	Cyprus	<a href="#">CRPD</a>	Initial report CRPD/C/CYP/1 (02/08/2013)
		<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/CYP/2013 (02/08/2013)
	Denmark	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> periodic report of Denmark CEDAW/C/DEN/8 (02/07/2013)
	Ireland	<a href="#">CRC</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CRC/C/IRL/3-4 (02/08/2013)
	Kazakhstan	<a href="#">CAT</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic report CAT/C/KAZ/3 (03/07/2013)
	Netherlands	<a href="#">CED</a>	Initial report CED/C/NDL/1 (02/07/2013)
		<a href="#">CERD</a>	19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> periodic report CERD/C/NDL/19-21 (19/07/2013)
	Norway	<a href="#">CERD</a>	21 <sup>st</sup> to 2 <sup>nd</sup> periodic report CERD/C/NOR/21-22 (04/09/2013)
	Portugal	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/PRT/8-9 (18/10/2013)
	Serbia	<a href="#">CAT</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> periodic report CAT/C/SRB/2 (02/09/2013)
	Slovakia	<a href="#">CRC</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> periodic periodic CRC/C/SVK/3-5 (16/10/2013)
	Spain	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/ESP/7-8 (01/10/2013)
	Sweden	<a href="#">CESCR</a>	6 <sup>th</sup> periodic report E/C.12/SWE/6 (26/07/2013)
	The FYR of Macedonia	<a href="#">CAT</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic report of Macedonia CAT/C/MKD/3 (06/09/2013)



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## LATEST STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED



### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

	Chile	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/CHI/2013 (10/10/2013)
	Guatemala	<a href="#">CRPD</a>	Initial report CRPD/C/GTM/1(17/10/2013)
	Paraguay	<a href="#">CED</a>	Initial report CED/C/PRY/1 (23/08/2013)
	Peru	<a href="#">CMW</a>	Initial report CMW/C/PER/1 (14/08/2013)
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CEDAW/C/VCT/4-8 (09/08/2013)
	Suriname	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic CCPR/C/SUR/3 (16/10/2013)
		<a href="#">CERD</a>	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CERD/C/SUR/13-15 (16/10/2013)



### NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

	Iraq	<a href="#">CERD</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> periodic report of Iraq CERD/C/IRQ/15-19 (22/07/2013)
		<a href="#">CRC-OPSC</a>	Initial report CRC/C/OPSC/IRQ/1 (22/07/2013)
		<a href="#">CCPR</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> periodic CCPR/C/IRQ/5 (11/10/2013)
	Israel	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> periodic CCPR/C/ISR/4 (14/10/2013)
	Saudi Arabia	<a href="#">CAT</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> periodic CAT/C/SAU/2 (17/10/2013)
	Yemen	<a href="#">CESCR</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> periodic report E/C.12/YEM/3 (11/07/2013)

## YOU CAN BE OF CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TREATY BODIES ENGAGE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION !

- By *raising* awareness with country-based constituencies about upcoming considerations of reports by treaty body
- By *encouraging* partners to provide information to relevant treaty bodies
- By *facilitating* and encouraging implementation of treaty body recommendations

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Word cloud graphic featuring the words "Committee" and "Rights" in large blue font. Surrounding them are various treaty body names and acronyms in smaller text, including: CERD, CESCR, CCPR, HRCttee, CAT, CED, CRPD, CMW, SPT, CEDAW, OPCAT, Migrant Prevention, Torture, Discrimination, Persons, Social, Economic, Child, Racial, Cultural, Disappearances, Human, Enforced, Workers, Disabilities, and Women.

## HRTD NEWSLETTER

- ... Is issued on a quarterly basis with a view to providing in-depth information on the work of the treaty bodies, including interviews, analysis of decisions and activities.
- ... Is available on the treaty bodies' webpage on the 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 the 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 views ! Please contact us at: [HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org](mailto:HRTD-newsletter@ohchr.org)

## USEFUL TOOLS AND LINKS

- ... Webpage on the Treaty bodies strengthening process: <http://www2.ohchr.org/English/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>
- ... Treaty Body Database <http://tbinternet.ohchr.org>
- ... Universal Human Rights Index: A user-friendly search engine with access to all recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): <http://uhri.ohchr.org/>
- ... Civil Society Section mailing-list: subscribe to email updates about [human rights treaty bodies](#) and other UN human rights activities: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

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