

# HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION



## Newsletter No. 15 January - February - March 2012

### IN THIS ISSUE

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**EDITORIAL** Message from the Director 1

### EVENTS

Interview with Simone Schwartz-Delgado, Nicolette Moodie and Karin Lucke, staff officers at the UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDG: "Treaty bodies' recommendations give additional credibility and leverage to our work at country level" 3

Interview with Ms. Barbara Bailey, Member of CEDAW: "There is a need for re-engineering the options and the content of women's education" 6

### TreatyBody strengthening process:

1. Geneva Consultation for States Parties 11

2. The Russian Initiative: Establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental process on the strengthening of the Treaty Body system. 12

### TREATIES

SPT visit to Mali 13

### CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Universal Human Rights Index Database upgrade 14

### Training on Treaty Bodies:

Trainings in Swaziland 16

Workshop in Georgia 16

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### New Publications:

1. New Challenges for the UN human rights machinery (Bassiouni/Schabas) 17

2. CEDAW - A Commentary (Rudolf/Chinken/Freeman) 18

3. The UN Human Rights Treaty System: Law and Procedure (Egan) 18

4. Reforming TB reform (Moriijn) 18

Ratification status 19

New reports submitted to Treaty Bodies 21

Info on the Human Rights Treaties Division 24

Useful tools and links 25

### MESSAGE FROM IBRAHIM SALAMA

Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division

### ***THE TREATY BODY STRENGTHENING PROCESS: DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS, ONE OBJECTIVE: ENHANCING THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS HOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL***



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) greets Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the treaty body strengthening consultations for States parties to international human rights treaties held on 2-3 April 2012 in New York - To their left is Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly and Ivan Simonovic Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

The process of reflection launched by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009 is drawing to its close with the expected compilation report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to be issued in June 2012.

The High Commissioner's consultation process sought to heighten awareness among all stakeholders of the challenges the system is facing and the importance of viewing treaty bodies as a system. The process also sought to bring gradual improvements and harmonization of working methods both by the treaty bodies and by OHCHR in its support for their work. The process also aimed at securing the necessary resources to support the work of the treaty bodies. In the face of the current financial challenges, it also sought to identify cost saving possibilities. The approach of "absorbing new mandates within existing resources" is however simply not sustainable and impacts negatively on human rights protection.

With some 20 consultations that took place between 2010 and 2012, the process has reached out to all relevant stakeholders: treaty body experts, State parties, NHRIs and civil society organizations. It has been transparent, bottom up and open to all stakeholders at all times; and it sought to generate proposals within existing legal parameters and with the aim of strengthening the human rights protection system on the ground, everywhere and for all rights-holders.



*Treaty body strengthening consultation for States Parties to International Human Rights Treaties held in New York on 2 and 3 April 2012 in New York © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras*

please consult our website at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/HRTD/NewYorkConsultation2012.htm>.

On 23 February 2012, the UN General Assembly in its resolution 66/254 established an intergovernmental process on the strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The resolution recognizes among others “the important, valuable and unique role and contribution of each of the human rights treaty bodies to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through examination of the progress made by States parties to respective human rights treaties in fulfilling their relevant obligations and in providing recommendations to such States on their implementation,” and therefore, the



*Consultation with States Parties on 7-8 February 2012 in Palais des Nations in Geneva. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

Among the proposals generated, is one which was discussed with great interest by States during recent consultations in Geneva and New York, the comprehensive reporting calendar based on 100 percent compliance with the reporting obligations established in the treaties. The proposal simply translates the legal obligations prescribed by the treaties into a practical structure, based on the principle that all States parties should undertake their reporting obligations on time and that the treaty bodies should have all the resources they need to discharge their mandates efficiently and effectively. For more details on this and other proposals as well as the reports on the recent consultations with States in Geneva and New York,



*Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mr. Kwon Haeryong, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea during the consultation with States Parties on 7-8 February 2012 in Palais des Nations in Geneva. © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

need to provide, “under the existing procedures of the General Assembly, adequate funding to the human rights treaty body system from the regular budget of the United Nations.” The General Assembly resolution also reaffirms “the importance of the independence of the human rights treaty bodies”.

The High Commissioner’s compilation report to be released in June 2012 will reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of the treaty bodies and therefore include recommendations to treaty bodies, States and other actors of the system and is expected to contribute to the forthcoming intergovernmental discussion and decision-making. ■



***Interview with Simone Schwartz-Delgado,  
Nicolette Moodie and Karin Lucke,  
staff officers at the UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDG:***

***"Treaty bodies' recommendations give additional credibility  
and leverage to our work at country level"***



*Ms. Simone Schwartz-Delgado, Senior Liaison Officer, Human Rights Liaison Unit, Division of International Protection of UNHCR © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*



*Ms. Nicolette Moodie, Human Rights and Gender Liaison Officer, Gender and Rights Unit, Division of Policy and Practice of UNICEF © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

A great number of varied UN entities have been cooperating on an on-going basis since the eighties with UN human rights treaty bodies. More recently, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) have started to develop cooperation with treaty bodies. UNCTs are headed in each country by the UN Resident Coordinator and composed of all UN entities present in a given country. UNCTs are under the authority of the UN Development Group (based in Headquarters in New York) which unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development.

***HRTD Newsletter has interviewed two UN staff from UNHCR and UNICEF (Simone Schwartz-Delgado, Senior Liaison Officer, Human Rights Liaison Unit, Division of International Protection of UNHCR and Nicolette Moodie, Human Rights and Gender Liaison Officer, Gender and Rights Unit, Division of Policy and Practice of UNICEF), to discuss the latest developments in this field :***

**1. How are UNCTs currently cooperating with treaty bodies and supporting national engagement?**

UNCTs have established diverse theme groups in many countries worldwide, for example on human rights and the rule of law, child protection and gender issues. In this context, human rights issues are discussed and analysed among participating UN agencies and joint initiatives are undertaken which include the drafting of joint briefing notes or reports on specific issues for some of the human rights mechanisms. There have been many joint submissions by UNCTs in preparation of treaty bodies' sessions for CEDAW and a few for CRC (and in some instances for the Human Rights Committee). In the case of CEDAW, joint reports are submitted through UNDOCO (UN Development Operations Coordination Office at UNDG) on the basis of reporting guidelines that have been developed.

**2. How do you think this cooperation could be improved and what are the main challenges faced at country level?**



*Ms. Simone Schwartz-Delgado, Senior Liaison Officer, Human Rights Liaison Unit, Division of International Protection of UNHCR interviewed by Ms. Natacha Foucard © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

Unlike the Universal Periodic Review process (UPR) that has benefited from a very active participation of UNCTs, especially in larger country operations, the level of engagement is certainly not comparable when it comes to cooperating with the treaty bodies. This may be due to the lack of awareness of their work and the insufficient visibility of their outcomes, as well as to competing priorities at country level. Cooperation with UNCTs could be improved through training of UNCT colleagues and precise guidelines for the preparation of joint country submissions. Also, providing UNCTs in advance with information about the scheduling of the examination of States parties' reports would certainly allow for a better planning of their activities. The backlog of reports pending consideration also impacts on the role of the UNCTs. UNCTs are often involved in facilitating the preparation of States parties' reports. However, the momentum may be lost if several years are needed for a report to be examined by a treaty body, as it is the case with some committees.

### **3. What is the value of treaty bodies' recommendations in your respective agencies programmes?**

The international human rights instruments form an integral part of the legal framework on which UNHCR carries out its protection mandate on behalf of refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, internally displaced persons and returnees. Treaty bodies' General Comments and Recommendations, Concluding Observations, as well as case law are important protection advocacy tools for UNHCR in its operations throughout the world.

UNICEF country offices are obliged to take into consideration CRC and CEDAW Concluding Observations and Recommendations when planning their country programmes of cooperation or undertaking mid-term reviews of these. They are also extremely helpful as they are integrated into our programme planning, particularly the recommendations of CRC and CEDAW. They give

additional credibility and leverage to our work at country level.

### **4. In your view what improvements could be made in the functioning of the treaty body system to facilitate the work of your agency and UNCTs in general, particularly in respect of follow-up to treaty bodies' recommendations and ensure greater protection of rights holders?**

Due to its large field presence, UNHCR is in a good position to promote the implementation of specific treaty body recommendations in the context of its overall advocacy, training and capacity-building activities. However, greater visibility of the outcomes of treaty body sessions would help to achieve a higher impact. For example, the translation into national languages, the issuance of press releases providing the highlights of the treaty body sessions, the preparation of newsletters or information leaflets and the creation of websites could contribute to increasing the awareness at country level about the role of treaty bodies and the relevance of their recommendations. UNCTs can provide significant support by creating coordination mechanisms to monitor implementation of recommendations by different State institutions, assess progress, and document good practices. Ideally, treaty body recommendations should be incorporated into national human rights strategies and action plans.

In the view of UNICEF, UNCTs would engage more if there was more predictability and awareness around the reporting process, similarly to the UPR, and greater alignment in working methods. We also believe that some recent developments in treaty bodies' working methods such as the List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR) are very positive and a step in the right direction. This optional procedure will certainly be beneficial for States parties starting their fifth or sixth reporting cycle and whose reports need to be more targeted. Webcasting is also a key element to increase the visibility of treaty body sessions and will certainly enhance engagement at country level, particularly in respect of follow-up of treaty body recommendations.

### **5. How has the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process been effective in providing visibility to treaty body recommendations and stimulating their implementation at national level?**

One of the most notable achievements of the UPR has been its contribution to awareness-raising, information exchange and constructive dialogue on the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level. A direct and measurable impact of the UPR is the increase of the level of ratifications and of the number of submissions of long overdue reports to the treaty bodies. Also, by reiterating many of the recommendations of the treaty bodies the UPR reinforces their impact.■



## Interview with Karin Lucke of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office in New York.

### "UNCTs are uniquely placed to engage with national partners"



Ms. Karin Lucke, Policy Adviser, Human Rights of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office in New York.  
© OHCHR

The UN Development Group (UNDG) unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

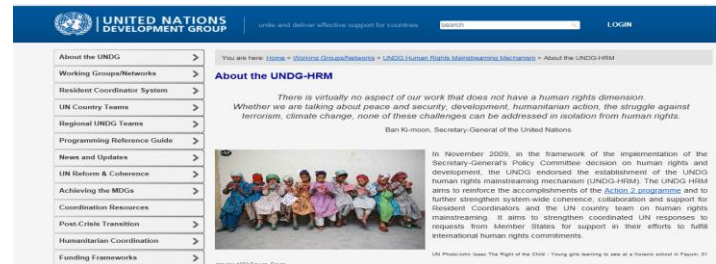
Established by the Secretary-General in 1997, the UNDG designs system-wide guidance to coordinate, harmonize and align UN development activities. The group strengthens the UN development system at the country level, prepares it to meet future challenges and ensures that operations are conducted in accordance with mandates from UN governing bodies such as the General Assembly. By strengthening the UN Resident Coordinator system and helping UN organizations work together in new and better ways, the UNDG generates synergies and efficiencies that increase the impact of UN programmes and policy advice.

#### **What is the role of the UNDG in human rights mainstreaming?**

At the request of the Secretary-General and in order to institutionalize the mainstreaming of human rights in the United Nation's development work, the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) was established in 2009 – made up of 19 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes.<sup>1</sup> It aims to strengthen coordinated UN responses to requests from Member States for support in their efforts to fulfill international human rights commitments.

#### **How can the UNDG-HRM cooperate in future with the treaty bodies?**

The objectives of the UNDG-HRM are to strengthen system-wide coherence and collaboration and provide catalytic support for Resident Coordinators, Regional UNDG Teams and UN Country Teams and national partners in mainstreaming human rights. One of



For more info : <http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=1452>

the four key priorities of the UNDG-HRM, in line with the overall UNDG Strategic Priorities is to develop a coherent, UN system-wide approach to providing support towards strengthening national human rights protection systems at the request of Governments, which includes guidance, technical support and knowledge management. One way in which the UNDG-HRM and treaty bodies could cooperate is the systematic exchange of information, and substantive and technical guidance from treaty bodies to support UNCTs. UNCTs are uniquely placed to engage with national partners throughout the reporting process and support their efforts in implementing the recommendations.

#### **How can the UNDG-HRM encourage greater engagement by UNCTs in the Treaty Body (TB) process and follow-up of TB recommendations on the ground, thus contributing to increasing their impact?**

UN Entities have highlighted the opportunities provided by the UN human rights mechanisms at the country level to further strengthen UN coherence, with human rights as one of the key programming principles. Concluding Observations are valued as a useful analytical base when preparing CCA/UNDAFs and specific joint programmes to assist implementation of TB recommendations have been developed in various contexts and regions. By supporting national partners in engaging with the UPR, treaty bodies and Special Procedures, UNCTs have been able to effectively address key human rights issues.

UNCTs have indicated that they would benefit from enhanced guidance and technical support in engaging with the treaty bodies, including for follow-up actions and plans. They would welcome better access to information and training opportunities and emphasize the importance of collecting evidence of impact. The UNDG-HRM specifically foresees developing guidance and tools, documenting good practices and providing catalytic support to a targeted number of country initiatives, including in support of national and regional initiatives to support follow-up to the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms. ■

<sup>1</sup> [DESA](#), [FAO](#), [ILO](#), [OHCHR](#), [UNAIDS](#), [UNDP](#), [UNEP](#), [UNESCO](#), [UNFPA](#), [UN-HABITAT](#), [UNHCR](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNIDO](#), [UNSSC](#), [UNODC](#), [UNOPS](#), [UN Women](#), [WFP](#), [WHO](#)



Ms. Barbara Bailey during the 51<sup>st</sup> session of CEDAW (13 February – 2 March 2012) © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

## ***Interview with Ms. Barbara Bailey, Member of CEDAW***

### ***"There is a need for re-engineering the options and the content of women's education"***

school and classroom processes and the relationship of educational outputs to wider outcomes in the economic, social and political spheres for both sexes. I have several publications on these issues as well.

On the side of my experience at international level, well, as an active participant in the women's movement, I was a member of the Government of Jamaica's delegation to several international meetings and conferences including the World Conference on Women in Beijing, and meetings of treaty bodies, including CEDAW. I also worked regionally with CARICOM on related issues.

In the CEDAW, since last year, I have been the Rapporteur for the Follow-up Procedure, and more generally I have a particular focus on the issues of the right to education.

#### **2. Can you tell us more about the work of the Committee, its achievements and challenges?**

Very briefly I consider the following as *the most important achievements*: to date, 28 general recommendations have been adopted by the Committee, two of which were adopted at its 47th session, one on older women and the protection of their human rights, and the other on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention. The Committee continues to elaborate the general recommendation on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution; and on harmful practices in conjunction with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee is also in the process of elaborating a general recommendation on the human rights of women in armed and post conflict. In this context, it held a general discussion on this issue with key UN and civil society partners in New York. The Committee has also decided to elaborate a general recommendation on access to justice. At its 50th session, the Committee moreover decided to elaborate two additional general recommendations on gender equality in the context of asylum, statelessness and natural disasters; and rural women.

The Committee's general recommendations are a rich resource of legal and policy guidance and have addressed a number of core issues, including the

***Under Article 10 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, States parties are to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education. HRTD newsletter has interviewed Ms. Barbara Bailey a Committee expert with a particular focus on the issues of the right to education.***

#### **1. Ms. Bailey, could you please tell us more about yourself, your professional career both at home and with CEDAW?**

Regarding my career at home, to say briefly, I have been a Professor of Gender and Education at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica since 1980. In 1995 I was appointed University Director of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies. At this Institute, my teaching and research focus is on the intersection of gender, race and political economy, on





*Women Center at Abu Shouk IDP Camp, North Darfur - A view inside Abu Shouk Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp's Women Center, in North Darfur, Sudan, where classes are offered in Arabic, the Koran and Mathematics. Approximately 80 women attend the classes, usually taking their children along with them. - 13 December 2010 - Abu Shouk, Sudan © UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran*

conceptualization of violence against women as a form of discrimination against women, the development under the Convention of the States parties' obligation of due diligence, the elaboration of the notion of non-discrimination and substantive equality that underpins the Convention, and the concept of intersecting forms of discrimination.

As for challenges, I consider that these are the same as for some other Committees - finding the time to discharge its functions in light of the ever increasing workload - number of reports, communications, inquiries, and general recommendations, though for the latter, work is overwhelmingly undertaken outside of formal meeting time. The Committee has a backlog of 48 States parties' reports. It currently holds three sessions a year and considers a total of 24 reports. The Committee is considering requesting approval by the GA for double chambers once a year just to keep pace with the rate of submissions. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which also holds three annual sessions pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/218, since its inception has registered 39 communications. So far the Committee has completed proceedings with regard to 27 communications (it found violations in 11 communications, and no violation in one. Further, it discontinued 4 communications on a number of reasons and declared 11 communications inadmissible). The Committee also continues to implement its mandate under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on country inquiries. To date, the Committee has concluded one inquiry under this procedure (Mexico), while five other requests for inquiries have been received.

**3 Can you explain why the Right to Education is so important for women?**

My opinion is that any consideration of the right of women and girls to education must be juxtaposed against a call that has been iterated in successive outcome documents emanating from every significant United Nations conference, since 1980, that has focused on promoting gender equality and the need for States to recognize the centrality of education as the vehicle for women's empowerment and as the tool for equipping them to grasp opportunities for their fuller participation in development processes. More recently, the importance of achieving gender parity in school enrolment has been highlighted in the third Millennium Development Goal. The claim that education can be the vehicle for significantly improving women's strategic position in society, however, needs to be empirically assessed.

Additionally, it has to be made clear that the obligation of States under CEDAW to ensure the 'equal rights of women with men in the field of education' goes beyond the



narrow concern of access to education. A human rights framework requires assessment of three inter-related areas of rights: *the right to education* (access and participation); *rights within education* (free choice and equality of treatment); and *rights through education* (equality of opportunity beyond school) - a concept which goes well beyond a consideration of numerical gaps at the various levels of education systems to a consideration of issues of substantive equality and the need to eliminate stereotypes and attitudes that reinforce and perpetuate patriarchal norms and reproduce a gender order marked by inequalities in the distribution of resources between men and women.

#### 4. How the situation stands now globally with the right to education for women?

In a nutshell, data point to the following global trends:

In spite of regional and/or national variations, women's right to education has been largely realized and the most significant inroads have been at the tertiary level; Women's rights within education are yet to be widely realized. Data on subject subscription indicate that, globally, women are increasingly seizing opportunities for higher education, but, continue to pursue stereotypical, feminized fields of study and are under-represented in the more critical science and technology areas and in the technical crafts which have serious implications for future life chances, career paths and employment and earning capacity. Added to this, violence in schools has become a global phenomenon and the levels of sexual harassment and sexual violence, to which females are exposed, en route to or in educational institutions, is unacceptable. A further concern in relation to this dimension of rights is the disproportionate representation of males in decision-making positions in a feminized occupation, particularly at the highest levels as in universities and colleges.

Thirdly, women's rights through education are far from being realized. Although a direct correspondence cannot be readily established, generally it can be inferred that, globally, women represent the better source of human capital but nonetheless experience lower levels of employment and higher levels of unemployment; are more highly represented as part-time workers; on average earn less than men; are disproportionately represented in vulnerable areas of work and therefore are less exposed to opportunities for experiencing decent work conditions – issues that are consistently raised in the CEDAW constructive dialogue with States parties who are called on to dismantle entrenched stereotypes and structural determinants of these patterns.

#### 5. What needs to be done for the realization of the right to education?

I think that given the observations of the global situation in relation to women's access to and participation in education and opportunities for employment and decent work, what might be the way forward in terms of protecting and ensuring the rights of women in these three spheres of education? I would suggest that guaranteeing women's right to, within and through education requires both ideological and structural transformation – bluntly stated – it requires a dismantling of patriarchal ideologies and systems.

Firstly, the most critical action has to be a re-engineering of the options and the content of women's education, particularly at the higher levels. Patterns of women's participation in labour markets are directly related to gender socialization practices which perpetuate and reinforce the gender-based division of labour. Women, therefore, generally lack an awareness of alternative forms of training and, in keeping with cultural norms, opt for training in traditional occupations which are consistent with social expectations, but to which labour markets attach little value or monetary worth.

Secondly, the playing field can only be levelled if, and when, there is acceptance of the need for co-responsibility in the household and a more equitable distribution of responsibility for the provision of unpaid social reproduction and care in the domestic domain. It is well documented that the burden on women, in this regard, is a major constraint to the time women have available for work and their ability to specialize. This has to be achieved through a process of re-socialization of both sexes since in



*Ms. Barbara Bailey and CEDAW Committee members during the 51<sup>st</sup> session of CEDAW (13 February – 2 March 2012) © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

many ways, although disadvantaged by outcomes, women, as mothers and teachers, play a critical role in reproducing essentialist ideologies and traditional gender identities.

Finally, and most importantly, what is required to ensure that these transformations occur is political will on the part of governments to fulfil obligations under international treaties such as the CEDAW as well as consensus outcome documents such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals – which establish standards and call for actions to: ensure the rights of women within and through education and their greater access to science, technologies and vocational



training thus opening up possibilities for their entry into new forms of decent work and the realization of equal pay for work of equal value.

## 6 How successful is the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the right to education by States parties?

I think that my observations show the following:

Reports from States parties on Article 10 of the CEDAW Convention are often limited to areas subsumed under the chapeau and many times fall short in addressing all areas in which States are called on to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure them equal rights with men in the field of education.

An analysis of the extent to which rights laid out under Article 10 fit the rights framework discussed above, reveals that the focus is exclusively on issues of access and therefore the right to education. There is no explicit reference to rights within or rights through education which link directly to concerns addressed primarily in Article 5 which addresses traditional stereotyping and co-responsibility in the domestic sphere and under which violence against women is considered; and, Article 11 which addresses employment. The fact of the matter is that, rights through education, although most directly related to education for employment, in fact, embrace ways in which access to education should facilitate the fulfilment of the strategic needs of women in

power, on an equal basis with men, in all areas of public and private life. The potential of education to achieve this goal, however, needs to be viewed against the backdrop of the resilience of patriarchal systems which continue to serve traditional interest and motive and which combine to maintain the *status quo* and ensure that the gains of men are not significantly disrupted.

A proposal to develop a general recommendation

on education is therefore contemplated with a view to ensuring that States parties are provided with a more comprehensive understanding of the range of rights that need to be protected if, in fact, education is to be the vehicle for women's empowerment and the tool for equipping them to grasp opportunities for their fuller participation in development processes.



Ms. Barbara Bailey and Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair of CEDAW during 51st session (13 Feb - 2 March 2012) © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby

## 7. With regard to the High Commissioner's treaty body strengthening process of consultations, what contribution and best practices can CEDAW provide?

The CEDAW Committee is currently reviewing its working methods and, in this regard, has appointed a Working Group which in its deliberations takes cognizance of proposals emerging from the Treaty Body Strengthening consultative processes which can be accommodated without, in anyway, compromising the independence of the CEDAW Committee and its mandate.

Two practices merit mention as best practices:

Firstly, the strengthening of the role of Country Rapporteurs by ensuring better coordination between Country Rapporteurs, the Pre-Session Working group and the Secretariat and assigning them a more prominent role in: providing guidance to experts in the preparation for and during constructive dialogues.

Linked to the enhanced role of Country Rapporteurs is the further decision taken at the 50th session of the Committee to revert to a previous practice of establishing task forces with a view to enhancing the constructive dialogue with States parties. Task forces, it is anticipated, will facilitate a more coordinated approach to the constructive dialogue as well as better time management. Under this arrangement, members of a task force are required to prioritize interventions, limit the number of issues raised and focus on matters most



Afghan Women in Literacy Class - Afghan women attend one of the almost three thousand literacy courses supported by the United Nations Children's Fund for nearly seventy-eight thousand women last year. 29 April 2008 Bamiyan, Afghanistan © UN Photo/Sebastian Rich

all spheres of life – social, economic, political and personal - and a shift in the balance of power, with women sharing

relevant for the country under consideration (see Decision 50/11 CEDAW Committee)<sup>2</sup>.

Secondly, the drafting and adoption of Concluding Observations; and, in handling comments from States parties in response to Concluding Observations (See decision 50/11 of the CEDAW Committee). Apart from these, the adoption of a template for guiding the development of briefing notes on countries assigned to Rapporteurs is now under consideration.

**8. In terms of working methods, what areas in your opinion require harmonisation and coordination among the Committees?**

One area to explore relates to the Concluding Observations. Given their commonality to all treaty bodies I would regard this as an area for attention to coordination and harmonization, particularly for the benefit of States to which these observations are directed and where it is expected that they will be disseminated and used to inform all stakeholders of the current status of implementation of the treaty.

As a member of the Working Group on Follow-up established by the 12th Meeting of the Inter-Committee of the human rights treaty bodies, I fully endorse ensuing recommendations particularly agreement that in many instances recommendations in the Concluding



Observations need to be stated in more precise and measurable terms and the need, therefore, to identify indicators that can be used to inform the formulation of such recommendations. Although not moving to the use of indicators, as a short-term priority the CEDAW Committee has already agreed to limit the number of concerns and recommendations, reduce the number of standard paragraphs and use bullets to improve the layout of recommendations contained in any given paragraph of the Concluding Observations.

It was further suggested that systematically organising regional workshops on reporting and follow-up to treaty body recommendations where experts from a cluster of treaty bodies would play a leading role could be very useful and such workshops could have a significant impact at the national level on not only providing guidance on implementation to but could also be useful in pointing to ways in which implementation and reporting could be harmonised by State parties.



*Liberian Women Take Literacy Class through Pilot Project*

*The Ganta Concerned Women's Group has organized a pilot project to teach women in Tonglewin village how to read and do basic mathematics. Liberia's electricity system was destroyed in the war, and power has not yet been restored. Classes are conducted in semi-darkness twice a week. - 30 July 2008 Monrovia, Liberia*

© UN Photo/Christopher Herwig

A personal concern that I have had is that although the dialogue on coordination and harmonisation is moving apace at the level of the OHCHR, State parties have not been an integral part of the process and have only been peripherally involved. Indeed, States parties have been asked to comment on proposals emanating from various consultations and their representatives have been invited to consultations. However, a complementary process has not been instigated at the national level with major players in States parties where 'the rubber hits the ground' and where many of the decisions on harmonisation will have both direct and indirect impacts.

In my opinion, coordination and harmonisation of processes are as urgently required at national level as they are at the level of the OHCHR and for the very same reasons – the need to maximise scarce human and financial resources, particularly in small developing countries who often lag behind in implementation and reporting constrained, as they are, by the capacity to adhere to time lines and to be present to engage in constructive dialogues. It cannot be assumed that impetus from the top will necessarily alter action at the bottom. Real change can only be achieved by paying attention to both innovators and users. ■

<sup>2</sup> The Human Rights Committee is also having Country Task forces that take the lead for each State party review.





*Video message of the Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon highlighting the considerable contribution of human rights treaty bodies to the promotion and protection of human rights across the world and at the national level, during the Consultation with States parties on 7 and 8 February 2012 in Geneva © OHCHR/Danielle Kirby*

## **High Commissioner's treaty body strengthening process**

### **Consultation with States on 7-8 February 2012 in Geneva**

**O**n 7 and 8 February, OHCHR hosted a consultation on the current process on strengthening the Treaty Body system. It was attended by 108 States and provided an opportunity for fruitful discussions between States and for some Treaty Body experts to share their experience. This event was organized at the request of a large number of States who required more time to continue the discussions that took place in Sion in May last year. A similar event will be organized in New York on 2 and 3 April 2012. The meeting was opened by the Deputy High Commissioner Kyung-wha Kang who was present during the two days.

OHCHR made a presentation on facts and figures regarding the growth and financing of the Treaty Body system and the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/66/344).

The Division of Conference Management of UNOG also shared their thoughts on the challenges of supporting the treaty bodies and suggested potential alternatives of conference servicing support. In addition, a presentation on a comprehensive reporting calendar was made, which inspired much debate. In the course of the consultation, States discussed ways and means to strengthen the membership of the treaty bodies and the preparation of States parties' reports. ■



*Mr. Cornelis Flinterman, member of HRCtee and Ms. Fatimata Dah, member of CERD*



*Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner, and H.E. Agustín Santon Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain*



*Mr. Alessio Bruni, member of CAT, Ms. Yanghee Lee, member of CRC, Mr. Ibrahim Salama, HRTD Director, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Deputy High Commissioner, and Mr. Subhas Gujadhur, Deputy Permanent Representative and First Secretary of Mauritius*



*Mr. Ahmad Amin Fathalla, member of HRCtee, Mr. Hatem Kotrane, member of CRC.*

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

The report of this consultation and all information relating to the High Commissioner's treaty body strengthening process is available on:

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

## ***The Russian Initiative: Establishment of an open- ended intergovernmental process on the strengthening of the Treaty Body system***

On the initiative of the Russian Federation (co-sponsored by a number of other UN Member States), the UN General Assembly adopted on 23 February 2012, resolution 66/254 ('Intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system') on the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental process "to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system".

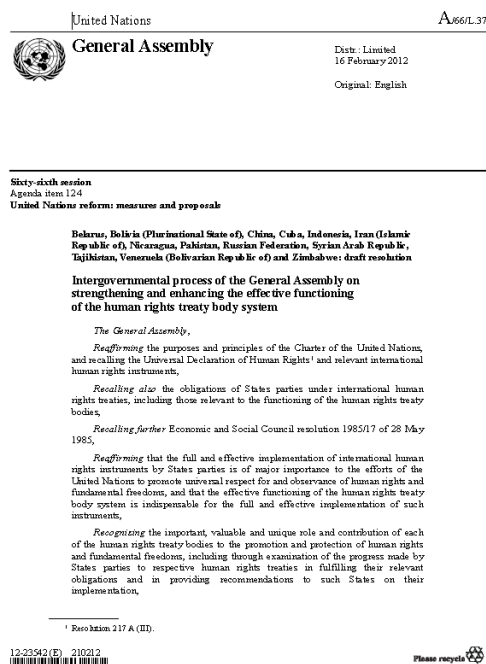
The resolution notes "with appreciation the initiative and efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the form of a multi-stakeholder consultation approach of reflection on how to streamline and strengthen the treaty body system" and invites the High Commissioner to submit a compilation report to the UN GA no later than June 2012 (para. 3).

In the same para.3, it requests the inter-governmental process to take into consideration "the relevant proposals on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, including those contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the compilation report to be prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

The resolution asks the President to establish appropriate channels of communication with the Human Rights Council and "to work out separate informal arrangements, after consultation with Member States, that would allow the open-ended intergovernmental process to benefit from the inputs and expertise of the human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and relevant non-governmental organizations, bearing in mind the intergovernmental nature of the process referred to in paragraph 1 above" (para.6).

The resolution requests the President of the UN GA to appoint two co-facilitators, and launch the process in April 2012.

The text of the resolution can be found through this link:  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/L.37](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/66/L.37)







*Innocent Kouadio N'Guessan, UN security officer; Zdenek Hajek, STP member; Laurence André, secretariat; Ennio Boati, secretariat; Olivier Obrecht, SPT member; Fortuné Gaétan Zongo, SPT member, SPT visited Mali from 5 to 14 December 2011 © OHCHR*

## ***Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture: Visit to Mali***

The SPT visited Mali from 5 to 14 December 2011. During the visit the SPT delegation met with representatives of competent national authorities and representatives of civil society. It visited a number of places of deprivation of liberty including civilian and military prisons, police stations and medical institutions in Bamako and in Kayes, Koulikouro, Sikasso and Segou. The delegation conducted private interviews with the inmates of visited establishments.

The SPT also met with representatives of the local National Preventive Mechanism of Mali.

The SPT delegation was headed by Mr. Emilio Gines and was composed by five other SPT members. It was supported by members of the UN Secretariat. ■





UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX  
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## Launch of the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index database

On 6 March 2012, the OHCHR officially launched the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index database (<http://uhri.ohchr.org>) which has recently been redesigned to compile recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review in addition to the treaty bodies and the special procedures mechanisms. The event was opened by the [High Commissioner](#), who noted that the UHRI database serves one of the key objectives of the Office, which is to increase the visibility and widely disseminate relevant outputs and recommendations of human rights mechanisms. She also underscored that the UHRI is an invaluable tool for human rights mainstreaming efforts in United Nations programmes, projects and activities at all levels. Furthermore, by enabling users to analyze and compare the recommendations of three pillars of the United Nations human rights system, she believed that the UHRI database may assist States in adopting a coordinated approach to implement those recommendations, facilitate follow-up and simplify the work of those who use the conclusions and recommendations.

S.E. Mr. Ridha Bouabid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to the United Nations in Geneva welcomed the multilingual dimension of the UHRI database and underscored that this is not only an information tool, but also a structuring tool that enables users to streamline and prioritize dense and sometimes fragmented information. Mr. Bouabid further noted that a consensus was forged among States, National Human Rights Institutions, and civil society organizations in the course of workshops on follow-up to UPR recommendations around the idea that the adoption of a comprehensive approach with regard to follow-up which integrates all the recommendations made by the United Nations human rights mechanisms was necessary to effectively improve the human rights situation at country level. During these workshops all stakeholders called on to develop new tools for a more specific treatment of recommendations, including their thematic grouping and prioritization. He further noted that the UHRI definitely meets the needs identified and expressed by many Francophone countries.

In her statement, Ms. Anastasia Crickley, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, said that the UHRI database is a



From left to right: Ms. Anastasia Crickley, member of CERD, Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner, Mr Ibrahim Salama, HRTD Director, S.E. Ridha Bouabid, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Ms. Catherine de Preux de Baets, OHCHR Human Rights Officer at the Launch of the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index database on 6 March 2012 in Palais des Nations in Geneva © OHCHR

valuable tool for all concerned with human rights, including for States to assist them both in meeting their own reporting requirements and in engaging with other members in particular but not exclusively in the UPR process. Also, the UHRI is useful for civil Society organisations in support of their engagement with UN instruments and is an important reference for follow-up and implementation nationally, not only for NGOs but for all concerned. Ms. Crickley placed the recent upgrade in the larger context of the treaty body strengthening process and noted that the UHRI database is important for helping create conditions for treaty body members to reinforce and strengthen each other's work. She believed that each treaty body can also contribute to harmonisation and coordination without denying the uniqueness which makes the work of each body so important for the rights it defends and promotes.

The UHRI database was first launched in 2006 and is now under the stewardship of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This year's upgrade and redesign was done in line with the adoption by OHCHR of a policy to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to promoting implementation and follow-up to all United Nations human rights mechanisms recommendations.





Presentation of the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index database on 6 March 2012 in Palais des Nations in Geneva © OHCHR

With the redesign, the database became even more user-friendly, more accessible and new functionalities were developed, namely:

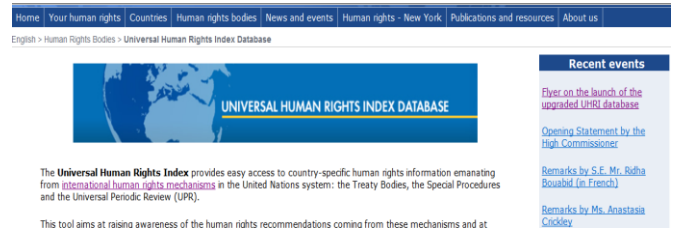
- **Content:** UPR search criteria and information on this mechanism have been introduced, and recommendations are being phased in progressively. Users can view the position of the State under Review and access documents relevant to assess this position.

- **Language:** The database is now available in all UN official languages and documents indexed in the new application will be automatically converted in the search language in order to contribute to the widest possible dissemination of recommendations (providing that an official translation exists and that the format of the document is the same).

- **Accessibility:** The new website meets the criteria for AA accessibility, according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. In other words, it has now become more accessible for persons with disabilities, such as the visually impaired or those using assistive technologies such as screen readers.

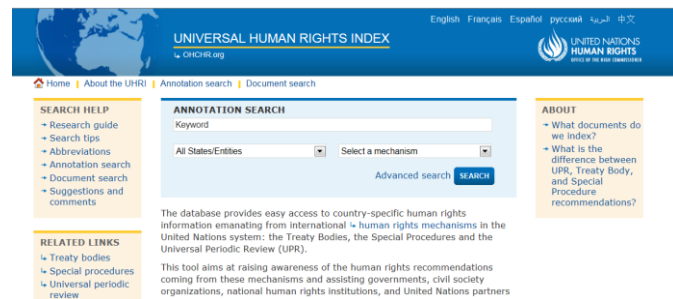
- **Feature:** For documents indexed from mid-2011 onwards, a link to related document(s), such as follow-up reports/information, implementation reports and comments of States parties, is displayed in order to facilitate the follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations.

The objective of the UHRI database is to serve as a useful tool for advocacy work and efforts aimed at disseminating the outcomes and recommendations of all UN human rights mechanism and for promoting and supporting their implementation and follow-up. ■



Read all the statements made on the occasion of the launch of the UHRI database at:

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



The Universal Human Rights Index can be accessed at:

<http://uhri.ohchr.org/>

## ***Treaty reporting training in Swaziland***

The HRTD, in collaboration with FOTCD, ROSA and the UNCT in Swaziland, held a three-day training workshop in January/February 2012 on reporting under the ICCPR and ICESCR. The training followed a request by Swaziland for technical assistance in the preparation of its reports, and discussions in the context of Swaziland's UPR review in October 2011. The workshop was attended by some 60 participants, including government officials, representatives of civil society organisations and UNCT colleagues.

The presentations on substantive issues of both ICCPR and ICESCR raised a number of topics based on UPR recommendations accepted by Swaziland. These included freedom of expression, right to liberty and security, gender equality and women's rights for ICCPR; and right to food and water, poverty reduction, health care and HIV/AIDS for ICESCR.

On the last day of the training, the participants discussed and adopted a roadmap setting out a timeframe and responsibilities for the various steps leading to the submission of a report under one of the two treaties within a year's time, including a Common Core Document. The Minister of Justice, who closed the workshop, was presented with a copy of the draft roadmap. ■

## ***Georgia: Workshop on strengthening national implementation of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms***

The OHCHR organized a workshop in Tbilisi for countries of the Eastern Europe region on strengthening national implementation of recommendations from the Human Rights Mechanisms in Tbilisi from 24-26 January 2012. The workshop aimed at contributing towards a more coordinated, effective and efficient engagement by stakeholders in the follow-up to all recommendations of the treaty bodies, special procedures and UPR and sharing experiences in the implementation of those recommendations.

Participants included representatives of State Institutions, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society organizations (including Bar Associations). There was a particular focus on introducing tools that might facilitate a coherent and coordinated approach to effective and holistic implementation of recommendations such as the Universal Human Rights Index (<http://uhri.ohchr.org>), Human Rights Indicators, and sharing of experiences of clustering of recommendations.

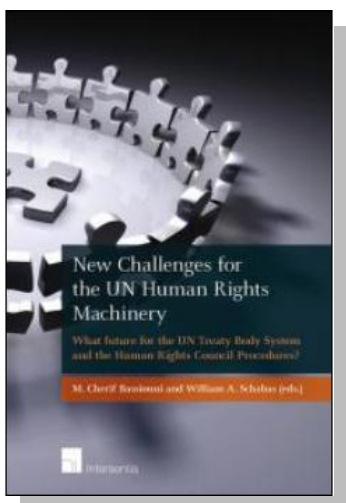


*OHCHR Workshop in Tbilisi for countries of the Eastern Europe region on strengthening national implementation of recommendations from the Human Rights Mechanisms, Georgia from 24-26 January 2012 © OHCHR*

The workshop was attended by approximately 50 participants from Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, as well as UN system partners in these countries. This was the second of a series of three sub-regional workshops together covering about 20 countries from East Europe, South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia. The next workshop is scheduled to take place in Bishkek at the end of April. ■



## New publications on human rights treaties



**New Challenges for the UN Human Rights Machinery (What Future for the UN Treaty Body System and Human Rights Council Procedures?) (Intersentia, December 2011), 500pp.**

Edited by C. Bassiouni & W. Schabas

The book is an impressive collection of essays, which presents academic perspectives on the ways of strengthening the UN Human Rights Machinery (the Treaty Body system as well as the relevant procedures of the Human Rights Council such as Commissions of Inquiry, Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures). The book is prefaced by High Commissioner Navi Pillay and authors are established scholars and practitioners in the field of human rights, many of whom are Treaty Body members or mandate holders of varied Human Rights Council procedures.

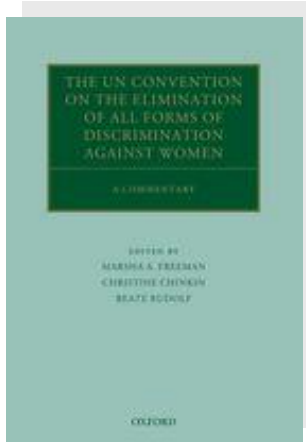
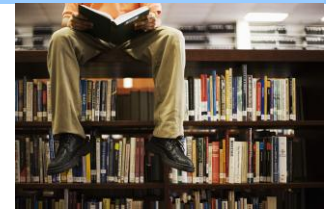
The book has two parts: one presents reflections on the Treaty Body system and the second on the Human Rights Council procedures.

Part I has the following chapters: 'It's Time for a World Court of Human Rights' – (Manfred Nowak); 'Periodic Reporting: The Backbone of the UN Treaty

Body Review Procedures' – (Michael O'Flaherty and Pei-Lun Tsai); 'Streamlining the Constructive Dialogue: Efficiency from States' Perspectives' – (Rachael Lorna Johnstone); 'On the Binding Nature of the Findings of the Treaty Bodies' – (William A. Schabas); 'Implementing Treaty Body Recommendations: Establishing Better Follow-Up Procedures' – (Felice D. Gaer); 'Accessing Justice by All Means: Individual Communications before UN Treaty Bodies – A Case Study of CERD' – (Chris Maina Peter); 'The Complementary Role of General Comments in Enhancing the Implementation of Treaty Bodies' Recommendations and Views (the Example of CESCR)' – (Aslan Abashidze); 'Universal Suffrage and the International Human Rights Treaty Bodies: Where are the Women?' – (Alice Edwards); 'Taking Human Rights from the Grassroots to Geneva... and Back: Strengthening the Relationship between UN Treaty Bodies and NGOs' – (Philip Lynch and Ben Schokman); 'Strengthening of the UN Treaty Bodies' Complaint Procedures: Elements for a Reform Agenda from an NGO Perspective' – (Gabriela Kletzel, Camila Barretto Maia and Mónica Zwaig).

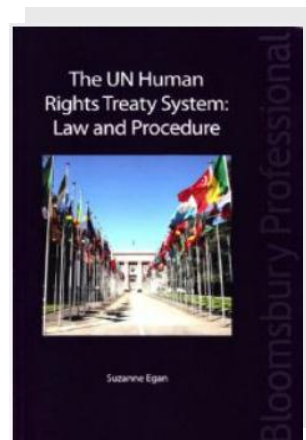
Part II has the following chapters: 'Building a Universal System for the Protection of Human Rights: The Way Forward' – (Olivier de Frouville); 'Making the Connection: Security and Human Rights' – (Elvira Domínguez-Redondo); 'The Work of the International Commission of Inquiry for Libya' – (Philippe Kirsch); 'What Should Be the UN Human Rights Council's Role in Investigating Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity?' – (Lyal S. Sunga); 'Peer Review in the Mix: How the UPR Transforms Human Rights Discourse' – (Constance de la Vega and Tamara N. Lewis); 'The System of the UN Special Procedures: Some Proposals for Change' – (Ingrid Nifosi-Sutton); 'The Unfinished Business of a Special Procedures System' – (Tania Baldwin-Pask and Patrizia Scannella). ■

# New publications on human rights treaties



**The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: A Commentary**, (Oxford University Press, 2012), 792 pp. - Edited by Marsha A. Freeman, Christine Chinkin and Beate Rudolf

The book is the first comprehensive commentary on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. The Commentary describes the application of the Convention through the work of its monitoring body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It comprises detailed analyses of the Preamble and each article of the Convention and of the Optional Protocol. It also includes a separate chapter on the cross-cutting substantive issue of violence against women. The sources relied on are the treaty language and the general recommendations, concluding observations and case law under the Optional Protocol, through which the Committee has interpreted and applied the Convention. Each chapter is self-contained but the Commentary is conceived of as an integral whole. The book also includes an Introduction which provides an overview of the Convention and its embedding in the international law of human rights. The Commentary has contributions by fifteen scholars and practitioners. ■



Suzanne Egan, **The UN Human Rights Treaty System: Law and Procedure**, (Bloomsbury Professional, 2011), 506 pp.

The book examines the core UN human rights treaties that form the framework of international human rights law. It describes the development of each treaty, along with the substantive rights enshrined in them and analyses the nature and functions of their respective monitoring bodies. The book discusses the various monitoring functions of the Committees sorted by the following topics: periodic reporting procedures, investigative procedures and individual complaint procedures relying on an extensive supporting case law. The book is written in the format of a practical textbook. ■



John Morijn, **Reforming the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Reform**, (Netherlands International Law Review 2001)

In the paper, the author raises a number of issues dealing with the treaty body strengthening process. The author argues in particular that any attempts to reform the UN human rights treaty monitoring should take account of two fundamental considerations if it is to be successful. First, the fact that besides the

treaty monitoring, other international human rights protection methods have gained significance over the last few decades, including the UPR mechanism. In his opinion these factors are conditioning the added value of treaty monitoring. Second, even if treaty monitoring can still be considered relevant, the system is ill equipped to achieve the structural domestic impact of their recommendations and views. The author then suggests a number of ways the treaty body reform agenda could be reformed to strengthen human rights treaty monitoring. ■



## NEW SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

END DEC 2011 - JANUARY -  
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012



### CRPD

- Accession by **Mozambique** (30 January 2012)
- Ratification by **Bulgaria** (22 March 2012)

### CAT

- Ratification by **Dominican Republic** (24 January 2012)

### OP-CRPD

- Accession by **Mozambique** (30 January 2012)
- Ratification by **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (29 December 2011)

### CRC-OPSC *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*

- Accession by **Myanmar** (16 January 2012)
- Accession by **Grenada** (6 February 2012)
- Accession by **Zimbabwe** (14 February 2012)

### CRC-OPAC - *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights to the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict*

- Accession by **Grenada** (6 February 2012)
- Accession by **Côte d'Ivoire** (12 March 2012)
- Accession by **Niger** (13 March 2012)

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

- Signature by **Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Uruguay** (28 February 2012)

### OP-CESCR - *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Right*

- Ratification by **Bolivia** (Plurinational State of), (13 January 2012)
- Ratification by **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (18 January 2012)
- Ratification by **Slovakia** (7 March 2012)
- Signature by **Ireland** (23 March 2012)

### OP-CEDAW

- Accession by **Côte d'Ivoire** (20 January 2012)

### CED

- Signature by **Thailand** (9 January 2012)
- Ratification by **Costa Rica** (16 February 2012)
- Ratification by **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (30 March 2012)

## NEW SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

**END DEC 2011 - JANUARY -  
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012**



### OPCAT

- Accession by **Hungary** (12 January 2012)  
Declaration art. 14 by **Hungary** (7 February 2012)

### CMW

- Signature by **Mozambique** (15 March 2012)

### CCPR-OP2 - *Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty*

- Accession by **Mongolia** (13 March 2012)

*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://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx> ■

## ***Signing ceremony in respect of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure***

For the first time, a new human rights treaty was opened for signature at a ceremony held in Geneva. The signing ceremony for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OPIC) took place on Tuesday 28 February in Palais des Nations

Following various introductory statements and a short video prepared by Japanese children on a project related to the OPIC, the Chief of the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) officially opened the Optional Protocol for signature. A total of 20 States signed the OPIC, notably: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Italia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Uruguay.

All statements are available at: [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/OPIC\\_Ceremony.htm](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/OPIC_Ceremony.htm)



H.E. Ms. Luz Betty Caballero de Clulow, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office in Geneva (picture on the left) and H.E. Ms. Iveta Radičová, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic (picture on the right), signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure during the 19th Human Rights Council, Palais des Nations, Geneva. © Photo by Violaine Martin.

For more pictures during the event <http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=51848516@N02&q=protocol%20child>



**KINDLY NOTE THAT ANY DOCUMENT AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE FOR OHCHR  
SHOULD BE SENT TO [REGISTRY@OHCHR.ORG](mailto:REGISTRY@OHCHR.ORG)**

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED END DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012

		AFRICA	
	Djibouti	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	Initial report CCPR/C/DJI/1 received on 6 February 2012
	Gabon	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	Sixth periodic report CEDAW/C/GAB/6 received on 19 January 2012
	Mauritania	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	Initial report CCPR/C/MRT/1 received on 7 February 2012
		<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	Second to third periodic report CEDAW/C/MRT/2-3 received on 17 February 2012
		<a href="#">CAT</a>	Initial report CAT/C/MRT/1 received on 26 December 2011
	Mozambique	<a href="#">CCPR</a>	Initial report CCPR/C/MOZ/1 received on 28 February 2012
	Sierra Leone	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/SLE/2012 received on 23 January 2012
	Swaziland	<a href="#">CEDAW</a>	Initial and to periodic report CEDAW/C/SWZ/1-2 received on 13 March 2012
	United Republic of Tanzania	<a href="#">CRC</a>	Third to fourth periodic report CRC/C/TZA/3-4 received on 13 January 2012
		NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST	
	Yemen	<a href="#">CRC OPAC</a>	Initial report CRC/C/OPAC/YEM/1 received on 19 January 2012

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### END DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012

		EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA	
	Albania	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/ALB/2012 received on 28 March 2012
	Austria	<a href="#">CERD</a>	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> periodic reports CERD/C/AUT/18-19 received on 22 December 2011
	Liechtenstein	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/LIE/2012 received on 7 February 2012
	Montenegro	<a href="#">CESCR</a>	Initial report E/C.12/MNE/1 received on 5 January 2012
	Russian Federation	<a href="#">CERD</a>	20 to 22th periodic report CERD/RUS/20-22 received on 16 March 2012
	The Netherlands	<a href="#">CAT</a>	Sixth periodic report CAT/C/NET/6 received on 4 January 2012
		<a href="#">OPAC CRC</a>	Initial report CRC/C/OPAC/NET/1 received on 30 December 2011
	Turkmenistan	<a href="#">CRC - OPSC</a>	Initial report CRC/C/OPSC/TKM/1 received on 26 January 2012
		<a href="#">OPAC CRC</a>	Initial report CRC/C/OPAC/TKM/1 received on 26 January 2012
	United States of America	<a href="#">Common Core Document</a>	HRI/CORE/USA/2011 received on 30 December 2011
		<a href="#">CCPR</a>	Fourth periodic report CCPR/C/USA/4 received on 30 December 2011









## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### END DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012

	Uzbekistan	<a href="#"><u>CAT</u></a>	Fourth periodic report CAT/C/UZB/4 received on 29 December 2011
	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
	Bolivia	<a href="#"><u>CAT</u></a>	Second to third periodic report CAT/C/BOL/2-3 received on 11 October 21011
	Chile	<a href="#"><u>CESCR</u></a>	Fourth report E/C.12/CHL/4 received on 21 March 2012
	Colombia	<a href="#"><u>CRC</u></a>	Fourth to fifth periodic reports CRC/C/COL/4-5 received on 27 December 2011
	Ecuador	<a href="#"><u>Common Core Document</u></a>	HRI/CORE/ECU/2009/Rev.1 received on 15 Feb 2012
		<a href="#"><u>CERD</u></a>	20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> periodic report CERD/C/ECU/20-22 received on 16 February 2012
	Guatemala	<a href="#"><u>Common Core Document</u></a>	HRI/CORE/GUA/2012 received on 2 February 2012
		<a href="#"><u>CAT</u></a>	Sixth periodic report CAT/C/GTM/6 received on 5 January 2012
	ASIA AND THE PACIFIC		
	People's Republic of China	<a href="#"><u>CEDAW</u></a>	7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> periodic reports CEDAW/C/CHN/7-8 received on 20 January 2012
	Fiji	<a href="#"><u>CERD</u></a>	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CERD/C/FJI/18-20 received on 10 February 2012
	Indonesia	<a href="#"><u>CCPR</u></a>	Initial report CCPR/C/IND/1 received on 19 January 2012

## NEW STATE PARTY REPORTS RECEIVED

### END DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012

		<a href="#"><u>CESCR</u></a>	Initial report E/C.12/IND/1 received on 19 January 2012
	Mongolia	<a href="#"><u>CESCR</u></a>	Fourth periodic report E/C.12/MNG/4 received on 23 February 2012
		<a href="#"><u>CRPD</u></a>	Initial report CRPD/C/MNG/1 received on 23 February 2012
	Nepal	<a href="#"><u>CCPR</u></a>	Second periodic report CCPR/C/NPL/2 received on 21 February 2012
	New Zealand	<a href="#"><u>CERD</u></a>	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CERD/C/NZL/18-20 received on 9 March 2012
	Republic of Korea	<a href="#"><u>CERD</u></a>	15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> periodic report CERD/C/KOR/15-16 received on 14 February 2012
	Thailand	<a href="#"><u>Common Core Document</u></a>	HRI/CORE/THA/2012 received on 19 January 2012
	Tuvalu	<a href="#"><u>CRC</u></a>	Initial report CRC/C/TUV/1 received on 16 February 2012



## **ENGAGE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION !**

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

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

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee's Secretary</b>
<b>Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)</b> <a href="mailto:ced@ohchr.org">ced@ohchr.org</a>	Ms. Maria Giovanna Bianchi <a href="mailto:mgbianchi@ohchr.org">mgbianchi@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Human Rights Committee (HRCttee)</b> <a href="mailto:ccpr@ohchr.org">ccpr@ohchr.org</a>	Ms. Kate Fox <a href="mailto:kfox@ohchr.org">kfox@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)</b> <a href="mailto:cescr@ohchr.org">cescr@ohchr.org</a>	Ms. Maja Andrijasevic-Boko <a href="mailto:mandrijasevic-boko@ohchr.org">mandrijasevic-boko@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</b> <a href="mailto:cerd@ohchr.org">cerd@ohchr.org</a>	Ms. Gabriella Habtom <a href="mailto:ghabtom@ohchr.org">ghabtom@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</b> <a href="mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org">cedaw@ohchr.org</a>	Mr. Bradford Smith <a href="mailto:bsmith@ohchr.org">bsmith@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee against Torture (CAT)</b> <a href="mailto:cat@ohchr.org">cat@ohchr.org</a>	Mr. Joao Nataf <a href="mailto:jnataf@ohchr.org">jnataf@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</b> <a href="mailto:crc@ohchr.org">crc@ohchr.org</a>	Ms. Allegra Franchetti <a href="mailto:afranchetti@ohchr.org">afranchetti@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)</b> <a href="mailto:cmw@ohchr.org">cmw@ohchr.org</a>	Mr. Jakob Schneider <a href="mailto:jschneider@ohchr.org">jschneider@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</b> <a href="mailto:crpd@ohchr.org">crpd@ohchr.org</a>	Mr. Jorge Araya <a href="mailto:jaraya@ohchr.org">jaraya@ohchr.org</a>
<b>Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)</b> <a href="mailto:opcat@ohchr.org">opcat@ohchr.org</a>	Mr. Patrice Gillibert <a href="mailto:pgillibert@ohchr.org">pgillibert@ohchr.org</a>

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