



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 September 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session

Item 119 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Note by the Secretariat

Attached herewith is the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their fifteenth meeting, held at Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2003. At the request of the chairpersons, the report of the second inter-committee meeting of human rights treaty bodies is annexed to that report.

* A/58/150.

Annex I

Report of the second inter-committee meeting of human rights treaty bodies

(Geneva, 18-20 June 2003)

I. Introduction

1. The second inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies was held at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva from 17 to 20 June 2003. The meeting was held pursuant to the request of the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change”, that the High Commissioner should consult with treaty bodies on new streamlined reporting procedures under the human rights treaties and submit recommendations thereon by September 2003.^a

2. The following members of the human rights treaty bodies attended the meeting:

(a) Human Rights Committee: Abdelfattah Amor (Chairperson), Hipólito Solari-Yrigoyen, Maxwell Yalden;

(b) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Virginia Bonoan-Dandan (Chairperson), Eibe Riedel, Philippe Texier;

(c) Committee on the Rights of the Child: Jakob Egbert Doek (Chairperson), Marilia Sardenberg;

(d) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Feride Acar (Chairperson), Cees Flinterman, Heisoo Shin;

(e) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Ion Diaconu (Chairperson), Régis de Gouttes, Linos Alexandre Sicilianos;

(f) Committee against Torture: Peter Burns (Chairperson), Ole Vedel Rasmussen.

3. The meeting was opened by the Chief of the Treaties and Commission Branch, OHCHR. She explained that the inter-committee meeting had been convened during the current year, instead of the following year as originally scheduled, in order to provide treaty bodies with an opportunity to provide input into the process launched by the Secretary-General in his report. In addition to considering progress in implementing the recommendations of the first inter-committee meeting, the meeting was to discuss the Secretary-General’s ideas that (a) the committees should craft a more coordinated approach to their activities and standardize their varied reporting requirements and (b) that each State should be allowed to produce a single report summarizing its adherence to the full range of international human rights treaties to which it is a party. She drew attention to the background document prepared by the secretariat (HRI/ICM/2003/3 and Add.1) as well as the report of a brainstorming meeting on reform of the human rights treaty body system held in Malbun, Liechtenstein, from 4 to 7 May 2003 (HRI/ICM/2003/4-HRI/MC/2003/4).

4. Jakob Egbert Doek was elected Chairperson-Rapporteur.

II. Follow-up to previous recommendations and review of recent developments

5. The Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee reported that most of the recommendations of the first inter-committee meeting had been implemented or discussed during the past year. Beginning with its seventy-fifth session in July 2002, the Committee had introduced a system of country report task forces, consisting of four to six members, to improve the lists of issues and the quality of the dialogue between the Committee and the State party under review. The task forces were responsible for formulating the list of issues, taking the lead in conducting dialogue with the State party and, as necessary, assisting the Special Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations. A systematic procedure to follow up concluding observations was now applied, to which States parties were responding well.

6. The Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reported that the Committee had undertaken a comprehensive review of its working methods and had adopted new reporting guidelines, including page limitations on the reports of States parties. New modalities of organizing the dialogue with States parties presenting periodic reports had been introduced that included time limits for speakers. As a result of an exceptional session of the Committee held in August 2002, significant inroads had been made into the backlog of reports awaiting review. A meeting between the Committee and States that had not ratified to the Convention had been convened during the twenty-eighth session in January 2003 to promote ratification. The Committee was engaged in efforts to encourage the submission of overdue reports and it would meet with States parties whose reports were overdue at its upcoming session in June/July 2003. The Committee had not yet decided to consider the implementation of the Convention in States parties in the absence of a report. The Committee was open to collaboration with other treaty bodies in elaborating general comments/recommendations and had held discussions with the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on that committee's draft general comment on article 3.

7. The Chairperson of the Committee against Torture indicated that, beginning with its next session, the Committee would formulate a list of issues and questions to be sent in advance to reporting States. It had also established a working group to consider approaches to non-reporting States and it had been agreed that, in future, the Committee would deal with the implementation of the Convention in the State party in the absence of a report. It had also invited States parties with outstanding reporting obligations to combine several reports in a single document. The Committee had convened a successful meeting with States parties during its last session and had also adopted guidelines regulating the relationship between the Committee and the subcommittee to be established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session following its entry into force.

8. The Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reported that the Committee's working methods were being reviewed. The Committee would meet informally with States parties during 2003 and it had also requested country briefs on States parties that were presenting reports. Currently, lists of issues and questions were not formulated by the Committee, as there was no provision for the Committee to meet in a pre-sessional working group. The Committee had the power to solicit additional information from

States parties at any time, and that information was reviewed outside the regular reporting cycle. The fact that the Committee met in parallel with the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights had provided an opportunity for close cooperation between the Committee and those bodies. The Committee was currently questioning the value of press conferences and was seeking to address the concerns of some States parties with respect to press releases relating to Committee meetings.

9. The Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child explained that the membership of the Committee had recently been expanded from 10 to 18, following the entry into force of an amendment to the Convention. He stressed the efforts being made by the Committee to produce specific and practical concluding observations, and indicated that in the formulation of concluding observations, the conclusions of other treaty bodies were considered and frequently drawn upon. He also noted that the Committee's process of preparing general comments was open and participatory. The Committee had strengthened its efforts to ensure reporting by States parties. Six letters had been transmitted to States that had yet not reported, resulting in the submission of four reports and the notification by one State party that its report was in preparation. The Committee had not yet considered a report in the absence of a delegation. The Committee considered national as well as international press coverage to be essential in promoting implementation and was considering ways in which press attention could be heightened. In view of the almost universal acceptance of the treaty and the significant degree of compliance with reporting obligations, a large number of reports had still to be reviewed by the Committee. The Committee was currently considering the option of meeting in two subgroups or chambers in order to address the backlog of reports awaiting review and to absorb the new burden on the Committee arising from the submission of reports under the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on children and armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

10. Reporting on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Eibe Riedel, noted the ongoing efforts of the Committee to improve its working methods with regard to the dialogue with States parties and the elaboration of action-oriented recommendations. The Committee was very supportive of the idea of joint statements or general comments/recommendations with other treaty bodies to ensure consistent jurisprudence, and the Vice-Chairperson drew attention to discussions which had taken place with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the idea of a joint general comment on article 3 of the Covenant. The Committee was concerned about States parties that failed to report or whose reports were significantly overdue as well as those that did not report on all their territories. In the Committee's experience, the review of the implementation of the Covenant in the absence of the report had often led to the submission of late reports. The Vice-Chairperson noted the presentation of an implementation report on Brazil by a coalition of approximately 300 civil society organizations and public institutions, which had encouraged the State party to present its report. He pointed to the difficulties States parties experienced in relation to the collection of disaggregated and comparative data and drew attention to the establishment of benchmarks in the Committee's recent general comments. The Committee was considering the introduction of a system whereby individual States parties would be called upon to establish benchmarks which they would communicate to the

Committee, to serve as the basis of future reports. The Committee was also considering nominating a special rapporteur to follow up concluding observations. The Committee was appreciative of NGO participation and also conveyed NGO information to States parties.

III. The Secretary-General's ideas on strengthening the human rights treaty body system

11. The inter-committee meeting discussed the ideas put forward by the Secretary-General in his report, in particular those relating to enhancing implementation of human rights obligations at the national level and strengthening the human rights treaty body system, as well as the report of the Malbun meeting. It decided to focus on a number of issues: ensuring consistency in treaty body practice, including with respect to background information on States parties to be provided by the secretariat to committees; joint or parallel general comments/recommendations; the role of national human rights institutions in the reporting process; the Secretary-General's ideas on reporting to human rights treaty bodies; and non-reporting. Other issues, including capacity-building for reporting and follow-up to and dissemination of concluding observations/comments, were also considered.

Consistency in treaty body practice

12. Participants underlined the importance of consistency in the practice of treaty bodies and made recommendations relating to the information that the secretariat should provide as background information for the consideration of reports. They agreed that although the State party report formed the basis for the consideration of the implementation of human rights in that State party, other information, including from United Nations entities and NGOs, was valuable in enhancing the knowledge of committees with respect to the situation at the national level. A country-specific summary including information from other treaty bodies, special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and other human rights mechanisms should be prepared by the secretariat. Where the respective committee so decided, the summary could also include information from United Nations entities, national human rights institutions and NGOs. Participants underlined the importance of information available to the special procedures mandates holders and suggested that ways and means of deepening cooperation between the treaty bodies and those mechanisms should be explored. United Nations entities were also encouraged to engage more systematically with human rights treaty bodies, and it was suggested that treaty bodies should consider the nomination of members to act as liaison persons with specific United Nations entities. NGOs were called upon to continue to provide more timely information, including in languages other than English.

13. Participants noted that although some treaty bodies referred to the concluding observations/comments of other treaty bodies in their concluding observations/comments, others had chosen not to do so. While some participants considered that cross-referencing of concluding observations/comments might compromise the autonomous and independent nature of individual treaty bodies, most considered that cross-referencing underlined the indivisible nature of human rights and would ensure consistency of interpretation. In that context, some participants took the view that cross-referencing should extend to the standards

developed by other international and regional human rights mechanisms, such as the International Labour Organization, the African Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, as well as decisions taken by their supervisory organs, and other bodies as well. It was also suggested that concluding observations/comments should include reference to the outcome of United Nations global conferences. At the same time, it was noted that since concluding observations/comments should be useful at many levels, including for judges, lawyers, parliaments, the media, NGOs and national human rights institutions, they should be short, operational and as non-technical as possible. In that regard, while cross-referencing was appropriate in some cases, it might be more useful for individual treaty bodies to repeat the formulations of other treaty bodies in their concluding observations/comments.

Joint or parallel general comments/recommendations

14. Emphasizing the importance of consistent jurisprudence across treaty bodies, participants considered modalities of cooperation and collaboration by treaty bodies with respect to general comments/recommendations. Consultation among treaty bodies on topics for general comments/recommendations and circulation of drafts of these documents for comment by other treaty bodies were encouraged. As the competence to formulate general comments/recommendations was devolved on individual treaty bodies, rather than treaty bodies as a whole, it was considered that joint general comments/recommendations might be outside the legal competence of the treaty bodies. Harmonization in that context might also be difficult because of the different working methods of the committees.

15. Support was expressed for the adoption of general comments/recommendations by two or more committees in parallel. Parallel general comments/recommendations could be formulated with regard to issues of concern to more than one treaty body, such as non-reporting or reservations, although such comments on substantive issues could also be considered, in particular where the wording of the relevant articles in the treaties was identical or very similar.

National human rights institutions

16. Participants underlined the importance of national human rights institutions and their role in the system of reporting under human rights treaties. It was noted that several committees had adopted general comments on the role of national human rights institutions, and participants encouraged their creation and participation in the reporting process and, in particular, in monitoring the implementation of concluding observations/comments.

Secretary-General's proposals for strengthening the human rights treaty system

17. The inter-committee meeting noted that the Secretary-General's ideas on the human rights treaty system, in particular, the suggestion that each State should be allowed to produce a single report summarizing its adherence to the full range of international human rights treaties to which it was a party, were aimed at strengthening the human rights treaty system and the capacity of States to implement human rights at the national level. Participants indicated that each of the human rights treaty bodies had discussed the feasibility of the single report and, noting that such an approach had also been put forward by the Office of Internal

Oversight Services, had concluded that preparation of a single report would be a complex, perhaps unmanageable exercise. It was also believed that a single report would result in either very lengthy reports or superficial and summary reporting. Some treaty bodies had expressed concern that a single report could lead to the marginalization of treaty-specific issues. It was also suggested that a single report might be a long-term objective, which could be appropriate in a context of a single treaty body.

18. Although some participants considered that a pilot study on the feasibility of a single report might be appropriate, all considered that the current focus should be on encouraging ratification, withdrawal of reservations and implementation of human rights treaties. They also took the view that the overarching concerns and objectives of the Secretary-General, prime among which was ensuring implementation of the full range of human rights obligations by States parties, could be addressed more effectively by requiring them to submit an expanded core document, which would be regularly updated. In addition, States parties would be required to submit treaty-specific targeted periodic reports. The inter-committee meeting recommended that the secretariat prepare draft guidelines for an expanded core document, taking into account the existing reporting guidelines for human rights reporting and congruent or overlapping provisions in the seven core human rights treaties. The draft guidelines would be circulated to treaty bodies for comment and submitted to the third inter-committee meeting for consideration in 2004.

Non-reporting

19. The inter-committee meeting agreed that it was important that treaty bodies adopt a consistent policy and approach to States parties that failed to comply with their reporting obligations. A number of treaty bodies had taken the approach of reviewing the implementation of their respective treaties in States parties with long-overdue reports in the absence of a report, and it was agreed that all treaty bodies should take that approach as a last resort and subject to transparent criteria and procedures.

Other issues

20. Other issues addressed by the inter-committee meeting included the dissemination of concluding observations/comments and other treaty body outputs. The introduction by OHCHR of an electronic listserv to provide for timely and wide dissemination of this output was praised and further efforts were encouraged. The meeting also encouraged each treaty body to consider establishing formal procedures to follow up the implementation of concluding observations/comments, particularly in the light of the response by States parties to the procedure introduced by the Human Rights Committee. OHCHR and the Department for the Advancement of Women were urged to continue and strengthen capacity-building for States parties in the implementation of human rights treaties, reporting and follow-up to recommendations of committees.

21. The inter-committee meeting discussed the possibility of those treaty bodies with a large membership meeting in subgroups or in parallel chambers, including to consider the reports of States parties, in particular in the light of the backlog of reports awaiting review which affected those committees whose treaties had been ratified by a large number of States.

22. Issues relating to documentation and translation were also discussed. It was stressed that the work of treaty bodies was greatly facilitated by the timely availability of documentation in all working languages of the Committee.

IV. Dialogue with non-governmental organizations

23. Representatives of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP) presented their views to the inter-committee meeting with regard to the strengthening of the human rights treaty body system, with FIDH, HRW and ICJ providing a joint paper on the matter that was also supported by other NGOs. IWRAW-AP also circulated a position paper.

24. NGOs stressed that their emphasis was on enhancing the work of human rights treaty bodies. In that regard, reporting was critical for national-level implementation and follow-up and several underlying issues affected reporting by States parties, including lack of political will. Allowing States parties to prepare and present a single report on the implementation of all the human rights obligations to which they were party would not provide the framework for reporting of sufficient specificity. Such a report would not comply with the periodicity for reporting envisaged in most of the treaties and, in the light of its complex nature, might not reduce delays in reporting. NGOs saw some potential in the idea of focused reports, but suggested that the periodicity governing focused reports should be shorter than that for comprehensive reports. Focused reports should not entirely replace comprehensive reports, which should continue to be required by treaty bodies on a regular basis. An expansion of the current core document to incorporate other information of common interest to treaty bodies could also contribute to the modernization of the system. However, the updating of any expanded core document should be mandatory in order to keep the information current.

25. Harmonization of procedures was called for, especially with respect to non-reporting, follow-up and urgent actions, with procedures being based on the best practices of treaty bodies. The link between the process of review by treaty bodies at the international level and national-level follow-up was emphasized, and it was suggested that efforts should be strengthened to ensure that the potential of the reporting cycle to encourage national-level advocacy was exploited as much as possible. It was also pointed out that lack of clarity with respect to the meaning of the rights in human rights treaties limited understanding of the measures required to ensure de facto implementation of human rights obligations. Lack of data and statistics, as well as political will, led to delayed reporting or non-reporting.

V. Points of agreement

Consistency

26. In the light of the principle of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, the inter-committee meeting emphasized the need to ensure consistency in the examination of reports by all treaty bodies. To that end, the meeting recommended that the secretariat ensure that, in addition

to the State party report, the same basic information was provided to all treaty bodies.

27. In order to enhance consistency, it was further recommended that the secretariat provide, to all members of the relevant treaty body prior to the examination of a State party's report, the concluding observations/recommendations of other committees and relevant decisions on individual communications/complaints, including from regional organizations when appropriate, from the preceding three years. Where the State party had been examined by another treaty body within the previous three months, the meeting recommended that the secretariat provide, where available, the summary records of that meeting.

28. The inter-committee meeting furthermore recommended that, where appropriate, committees should refer to relevant concluding observations/comments of other treaty bodies either during the dialogue or in their own concluding comments.

Country information used in the consideration of reports

29. The inter-committee meeting emphasized that the State party report formed the basis for the consideration of the implementation of human rights instruments in that State party. Additional information from non-State sources was nevertheless useful for enhancing the treaty bodies' understanding of the situation within a country, and the meeting welcomed the additional information which was often provided by other human rights mechanisms, OHCHR, the Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations entities and NGOs.

30. The meeting encouraged greater engagement by specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations in the reporting process at both the national and the international level. It recommended that each treaty body designate a focal point to liaise with key relevant specialized agencies.

31. The meeting recommended that the secretariat should systematically summarize country-specific information in order to facilitate the work of experts, and that such a summary should consistently include relevant information from other treaty bodies, special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and other human rights mechanisms. Where appropriate, and in accordance with the decision of each committee, information from specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, regional or intergovernmental organizations, including the World Bank and other international financial institutions, national and international NGOs and national human rights institutions should also be included.

The role of national human rights institutions in reporting

32. The inter-committee meeting emphasized the constructive role that national human rights institutions could play in the human rights reporting process, at both international and national levels. It encouraged all national human rights institutions established in accordance with the Paris Principles to contribute independently, where appropriate, to the reporting process under international human rights instruments and to monitor the government reports

to international treaty bodies. The meeting also encouraged national human rights institutions to actively monitor the implementation of concluding observations/comments of treaty bodies at the national level.

Capacity-building

33. The inter-committee meeting agreed that capacity-building was important for effective national reporting and recommended that OHCHR, the Division for the Advancement of Women and treaty bodies should coordinate the consideration of possible objectives and strategies that could contribute to the effectiveness of technical cooperation. It also recommended that capacity-building efforts undertaken by OHCHR and the Department, United Nations agencies and programmes and NGOs, in particular those relating to follow-up to recommendations of treaty bodies, should be expanded and adequately funded.

Joint or parallel general comments/recommendations

34. The inter-committee meeting agreed that general comments/recommendations and the process of their elaboration provided opportunities for reflecting the holistic nature of the treaty body system. The meeting recommended that treaty bodies strengthen their efforts to exchange information and opinions on general comments/recommendations in order to ensure jurisprudential consistency among treaty bodies with respect to substantive issues.

35. On substantive issues, where the language of provisions of different treaties was virtually identical, treaty bodies should cooperate in the elaboration of general comments/recommendations, which would then be adopted by each of those committees in parallel.

36. The inter-committee meeting agreed that common issues could be the subject of general comments/recommendations adopted by treaty bodies in parallel. The meeting considered that a general comment on non-reporting should be adopted by each committee in parallel.

Dissemination of concluding observations/comments

37. The inter-committee meeting welcomed the secretariat's creation of a public listserv to facilitate the dissemination of concluding observations/comments electronically after each session. It recommended that the secretariat expand the listserv to include the work of other human rights mechanisms, in particular reports of the special mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights.

Proposals for strengthening the human rights treaty body system

38. The inter-committee meeting agreed that it shared the overriding concerns and objectives of the Secretary-General expressed in his report, in particular with regard to strengthening the implementation of human rights obligations at the national level. The meeting agreed that the proposal that each State should be allowed to produce a single report summarizing its adherence to the full range of international human rights treaties to which it was a party would not adequately meet those overriding concerns and objectives.

39. The inter-committee meeting considered that those concerns and objectives could be met more appropriately by requiring States parties to human rights treaties to prepare an expanded core document that would be regularly updated, as well as treaty-specific targeted periodic reports to individual treaty bodies.

40. The inter-committee meeting recommended that the secretariat prepare draft guidelines for an expanded core document for consideration by each committee and adoption by the third inter-committee meeting in 2004. The guidelines should emphasize substantive human rights issues relating to provisions in all or several human rights treaties.

41. Taking into account the specificity of each treaty, the inter-committee meeting also recommended that the secretariat examine the possibilities for greater harmonization of the reporting guidelines for each of the treaty bodies.

Follow-up

42. In the light of the initiatives taken by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, the inter-committee meeting recommended that all treaty bodies should examine the possibility of introducing procedures to follow up their recommendations.

Non-reporting

43. Taking into account the relevant provisions of the respective treaties and rules of procedure, the inter-committee meeting recommended that each committee adopt appropriate procedures to examine the situation of human rights in a State party whose reports were long overdue and that had not responded to reminders of its reporting obligation. In that regard, all committees should adopt the following incremental and graduated measures to encourage submission of overdue reports:

(a) At each session, the secretariat shall notify the committee of all cases of non-submission of reports. In such cases, the committee shall transmit to the State party concerned a reminder concerning the submission of such reports;

(b) At each session, the secretariat shall provide the committee with a list of all reports that are substantially overdue. In such cases, the committee may notify the States parties concerned that the implementation of the treaty will be considered at a designated session and request the State party to indicate before the following session when it will submit the overdue report;

(c) The Committee shall also inform the State party of the availability of technical assistance with respect to reporting from OHCHR and the Division for the Advancement of Women;

(d) If, at the following session, the State party has not responded, the Committee may schedule the examination of the situation of human rights of the State party for consideration in the absence of a report.

Notes

^a See A/57/387, chap. II.B, paras. 55-57.

Annex II

Agenda of the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons

(Adopted on 23 June 2003)

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational and other matters.
4. Follow-up to the recommendations of the fourteenth meeting of chairpersons.
5. Review of recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies.
6. Status of the 2003 Annual Appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the 2002-2004 Programme to Support Human Rights Organs and Treaty Bodies.
7. Strengthening support to and enhancing the effectiveness of the treaty bodies.
8. National-level implementation of treaty body recommendations.
9. Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
10. Informal consultations with States.
11. Fifth joint meeting with the tenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights.
12. Joint meeting with the tenth meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children.
13. Adoption of the report and setting of dates for the sixteenth meeting of chairpersons.

Annex III

Agenda of the informal consultations between the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies and States parties

(Adopted on 26 June 2003)

Item 1. Strengthening of the human rights reporting system

- (a) Secretary-General's ideas on streamlining human rights reporting;
- (b) Other approaches, including an expanded core document and targeted periodic reports;
- (c) Preparation of States parties' reports and the enhancement of human rights reporting at the national level;
- (d) Measures to encourage reporting;
- (e) Dialogue with States parties;
- (f) Follow-up procedures to treaty body recommendations.

Item 2. Methods of work related to:

- (a) Communications;
- (b) Inquiries;
- (c) Urgent action procedures.

Annex IV

Participants in the fifteenth meeting of chairpersons

A. Non-governmental organizations (meeting on 24 June 2003)

Antoine Madelin; Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme (FIDH)

Loubna Freih; Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Rachel Brett; Quaker UN office

Tania Balowin-Pask; Amnesty International

Patricia Scannella; Amnesty International

Anna-Karin Holmlund; Amnesty International

Carla Covarrubias; Amnesty International

Edouard Delaplace; Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Geneviève Jourdan; World Citizens

Catherine Ferry; Organisation mondiale contre la torture (OMCT)

Christophe Schmachtel; International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

Rea Chiongson; International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW Asia Pacific)

Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui; International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

A. Flores; Anti-Racism Information Service (ARIS)

Carol Dolorier de Haller; ARIS

Atsuko Tanaka; International Movement Against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)

B. United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes (meeting on 25 June 2003)

Asako Hattori; World Health Organization (WHO)

Aida Gevorgyan; WHO

Martin Oelz; International Labour Office

Lee Swepston; International Labour Office

Christoph Bierwirth; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Marie Heuzé; United Nations Information Service in Geneva (DPI)

Thierry Potvin; DPI

Yvonne Donders; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Vladimir Volodin; UNESCO

Lesley Miller; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Ana Angarita; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Miriam Maluwa; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Gesa Kupfer; UNAIDS

**C. States parties
(meeting on 26 June 2003)**

Albania

Ms. Pranvera Goxhi, First Secretary

Australia

Mr. Mike Smith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Ms. Amanda Gorely, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative

Austria

Ms. Elisabeth Ellison-Kramer, Counsellor

Barbados

Mr. Matthew Wilson, First Secretary

Belarus

Mr. Vladimir Malevich, Deputy Permanent Representative

Ms. Ina Vasileuskaya, First Secretary

Belgium

Mr. Leopold Merckx, Deputy Permanent Representative

Benin

Ms. Rosemonde Adjanonhoun, First Secretary

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Milos Vukasinovic, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Brazil

Ms. Claudia Maciel, Second Secretary

Bulgaria

Mr. Dimitar Philipov, Deputy Permanent Representative

Canada

Ms. Deirdre Kent, First Secretary

Chile

Mr. Patricio Utreras, First Secretary

Colombia

Ms. Ana María Prieto Abad, Minister Counsellor

Costa Rica

Ms. Carmen Isabel Claramunt-Garro, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. Christian Guillermet-Fernandez, Minister Counsellor

Croatia

Branko Socanac, Minister Counsellor

Cuba

Mr. Jorge Ferrer, Counsellor

Cyprus

Ms. Helena Mina, Second Secretary

Czech Republic

Mr. Alexander Slabý, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Mr. Lukás Machon, Third Secretary

Denmark

Ms. Eva Grambye, Second Secretary

Mr. Albert Birnbaum, Intern

Dominican Republic

Mr. Ysset Román Maldonado, Minister Counsellor

Egypt

Mr. Mohamed Loutfy, Third Secretary

Estonia

Ms. Kirke Kraav, Third Secretary

Finland

Mr. Erik af Hällström, First Secretary

France

Ms. Catherine Calothy, Counsellor

Georgia

Mr. Alexander Chikvaidze, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Germany

Mr. Robert Dieter, First Secretary

Ghana

Mr. Sylvester Jude Parker-Allotey, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece

Mr. Takis Sarris, Deputy Permanent Representative

Ms. Eleni Petroula, Counsellor

Guatemala

Ms. Carla Rodriguez, Deputy Permanent Representative

Honduras

Ms. Gracibel Bu Figueroa, Counsellor

Hungary

Ms. Katalin Csima Szaloki, Second Secretary

India

Mr. Debabrata Saha, Deputy Permanent Representative

Mr. Anurag Srivastava, Third Secretary

Indonesia

Mr. Lasro Simbolon, First Secretary

Mr. Agung C. Sumirat, Third Secretary

Ireland

Mr. Brian Cahalane, First Secretary

Israel

Ms. Teizu Guluma, Adviser

Italy

Mr. Marco Conticelli, First Counsellor

Kazakhstan

Ms. Munira Artykbekova, First Secretary

Latvia

Ms. Kristine Malinovska, Counsellor

Mr. Johnny Ibrahim, First Secretary

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Mr. Murad Hamaima, Counsellor

Lithuania

Ms. Llona Petrikiene, Second Secretary

Luxembourg

Mr. Marc Godefroid, First Secretary

Madagascar

Ms. Clarah Andrianjaka, Counsellor

Mali

Mr. Sekou Kasse, First Counsellor

Mexico

Ms. Elía del Carmen Sosa Nishizaki, First Secretary

Morocco

Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Counsellor

Nepal

Mr. Gopal Bahadur Thapa, Minister Counsellor

Netherlands

Mr. Henk Cor van der Kwast, Counsellor

Norway

Ms. Ingrid Sylow, Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

New Zealand

Ms. Jillian Dempster, First Secretary

Paraguay

Mr. Francisco Barreiro, First Secretary

Peru

Mr. Juan Pablo Vegas Torres, Counsellor

Portugal

Mr. Pedro Alves, Secretary

Romania

Mr. Cristian Badescu, Second Secretary

Serbia and Montenegro

Ms. Marina Ivanovic, Second Secretary

Slovakia

Ms. Barbara Illková, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr. Marcos Gómez Martínez, Counsellor

Sri Lanka

Mr. Senarath Dissanayake, Second Secretary

Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Second Secretary

Sweden

Mr. Magnus Andersson, First Secretary

Switzerland

Mr. Jean-Daniel Vigny, Minister

Thailand

Ms. Phantipha Iamsudha, First Secretary

Turkey

Ms. Özden Sav, Counsellor

Uruguay

Ms. Alejandra de Bellis, First Secretary

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr. Paul Bentall, Second Secretary

Mr. Bob Last, Counsellor

United States of America

Mr. Jeffrey De Laurentis, Counsellor

Mr. Joel Danies, First Secretary

Venezuela

Mr. Vladimir González, Second Secretary

Viet Nam

Mr. Nguyen Nang Tien, Counsellor

Zimbabwe

Mr. Felix Maonera, Counsellor
