

IFS: A World Movement Constructively Engaged with the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
PLANET PEOPLE PEOPLE PLANET



The United Nations System

UN Principal Organs

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council
- Secretariat
- International Court of Justice
- Trusteeship Council⁵

Subsidiary Bodies
Main and other sessional committees
Disarmament Commission
Human Rights Council
International Law Commission
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Programmes and Funds
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
 • **ITC** International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
 • **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
 • **UNV** United Nations Volunteers
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

Subsidiary Bodies
Counter-terrorism committees
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Advisory Subsidiary Body
UN Peacebuilding Commission

Functional Commissions
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Narcotic Drugs
Population and Development
Science and Technology for Development
Social Development
Statistics
Status of Women
Sustainable Development
United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions
ECA Economic Commission for Africa
ECE Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies
Committee for Development Policy
Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Other sessional and standing committees and expert, ad hoc and related bodies

Departments and Offices
EOSG Executive Office of the Secretary-General
DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DFS Department of Field Support
DGACM Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

DM Department of Management
DPA Department of Political Affairs
DPI Department of Public Information
DPKO Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DSS Department of Safety and Security
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRWA¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN-Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP World Food Programme

Research and Training Institutes
UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR¹ United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNSSC United Nations System Staff College
UNU United Nations University

Other Entities
UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

Related Organizations
CTBTO PrepCom Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
IAEA² International Atomic Energy Agency
OPCW Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
WTO³ World Trade Organization

Specialized Agencies⁴
ILO International Labour Organization
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO World Health Organization
World Bank Group
 • **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 • **IDA** International Development Association
 • **IFC** International Finance Corporation
 • **MIGA** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
 • **ICSID** International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

IMF International Monetary Fund
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
IMO International Maritime Organization
ITU International Telecommunication Union
UPU Universal Postal Union
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNWTO World Tourism Organization

NOTES:
¹ UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the General Assembly.
² IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.
³ WTO has no reporting obligation to the General Assembly (GA) but contributes on an ad-hoc basis to GA and ECOSOC work inter alia on finance and developmental issues.
⁴ Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level. This section is listed in order of establishment of these organizations as specialized agencies of the United Nations.
⁵ The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations Trust Territory, on 1 October 1994.

This is not an official document of the United Nations, nor is it intended to be all-inclusive.

IFS General Consultative Status with ECOSOC

- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the principal organ that coordinates the economic, social and related work of **14 United Nations specialized agencies, functional commissions** and **5 regional commissions**.
- IFS has ECOSOC general consultative status.

“General consultative status is given to NGOs that represent large segments of societies in several countries. Their area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.”

IFS General Consultative Status with ECOSOC

As an ECOSOC NGO, IFS members have the opportunity to:

- Attend international conferences, Commissions and events
- Make written and oral statements at events
- Organize side events
- Enter United Nations premises
- Have opportunities to network and lobby

The following are Commissions that IFS participates in:

- Commission on Sustainable Development
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Commission for Social Development
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Commission on Population and Development

Structure of the United Nations: *The General Assembly*

General Assembly: The main deliberative organ; composed of all 193 member states, each of which has one vote. Under the Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly include:

- To initiate studies and make recommendations to promote the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
- International collaboration in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields.



Structure of the United Nations: *The General Assembly*

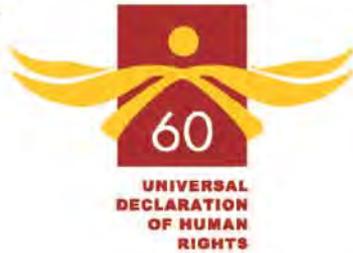
The General Assembly has six main committees:

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (Legal)





United Nations



UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION
OF HUMAN
RIGHTS

All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations is committed to upholding, promoting and protecting the human rights of every individual. This commitment stems from the United Nations Charter, which reaffirms the faith of the peoples of the world in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has stated in clear and simple terms the rights which belong equally to every person.

These rights belong to you.

They are your rights. Familiarize yourself with them. Help to promote and defend them for yourself as well as for your fellow human beings.

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human

progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission

rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social

Whereas a common understanding of rights and freedoms is of importance for the full realisation of these rights and freedoms,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard for all peoples and as the end that every individual, organ of society, keeping constantly in mind, shall bring and education to promote these rights and freedoms and to secure their universal recognition and observance, peoples of Member States among the peoples of their jurisdiction.

which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental

unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State

Article 20

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing the recognition

Article 34

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State

Article 17

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom

Department of Public Information
For more information
issues/education/training/udhr.htm

United Nations Department of Public Information
For more information
www.ohchr.org/english/le.htm

Human Rights

The United Nations (UN) has:

- Created a comprehensive body of human rights law
- Defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as political and civil rights
- Expanded human rights law to encompass specific standards for women, children, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups

Human Rights

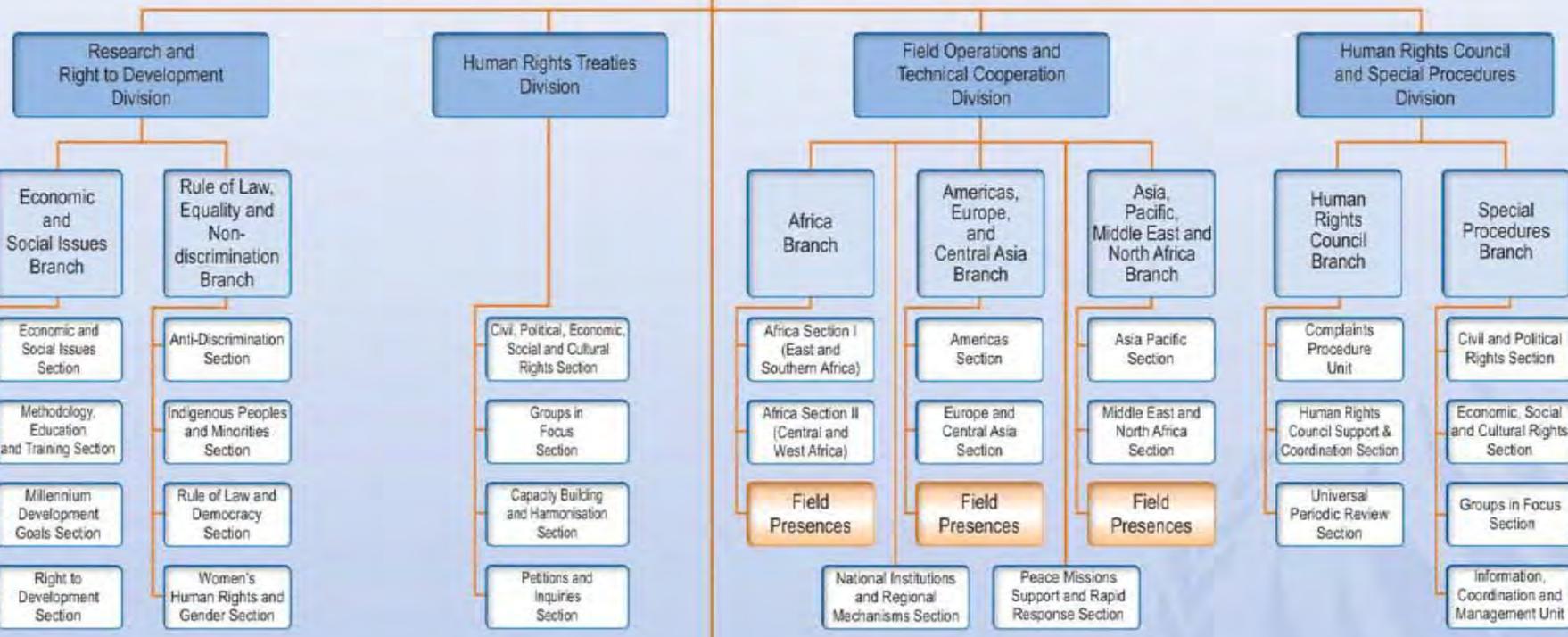
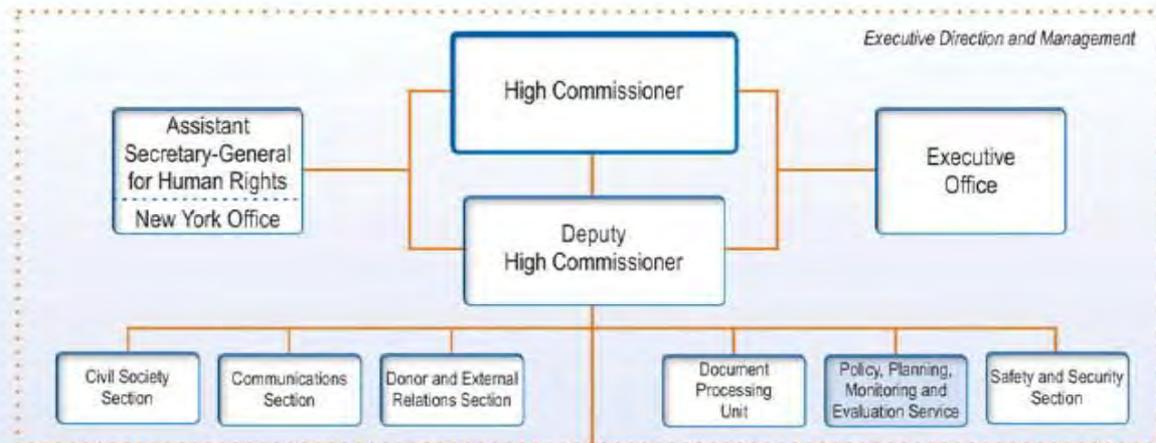
In 1993 the General Assembly established the post of **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** as the official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities and is charged with promoting and protecting the enjoyment by all of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

The mission of the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** is:

- *To work for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all people*
- *To help empower people to realize their rights and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented*

The Security General's 2005 report, "In Larger Freedom", set out the basis for reforming the United Nations and cited respect for human rights as a **fundamental prerequisite for achieving development and security**.

The **denial of human dignity** that characterizes poverty and continued economic and social deprivation remains **one of the most significant challenges** for human rights.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Priorities:

- Those affected by social exclusion, violence and poverty and a result of discrimination
- Those who suffer multiple and inter-sectional forms of discrimination
- Discrimination in access to education, which perpetuates existing patterns of disadvantage
- Discrimination as it relates to participation in decision making, which entrenches marginalization and exacerbates social tension, which, in turn, can fuel instability and violent conflict



Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

The Commission on the Status of Women, under ECOSOC, monitors progress toward gender equality throughout the world.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) monitors adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

IFS and Treaty Bodies

As an NGO IFS:

- Promotes ratification of treaties such as CEDAW
- Monitors compliance by States and parties with their reporting obligations
- Submit relevant written reports
- Participate in human rights treaty body sessions through oral submissions
- Follow up on human rights treaty bodies' concluding observation
- Submit individual complaints to human rights treaty bodies with optional protocol (Human Rights Committee, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and Committee on Migrant Workers)
- Provide information to generate confidential inquiries (Committee against Torture and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)
- Provide information for early warning and urgent procedures (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

Table on Treaty Bodies Functions

Treaty Body	Number of States Parties	Number of weeks in session annually	Periodicity of obligation to report	Functions		
				Reviews reports and issues recommendations of States Parties	Considers individual complaints	Conducts visits to countries
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	160	8	5 years	Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined per year: 10 Number of reports pending examination: 44 (estimated backlog of over four years)	Optional Protocol (not yet entered into force)	Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (not yet entered into force)
Human Rights Committee	167	12	3, 4 or 5 years as per Committee's decision	Article 40 Number of reports examined per year: 15 Number of reports pending examination: 25 (estimated backlog of nearly two years)	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 340 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 3½ years	No
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	175	8	2 years	Article 9 Number of reports examined per year: 24 Number of reports pending examination: 16 (estimated backlog of less than a year)	Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 3 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 1½ years	No
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	187	14	4 years	Article 18 Number of reports examined per year: 24 Number of reports pending examination: 48 (estimated backlog of two years)	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 10 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 2 years	Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations
Committee on the Rights of the Child	193 OP-AC 143 OP-SC 151	12	5 years	Article 44 Number of reports examined per year: 30 (including OPAC and OPSC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 99 (including OPAC/OPSC reports) (estimated backlog of over three years)	Optional Protocol (not yet entered into force)	Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (not yet entered into force)
Committee Against Torture	149	8	4 years	Articles 19-20 Number of reports examined per year: 14 Number of reports pending examination: 20 (estimated backlog of nearly two years)	Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 100 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 2½ years	Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations
Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	61	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Articles 11-16 Subcommittee visits places of deprivation of liberty and communicates its recommendations by confidential report
Committee on Migrant Workers	45	3	5 years	Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined per year: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 6 (estimated backlog of 1½ years)	Article 77 (not yet entered into force)	No
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	108	3	4 years	Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined per year: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 23 (estimated backlog of nearly six years)	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 5 Average time between registration and final decision: N/A (Committee has yet to adopt its first decision)	Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations
Committee on Enforced Disappearances	30	2	As per Committee's decision	Article 29 Number of reports examined per year: to be determined Number of reports pending examination: 0	Article 31	Article 33 Visit on serious violations

Contacting Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Contacting Human Rights Treaty Bodies:

(Name of the committee)

c/o Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – hold

Palais des Nations

8-14, avenue de la Paix

CH-1211 Geneva 10 – Switzerland

Fax: 41 (0)22 917 90 29

Directory of Special Procedures

There are 66 Special Rapporteurs
(see hand-out for details)



Tools for the Development of Operational Guidelines

The work of special procedures mandate-holders can provide detailed material on rights and obligations that civil society actors can use to develop internal operational guidelines. For example:

The work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences can provide valuable definitions of violence against women, their causes and the best practices for eliminating them. These guidelines, definitions and procedures can be used in schools, prisons, women's shelters or other organizations seeking to create safe conditions for women.

Indigenous Issues

On September 13, 2007, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, setting out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including their rights to **culture, identity, language, employment, health and education**.

The Declaration emphasizes the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations.

It prohibits discrimination against them, and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, as well as their right to remain distinct and to pursue their visions of economic and social development.

International Labor Organization Decent Work Agenda/Social Justice

ILO (2008) Decent work agenda (ILO 2008) Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

Decent work: The aspiration of people in their working lives

- Opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income
- Security in the workplace and social protection for families
- Better prospects for personal development and social integration
- Freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives
- Equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men