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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression  
and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 3068 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, adopted and opened for signature and ratification the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and appealed to all States to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.
2. By its resolution 3380 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, the General Assembly, inter alia, being convinced that ratification of or accession to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid on a universal basis and implementation of its provisions were necessary for the achievement of the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, appealed to the Governments of all States to sign, ratify and implement without delay the International Convention; requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the status of the Convention; and decided to consider this question at its thirty-first session under the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination".
3. By its resolution 31/80 of 13 December 1976, the General Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the entry into force on 18 July 1976 of the above-mentioned Convention; appealed to all States which had not yet become parties to the Convention to accede thereto; requested the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report under General Assembly resolution 3380 (XXX) a special part concerning the implementation of the Convention; and decided to consider annually, starting with its thirty-second session, the question entitled "Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid".

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\* A/32/150.

## II. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION

4. In accordance with the provisions of its article XV, paragraph 1, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid entered into force on 18 July 1976, on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification.

5. As at 1 September 1977, the Convention had received 35 signatures, 23 of which had been followed by ratifications. In addition, 12 States had acceded to the Convention, bringing the total of ratifications and accessions to the Convention to 35. A list of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signatures, ratifications or accessions, appear in the annex to this report.

## III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

6. Under article VII of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the States parties to the Convention undertake to submit periodic reports to the group established under article IX on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted and that give effect to the provisions of the Convention. Copies of the reports shall be transmitted through the Secretary-General to the Special Committee against Apartheid.

7. In accordance with article IX, paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Convention, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights shall appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission, who are also representatives of States parties to the Convention, to consider reports submitted by States parties in accordance with article VII. The group may meet for a period of not more than five days, either before the opening or after the closing date of the session of the Commission, to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article VII.

8. Under article X of the Convention, the States parties to the Convention empower the Commission on Human Rights to undertake a number of tasks enumerated therein and, inter alia, to prepare, on the basis of reports from competent organs of the United Nations and periodic reports from States parties, a list of individuals, organizations, institutions and representatives of States which are alleged to be responsible for the crimes enumerated in article II of the Convention, as well as those against whom legal proceedings have been undertaken by States parties to the Convention.

9. The General Assembly, in its resolution 31/80 of 13 December 1976, inter alia, invited the Chairman of the thirty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission as provided for by article IX of the Convention. It further invited the Commission on Human Rights to undertake the functions set out in article X of the Convention, in particular to prepare a list of individuals, organizations, institutions and representatives of States which are alleged to be responsible for the crimes enumerated in article II of the Convention.

10. At its thirty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights considered item 13 of its agenda (Implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid) at its 1426th meeting, on 11 March 1977. In accordance with article IX of the Convention and General Assembly resolution 31/80, the Chairman of the Commission appointed the representatives of Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic and, subsequently, Nigeria as members of the group. By its resolution 13 (XXXIII) of 11 March 1977, the Commission decided, inter alia, that the group should meet for a period of five days before the thirty-fourth session of the Commission to consider the reports submitted by States parties in accordance with article VII; and invited States parties to the Convention to submit to the group, through the Secretary-General, reports on the legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures that they had adopted and that gave effect to the provisions of the Convention. In a note verbale dated 22 June 1977, the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the States parties the relevant provisions of the Convention and Commission resolution 13 (XXXIII) and requested them to submit their reports by 1 November 1977 for consideration by the group of three members of the Commission appointed by the Chairman.

11. As regards the implementation of the provisions of article X of the Convention, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 13 (XXXIII), requested United Nations organs, when transmitting copies of petitions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to draw the attention of the Commission on Human Rights through the Secretary-General to complaints concerning acts enumerated in article II of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; requested competent United Nations organs to provide to the Commission through the Secretary-General information relevant to the preparation of the list of individuals, organizations, institutions and representatives of States which were alleged to be responsible for the crimes enumerated in article II of the Convention, as well as those against whom legal proceedings had been undertaken by States parties to the Convention; further requested competent United Nations organs to provide to the Commission through the Secretary-General information concerning measures taken by the authorities responsible for the administration of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and all other Territories to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 applied, with regard to such individuals alleged to be responsible for crimes under article II of the Convention who were believed to be under their territorial and administrative jurisdictions; and decided to maintain on its agenda the item entitled "Implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid".

12. The Secretary-General has taken steps to bring to the attention of the competent bodies and organs of the United Nations the relevant provisions of Commission resolution 13 (XXXIII), so that the information requested from them may be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fourth session or as appropriate.

ANNEX

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the  
International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment  
of the Crime of Apartheid

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Algeria	23 January 1974	
Argentina	6 June 1975	
Benin	7 October 1974	30 December 1974
Bulgaria	27 June 1974	18 July 1974
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	4 March 1974	2 December 1975
Chad	23 October 1974	23 October 1974
Cuba		1 February 1977 a/
Czechoslovakia	29 August 1975	25 March 1976
Democratic Yemen	31 July 1974	
Ecuador	12 March 1975	12 May 1975
Egypt		13 June 1977 a/
German Democratic Republic	2 May 1974	12 August 1974
Guinea	1 March 1974	3 March 1975
Hungary	26 April 1974	20 June 1974
Iraq	1 July 1975	9 July 1975
Jamaica	30 March 1976	18 February 1977
Jordan	5 June 1974	
Kenya	2 October 1974	
Kuwait		23 February 1977 a/
Liberia		5 November 1976 a/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		8 July 1976 a/

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a/ Accession.

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<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Madagascar		26 May 1977 <u>a/</u>
Mali		19 August 1977 <u>a/</u>
Mongolia	17 May 1974	8 August 1975
Nepal		12 July 1977 <u>a/</u>
Nigeria	26 June 1974	31 March 1977
Oman	3 April 1974	
Panama	7 May 1976	16 March 1977
Philippines	2 May 1974	
Poland	7 June 1974	15 March 1976
Qatar	18 March 1975	19 March 1975
Romania	6 September 1974	
Rwanda	15 October 1974	
Senegal		18 February 1977 <u>a/</u>
Somalia	2 August 1974	28 January 1975
Sudan	10 October 1974	21 March 1977
Syrian Arab Republic	17 January 1974	18 June 1976
Trinidad and Tobago	7 April 1975	
Tunisia		21 January 1977 <u>a/</u>
Uganda	11 March 1975	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 February 1974	10 November 1975
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	12 February 1974	26 November 1975
United Arab Emirates	9 September 1975	15 October 1975
United Republic of Cameroon		1 November 1976 <u>a/</u>
United Republic of Tanzania		11 June 1976 <u>a/</u>
Upper Volta	3 February 1976	
Yugoslavia	17 October 1974	1 July 1975