

HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Note: The topic of human rights is a very broad one. The international treaties listed here are core documents which cover a range of human rights issues. International treaties covering more specific topics have been listed under those topics.

UNITED NATIONS

date of admission to United Nations – 23 April 1990

- includes acceptance of the *Charter of the United Nations*
- includes adoption of the *Statute of the International Court of Justice* annexed to the Charter of the United Nations
- also generally understood to include endorsement of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

MULTILATERAL TREATIES

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948

accession: 28 November 1994

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966

accession: 11 November 1982

Namibia has NOT agreed to the following amendment, which is not yet in force internationally:

* *Amendment to article 8 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1992.*

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966

accession: 28 November 1994; ; effective date: 28 February 1995

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

accession: 28 November 1994; effective date: 28 February 1995

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

accession: 28 November 1994

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty, 1989

accession: 28 November 1994

Cases: *Namunjepe & Others v Commanding Officer, Windhoek Prison & Another* 1999 NR 271 (SC) at 284H-ff.

International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973

accession: 11 November 1982

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979

accession: 23 November 1992

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

effective date: 22 December 2000 (This is the date on which the Optional Protocol came into force internationally after being ratified by the first 10 countries, one of which is Namibia. The Namibian Parliament approved the Optional Protocol on 17 May 2000.)

Namibia has NOT agreed to the following amendment, which is not yet in force internationally:

* *Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1995.*

Cases: *Müller v President of the Republic of Namibia & Another* 1999 NR 190 (SC) at 205E-F.

African Charter for Human and People's Rights, 1981

accession: 30 July 1992

deposit: 16 August 1992

(source: African and International Instruments Online,

www.oneworld.org/afonet/links/banjul_ratifl.htm; Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Protocol to the African Charter for Human and People's Rights on the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, 1998

(came into force within the AU on 15 January 2004)

signature: 9 June 1998

ratification approved by Parliament: 7 November 2000 (source: Parliament)

Protocol to the African Charter for Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003

(not yet in force within the AU)

signature: 9 December 2003 (<http://www.africa-union.org>)

ratification approved by Parliament: 15 June 2004 (source: Parliament)

ratification: 26 August 2004 (source: <http://www.africa-union.org>)

Reservation: Namibia will not be bound by Article 6(d) until it has enacted legislation regarding the recording and registration of customary marriages. (source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990

signature: 13 July 1999

ratification approved by Parliament: 23 July 2004

deposit: 26 August 2004 (source: <http://www.africa-union.org>)

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984

accession: 28 November 1994

Namibia has NOT agreed to the following amendments, which are not yet in force internationally:

* *Amendments to articles 17 (7) and 18 (5) of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1992.*

Cases: *Namunjepo & Others v Commanding Officer, Windhoek Prison & Another* 1999 NR 271 (SC) at 284H-ff.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

signature: 26 September 1990

ratification: 30 September 1990

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

(entered into force internationally on 12 February 2002)

signature: 8 September 2000 (source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

ratification: 16 April 2002 (source: UNICEF)

Note: Namibia's ratification of this Optional Protocol was accompanied by a declaration on the minimum recruitment age (age 18) for the Namibia Defence Force (source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

(entered into force internationally on 18 January 2002)

signature: 8 September 2000 (source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

ratification: 16 April 2002 (sources: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; UNICEF)

Amendment to Article 43(2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the Conference of the States Parties on 12 December 1995

(not yet in force internationally as of 15 July 2002)

ratification: 11 December 2001 (source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

See also **INTERNATIONAL LAW**.