The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted thirty-five years ago, on 21 December 1965, by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and entered into force on 4 January 1969. It was the first of the universal human rights treaties with a treaty-monitoring body to be adopted and enter into force. At present, 156 States have ratified or acceded to this Convention.

Under article 9 of the Convention, each State party has to submit a report within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for that State and thereafter every two years and whenever so requested. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been formed to monitor the implementation of the Convention. At its fortieth session, in 1991, the Committee initiated the practice of adopting concluding observations by the Committee as a whole on each report it considered, and at its forty-third session, in 1993, the Committee started to use a standard format for the presentation of its concluding observations. The Committee makes a general evaluation of the report and of the dialogue with the delegation, and it makes note of positive developments that may have occurred during the period under review, factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Convention, and of principal subjects of concern. It also makes suggestions and recommendations to the State party concerned.

The present volume contains concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its forty-third to fifty-seventh sessions (1993-2000). The text in this compilation is based on the Committee’s annual reports to the General Assembly. The concluding observations are arranged under the name of the State party in alphabetical order. Declarations, reservations and some other relevant texts are reproduced in notes. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination is reproduced in an annex.

This compilation is the third volume in "The Raoul Wallenberg Institute Series of Intergovernmental Human Rights Documentation". It is the intention to publish the concluding observations/comments of all six UN human rights treaty bodies in separate volumes of this series.

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