This report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, most documents are dated after 1 January 2004. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core universal human rights treaties</th>
<th>Date of ratification, accession or succession</th>
<th>Declarations /reservations</th>
<th>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>28 Sept. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>28 Sept. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>28 Sept. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP1</td>
<td>28 Sept. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>19 July 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>28 Sept. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 22): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>29 June 1994</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core treaties to which Uzbekistan is not a party: ICCPR-OP2, OP-CEDAW, OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC, ICRMW, CPD, CPD-OP and CED.

Other main relevant international instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratification, accession or succession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees and stateless persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Uzbekistan was encouraged to ratify ICRMW, OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC, OP-CEDAW, OP-CAT and the Rome Statute; the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on Reduction of Statelessness, and ILO Convention No. 138. It was also encouraged to make the declarations under articles 21 and 22 of CAT.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. In 2005, the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) was concerned that the provisions on states of emergency do not explicitly specify, or place limits, on derogations from rights that may be made in emergencies.
C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommended that Uzbekistan consider establishing a national institution for human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles.15

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Latest report submitted</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Follow-up response</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>2 July 200717</td>
<td>Combined sixth and seventh reports due on 28 November 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Second report due on 30 June 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Committee</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>March 2005</td>
<td>28 September and 9 December 2006</td>
<td>Third report received in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>August 2006</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Fourth report received in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Combined third and fourth reports due in 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Uzbekistan provided additional information in comments to the concluding observations of CESCR and CERD, on a wide range of issues.18 In comments to CAT, Uzbekistan highlighted its partial disagreement with some of its recommendations, in particular relating to the definition of torture; the request to publicly condemn torture; and the qualification of the use of force during the May 2005 events in Andijan.19

5. CEDAW and CERD welcomed national plans of action established to implement their recommendations.20 CESCR noted that such a plan would be adopted for the implementation of its conclusions.21 A 2007 report on Uzbekistan noted that a plan developed to implement CRC recommendations, the Millennium Declaration and the Declaration “A World Fit for Children”, was also approved by the Government.22 CAT welcomed steps taken to implement the 2004 Action Plan on its recommendations and information that a similar plan will be adopted on its 2007 conclusions.23

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing invitation issued</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latest visits or mission reports</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (24 November to 6 December 2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits agreed upon in principle</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visits requested and not yet agreed upon

| Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (reminder in 2008) |
| Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (request in 2008) |
| Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (request in 2006 and 2007) |
| Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (request in 2001, reminder in 2007) |
| Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (request in 2007) |
| Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (request in 2005) |
| Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (request in 2004) |

Facilitation/cooperation during missions

- -

Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals

Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2008, 93 communications were sent to Uzbekistan. Apart from communications sent for particular groups (e.g. NGOs, media), 229 individuals were concerned, including 59 women.

Between 1 June 2004 and 30 June 2008, Uzbekistan replied to 79 communications (75 per cent).

Follow-up to visits

None

Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues

Uzbekistan responded to none of 12 questionnaires sent by the mandate holders between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2008 within the deadlines.

6. In 2006, the Secretary-General called upon Uzbekistan to extend invitations to thematic special procedures, in accordance with their standard terms of reference.

7. In 2007, the Human Rights Council discontinued the consideration of the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan under the 1503 confidential procedure.

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

8. In response to the 2005 events in Andijan, the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on Uzbekistan to permit the deployment of an independent investigation. Since no positive response was received, an OHCHR mission was sent to Kyrgyzstan in June 2005 to gather testimonies and as a preparatory step for the eventualty of an agreement on an independent international investigation.

9. In 2006, the Secretary-General called upon Uzbekistan to cooperate actively with the OHCHR Regional Representative deployed in 2006. OHCHR is pursuing efforts to engage with the Government, with the aim of strengthening human rights protection in the country. The OHCHR Regional Office established in 2008 in Kyrgyzstan will offer support to Central Asian Governments in implementing their international human rights obligations. In 2007, the High Commissioner visited Central Asia, but did not travel to Uzbekistan which indicated that the proposed dates were not convenient. In 2008, Uzbekistan made a financial contribution to the work of OHCHR.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

10. In 2005 and 2006 respectively, CESCR and CRC recommended that Uzbekistan adopt specific anti-discrimination legislation. In response to the call of CERD for the elaboration of
specific legislation on racial discrimination, Uzbekistan indicated that this is not necessary as the Convention is already reflected in the legislation.35

11. CESCR and CEDAW expressed concern about cultural stereotypes regarding the role of women in society.36 CESCR called for the adoption of a law on gender equality, while CEDAW urged Uzbekistan to step up the process of adopting the law on equal rights and equal opportunities.37

12. The HR Committee recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that the relevant provisions of its Criminal Code are fully implemented so as to put an end to the practice of polygamy.38 Uzbekistan should also combat the practice of forced marriages of kidnapped women.39 CESCR was also concerned about the reappearance of polygamy and forced marriages.40

13. CESCR and CEDAW welcomed the setting-up of a minimum quota of 30 per cent for women in Parliament elections.41 CEDAW noted that this resulted in an increased representation of women in Parliament from 8 to 17.5 per cent, but was concerned about women’s continuing underrepresentation in political and public life and in decision-making positions at all levels.42 A UNDP report noted that the positions of deputy hokim (governor) and the deputy prime minister for women’s affairs have been reserved for women. This may represent progress, but could also restrict women’s access to governor’s or minister’s positions.43

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

14. The General Assembly expressed its grave concern at the continuing and serious human rights violations occurring in Uzbekistan, in particular eyewitness reports of indiscriminate and disproportionate force used by government troops to quell demonstrations in Andijan in May 2005, resulting in the death of many civilians.44 CAT was concerned that these incidents resulted, according to the State, in 187 deaths and according to other sources, in 700 deaths or more, and in hundreds of persons being detained thereafter.45 The major contradictions between Uzbekistan’s account of deaths and the many consistent allegations from other sources were a matter of concern to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.46 According to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, it is not excluded that the incidents amounted to a mass killing.47

15. In 2005, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees urged Uzbekistan to refrain from any action aimed at ensuring the forcible return of Uzbek asylum-seekers to their country, including apparently coercing their relatives to plead for their return.48 Concern was expressed by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers about the pressure on Kyrgyzstan and attempts by Uzbek agents on Kyrgyz territory to return Uzbek citizens who had fled the events in Andijan,49 and by the General Assembly about the pressure exercised to prevent Uzbek refugees from travelling to a third country.50 In August 2006 the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed grave concern at the deportation of four Uzbek refugees and of an asylum-seeker to Uzbekistan.51 In 2007, CAT received credible reports that some persons who sought refuge abroad and were returned to the country have been kept in detention in unknown places and possibly subjected to treatment in breach of the Convention.52

16. Of the 19 cases transmitted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, 13 remain outstanding, including four persons who had reportedly fled to Kyrgyzstan after the Andijan events and were returned to Uzbekistan.53
17. CAT and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture recommended that Uzbekistan take measures to adopt a definition of torture in compliance with article 1 of the Convention.  

18. In 2007, CAT expressed concern about numerous, ongoing and consistent allegations concerning routine use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed by law enforcement and investigative officials or with their instigation or consent, while the HR Committee was concerned about allegations relating to widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture recalled that the practice of torture in Uzbekistan was found to be systematic by his predecessor in the report on his 2002 visit. The Special Rapporteur continued to receive serious allegations of torture by Uzbek law enforcement officials.

19. CAT noted that, according to credible reports, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment commonly occur before formal charges are made, and during pre-trial detention. The HR Committee expressed concern about the continuing high number of convictions based on confessions made in pre-trial detention that were allegedly obtained by methods incompatible with article 7 of the Covenant. The Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and CAT, in 2007, called for the respect of the principle of inadmissibility of evidence obtained by torture. Cases of convictions based solely on confessions should be reviewed.

20. Since 2004, the HR Committee adopted Views on 13 individual communications in which violations of the Covenant were found, in particular of the right not to be tortured and the right not to be compelled to testify against oneself or to confess guilt. Uzbekistan provided follow-up information in relation to six Views, but not to seven others and the dialogue with the HR Committee remains open in 11 cases.

21. CAT remained concerned about numerous reports of abuses in custody and many deaths, some of which allegedly following torture or ill-treatment. Uzbekistan should take measures to keep under systematic review all places of detention, and not impede routine unannounced visits by independent experts to all places of detention.

22. CAT was concerned that law enforcement personnel reportedly secure and follow detailed internal regulations and procedures that are not available to detainees or their lawyers. It recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that every detainee can exercise the right to access to a lawyer, independent doctor and family member and other legal guarantees to ensure protection from torture. The Special Rapporteur on the question of torture added that priority should be given to the training of law enforcement agents regarding the treatment of detainees.

23. While noting steps taken by Uzbekistan, CEDAW and the HR Committee expressed concern about the prevalence of violence against women. CEDAW recommended the speedy adoption of a framework act on all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape, to ensure that violence against women constitutes a criminal offence, that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. CESCR and CRC also recommended that Uzbekistan adopt specific legislation on domestic violence and to consider it a criminal offence.

24. CRC recommended that Uzbekistan prohibit corporal punishment by law in institutions and the family and ensure that legislation is properly enforced.

25. CRC recommended that Uzbekistan adopt a comprehensive strategy to reduce and prevent the abandonment of children and the deprivation of their family environment. Children should be
placed in institutions only as a last resort, and receive appropriate protection, education and health care.74

26. CEDAW remained concerned about the persistence of trafficking and exploitation of women and girls, a concern echoed by CAT.75 CEDAW was concerned that victims of trafficking are treated as criminals for engaging in prostitution.76 Uzbekistan was urged by CESCR to criminalize trafficking in persons,77 and by CEDAW to speedily enact national legislation ensuring that offenders are punished and victims assisted.78 Uzbekistan should take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of the victims,79 and provide them with medical, psychological and legal support.80 Uzbekistan should, inter alia, develop preventive measures that target those soliciting and providing sexual services.81 Uzbekistan responded to CESCR that it is a criminal offence to recruit persons for the purpose of exploitation.82

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

27. CAT noted with concern that Uzbekistan has limited and obstructed independent monitoring of human rights in the aftermath of the Andijan events, thereby further impairing the ability to obtain a reliable or credible assessment of the reported abuses.83 Uzbekistan has not agreed to requests made to set up an independent international commission of inquiry into these events, as requested by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a recommendation endorsed by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, and reiterated by CRC.84 For the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the lack of an internationally accepted account into the Andijan events is deeply worrying.85

28. In 2006, the High Commissioner noted that Uzbekistan was unwilling to accede to her request to allow OHCHR to monitor trials subsequent to the Andijan events on acceptable terms.86 In the context of closed-door trials held in November and December 2005, she expressed concern about alleged irregularities, inadequate defence and indications that little evidence was presented during the proceedings apart from confessions that mirrored the accusations of the prosecution and were greatly at odds with information from various independent sources. She urged the Government to abide scrupulously by international fair trial standards.87 CAT also recommended that Uzbekistan provide information to family members on the whereabouts and charges against all persons arrested or detained in connection with the events.88

29. Despite his requests, the Special Rapporteur has not received evidence that the Government is combating impunity for torture.89 The HR Committee was concerned at the low number of officials who have been charged, prosecuted and convicted for such acts.90 CAT recommended that Uzbekistan apply a zero-tolerance approach to the continuing problem of torture, and to the practice of impunity, and publicly and unambiguously condemn torture in all its forms, accompanied by a clear warning that any person committing such acts or otherwise complicit or participating in torture will be held personally responsible before the law for such acts and subject to criminal penalties.91 According to the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, who made similar recommendations, the highest authorities should declare that those in command at the time of abuses will be held personally responsible.92

30. CAT added that investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment should be undertaken by a fully independent body.93 CAT and the HR Committee also recommended that punishment for acts of torture should be at a level commensurate with the severity of the crime.94 Suspected perpetrators should be subject to suspension or reassignment during the process of investigation and persons subjected to disciplinary penalties should not be permitted to remain at
their posts. Complainants and witnesses should be protected against any ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of their complaint or any evidence given. Adequate reparation should be provided to victims, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and CAT.

31. In 2005, the HR Committee considered the length of custody for which a suspect may be held without being brought before a judge --(72 hours) excessive. A judge should review all detentions to determine if they are legal and all cases of detention should be brought before a judge for that purpose. Uzbekistan should amend its legislation and practice to allow persons to have access to a lawyer from the time of arrest. The Special Rapporteur on the question of torture also made recommendations relating to the rights of arrested persons.

32. In 2005, the HR Committee remained concerned that the administration of pre-trial detention centres, prison camps and prisons failed to conform to the provisions of the Covenant, and recommended that priority be given to the reform of the administration of the penal system. CAT added that the reportedly poor conditions of places of detention should be corrected. CESCR called upon Uzbekistan to take measures to improve the hygienic conditions in prisons.

33. CAT and the HR Committee noted with concern that the appointment of judges is reviewed by the executive branch every five years. CAT also noted with concern that the designation of Supreme Court judges rests entirely with the Presidency. Uzbekistan should guarantee judges’ security of tenure. CESCR strongly urged Uzbekistan to ensure the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

34. CRC recommended that Uzbekistan establish juvenile courts, staffed with appropriately trained personnel, a recommendation supported in the report on Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan should, inter alia, ensure that detention is used only as a last resort; ensure that persons under the age of 18 are separated from adults; improve their conditions of detention; and introduce training programmes on relevant international standards.

4. Freedom of movement

35. Uzbekistan should ensure that the compulsory residence registration system (propiska) does not infringe enjoyment of rights, as recommended by CRC, CESCR and CERD. In response, Uzbekistan emphasized that the propiska does not limit freedom of movement of citizens.

36. The HR Committee and CERD recommended the abolishment of the requirement of “exit visa” for nationals travelling abroad.

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

37. The HR Committee, as stressed by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, noted that the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act requires religious organizations and associations to be registered. It was concerned about the use of criminal law to penalize the apparently peaceful exercise of religious freedom, and the fact that a large number of individuals have been charged, detained and sentenced. While a majority of them were subsequently released, several hundred remain in prison. It recommended that Uzbekistan fully respect freedom of religion or belief, a recommendation also made by the General Assembly. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of
religion emphasized that the right to freedom of religion is not limited to members of registered religious communities. 114

38. The General Assembly, in 2005, expressed its grave concern at increasing restrictions on freedom of expression, particularly harassment, beatings, arrests and threats made against journalists and civil society activists attempting to document and publicize information on the events in Andijan.115 The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression reiterated the concerns of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the imposition of restrictions on local and foreign media.116 The Secretary-General noted that since mid-May 2005, OHCHR and special procedures have received a significant amount of credible information on harassment and detention of eyewitnesses of the Andijan events and of journalists, media officers and human rights defenders who reported on them. He urged the Government to grant international organizations and bodies unhindered access to all detainees.117 Uzbekistan was also called upon by the General Assembly to put an end to the harassment and detention of eyewitnesses to these events.118

39. The General Assembly called upon Uzbekistan to lift restrictions on the activities of civil society.119 The Secretary-General noted that amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code on Administrative Liability in 2006 increased the power of authorities to penalize NGOs. There was no new registration of human rights NGOs in 2005 and 2006.120 CAT, in 2007, expressed concern at the closing down of numerous national and international organizations, particularly since May 2005. 121 It urged Uzbekistan to release human rights defenders imprisoned and/or sentenced because of their peaceful professional activities and to facilitate the reopening and full functioning of human rights organizations.122

40. The General Assembly expressed its grave concern at the continuing refusal to permit the registration of opposition political parties, and their consequent inability to participate in the electoral process.123 The HR Committee requested Uzbekistan to bring its law, regulations and practice governing the registration of political parties into line with the Covenant.124

6. **Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

41. CRC and CESCR were concerned at the reported involvement of many school-age children in the harvesting of cotton. 125 CRC recommended that this practice be in full compliance with international child labour standards in terms of age, working hours, working conditions, education and health.126 In 2005, the HR Committee urged Uzbekistan to stop this practice and combat child labour.127

42. In 2005, CESCR recommended that Uzbekistan adopt a national employment plan and strengthen programmes to reduce unemployment, targeting the most affected groups.128

43. CEDAW was concerned at the persistence of a sex-segregated labour market with lower wages for women. 129 The ILO Committee of Experts noted in 2008 that women are concentrated in certain sectors and occupations, are more often affected by dismissals due to redundancy, and more often face difficulties finding employment after periods of unemployment.130

44. CESCR recommended that Uzbekistan provide labour inspections with adequate human and financial resources and take measures to enable the development of independent trade unions.131
7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

45. CESCRC, in 2005, was deeply concerned that 28 per cent of the population are living below the poverty line, especially in rural areas, and that social assistance is insufficiently targeted in Uzbekistan.\(^{132}\)

46. CESCRC urged Uzbekistan to ensure access to essential food for all, in particular in Karakalpakstan.\(^{133}\) A 2007 FAO report noted that in 2002, 26 per cent of the population was undernourished.\(^{134}\) In comments to CESCRC, Uzbekistan indicated that the level of poverty was of 26.2 percent in 2003, that progress was made in this respect, and that the reported malnutrition in Uzbekistan has not been corroborated.\(^{135}\)

47. A 2007 UNDP report, while noting improvements in the health status of the population, noted that the share of GDP currently allocated to health is low (2.48 per cent in 2005) and that public expenditure on health will have to increase.\(^{136}\) In 2006, CRC recommended that Uzbekistan strengthen primary care centres and preventive health services.\(^{137}\) CESCRC added that Uzbekistan should address the significant rural and urban disparities in health-care provision.\(^{138}\) Uzbekistan should also take measures to prevent and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.\(^{139}\)

48. CRC expressed deep concern at the negative consequences of the ecological disaster that continues to affect the Aral Sea and its environment for the health and development of children living in Karakalpakstan. Uzbekistan should take measures to stop the deterioration of this region.\(^{140}\)

49. Uzbekistan should take measures to provide all evicted persons with adequate compensation for lost housing or with alternative accommodation, according to CESCRC.\(^{141}\)

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

50. CEDAW commended Uzbekistan for reaching gender parity in primary, basic secondary and vocational education,\(^{142}\) as also noted in the report on Uzbekistan.\(^{143}\) The ILO Committee of Experts noted with concern that the participation of women in higher education has been declining in recent years.\(^{144}\)

51. CRC, while noting efforts made, recommended that Uzbekistan improve the quality of education, provide quality training for teachers, and ensure that refugee children have access to free primary education and facilitate access to secondary education.\(^{145}\)

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

52. According to CERD, which appreciated efforts to provide minority children with education in their native language, consultations should be undertaken with minority groups to address their concerns in that regard.\(^{146}\) Sufficient time should be devoted to programmes in minority languages in the media, and steps be taken to facilitate the publication of newspapers in minority languages, particularly Tajik.\(^{147}\)

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

53. The fallout from the Andijan events continued to affect the overall situation in Central Asia, as noted in a 2006 UNHCR report. Uzbekistan decided to close down the UNHCR Office in April 2006. Access to asylum was further constrained, and the granting of refugee status subject to more restrictions.\(^{148}\)
54. Although Uzbekistan stated that there was no longer a need for a UNHCR presence in the country, CAT was concerned that at least 700 recognized refugees are in need of protection and resettlement. CRC also was concerned about the possible consequences of the closure of the UNHCR office. Uzbekistan should adopt a refugee law compliant with human rights standards, and invite UNHCR to return and assist in providing protection and resettlement for the refugee population.

55. CERD recommended that Uzbekistan ensure that no person will be forcibly returned to a country where there are substantial grounds for believing that his/her life or physical integrity may be put at risk, and to establish a mechanism to permit appeals against decisions to remove aliens, with a suspensive effect on removals pending examination of appeals.

11. Human rights and counter-terrorism

56. In 2005, the HR Committee was concerned about the lack of information on acts that may be qualified in national legislation as "terrorist acts". The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion requested that Uzbekistan indicate the legal basis for designating an individual or an entity as “terrorist” and the consequences of such qualification under the law.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

57. CAT welcomed a number of developments, including the scheduled introduction of habeas corpus and the abolition of the death penalty; the transfer of the authority to issue arrest warrants from the prosecutor’s office to the courts; and a reduction in crowding of prisoners in places of detention.

58. CERD welcomed the information that human rights are included as a subject of instruction in educational curricula. CESCR welcomed the adoption of the National Personnel Training Programme to improve the quality of education.

59. According to CESCR, the effects of the Aral Sea ecological catastrophe have posed obstacles to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the population.

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

Specific recommendations for follow-up

60. The General Assembly, in 2005, strongly called upon Uzbekistan to implement fully recommendations: (a) contained in the report of the mission of OHCHR to Kyrgyzstan in 2005 on the Andijan events; (b) of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan appointed under the 1503 procedure at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights; and (c) of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture following his visit in 2002.

61. In 2006, the Secretary-General stated that the lack of response from Uzbekistan to the call for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to examine the facts and circumstances of the Andijan events, coupled with the persistence of allegations of serious human rights violations, demonstrate that there has been no improvement since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/174.

62. Since his 2002 visit, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture reiterated a number of recommendations. He noted the regular and detailed responses by Uzbekistan concerning
follow-up measures taken in this respect, but stressed that he continued to receive serious allegations of torture.\textsuperscript{162}

63. In 2005, the HR Committee requested Uzbekistan to provide, within one year, information on measures taken in response to its recommendations related to: lack of information on the number of persons sentenced to death and executed; narrow definition of torture; high number of convictions based on confessions made in pre-trial detentions; widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees; and low number of convictions for such acts. In 2006, Uzbekistan submitted information, which the Committee considered as a partial reply to its requests. Uzbekistan was advised to include additional follow-up information in its third report in 2008.\textsuperscript{163}

64. In 2007, CAT requested Uzbekistan to provide, within one year, information on measures taken in response to its recommendations related to: widespread use of torture and ill-treatment; allegations of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by military and security forces in 2005 in Andijan; persons who sought refuge abroad and were returned to Uzbekistan following these events; Uzbekistan’s failure to set up an independent commission of inquiry into these events; punishment commensurate with the severity of the crime of torture; abuses and deaths in custody; and the principle that no circumstance may be invoked as a justification for torture. The response is due in November 2008.\textsuperscript{164}

65. In 2008, CERD, while welcoming information provided by Uzbekistan, requested further information on steps taken to secure the independence and impartiality of judges, the number of trials at which free interpretation has been made available, and the level of participation of minorities in State institutions.\textsuperscript{165}

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

66. CRC recommended that Uzbekistan seek technical assistance, inter alia, in the areas of data collection, child labour and juvenile justice.\textsuperscript{166}

67. The 2005-2009 United Nations Development Assistance Framework agreed upon by Uzbekistan and the United Nations Country Team focuses on the improvement of living standards, access to and quality of basic services (health and education), harmonization of national laws with international conventions, and good governance.\textsuperscript{167}

68. UNODC provides technical assistance to Uzbekistan in the field of drug law enforcement and organized crime, including trafficking in human beings.\textsuperscript{168}

Notes

\textsuperscript{1} Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in \textit{Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006} (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://untreaty.un.org/.

\textsuperscript{2} The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

- **ICERD** International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- **ICCESCR** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- **ICCPR** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- **ICCPR-OP1** Optional Protocol to ICCPR
- **ICCPR-OP2** Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
**CEDAW** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
**OP-CEDAW** Optional Protocol to CEDAW  
**CAT** Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment  
**OP-CAT** Optional Protocol to CAT  
**CRC** Convention on the Rights of the Child  
**OP-CRC-AC** Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict  
**OP-CRC-SC** Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography  
**ICRMW** International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families  
**CPD** Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
**OP-CPD** Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
**CED** International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance  

5 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.  
6 International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No.105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.  
7 Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/UZB/CO/1), para. 40.  
8 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/UZB/CO/2), para. 72.  
9 Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3), para. 33.  
10 Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/UZB/CO/3), para 27.  
11 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 4 (b); CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 24; CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 61; E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 39.  
12 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, paras 61 and 66.  
13 Articles 21 and 22 of CAT, relating respectively to the inter-State and individual complaint procedures. See CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para 15.  
14 Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/CO/83/UZB), para. 13.  
16 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:  
   - CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
   - CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
   - HR Committee Human Rights Committee  
   - CEDAW Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  
   - CAT Committee against Torture  
   - CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child  
17 CERD/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.2.
18 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1/Add.1 and CERD/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.1.
19 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3/Add.1.
21 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 69.
23 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 3 (g)
25 The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in a report by a special procedure mandate holder.
27 A/61/526, para. 77. See also CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 33.
28 A/HRC/4/123, para. 120.
30 A/61/526, para. 78.
33 Summary of the press conference by High Commissioner for Human Rights on her visit to Central Asia of 7 May 2007; see also Highlights of the noon briefing by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General of 26 April 2007.
34 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 24 (a); E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 42.
35 CERD/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.1, para. 12; see CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 9.
37 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 43; CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 10.
38 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 24.
39 Ibid., para. 24.
40 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 15.
41 CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 23; E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 5.
42 CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 23.
44 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 2 (a).
45 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 7.
50 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 2 (b).
52 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 9.
53 A/HRC/4/1, paras 469-471.
54 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 5; A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 758. See also CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 9, and CRC/C/UGZB/CO/2 para. 37 (a).
55 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 6 (a).
56 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 11.
57 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 741.
58 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 6 (b).
59 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 10.
60 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 785; CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 20.
61 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 20.
65 A/63/40.
66 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 11.
67 Ibid., para. 11.
68 Ibid., para. 12.
69 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 793.
70 CEDAW/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 21; CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 23.
71 CEDAW/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 22. See also CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 21.
73 CRC/C/UGZB/CO/2, para. 45 (a).
74 CRC/C/UGZB/CO/2, para. 39 (a) and (f).
75 CEDAW/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 25; CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 22.
76 CEDAW/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 25.
77 E/C.12/UGZB/CO/1, para. 56.
79 Ibid., para. 26.
80 E/C.12/UGZB/CO/1, para. 56.
81 CRC/C/UGZB/CO/2, para. 68 (c).
82 E/C.12/UGZB/CO/1/Add.1, para. 25.
83 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 8.
84 Ibid., para. 9. High Commissioner, United Nations press releases of 14 November and 23 December 2005; A/61/526, para. 73; E/CN.4/2006/89, paras 38-39; General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 4 (a); CRC/C/UGZB/CO/2, para. 33.
85 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 743.
88 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 9 (b).
89 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, paras 742 and 744.
90 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 11.
91 CAT/C/UGZB/CO/3, para. 6.
92 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, para. 754.
93 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 6 (b).
94 Ibid, para 10; CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 11.
95 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 10.
96 Ibid., para. 6 (d).
97 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2 , para. 799; CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 18.
99 Ibid., para. 15.
100 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2 , paras 784, 788-790, and 792.
101 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 17.
102 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 11.
103 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 65.
104 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 19; CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 16.
105 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 19.
106 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 37.
108 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 70.
109 Ibid., para. 24 (a) to (d); E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 41; CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 16. See also United Nations Uzbekistan report, op.cit., p. 14 .
1011 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 19; CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 16.
1012 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 22; E/CN.4/2006/55/Add.1, paras 1103 -1105.
1013 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 22; General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 4 (f).
1015 Ibid., para. 2 (d).
1017 A/61/526, paras 17 and 74.
1018 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 4 (c).
1019 Ibid., para. 4 (l).
1020 A/61/526, paras 55 and 58.
1021 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 16.
1022 Ibid., para. 16.
1023 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 2 (e).
1024 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 21.
1025 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 20; CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 64.
1026 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 65 (a).
1027 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 25.
1028 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 45.
1029 CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 27.
1031 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, paras. 51 and 52.
1032 Ibid., paras. 27 and 23.
1033 Ibid., para. 62.
1035 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1/Add.1, para. 28 and 31.
1037 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 49 (a).
1038 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 61.
1039 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 51 (e); E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 64.
1040 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, paras 54 and 55.
1041 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 57.
1042 CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 5.
1045 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, paras 56 and 58.
1046 CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 19.
1047 Ibid., para. 18.
149 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 24.
150 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, para. 59.
151 Ibid., para. 60; see also CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 24.
152 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 24.
153 CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 14.
154 CCPR/CO/83/UZB, para. 18.
155 A/HRC/4/21/Add.1, para. 341
157 CERD/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 8.
158 E/C.12/UZB/CO/1, para. 7.
159 Ibid., para. 9.
160 General Assembly resolution 60/174, para. 4 (a), (e) and (g).
161 A/61/526, para. 72.
162 A/HRC/7/3/Add.2, paras. 741 and 754-807.
163 A/63/40, chapter VII.
164 CAT/C/UZB/CO/3, para. 31.
165 CERD letter.
166 CRC/C/UZB/CO/2, paras. 16, 65 (d) and 70 (g).
168 UNODC submission to UPR on Uzbekistan, p. 10.