HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Seventh session
Geneva, 8-19 February 2010

COMPILATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The present 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 United Nations 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 report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. 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of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated.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>16 July 1993</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>1 Sept. 1993</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>1 March 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>16 March 2001</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>1 Sept. 1993</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>4 Sept. 2002</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>1 Sept. 1993</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): Yes, Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes, Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>24 Oct. 2008</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>1 Sept. 1993</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>10 Oct. 2003</td>
<td>Binding declaration under art 3: 18 years</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>4 Sept. 2002</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td>13 Dec. 1996</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No, Individual complaints (art. 77): No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD-OP</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CED</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core treaties to which Bosnia and Herzegovina is not a party: CRPD, CRPD-OP, CED (signature only, 2007), and OP-ICESCR.

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

1. In 2005, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that the State implement and incorporate OP-CRC-SC in the criminal justice systems. In 2006, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommended that Bosnia and Herzegovina consider making the optional declaration provided for in Article 14 of ICERD, and that it ratify the amendments to Article 8, paragraph 6, of ICERD. The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) encouraged the State, in 2009, to consider making the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of ICRMW.
B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Committee Against Torture (CAT), CRC and CMW noted that the constitutional framework, which divides the State into two Entities (the decentralized Federation consisting of 10 cantons and the centralized Republika Srpska) as well as one district (the District of Brcko), confers limited responsibility and authority to the Government at the State level and creates a complex administrative structure.

3. In 2005, CESCR and, in 2006, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) urged the State to ensure the justiciability of the ICESCR and CEDAW rights in domestic courts.

4. CERD was concerned that under articles IV and V of the Constitution, only persons belonging to “constituent peoples” (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs) can be elected to the House of Peoples and to the tripartite Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. CERD urged the State to proceed with amending the Constitution and the Election Law. The HR Committee expressed a similar concern and recommended reopening talks on the constitutional reform. In its response to the follow-up request of CERD, Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated that it agreed that the existing provisions are discriminatory.

5. CERD recommended that the prohibition of ethnic discrimination contained in Article II (4) of the Constitution apply to all rights and freedoms set forth in article 5 of ICERD. It also recommended removing all discriminatory language.

6. CESCR and CRC noted with appreciation the adoption, in 2003, of the Law on the Protection of National Minorities, which recognizes all 17 national minorities. The HR Committee welcomed the adoption of State and Entity Laws on Protection of Witnesses.

7. OHCHR noted that the key law protecting civilian victims of war in the Federation was the Law on Basis of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children, which was amended in 2006 to include the recognition of victims of sexual violence and camp survivors and the payment of allowances.

8. In 2006, the HR Committee and CEDAW welcomed the adoption of a Law on the Protection from Family Violence. CRC noted with appreciation the enactment of the Law on the Protection of Mentally Disabled Persons and the adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

9. The Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina was accredited with ‘A status’ by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) in 2004. The current status is due for review by the ICC in November 2009.

10. CESCR recommended that the State ensure the independence of the Office of the State Ombudsman, headed by political appointees representing the three constituent peoples. CERD recommended ensuring the financial autonomy and effectiveness of the Ombudsman. CESCR and CERD recommended that the State adopt one common human rights approach.
11. UNICEF indicated that the Law on Human Rights Ombudsmen, amended in March 2006, stipulated that Entity Ombudsoffices should be replaced by a national Ombudsoffice. It also called for separate organizational units to be established to monitor the implementation of children’s rights.\textsuperscript{36} UNICEF reported that despite the recommendation of the CRC\textsuperscript{37} to strengthen the function of the Council for Children, this advisory body was not re-elected in 2007.\textsuperscript{38} The Republika Srpska appointed an Ombudsman for children in 2008.\textsuperscript{39}

12. The 2008 CCA indicated that under the Constitutional Court there is a Human Rights Chamber.\textsuperscript{40}

13. CAT\textsuperscript{41} and HR Committee\textsuperscript{42} welcomed the establishment of a War Crimes Chamber with competence to deal with cases transferred from the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). CAT welcomed the establishment of the State Court, the Special War Crimes Department of the Prosecutor’s Office, and the Srebrenica Commission.\textsuperscript{43}

14. CEDAW, HR Committee and CESCR welcomed the establishment of the Gender Equality Agency at the State level.\textsuperscript{44} CESCR recommended that the State increase the agency’s resources\textsuperscript{45} and CEDAW recommended that it would directly report to the Council of Ministers.\textsuperscript{46}

D. Policy measures

15. CEDAW recommended the adoption of the draft gender action plan, that the State allocate funds for its implementation and continue gender training of officials.\textsuperscript{47} CAT recommended that the State conduct training of law enforcement personnel on CAT’s provisions.\textsuperscript{48}

16. CERD recommended that the State review the National Strategy for Roma to ensure that it identify specific measures, establish budgetary allocations and the bodies responsible for its implementation.\textsuperscript{49} UNICEF highlighted that in the context of the Decade for Roma Inclusion (2005-15), which Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in 2008, Roma Action Plans on health, housing and employment were developed.\textsuperscript{50}

17. CRC noted, inter alia, the adoption of a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking in 2001 and of the Action Plan for Children 2002-2010,\textsuperscript{51} and recommended its effective implementation.\textsuperscript{52}

18. UNHCR reported that the legal protection of IDPs and returnees is regulated by annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement.\textsuperscript{53} The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons advocated for the speedy adoption of the revised Strategy for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which sets out a range of measures to assist the displaced.\textsuperscript{54}
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 and considered</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>Nov. 2007 and June 2009</td>
<td>Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports received in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CECR</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Nov. 2005</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Second periodic report due in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined fourth and fifth periodic report due in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>June 2005</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined second to fourth periodic reports overdue since March 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report received in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report received in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMW</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Second periodic report due in 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 trafficking (20-28 February 2005), Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (9-15 June 2005, 16-20 June 2008, 11-13 November 2009), Special Rapporteur on the right to education (24 September - 3 October 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits agreed upon in principle</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</td>
<td>The Special Rapporteur on education extended his gratitude to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the invitation and to those whom he met.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow-up to visits

| Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals | During the period under review, two communications were sent. The Government replied to one communication. |
| Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues | Bosnia and Herzegovina responded to 4 of the 16 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders, within the deadlines. |

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

19. OHCHR had opened its office in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1994 initially to service the mandate of the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights. The office was closed in June 2007. Most recently, the office had focused on non-discrimination and women's rights; transitional justice; anti-trafficking; economic and social rights of vulnerable groups.
B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

20. The 2008 Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicated that by focusing on the “three constituent peoples”, the Constitution lends itself to the exclusion of “Others”, in particular the Roma. CERD expressed concern about the persistence of ethnic divisions, noted that the last census was conducted in 1991, and recommended that the State establish mechanisms for monitoring acts of ethnically motivated discrimination and violence. CERD also recommended enacting legislation prohibits acts of racial discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, social security, education and public accommodations.

21. The HR Committee was concerned about discrimination and violence perpetrated against the Roma and recommended that the Government undertake programmes of public information to combat anti-Roma prejudice. UNHCR indicated that civil registration procedures, which are not harmonized throughout the country, have a significant impact on the de facto stateless Roma population, and particularly to access to such rights as health care and education. UNHCR indicated that assistance for return is too often allocated on the basis of ethnicity and/or political affiliation.

22. CEDAW was concerned that, in the post-war period, the creation of political and administrative structures based on ethnicity had contributed to a limited recognition and implementation of gender equality principles. CEDAW urged the State to eliminate discrimination against women and to include women in political, economic and social transformation processes. CRC recommended that the State strengthen measures to prevent and eliminate de facto discrimination against children with disabilities, Roma and children belonging to ethnic and/or religious minorities or other nationalities. UNICEF indicated that in addition to limited access to social services, Roma children face stigma and discrimination.

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

23. CRC was concerned that there are still approximately 30,000 minefields throughout the country. CRC recommended that the State continue carrying out mine-awareness campaigns, undertake as a matter of priority demining programmes and extend the psychological and social assistance to children affected.

24. In 2005, CAT recommended that, regarding the crime of torture, the State ensure that the legal definitions in the Republika Srpska and Brcko District are harmonized with the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Regarding torture and ill-treatment that occurred during the 1992-1995 conflict, CAT recommended that the State: ensure prompt investigations; prosecution and punishment of perpetrators and the provision of compensation; extend full cooperation to the ICTY. In its follow-up response, the State informed that a special Division for Witness Protection within the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) was established.

25. OHCHR noted that State still failed to acknowledge victims of torture as claim-holders and to put in place a coherent strategy to enforce their rights. Wartime torture victims are generally among the most vulnerable persons as they often became refugees or were internally displaced, had unresolved property issues, lost their closest family members or were victims of sexual
violence. CEDAW expressed concern at the situation of victims of sexual violence of the 1992-1995 armed conflict, as highlighted also by UNHCR, and urged, together with CESCR, the State to recognize and protect, through a State law, women victims of sexual violence.

26. CAT recommended that the State allow regular and independent monitoring of police and prison officials; guarantee the right of detainees to contact families and access independent medical and legal counsel; and investigate promptly all allegations of violence in detention. HR Committee was concerned by the possibility of 72-hour detention in police custody.

27. HR Committee and CESCR were concerned about underreporting, lenient sentences and inadequate assistance for victims of domestic violence. CRC was concerned that children are increasingly exposed to domestic violence and other forms of abuses, including sexual abuse. CRC recommended that the State, inter alia, expressly prohibit corporal punishment at home and in institutions; provide full physical and psychological recovery for children victims of violence. UNICEF noted that a foster-care system has not yet been established at national level.

28. CMW recommended that the State address trafficking in persons, including through prevention, rehabilitation of victims, and prosecution of those responsible. CRC recommended that investigations be carried out regarding the allegations that police officers may be involved in trafficking and that it impose sanctions. CEDAW recommended that protection be extended to cover women trafficked internally; that trafficked women and girls have support to provide testimony. CAT recommended that the State should, inter alia, ensure that victims obtain redress and adequate compensation.

29. In 2005, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended that increased attention be devoted to the prevention of internal trafficking and trafficking from Bosnia and Herzegovina to other countries, with particular attention to the root causes of the phenomenon. Long-term prevention should also include anti-discrimination measures, job opportunities for women, legal migration projects targeting women, awareness raising programmes targeting violence against women.

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

30. CAT remained concerned about alleged cases of ethnic bias and politically influenced police and judicial procedures and recommended that the State ensure fair treatment in all judicial procedures. CAT considered the State’s follow-up replies and requested further information in this respect. CAT recommended that the State: ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are aware of their rights; establish an independent mechanism to investigate alleged torture or ill-treatment; and provide access by competent bodies. According to OHCHR, in terms of access to justice, legal mechanisms are in place to bring perpetrators of torture during the conflict to justice at both international and national level. Nevertheless, efforts to bring to justice those responsible are still far from completed.

31. CRC noted that specific juvenile courts do not exist per se and was concerned at the lack of alternative measures to detention. CRC recommended that the State: ensure systematic training for judges; ensure that persons under 18 be deprived of liberty as a last resort and that when in custody they be separated from adults; establish the right to a defence counsel.
32. The 2008 Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicated that the country’s ability to deal with the past violent conflict is hindered by the inability of the court system to undertake the current backlog of war crimes cases.\textsuperscript{103} The impending closure of the ICTY by 2010 is juxtaposed with the current transfer of a large number of ICTY-generated war crimes investigations to the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.\textsuperscript{104}

33. HR Committee noted that the fate and whereabouts of some 15,000 persons remain unresolved,\textsuperscript{105} expressed regret with the failure to establish a Committee for Truth and Reconciliation and recommended that the State adopt a systematic approach to re-establishing mutual trust and accounting for past abuses.\textsuperscript{106} In its follow-up reply, the State informed that the Missing Persons Institute became operational in full capacity on 1 January 2008.\textsuperscript{107} The 2008 Resident Coordinator Annual Report indicated that the Government undertook the first national transitional-justice consultations and adopted a justice sector reform strategy.\textsuperscript{108} HR Committee\textsuperscript{109} and CAT\textsuperscript{110} recommended that the Fund for Support to Families of Missing Persons be secured, and that payments to families commence. CAT recommended that the State establish the Central Record of Missing Persons.\textsuperscript{111}

34. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons stated that, as highlighted also by UNHCR,\textsuperscript{112} law enforcement institutions should ensure that crimes and acts of violence against IDPs and returnees are investigated and prosecuted, and that a witness protection programme be established.\textsuperscript{113}

35. CMW recommended that the State ensure that migrant workers and members of their families have the same rights as nationals to file complaints and to obtain effective redress.\textsuperscript{114}

4. Right to privacy and family life

36. UNICEF indicated that birth registration of Roma children remains one of the key obstacles.\textsuperscript{115} The HR Committee was concerned about the frequent failure of health institutions to issue birth certificates for Roma children.\textsuperscript{116}

37. CRC noted the phenomenon of illegal inter-country adoption of children from Bosnia and Herzegovina and recommended that the State ensure that adoption procedures are in conformity with article 21 of the CRC.\textsuperscript{117}

38. UNHCR noted that the right to family reunification for recognized refugees remains a problematic issue.\textsuperscript{118}

5. Right to participate in public and political life

39. CMW urged the State to facilitate voting by its nationals abroad.\textsuperscript{119} CEDAW urged the State to harmonize the election law with the Law on Gender Equality and to increase the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies.\textsuperscript{120} The 2008 CCA highlighted the fact that only 9 per cent of leadership positions and only 6 of 64 ministerial positions in Government, at State and Entity levels, are held by women.\textsuperscript{121} The proportion of seats held by women in the national Parliament decreased from 16.7 per cent in 2006 to 11.9 per cent in 2009.\textsuperscript{122}
6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

40. CESCR was concerned about the high unemployment rate,¹²³ and that more than one third of the workforce is employed in the informal sector.¹²⁴ CESC also urged the State to combat unemployment through targeted programmes.¹²⁵ CESC recommended that employers refrain from arbitrarily dismissing employees, pay salaries and social security contributions on time, and that labour inspection units be sufficiently resourced.¹²⁶ CMW recommended that the State ensure seasonal workers the same treatment as national workers.¹²⁷

41. CEDAW urged the State to bring to justice employers who violate equality provisions, to increase women’s representation in the formal economy, to eliminate occupational segregation, and to ensure access to vocational training.¹²⁸

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

42. CERD requested, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹²⁹ that the State ensure that pension benefits and health care benefits are provided on a non-discriminatory basis, especially regarding minority returnees.¹³⁰

43. CESC noted with deep concern that civilian war victims will receive only 20 per cent of the pension benefits allocated to military victims of war¹³¹ and urged the State to ensure an equitable allocation of social protection funds for civilian and military victims of war.¹³² HR Committee noted that torture victims must prove at least 60 per cent of bodily harm in order to be recognized as civilian victims and that this requirement may exclude victims of mental torture from personal disability benefits.¹³³ HR Committee recommended that the State ensure that victims of mental torture be granted victim of war status.¹³⁴

44. HR Committee¹³⁵ and CERD,¹³⁶ as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹³⁷ urged the State to remove administrative obstacles and fees in order to ensure that all Roma are provided with personal documents related to the provision of health insurance and social security benefits. CRC recommended that the State improve the health of children, including through strengthening vaccination, improving their nutritional status, and promoting breastfeeding.¹³⁸

45. CEDAW requested the State, as highlighted also by UNHCR,¹³⁹ to ensure that national poverty alleviation programmes fully benefit women, in particular marginalized groups of women.¹⁴⁰ CEDAW urged the State to ensure that women have access to adequate services, that maternal mortality rates are reduced, and to guarantee access to information and services regarding sexual and reproductive health.¹⁴¹

46. CRC was concerned that a significant number of children, especially Roma, are living or working on the streets, do not attend schools and that many are forced to work.¹⁴² CRC recommended that the State: ensure that street children are provided with nutrition, clothing, housing, health-care and educational opportunities;¹⁴³ combat trafficking in children;¹⁴⁴ increase efforts to prevent the use of illicit drugs;¹⁴⁵ provide for mental and reproductive health counselling;¹⁴⁶ launch campaigns to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS.¹⁴⁷

47. In 2006, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing noted that the post-conflict reconstruction of housing has been disproportionately less extensive and slower for Roma communities than for other communities.¹⁴⁸ CESC¹⁴⁹ and CERD¹⁵⁰ urged the State to ensure
the right of Roma to repossess their pre-armed-conflict property, and that alternative housing or compensation be provided. CESCR recommended that the State adopt a housing law as well as allocate resources for the provision of social housing.\textsuperscript{151}

48. CESCR was concerned about the extent of poverty, especially in rural areas and among IDPs, minority returnees, families headed by single parents, older persons, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities.\textsuperscript{152} CRC noted that most children who have lost their parents live in harsh poverty\textsuperscript{153} and recommended that the State provide support and material assistance to economically disadvantaged families.\textsuperscript{154}

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

49. The Special Rapporteur on education noted in 2007 that the practice of “two schools under one roof” emerged after the war: children of different ethnicities attend the same schools but were taught different curricula and at separate times.\textsuperscript{155} CERD\textsuperscript{156}, CESCR\textsuperscript{157} and CRC\textsuperscript{158} were concerned about the existence of mono-ethnic schools and “two schools under one roof” wherein children are physically segregated. CERD\textsuperscript{159} and CESCR\textsuperscript{160} urged the State to end public school segregation and implement a common curriculum, sensitive to the cultural attributes of the ethnic groups. The Special Rapporteur encouraged ethnic group leaders to collaborate with the Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education.\textsuperscript{161}

50. The 2008 CCA indicated that the education system was characterized low attendance rates,\textsuperscript{162} and that the level of discrimination against minorities remains high regarding education.\textsuperscript{163} UNICEF indicated that due to fear and insecurity, minorities lack the capacity to exercise their right to education in their own language.\textsuperscript{164} CRC recommended that articles 28 and 29 of the CRC be implemented, particularly regarding children living in poverty, refugee and returnee, Roma and children with disabilities.\textsuperscript{165} CESCR urged the State to promote equal access by Roma children to education.\textsuperscript{166}

51. CRC was concerned at the inadequate number of professional teaching staff\textsuperscript{167} and that violence in school is widespread.\textsuperscript{168} CEDAW remained concerned about the early dropout rates of girls in rural areas, especially of Roma girls.\textsuperscript{169} CRC recommended paying particular attention to the high dropout rates and increase the availability of vocational training.\textsuperscript{170}

9. Minorities

52. UNHCR highlighted that a significant population, most of whom are Roma, is presumed to be de facto stateless. Legislation in the areas of nationality, civil status, and documentation is very fragmented in application, thus preventing access to rights such as education, health care, housing and employment.\textsuperscript{171} CERD recommended that the State strengthen the role of the Roma Council and that the Council be consulted in connection with any process that impacts Roma rights and interests.\textsuperscript{172}

53. CERD was concerned about the low representation of ethnic minorities, in particular Roma, in the labour market.\textsuperscript{173} CRC expressed serious concern that 90 per cent of Roma have no health insurance, which results in exclusion from health care.\textsuperscript{174} CERD urged the State to combat discrimination against Roma children and children belonging to other ethnic minority groups.\textsuperscript{175}
10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

54. UNHCR noted that the right to seek and enjoy asylum in the country remains limited in practice, indicated that Roma refugees are not afforded equal treatment regarding access to social housing and that access to adequate accommodation, food and health care for asylum-seekers remains an area of concern.

55. CMW recommended the State to harmonize legislation regulating the issuing of work and residence permits with the ICRMW, to ensure that migrant workers and their families held in detention centres have access to legal aid and consular services, are not detained and their treatment is in full compliance with the ICRMW.

56. HR Committee recommended that, as highlighted also by UNHCR, the State create conditions for sustainable returns, i.e. by combating discrimination against minority returnees, ensuring social reintegration and equal access to employment, education, and social and public services.

11. Internally displaced persons

57. UNHCR indicated that the 1992-1995 conflict generated approximately 2.2 million refugees and IDPs. As of June 2009, some 117,000 people remain internally displaced within the country.

58. Following his visit in 2008, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons stated that there were still too many citizens continuing to live in displacement or at returnee sites in miserable conditions with insufficient assistance. Among those remaining in displacement, a significant number will not be able to go back to their places of origin. These include elderly, infirm persons and female-headed households without family support, disabled and traumatized persons.

59. CRC was concerned that violent incidents against returnees and IDPs and their property, memorials or religious objects are frequent. CERD welcomed the progress in reducing the number of incidents in which attempts to return have been impeded by violence or threats, in particular the prosecutions and punishment of perpetrators.

60. HR Committee was concerned about the poor conditions in collective centres housing, and recommended that the State proceed with the phasing-out of collective centres and provide alternative housing to their residents. UNHCR stated the need to expedite the process of securing durable solutions for the remaining IDPs and returnees, including IDPs in collective accommodation.

61. CRC recommended that, as highlighted also by UNHCR, the State address, inter alia, the needs and rights of displaced and refugee children, and ensure proper accommodation, social and professional reintegration for their parents.

12. Human rights and counter-terrorism

62. CAT recommended that the State ensure that individuals under its jurisdiction receive appropriate consideration, including an opportunity for independent and impartial review of decisions on expulsion, return or extradition.
63. In 2006 the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health referred to the cases of six foreign men, detained since October 2001 without any charges, who were transferred to Guantánamo in violation of an order by the highest human rights court of the country.  

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

64. CRC\textsuperscript{193}, CESCR\textsuperscript{194} and CAT\textsuperscript{195} noted that the State is still going through a phase of political, economic and social transition aggravated by an armed conflict (1992-1995). UNHCR stated that since 1995, through concerted national and international efforts, over one million refugees and displaced persons had exercised their right to voluntary return. The overall national response is inadequate in light of the persisting humanitarian needs and unfulfilled human rights of IDPs and returnees.  

65. The 2008 CCA indicated that while gender-based discrimination in ubiquitous throughout the society, three issues of particular concern are exclusion from political processes, access to employment and the labour market, and gender-based violence.  

66. UNICEF indicated that the highly fragmented administrative and political structure continues to be a challenge in relation to the fulfilment of human rights.  

67. CESCR took note of the continued existence of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, which prevents the safe return of returnees to their homes and farming lands.  

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

A. Pledges by the State

68. In 2007, the Government pledged to, inter alia, assist and alleviate suffering of war affected populations by providing expertise in the field of the return of refugees and to advocate the full implementation of the CAT and the abolition of the death penalty.  

B. Specific recommendations for follow-up

69. CAT requested that the Government provide, within one year, information on recommendations concerning, inter alia, the investigation and prosecution of torture cases during the conflict; the independence of judiciary in particular relating to the protection of minorities; the investigation of alleged cases of trafficking in persons. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided replies in February 2006 and May 2007.  

70. CERD requested information, within one year, on the implementation of the recommendations concerning, inter alia, the enjoyment of the right to vote; the resolution of claims of workers dismissed during the armed conflict because of their ethnicity; to combat discrimination against Roma children. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided replies in November 2007 and June 2009.
71. HR Committee stated that the Government should submit, within one year, information on the follow-up given to its recommendations concerning, inter alia, the adoption of an electoral system guaranteeing equal enjoyment of the rights under Article 25 of the Covenant to all citizens irrespective of ethnicity; unresolved cases of persons who went missing during the conflict; material and hygienic conditions in detention facilities, prisons and mental health institutions, including Zenica Prison Forensic Psychiatric Annex and Sokolac Psychiatric Hospital; and the relocation for the Roma settlement at Butmir. Bosnia and Herzegovina provided replies in December 2007, December 2008 and March 2009.

72. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on education recommended abolishing educational modalities and processes based on assimilation and segregation, and to harmonize lower-level legislation with the different framework laws on education.

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

73. CESC called on the State to seek further international assistance for the clearing of anti-personnel mines. CRC encouraged the State to seek technical cooperation on: the implementation of the CRC; the health situation of children; the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS; education; refugees and IDPs; children living and working on the streets; trafficking in children for sexual and other exploitative purposes; children in conflict with the law; public awareness campaigns on the child rights departments within the Ombudsman office.

74. The 2010-2014 United Nations Development Assistance Framework indicated four outcome areas: democratic governance, social inclusion, environment and human security.

Notes

1 Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in 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://treaties.un.org/

2 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-ICESCR</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICESCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICCPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CEDAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICRMW  International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD  Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD  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, at 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 the 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 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 70.
8 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 26.
9 Ibid., para. 27.
10 CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 13.
11 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 8.
12 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 3.
13 CRC/C/15/Add.260, paras. 5 and 9.
14 CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 8.
15 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 11.
16 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 13.
17 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 31.
19 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 11.
20 CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 8
21 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6/Add.2, para. 3.
22 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 10.
23 Ibid., para. 12.
24 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 4; CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 3
25 CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 7
The former Field Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina of OHCHR, “The rights of torture victims under international law”, p. 13.

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 7.

CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 9.

CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 3.

For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex I.

E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 30.

CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 9.

E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 30.

CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 9.

UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 2.

CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 11.

UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 2.

Ibid., p. 2.


CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 7.

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 7.

CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 7.

CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 7; CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 6; E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 4.

E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 34.

CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 20.

Ibid., para. 22.

CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 13.

CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 15.

UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 3.

CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 3.

Ibid., para. 11.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, pp. 1-2.


The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CECSR 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
CMW Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder.

See (a) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005; (b) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children’s organs sent in July 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in 2006; (e) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006; (f) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices; (g) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people sent in August 2007; (h) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/7/8), questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation sent in July 2007; (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007; (j) report on the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1), questionnaire on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; (k) report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to the eleventh session of the Council (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/9), questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes, sent in October 2008; (l) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/8), questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention; (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/6), questionnaire on violence against women and political economy; (n) report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (A/HRC/12/21), questionnaire on national legislation and initiatives addressing the issue of bonded labour; (o) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/12/23), questionnaire on measures to prevent and combat online child pornography; (p) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to the twelfth session of the Council (A/HRC/12/31), questionnaire on world food and nutrition security; (p) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/12/23), questionnaire on measures to prevent and combat online child pornography.


See http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/ENACARegion/Pages/BASummary.aspx.


62 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 24

Ibid., para. 8

Ibid., para. 13

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 24

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 3.

Ibid., p. 3.

68 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 11.
69 Ibid., para. 12.
70 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 26.
71 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 3.
72 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 63.
73 Ibid., para. 64.
74 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 9.
75 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 10.
76 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1/Add. 2, para. 31
77 The former Field Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina of OHCHR, “The rights of torture victims under international law”, p. 3.
78 Ibid., pp. 7-8 and pp. 11-12.
79 UNHCHR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Addendum 1, p. 1, referring to CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, paras. 37-38.
80 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 41
81 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, paras. 37-38.
82 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 13.
83 Ibid., para. 15.
84 Ibid., para. 16.
85 CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 17.
86 Ibid., para. 12.
87 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 21.
88 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 42.
89 Ibid., para. 43.
90 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 6.
91 CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 38.
92 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 72.
93 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 28.
94 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 21.
96 Ibid., para. 89.
97 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 11
98 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 48-51.
99 CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 19
100 The former Field Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina of OHCHR, “The Rights of Torture Victims under International Law, p. 11.
101 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 73
102 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 74

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 14.

Ibid., para. 10.

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 5-15.


CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 14.

CAT/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 20.

Ibid., para. 20.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, addendum 1, p. 5, referring to E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.4, para. 58.

E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.4, para. 58.

CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 22.

UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 3.

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 22.

CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 39.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 2.

CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 30.

CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 30.


Ibid., para. 37.

Ibid., para. 35.

Ibid., para. 36.

CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 34.

CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 34.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Addendum 1, p. 3, referring to CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 21.

CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 21.

E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 18.

Ibid., para. 39.

CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 15.

Ibid., para. 15.

Ibid., para. 22.

CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 17.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Addendum 1, p. 2, referring to CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1, para. 22.
138 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 49.
139 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Addendum 1, p. 2, referring to CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 40.
140 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 40.
141 Ibid., para. 36.
142 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 65.
143 Ibid., para. 66.
144 Ibid., para. 70.
145 Ibid., para. 68.
146 Ibid., para. 51.
147 Ibid., para. 53.
149 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 47.
150 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 20.
151 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 46.
152 Ibid., para. 23.
153 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 54.
154 Ibid., para. 55.
155 A/HRC/8/10/Add.4 paras. 93 and 95.
156 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 23.
157 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 28.
158 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 58.
159 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 23.
160 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 50.
161 A/HRC/8/10/Add.4, para. 66.
164 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 4.
165 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 59.
166 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 51.
167 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 56.
168 Ibid., para. 58.
169 CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/3, para. 31.
170 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 59.
171 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bosnia and Herzegovina, p. 3.
172 CERD/C/BIH/CO/6, para. 14.
173 Ibid., para. 19.
209 CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1/Add.2.
210 CCPR/C/BIH/CO/1/Add.3.
211 A/HRC/8/10/Add.4, paras. 104 (c), (d).
212 E/C.12/BIH/CO/1, para. 48
213 CRC/C/15/Add.260, para. 19
214 Ibid., para. 49.
215 Ibid., para. 53.
216 Ibid., para. 59.
217 Ibid., para. 62.
218 Ibid., para. 66
219 Ibid., para. 70
220 Ibid., para. 74
221 Ibid., para. 15