Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Eighth session
Geneva, 3-14 May 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

Sweden

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of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated.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>6 December 1971</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>6 December 1971</td>
<td>Yes (7 (d))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>6 December 1971</td>
<td>Yes (10, 14, 20)</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>6 December 1971</td>
<td>Yes (5, 28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>11 May 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2 July 1980</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>24 April 2003</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>8 January 1986</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>14 September 2005</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>29 June 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>20 February 2003</td>
<td>Binding declaration under art. 3: 18 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>19 January 2007</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>15 December 2008</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRPD</td>
<td>15 December 2008</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 6 and 7): Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Core treaties to which Sweden is not a party: OP-ICESCR, ICRMW, CED (signature only, 2007).

<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>
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<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 Protocol III (signature only, 2006)</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. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2009, as well as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee against Torture (CAT) in 2008 encouraged Sweden to consider ratifying ICRMW. CRC, CEDAW and CAT also encouraged it to consider ratifying CED and OP-ICESCR.

2. In 2009, HR Committee recommended Sweden should consider withdrawing its reservations to ICCPR.

3. CESCR reiterated its recommendation that Sweden consider ratifying the ILO Convention No. 131 and, highlighted also by UNHCR, Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

4. CERD and CESCR encouraged Sweden to adopt a Nordic Saami Convention and to ratify ILO Convention No. 169.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. CERD welcomed the adoption of a new Anti-Discrimination Act but was concerned that it did not provide for the adoption of special measures regarding vulnerable racial or ethnic groups, with the exception of certain measures related to immigrant employment agencies.

6. HR Committee welcomed the inclusion of a new constitutional provision clarifying that public institutions shall combat discrimination of persons on grounds of gender, colour, national or ethnic origin, linguistic or religious affiliation, functional disability, sexual orientation, age or other circumstance affecting a person.

7. CERD remained concerned about the absence of any explicit criminal law provisions declaring illegal and prohibiting organizations promoting and inciting racial hatred.

8. A 2009 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report indicated that legislation establishing criminal liability for trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes had entered into force in Sweden in 2002. In 2004, the legislation was amended to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, including trafficking within national borders and for the purpose of forced labour and the removal of organs. CRC noted with appreciation the extension of the criminalization of all forms of trafficking in persons to other forms of exploitation, such as war service and forced labour.

9. CEDAW welcomed the amendment of the Abortion Act removing the requirement that a woman must be Swedish or resident to have an abortion.

10. HR Committee and CAT welcomed the entry into force of the new Aliens Act in 2006, which provided for the right to appeal to independent bodies and permitted the granting of asylum to women fleeing gender violence, as well as to persons fleeing from persecution on grounds of sexual orientation, and the adoption, in 2005, of new legislation on sexual crimes strengthening women’s and children’s protection from sexual abuse.

11. CRC recommended that the Convention should always prevail whenever domestic law was in conflict therewith. HR Committee reiterated its concern that there was no apparent modality to give effect to the standards of the Covenant in domestic law. CESCR reiterated a similar concern regarding ICESCR.

12. CRC welcomed the enactment of a law criminalizing any intent to approach children on the Internet under a fictitious identity.
13. CRC regretted that the Swedish legislation did not address the issue of trade on war material with countries where children were involved in an armed conflict.34

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

14. As of January 2010, Sweden does not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC). In November 2008, the accreditation status lapsed due to the merging of institutions into one national human rights institution, effective 1 January 2009.35

15. HR Committee was concerned that Sweden had still not established an independent national institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.36

16. CRC recommended that Sweden consider providing the Children’s Ombudsman with the mandate to investigate individual complaints.37

17. CAT noted that Sweden had designated the Parliamentary Ombudsman’s Institution and the Chancellor of Justice as its national preventive mechanisms under OP-CAT. It expressed its concern at the fact that those institutions were not preventive and that the Government had not allocated additional resources.38

18. CEDAW welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality in 2007 and its Division for Gender Equality.39 The Special Rapporteur on violence against women called on the Government to reinforce its institutional framework on gender equality.

D. Policy measures

19. HR Committee,40 CESCR,41 CERD,42 CEDAW43 and CRC44 welcomed the establishment of the second national action plan for human rights 2006-2009. CRC recommended adopting a comprehensive national plan of action on children.45

20. CERD noted with appreciation the country’s acceptance of new methods to investigate and combat discrimination and to substantially raise the level of damages awarded to victims of racial discrimination.46

21. CAT,47 CESCR48 and CEDAW49 welcomed the action plan to combat men’s violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships.

22. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted with interest in 2007 the efforts made by the Government to improve the quality and coverage of the statistics compiled on household income and expenditure in accordance with article 13 of the Convention No. 160.50

23. CAT noted with satisfaction the common action plan aimed at minimizing the risks of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children disappearing and becoming victims of trafficking.51
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>CESCR</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sixth report due June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Committee</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Due April 2010</td>
<td>Seventh report due April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>January 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Eighth and ninth report due September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>May 2009</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fifth report due September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report submitted 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing invitation issued</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latest visits or mission reports</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on violence against women (11–21 June 2006); Special Rapporteur on the right to health (10–18 January 2006)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visits agreed upon in principle
Visits requested and not yet agreed upon
Facilitation/cooperation during missions
Follow-up to visits

Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals
During the period under review, five communications were sent. The Government replied to three communications.

Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues
Sweden responded to 5 of the 21 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders.

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


25. CAT encouraged Sweden to resume its support to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.
26 The High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Sweden in 2008.58

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

27. CEDAW continued to be concerned by the fact that immigrant, refugee and minority women continued to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. CEDAW was also concerned at the remaining forms of discrimination experienced by Saami and Roma women in various contexts.59 It encouraged Sweden to be proactive in its measures to prevent discrimination against those women and to combat violence against them.60

28. HR Committee remained concerned at the still limited percentage of women in high-ranking positions and about the reported wage gap between men and women.61 CEDAW shared similar concerns and encouraged Sweden to employ and effectively implement temporary special measures and accelerate women’s de facto equality in all areas.62 CESCR expressed similar views.63

29. Following a visit in 2006, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women reported that a number of challenges with regard to unequal power relations between women and men remained to be addressed, in spite of impressive advances towards the achievement of equality in the public sphere.64 Another mandate holder noted that Sweden had adopted a law on the prohibition of the purchase of sexual services, based on the premise that prostitution was a problem of gender equality and a form of violence against women.65

30. CERD was concerned about the increase of reported racially motivated hate crimes since 2000, as well as the spread of white power music and propaganda. It also expressed concern that the Attorney-General initiated criminal proceedings only in a limited number of cases of agitation against ethnic minorities. It was concerned that the judiciary, the prosecution authority and the police force used different definitions of hate crime.66 In its response, Sweden indicated that since the mid-1990s, Sweden had taken an increasingly serious view of hate crimes.67 HR Committee68 and CAT expressed similar concerns.69

31. CERD encouraged Sweden to strengthen its efforts and take additional steps to prevent discrimination on the basis of ethnicity in all aspects of daily life, as highlighted also by UNHCR.70

32. CRC was particularly concerned about de facto discrimination and xenophobia and racist attitudes towards children of ethnic minorities, refugee and asylum-seeking children and children belonging to migrant families.71

33. While CERD noted with appreciation the efforts by Sweden to promote the rights of the Roma minority, including convening a working conference on Roma women’s rights in December 2007 aimed at sharing information and best practices among policymakers and Roma networks across Europe,72 CESCR73 and CAT74 expressed their concern at reports of continued discrimination of vulnerable groups, in particular the Roma.

34. HR Committee was concerned that persons with disabilities often faced difficulties in obtaining adequate services and housing. It also regretted that the employment rate for persons with disabilities had decreased in recent years.75 CESCR expressed similar concerns,76 as did CEDAW regarding women with disabilities77 and CRC regarding children with disabilities.78
2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

35. CAT regretted that Sweden had not changed its position with regard to the incorporation into domestic law of the crime of torture as defined in the Convention. It noted with concern that the offence of torture was punishable under other provisions of the Criminal Code, and therefore was subject to the statute of limitations. CAT also expressed its concern at the fact that Swedish law did not contain specific provisions ensuring that any statement which was established to have been made as a result of torture would not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings.

36. CAT recommended that Sweden strengthen its measures to ensure prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment. CAT recommended that Sweden continue to strengthen its efforts in respect of compensation, redress and rehabilitation of victims. HR Committee noted the existence of a special body to deal with complaints against the police, but was concerned that it lacked the authority necessary to conduct objective investigations.

37. In 2007 and 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, jointly with other mandate holders, sent a number of communications concerning asylum procedures in cases in which the rejection of individual applications was feared to pose a risk for the persons concerned in the case of deportation. In response, Sweden provided details of the procedures followed by the Swedish Migration Board and the migration courts in considering applications for asylum and residence permits.

38. HR Committee recommended Sweden should provide adequate training to prison officials on suicide prevention and assure observance of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners.

39. CAT expressed its concern at information that between 40 to 50 per cent of remand prisoners were unable to challenge and appeal decisions to impose or maintain specific restrictions. Sweden responded that the treatment of detainees was regulated by the Act on the Treatment of Persons Arrested or Remanded in Custody. HR Committee recommended that Sweden should permit detention of asylum-seekers only in exceptional circumstances, and limit the length of such detentions, also avoiding any placement in remand prisons, as highlighted also by UNHCR.

40. CRC expressed its concern that current legislation allows the isolation of children in youth detention centres and that this treatment is also used as punishment.

41. CAT recommended that Sweden review the use of physical restraints and further limit the use of solitary confinement in psychiatric institutions. Sweden replied that it had appointed a committee to review Swedish legislation on compulsory mental care and forensic mental care and results were due in June 2010.

42. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women considered that the Government, civil society and the media should strengthen existing efforts to prevent violence against women by addressing its root causes and working to expand the knowledge base of women at risk of violence. The Special Rapporteur considered the penal law framework addressing violence against women was excellent, but low prosecution and conviction rates were indicative of the need for further improvements in its implementation. HR Committee was concerned about the high prevalence of violence against women, particularly domestic violence. It stated that Sweden should intensify its efforts to eliminate violence against women, inter alia, through effective implementation of the action plan 2007-2010 and the special package of measures to increase initiatives for the rehabilitation of men convicted of sexual violence and violent offences in close relationships. CEDAW, CAT and CESCR expressed similar concerns. CESCR noted with concern that the Penal Code did not contain a specific offence of domestic violence.
remained concerned at the high level of child abuse and neglect and other forms of domestic violence.  

43. HR Committee commended Sweden for the adoption and implementation of the national action plan to combat female genital mutilation, but remained concerned at its continuing occurrence in Sweden.

44. HR Committee was concerned about reports of physical abuse of disabled persons who reside in institutions and shelters.

45. A 2009 UNODC report indicated that legislation establishing criminal liability for trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes had entered into force in Sweden in 2002. In 2004, the legislation was amended to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons. It also indicated that, of the convictions recorded during 2005-2006, 14 offenders had been convicted of trafficking for sexual exploitation and one offender convicted for trafficking for other purposes. CRC was concerned about the prevalence of trafficking in children for the purposes, inter alia, of sexual and economic exploitation and at the lack of data on the number of Swedish citizens involved in sexual exploitation of children abroad. It recommended that Sweden increase its efforts to prevent and combat the phenomenon of child sex tourism. CEDAW expressed similar concerns.

46. CEDAW encouraged Sweden to continue formulating strategies to prevent women from entering prostitution and establish programmes for rehabilitation and support of women and girls who wished to leave prostitution.

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

47. CAT was concerned that a public defence counsel would be appointed only once the person was considered to be a suspect. CAT and HR Committee regretted that Swedish legislation did not include a legal provision on access to a doctor and that a request to see a doctor was left to the discretion of the police. They further regretted reports that notification of custody was not systematically delivered to family members and was frequently delayed. In its response to CAT, Sweden presented its legal framework maintaining that it ensured that suspects enjoyed a right to public defence counsel at as early a stage as was reasonable.

48. CAT noted that Swedish courts had jurisdiction over all crimes committed by Swedish troops deployed abroad and recommended that Sweden call for prompt and impartial investigations of allegations of torture or ill-treatment committed by Swedish troops in the course of an international operation.

49. HR Committee found violations against Sweden in the case of Muhammad Alzery. It found violations of the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and for failure to investigate such treatment effectively. The Government responded on several occasions. In one submission, it reported that a settlement of SEK 3,160,000 had been awarded and that it was still awaiting a decision on the author’s request for a residence permit. The dialogue is ongoing.

50. CERD was concerned about discrimination in the judicial and law enforcement systems against persons of non-Swedish background. Sweden responded that interpreters were provided for persons who are in need of interpretation and detailed measures had been taken to counteract discrimination in both systems.

4. Right to privacy and family life

51. HR Committee took note that the Law on Signals Intelligence in Defence Operations would provide the executive with wide powers of electronic surveillance. It stated that Sweden should take all appropriate measures to ensure that personal data was not used for
purposes contrary to the Covenant and should guarantee it was subject to independent review and supervision.120

52. CRC was concerned at the high number of children removed from their families and living in foster homes. It was also concerned at the number of children who ran away or were forced to leave home.121

53. CRC expressed its concern at the insufficient supervision and monitoring of alternative care facilities and the lack of effective complaint mechanisms for children without parental care.122

5. **Right to participate in public and political life**

54. A 2009 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament has increased from 38.4 per cent in 1990 to 57 per cent in 2009.123

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

55. A 2009 Statistics Division source indicated that the unemployment rate of youngsters ranging from 15 to 24, for both sexes, has experienced a dramatic increase from 4.6 per cent in 1990 to 18.9 per cent in 2007.124

56. CRC was concerned at the high number of adolescents unemployed after finishing school and who would need more targeted assistance.125

57. CESCR was concerned that the unemployment rate among foreign-born persons continued to be higher than for Swedish-born persons, and that it had increased for foreign-born women in particular.126

58. CESCR urged Sweden to evaluate and review its measures to ensure that persons with disabilities had equal opportunities for productive and gainful employment.127

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

59. CESCR noted with satisfaction that access to social security assistance was not based upon nationality but rather residency.128

60. Following a mission to Sweden in 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health highlighted the quality of health care in Sweden. Nevertheless, the Special Rapporteur encouraged the introduction of a human rights-based approach to health indicators, the disaggregation of health data according to various grounds of discrimination, and the integration of the right to health into impact assessments.129 As also highlighted by UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur urged the Government to ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities, as expressed in international and regional human rights treaties, and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.130 CEDAW expressed its concern at the outcome of recent reports indicating shortcomings in gender equality in health services.131

61. CRC encouraged Sweden to ensure that adequate mental health care was provided to all children that needed it without undue delay. It urged Sweden to strengthen the health-care resources for people in suicidal crisis and to take measures to prevent suicide among groups at risk.132 CEDAW expressed its concern at the deteriorating mental health situation of young girls, including increased alcohol and drug consumption and an increase in attempted suicides and other forms of self-inflicted harm.133 CRC remained concerned about the high incidence of eating disorders among adolescents.134
62. CRC recommended that Sweden increase its measures to analyse and combat the spread of STIs and to strengthen sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents, with a view to reducing the incidence of unwanted pregnancies and abortions.\textsuperscript{135}

63. CRC was concerned that limited treatment possibilities existed for drug users under 18 years and by the fact that there were no statistics on the matter. It was also concerned about the large number of children who suffered as a result of their parents’ drug abuse.\textsuperscript{136}

64. CESCR was concerned about the increase in the number of children living in poverty in recent years. It was also concerned about the extent of homelessness in Sweden.\textsuperscript{137}

8. Right to education

65. CRC remained concerned that children without residence permits did not enjoy the right to education,\textsuperscript{138} as highlighted by UNHCR.\textsuperscript{139} CESCR reiterated its recommendation that Sweden take immediate steps to ensure the implementation of the laws which provide for access to education for children in hiding.\textsuperscript{140}

66. CESCR recommended that Sweden continue to adopt appropriate and effective measures to increase school attendance by Roma children and urged Sweden to take immediate steps to prevent harassment and bullying of Roma children in schools.\textsuperscript{141}

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

67. CERD expressed concern about the continuing discrimination against the Saami in many segments of Swedish society.\textsuperscript{142} HR Committee remained concerned at the limited extent to which the Saami Parliament could participate in the decision-making process on issues affecting land and traditional activities of the Saami people. Noting the country’s intention to address the Committee’s recommendations through a bill to be submitted to Parliament in March 2010, it noted the limited progress achieved so far in respecting Saami rights, as well as the restrictive terms of reference of the Boundary Commission and other inquiries tasked with the study of Saami rights.\textsuperscript{143} CERD invited Sweden to initiate further studies into methods by which Saami land and resource rights could be established, taking into account the oral tradition of Saami culture.\textsuperscript{144}

68. HR Committee recommended that Sweden grant adequate legal aid to Saami villages in court disputes concerning land and grazing rights and introduce legislation providing for a flexible burden of proof in these cases.\textsuperscript{145} CERD was particularly concerned about past court rulings which had deprived Saami communities of winter grazing lands. HR Committee\textsuperscript{146} and CERD encouraged Sweden to consider other means of settling land disputes, such as mediation.\textsuperscript{147} Sweden indicated that the courts had come to the conclusion that no winter grazing rights existed and such rights had never existed in the disputed area.\textsuperscript{148} It also noted that it was a basic principle in the Swedish legal system that the claimant of a certain right also had the burden of proof for his/her claim.\textsuperscript{149}

69. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples called attention to information concerning the proposed relocation of a mining town due to the planned expansion of an iron ore mine, and its potential effects on the traditional activities of Saami communities in the area. The Special Rapporteur praised the Government for initiating consultations with the affected Saami people at an early stage, but remained concerned over some of the circumstances of the process. While the affected Saami communities had been invited to participate in the ongoing consultations, they had reportedly mostly been unable to participate in the meetings because they needed to tend to the daily requirements of herding and did not have the necessary financial resources. It was alleged that neither the Government nor the relevant mining company had made efforts to provide resources to the Saami to ensure their
participation in the consultations. Concern was expressed that if the affected communities could not participate, the reallocation would take place in such a manner that invaluable reindeer grazing land would be lost.150

70. In 2008, HR Committee expressed concern, as also highlighted by UNHCR,151 about the persistent occurrence of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, in particular against the Roma minority and “persons of foreign origin”, regarding access to employment and working life, education, access to public places, and in the criminal justice system, in spite of the measures taken by the State party to enhance its legal and institutional mechanisms aimed at combating discrimination.152

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

71. HR Committee remained concerned, as highlighted by UNHCR, 153 that some asylum-seekers had been detained for lengthy periods. It was further concerned that asylum-seekers had been deported before the final resolution of their claims and that confidential information was sometimes used in expulsion decisions.154 CAT was concerned that pre-deportation detention was common and that there was information that asylum-seekers who were a risk to themselves or others were sometimes placed in remand prisons.155

72. CAT found violations against Sweden in twelve cases156 related to the right to non-refoulement. In all but one case,157 the Committee requested that Sweden refrain from forcibly removing the complainants. In all of these cases, Sweden granted the complainants residence permits. In the case of Mr. Ahmed Hussein Mustafa Kamil Agiza, the Committee found violations of the complainant’s right to non-refoulement.158 Sweden sent four responses between 2006 and 2009.159 In its submissions, Sweden stated, inter alia, that it had amended its legislation as a consequence of the Committee’s decision, that Mr. Agiza was being regularly monitored by staff from the Swedish Embassy in the third country, and had been awarded compensation of SEK 3,097,920. However, he had been denied a residence permit in 2009. The Committee will consider Sweden’s last submission at its next session in 2010. The case of Mr. Agiza – as well as the case of Mr. Alzery cited in paragraph 48 – is also mentioned in a report undertaken by several special procedures entitled “Joint study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism”.160

73. CRC noted with concern that Sweden was considering the introduction of a support requirement as a condition for family immigration of foreign citizens and stateless persons.161 It reiterated its recommendation, as highlighted by UNHCR, 162 that Sweden continue to strengthen the measures taken to ensure that family reunification procedures for recognized refugees.163

74. In 2009, CRC expressed concern, as highlighted also by UNHCR, 164 that the best interests of asylum-seekers and migrant children were not sufficiently taken into consideration in asylum processes.165 CRC was concerned about the large number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who disappeared from reception centres in Sweden. It was particularly concerned that those children were vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. It remained concerned that Sweden had not introduced legislation in respect of appointing a temporary guardian for each unaccompanied child within 24 hours of arrival.166 UNHCR expressed similar views.167 CRC welcomed the new Act on Health Care for Asylum-Seekers. However, it was concerned that undocumented children only had a right to urgent medical care, with no subsidies.168

75. CRC urged the Government to ensure that asylum-seeking children involved in armed conflict receive all appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and their social reintegration.169 CRC recommended that the State party, as
highlighted also by UNHCR, systematically collect data on refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children within its jurisdiction who have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad. In this regard, CRC recommended that the State party take note of its general comment No. 6 (2005) on treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin.170

76. In 2009, HR Committee expressed concern, as highlighted also by UNHCR,171 that the undocumented people living in Sweden (gömna) represented one of the most vulnerable groups in society, consisting predominantly of rejected asylum-seekers, as well as immigrants who had never claimed asylum but overstayed in Sweden. There were an estimated 15,000 undocumented people living in Sweden.172

11. Human rights and counter-terrorism

77. By a communication transmitted in 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism encouraged Sweden to facilitate the resettlement of an individual detained in a third country for terrorism-related reasons, but in relation to whom no criminal charges had been initiated. The Special Rapporteur received information that the person had exceptionally been given permission to reside in Sweden.173

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

78. CRC174 and CESCR175 noted with appreciation that Sweden allocated more than 0.7 per cent of its gross domestic product to official development assistance.

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

Specific recommendations for follow-up

79. CAT requested Sweden to provide, within one year, information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (fundamental safeguards), 13 (non-refoulement), 16 (restrictions on remand prisoners) and 17 (coercive measures) of its concluding observations.176 Information was received in June 2009.177

80. HR Committee indicated that Sweden should provide, within one year, information on the implementation of the recommendations made in paragraphs 10 (disabilities), 13 (detention and legal safeguards), 16 (torture and terrorism), and 17 (detention and asylum-seekers) of its concluding observations.178

81. CERD requested that Sweden provide information, within one year, on its follow-up to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 (hate crimes), 16 (discrimination in judicial and law enforcement systems), and 20 (Saami land disputes) of its concluding observations.179 Information was received October 2009.180
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:

- **ICERD** — International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- **ICESCR** — International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- **OP-ICESCR** — Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
- **ICCPR** — International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- **ICCPR-OP 1** — Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
- **ICCPR-OP 2** — 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;
- **CRPD** — Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- **OP-CRPD** — Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- **CED** — International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

3 Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that “The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant”.


6 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.

7 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 Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise 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;
Constitution of Sweden.

8 CRC, concluding observations adopted on 12 June 2009, (CRC/C/SWE/CO/4), para. 73.
9 CERD, concluding observations adopted on 21 August 2008 (CERD/C/SWE/CO/18), para. 23.
10 CESCR, concluding observations adopted on 18 November 2008 (E/C.12/SWE/CO/5), para. 36.
11 CEDAW, concluding observations adopted on 8 April 2008 (CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7), para. 44.
12 CAT, concluding observations adopted on 4 June 2008 (CAT/C/SWE/CO/5), para. 27.
13 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 73.
14 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 44.
15 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 27.
16 HR Committee, concluding observations (CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6), 2 April 2009, para. 6.
17 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 4, citing E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 32.
18 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, paras. 31-32.
19 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 4.
20 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 4.
21 Ibid., para. 13. See also E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 5 and CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 5.
22 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 3.
23 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 14.
25 CRC, concluding observations under OPAC adopted on 8 June 2007 (CRC/C/OPAC/SWE/CO/1), para. 6.
26 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 11.
27 Cat/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 5.
28 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 10.
29 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 3.
30 CRC/C/SWE/Co/4, para. 13.
31 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 31.
32 CRC/C/OPAC/SWE/CO/1, para. 16.
33 A/HRC/10/55, annex I and Annex II (para. 3.10). 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.
34 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 4.
35 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 16.
36 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 25.
37 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 6.
38 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 3.
39 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 4.
40 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 7.
41 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 7.
42 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 5.
43 Ibid., para. 14.
44 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 9.
45 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 5.
46 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 9.
47 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 9.
49 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 5.
50 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CEDR Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
See report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences: addendum – mission to Sweden (A/HRC/4/34/Add.3).

See Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health: Addendum – Mission to Sweden (A/HRC/4/28/Add.2).

The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2006 and 31 January 2010. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, relating to the following questionnaires: (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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 2007; (h) report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries (A/62/301), questionnaire on measures adopted and envisaged, including legislation, regarding mercenaries, 2007; (i) 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, 2007; (j) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (A/HRC/7/6), questionnaire on indicators on violence against women, 2007; (k) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations, 2007; (l) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1), questionnaire on trafficking in persons, 2008; (m) report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to the eleventh session of the Council (A/HRC/11/9), questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes, 2008; (n) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, (A/HRC/11/8), questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention, 2009; (o) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (A/HRC/11/6), questionnaire on violence against women and political economy, 2008; (p) 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, 2009; (q) 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, 2009; (r) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/HRC/12/31), questionnaire on world food and nutrition security, 2009; (s) report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (A/HRC/13/30), questionnaire on the detention of drug users, 2009; (t) joint study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (A/HRC/13/42), questionnaire on secret detention, 2009; (u) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (A/HRC/13/22), questionnaire on the security and protection of human rights defenders, 2009.

57 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 26.
58 See OHCHR, 2008 Annual Report: Activities and Results, p. 56.
59 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 38.
60 Ibid., para. 39.
61 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 7.
62 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 25.
63 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 18.
64 See A/HRC/4/34/Add.3, para. 68.
66 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 15.
67 Information provided by the Government of Sweden on the implementation of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/SWE/CO/18/Add.1), para. 11.
68 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 19.
69 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 21.
70 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 4, citing E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 16.
71 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 25.
72 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 8.
73 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 16.
74 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 21.
75 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 10.
76 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 17.
77 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 40.
78 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 40.
79 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 9.
80 Ibid., para. 10.
81 Ibid., para. 22.
82 Ibid., para. 18.
83 Ibid., para. 20.
84 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 15.
85 See report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: addendum – summary of information, including individual cases, transmitted to Governments and replies received, A/HRC/7/3/Add.1, para. 213; report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: addendum – summary of information, including individual cases, transmitted to Governments and replies received, A/HRC/10/44/Add.4, paras. 213–214.
86 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 14.
87 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 16.
88 Letter from Sweden dated 3 June 2009 (CAT/C/SWE/CO/5/Add.1).
89 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 17.
90 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 70.
91 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 17.
92 See CAT/C/SWE/CO/5/Add.1.
94 Ibid, para. 70.
95 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 8.
96 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 28.
97 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 23.
98 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 21.
99 Ibid., para. 21.
100 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 38.
101 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 9.
102 Ibid., para. 10.
103 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.
104 Ibid.
105 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 66.
106 Ibid., para. 68.
107 Ibid., para. 69.
108 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 31.
109 Ibid., para. 33.
110 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 11.
111 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 13.
112 See CAT/C/SWE/CO/5/Add.1.
113 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 19.
114 HR Committee, communication No. 1416/2005 (CCPR/C/88/D/1416/2005), Views adopted on 25
October 2006.
115 See report of the Human Rights Committee, A/62/40; report of the Human Rights Committee,
A/63/40.
116 See A/63/40.
117 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 16.
118 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18/Add.1, para. 15.
119 Ibid., paras. 19-28.
120 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 18.
121 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 34.
122 Ibid., para. 36.
123 See United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses. Available from
124 Ibid.
125 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 56.
126 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 20.
127 Ibid., para. 19.
128 Ibid., para. 8.
130 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p.6, citing A/HRC/4/28/Add.2, para. 47.
131 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 34.
132 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 51.
133 CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 34.
134 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 44.
135 Ibid., para. 47.
136 Ibid., para. 48.
137 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 22.
138 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, 12 June 2009, para. 54.
139 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 54.
140 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 27.
141 Ibid., para. 25.
142 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 22.
143 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 20.
144 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 19.
145 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 21.
146 Ibid., para. 21.
147 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 20.
148 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18/Add.1, para. 30.
149 Ibid., para. 31.
150 See A/HRC/12/34/Add.1, paras. 399–403.
151 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 4, citing E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 16.
152 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 16.
153 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 17.
154 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 17.
155 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 12.
156 A/64/44.
158 Ibid.
159 See report of the Committee against Torture, A/62/44.
160 See A/HRC/13/42 (forthcoming).
161 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 64.
162 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 28.
163 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 65.
164 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 27.
165 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 27.
166 Ibid., para. 62.
167 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, p. 2, citing CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 17.
168 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 60.
169 CRC/C/OPAC/SWE/CO/1, para. 24.
170 UNHCR submission to the UPR on Sweden, pp. 5-6, citing CRC/C/OPAC/SWE/CO/1, para. 25.
171 Ibid., p. 6, citing A/HRC/4/28/Add.2, para. 70.
172 A/HRC/4/28/Add.2, para. 70.
174 CRC/C/SWE/CO/4, para. 23.
175 E/C.12/SWE/CO/5, para. 11.
176 CAT/C/SWE/CO/5, para. 30.
177 See CAT/C/SWE/CO/5/Add.1.
178 CCPR/C/SWE/CO/6, para. 23.
179 CERD/C/SWE/CO/18, para. 28.
180 See CERD/C/SWE/CO/18/Add.1.