

## Preface

The fourth judicial colloquium to consider international human rights norms was convened by the Hon Mohammed Bello, CON, Chief Justice of Nigeria, in Abuja, Nigeria, from 9-12 November 1991. It was the largest gathering of senior Commonwealth judges in this series of meetings.

As on earlier occasions, the Abuja colloquium was concerned with the development of international jurisprudence in human rights and, in particular, with the domestic application of international human rights norms. The inaugural session in 1988 produced what has become known as the **Bangalore Principles**, a concluding statement of that meeting which seeks to chart the way forward for judges throughout the Commonwealth and pointing them in the direction of a consistent and creative development of human rights jurisprudence. With similar objective the second colloquium in 1989 produced the concluding statement now known as the **Harare Declaration of Human Rights**, and the third colloquium in 1990 the **Banjul Affirmation**. The texts of all these concluding statements appear in this report from page ...

The colloquium in Abuja considered a number of presentations on the developing body of international human rights jurisprudence relating particularly to the application of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Particular note was taken of remarkable international and national events having important human rights implications, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government declaration in 1991 giving special emphasis to democracy, human rights, accountable government, independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

The special importance of the Abuja colloquium was its strong endorsement and confirmation of the **Bangalore Principles**, and the identification of practical measures for their implementation. The text of the 1991 concluding statement, known as the **Abuja Confirmation**, appears at page ... of this report. In Abuja, Commonwealth judges also called for the establishment of a Commonwealth Judicial Human Rights Association for the furtherance of their concerns and work in this area.

Like all previous colloquia, the Abuja one was organised jointly by the Commonwealth Secretariat and Interights, with funding from the Ford Foundation. Sincere gratitude is expressed to the Ford Foundation for its continuing and generous support.

**Legal Division  
Commonwealth Secretariat**

**Interights**

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