

PREFACE

Senior Commonwealth judges traditionally gather from time to time for informal and private exchanges on matters of special interest. The Harare colloquium was the second of its kind dealing with the domestic application of international human rights norms, the first being held in Bangalore, India, in February 1988.

The second colloquium took place in Harare from 19-22 April 1989 and was hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe. It was formally opened by President Mugabe, and the sessions were chaired by Justice Enoch Dumbutshena, the Chief Justice of Zimbabwe.

Discussion focussed on recent developments in international human rights jurisprudence and norms from which judges and lawyers are beginning, increasingly, to draw to augment the domestic law of their jurisdictions. Resource papers for discussion at the meeting were prepared by Chief Justice Dumbutshena, Justice Michael Kirby, Justice Rajsoomer Lallah, Justice P Bhagwati, Mr Justice Ademola, Dr Rose D'Sa and Ms Beverly Byfield.

There was a comprehensive exchange of views which, in accordance with the 'Chatham House' rules which prevail in these types of meetings, were off-the-record and non-attributable. It was felt nevertheless that it was important for the Chairman of the meeting to sum up the proceedings in the statement reproduced herein which has become known as the 'Harare Declaration'.

Funds provided by the Ford Foundation were fundamental to the success of the colloquium, and we record here our deepest gratitude to the Ford Foundation for its generosity and continuing support in this endeavour. On behalf of all of the participants we would also extend to the Government, judiciary, and the people of Zimbabwe our gratitude and sincere appreciation for the warmth of our reception and for the excellent arrangements for the colloquium. Likewise we are most grateful to the New Zealand High Commission and the Legal Resources Foundation of Zimbabwe for their hospitality and assistance. There were many others, groups and individuals, who supported the colloquium in various ways and we extend to them as well our deep appreciation.

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