

opment support, but please stay out of our domestic affairs.

As a representative of Idasa I was only one of two people representing an NGO from South Africa (the other person was Frans Kekana from the Institute of Contextual Theology). There was at least one other South African – the very inspirational Shun Chetty who is now the deputy director of the High Commission for Refugees, based in Geneva.

Shun was involved as a lawyer in numerous political trials in the seventies before he went into exile towards the end of that

***'There is virtually no African country that does not produce or receive refugees'***

decade. Shun uses as a barometer of the human rights situation in Africa the more than 5 million refugees on the continent today. There is virtually no African country, according to him, that does not either produce or receive refugees.

The conference also produced a very strange reunion for me – it was a surprise in a language environment dominated by French and Arabic suddenly to be addressed in Afrikaans. This came from Hazel de Wet, representing the Namibian government.

Even more surprisingly, Hazel and I discovered that we had almost met more than five years ago when I was chairperson of the SRC of the University of the Orange Free State and we were to meet the SRC of the University of the Western Cape. But, on our arrival at the UWC campus (all dressed up in our official university blazers), we were told that the UWC SRC was no longer willing to meet us (being an establishment, "system" institution). Hazel served on that SRC as the Namibian representative!

# Africa meeting human rights

By KOBUS VAN LOGGERENBERG

**P**REPARATIONS for the second United Nations World Conference on Human Rights got underway at a meeting held in Tunis from 2 to 6 November.

The UN General Assembly decided that 25 years after the first World Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, the UN Human Rights Programme needs to be reviewed to ensure its greater effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights. The conference will thus chart the course for the UN Human Rights Programme into the next century.

The preparatory meeting in Tunis considered the role of governments, individuals, groups, institutions and non-governmental organisations in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The meeting also considered issues of particular importance to Africa, like the elimination of apartheid, new forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and religious extremism.

The conference adopted the Tunis Declaration which reaffirms the African states' commitment to the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, two international Covenants on Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Although some delegations argued for flexibility in the

interpretation of the principles, be- states to p

Admini- pence- realisation- that to ac- ment was- internatio- to allocate

The Tu- principle- rights is s- cannot be- and cultu- takes prec- cal freed- respect fo- rights, re-

There v- dence of l- ment (wh- right) an- progress- human ri- effective- internatio- relations.

Racism- extremism- a serious- tion of un-