CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

I. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS 2

A. Why a rights-based approach to constitutional reform? 3

1. Framing the issue 3
2. The constitutional State 6
3. Functions of the constitution in the contemporary world 7
4. The constitution and democratic governance 8
5. Constitutional guarantees of fundamental rights 10

B. Human rights and the process of constitutional reform 11

1. Ownership of constitutional reforms 12
2. Public participation in constitutional reforms 14
3. The human rights framework for constitutional reforms 16

III. CONSTITUTIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS 20

A. The constitutional bill of rights and international human rights standards 21

1. International human rights law 21
2. Domestic law and its relationship to international human rights law 23

B. Drafting a constitutional bill of rights: General requirements 31

1. Conformity with assessments dominating in the society 31
2. Compliance with international human rights standards 33
3. Scope of the constitutional language 35
4. Internal coherence 36
5. Normative content 36
6. Implementation and limitations 40
7. Communicativeness 43

C. Content of the constitutional bill of rights 44
1. The rights holder 44
2. Duty bearers 51
3. Fundamental principles 57
4. Categories of rights and freedoms 68
5. Permissibility of limitations 83
6. Protection of rights and state of emergency 87
7. Legal duties of the individual 90

D. Institutional and procedural guarantees of rights 96
1. Implementation of the constitution and human rights 96
2. Institutional safeguards 98
3. Specific guarantees 105
4. Access to bodies and procedures established under international law 121

III. OHCHR AND HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS 124

A. Contribution of human rights mechanisms 125
1. Application of international human rights law by States 125
2. Protection of substantive human rights 128

B. Objectives, forms and methodology of assistance programmes 134

C. Partnerships 138

SOURCES AND REFERENCES 139