



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/1986/3  
21 January 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1986

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Initial reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant concerning  
rights covered by articles 10 to 12, in accordance with the second stage  
of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its  
resolution 1988 (LX)

#### Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit reports on the measures which they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized therein. All reports shall be submitted to the Secretary-General, who shall transmit copies to the Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant. The Secretary-General shall also transmit to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts therefrom, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies, in so far as those reports, or parts therefrom, relate to any matters which fall within the competence of the said agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.

2. Under article 17 of the Covenant, the States parties to the Covenant shall furnish their reports in stages, in accordance with the programme established by the Economic and Social Council. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the Covenant. Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by any State party to the Covenant, it will not be necessary to reproduce that information, but a precise reference to the information so furnished will suffice.

3. As provided for under article 17 of the Covenant, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, established the following



programme under which the States parties to the Covenant were requested to furnish, in biennial stages, the reports referred to in article 16 thereof:

First stage: rights covered by articles 6-9;

Second stage: rights covered by articles 10-12;

Third stage: rights covered by articles 13-15.

4. By the same resolution, the Council invited the States parties to the Covenant to submit to the Secretary-General, in conformity with part IV of the Covenant, and in accordance with the programme mentioned above, reports on the measures that they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant, and to indicate, when necessary, factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of their obligations under the Covenant. Further, the Council decided that the reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme (arts. 6 to 9) should be transmitted by 1 September 1977, and the reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter (i.e., arts. 10 to 12 by 1 September 1979, and arts. 13 to 15 by 1 September 1981).

5. By its decision 1985/132 of 28 May 1985, the Council decided, while maintaining the current biennial programme for initial reports submitted under article 16 of the Covenant, to prolong by one year the periodicity of reporting for second and subsequent periodic reports.

6. The Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982 for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, shall meet in 1986 for a period of three weeks, beginning two weeks before the first regular session of the Council. In accordance with its methods of work, approved by the Council in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979 and subsequently revised by Council decision 1981/158 of 8 May 1981 and resolution 1982/33, the Group of Experts shall consider the reports submitted by States parties in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General; it shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on its activities and shall make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and by the specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Group when their reports are examined, to make statements on the reports submitted by their States and answer questions which may be put to them by the members of the Group.

7. In accordance with the programme established by the Council in resolution 1988 (LX), initial reports on rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant were due under the second cycle of the reporting procedure on 1 September 1985 from the following 23 States parties: Afghanistan, Belgium, Bolivia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador,

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France, Gabon, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Togo, Viet Nam and Zambia.

8. In addition, as at 1 September 1985, initial reports on rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant which were due under the first reporting cycle on 1 September 1979 had not yet been received from the following 25 States parties: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uruguay and Zaire.

9. In a note verbale dated 10 January 1985, the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the States parties mentioned in paragraph 7 above, for the first time, and those mentioned in paragraph 8 above, for the second time, the provisions of articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, as well as the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1988 (LX). He transmitted to them the general guidelines for initial reports on articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant, drawn up by the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1988 (LX), and requested them to submit their initial reports on those articles by 1 September 1985 for transmission to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1986. The general guidelines drawn up by the Secretary-General for initial reports on articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant are reproduced in the annex to the present document.

10. The initial reports on rights included in the second stage of the programme (rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant) submitted by the States parties mentioned in paragraphs 7 and 8 above will be issued as addenda to the present document.

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Annex

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL REPORTS ON ARTICLES 10 TO 12 OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council  
resolution 1988 (LX)

I. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON ALL THE RIGHTS RECOGNIZED IN  
ARTICLES 10 TO 12 OF THE COVENANT

1. In accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant and with the programme set forth in resolution 1988 (LX) of the Economic and Social Council, Governments of the States parties to the Covenant were requested to report, by 1 September 1979, on the rights covered in part III, articles 10 to 12, of the Covenant.\* As mentioned in articles 16 (1) and 17 (2) of the Covenant, Governments are invited to report on "the measures that they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized" in those articles, and to indicate any "factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of their obligations under these articles".
2. It is suggested that, in this second series of reports, Governments should describe the basic conditions prevailing in their countries as well as the basic programmes and institutions relevant to the rights dealt with in articles 10 to 12, and that they should stress the developments regarding these conditions, programmes and institutions which have taken place since the entry into force of the Covenant, that is, since 3 January 1976.
3. Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to a specialized agency - for instance, under the system of periodic reports on human rights established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) or in reports to the specialized agencies concerned - it will not be necessary to reproduce that information. A precise reference to the information so furnished, preferably with indications of the relevant documents, will suffice.
4. It would be appreciated if copies of the principal laws, regulations, collective agreements and court decisions mentioned in the reports were also forwarded.
5. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1988 (LX), the States parties are requested, in reporting on the rights covered by articles 10 to 12, to

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\* The States for which the Covenant entered into force after 1979 were requested to submit their reports on rights covered by articles 10 to 12 by 1 September 1985.



give full attention to the matters dealt with in parts I and II (arts. 1 to 5) of the Covenant, namely:

(a) The right of self-determination, as recognized in article 1 of the Covenant;

(b) Measures taken to guarantee the exercise of the rights covered by articles 10 to 12, without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (art. 2 (2));

(c) The extent to which non-nationals are guaranteed the rights dealt with in articles 10 to 12;

(d) Measures taken under article 3 of the Covenant to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of the rights set forth in articles 10 to 12;

(e) Limitations which may have been imposed upon the exercise of the rights set forth in articles 10 to 12, the reasons therefor, and safeguards against abuses in this regard, with copies of the relevant laws, regulations and court decisions (arts. 4 and 5).

## II. ARTICLE 10: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

### A. Protection of the family

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements designed to promote the protection of the family, and relevant court decisions, if any;
2. Guarantees of the right of men and women to enter into marriage with their full and free consent and to establish a family and measures taken to abolish such customs, ancient laws and practices as may affect the freedom of choice of a spouse;
3. Measures to facilitate the establishment of a family, such as subsidies or installation grants, the provision of housing and other benefits;
4. Measures aimed at maintaining, strengthening and protecting the family, such as family allowances, tax-exemption facilities and child-care institutions.

### B. Maternity protection

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements governing the various aspects of maternity protection, and relevant court decisions, if any;
2. Pre-natal and post-natal protection and assistance, including appropriate medical and health care and maternity and other benefits, irrespective of marital status;

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3. Special protection and assistance accorded to working mothers, including paid leave or leave with social security benefits and guarantees against dismissal during a reasonable period before and after childbirth;
4. Specific measures, if any, in favour of working mothers who are self-employed or participating in a family enterprise, especially in agriculture or in small crafts and trades, including adequate guarantees against loss of income;
5. Specific measures designed to help mothers to maintain their children in the case of their husbands' death or absence.

C. Protection of children and young persons

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and other measures, including collective agreements and court decisions, if any, aimed at protecting and assisting all children and young persons, in order to give them opportunities and facilities for their healthy physical and psychological development without distinction or discrimination on account of birth, parentage, social origin or other conditions;
2. Special measures for the care and education of children separated from their mothers or deprived of a family; physically, mentally or socially handicapped children; and delinquent minors;
3. Measures to protect children and young persons against economic, social and all other forms of exploitation, neglect or cruelty and from being the subject of traffic;
4. Provisions governing work by children and young persons, including minimum age for paid or unpaid employment, regulation of hours of work and rest, prohibition or restriction of night work and penalties imposed for violations of such provisions;
5. Measures taken to prevent the employment of children and young persons in any work which would be dangerous to life, harmful to their morals or health or likely to hamper their normal physical and psychosocial development, and penalties imposed for violations of such measures;
6. Statistical and other available data showing the number of children and young persons in the various age groups who are in fact working, and the sectors or type of work in which they are employed.

III. ARTICLE 11: THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

- A. Achievement of an adequate standard of living and continuous improvement of living conditions
- B. The right to adequate food

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements designed to promote the right of everyone to adequate food, and relevant court decisions, if any;

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2. Measures taken to develop or reform existing agrarian systems, in order to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;
3. Measures taken to improve methods of production and the quantity and quality of food produced, and to increase the yield per unit of cultivated land and to improve methods of animal husbandry, including animal health, by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, in particular:
  - (a) The promotion of agricultural research, introduction and use of appropriate material, equipment and techniques;
  - (b) The dissemination of knowledge on the use of such material, equipment and techniques;
4. Measures taken to improve and disseminate knowledge regarding methods of food conservation, in particular to reduce crop and post-harvest losses and waste (e.g., through pest control and adequate food storage facilities), and to prevent degradation of resources (e.g., through soil conservation and water management);
5. Measures taken to improve food distribution, such as the improvement of communication between areas of production and food-marketing centres, the facilitation of access to markets, the introduction of price support and stabilization measures, the control of abusive practices, and the assurance of minimum supplies to needy groups;
6. Measures taken to improve food consumption levels and nutrition, with particular reference to the most vulnerable groups of the population;
7. Measures taken (including the adoption of food standards) to reduce food adulteration and contamination and to improve the quality and safety of food at market and storage levels, as well as food hygiene at all levels;
8. Measures taken to disseminate knowledge of the principles of nutrition;
9. Participation in international co-operation, efforts and projects aimed at ensuring the right of everyone to be free from hunger, in particular through an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need, account being taken of the related problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries;
10. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to adequate food.

C. The right to adequate clothing

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements designed to promote the right to adequate clothing;
2. Measures taken, including specific programmes, to improve the methods of production and distribution of articles of clothing;

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3. Scientific and technical methods used to achieve an adequate supply of articles of clothing;
4. The extent of participation in international co-operation contributing to the promotion of the right to adequate clothing.

D. The right to housing

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreements designed to promote the right to housing, and relevant court decisions, if any;
2. Measures taken, including specific programmes, subsidies and tax incentives, to expand housing construction to meet the needs of all categories of the population, particularly low-income families;
3. Information on the use of scientific and technical knowledge and of international co-operation for developing and improving housing construction, including safety measures against earthquakes, floods and other natural hazards;
4. Measures taken or envisaged to solve the special problems of housing, water supply and sanitary conditions in rural areas;
5. Measures taken for the protection of tenants, such as rent control and legal guarantees;
6. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to housing.

IV. ARTICLE 12: THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

A. Principal laws

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations, collective agreements and other types of arrangements designed to promote and safeguard the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and relevant court decisions, if any.

B. Specific measures taken

1. Measures taken to reduce the stillbirth rate and infant mortality;
2. Measures taken for the healthy development of children;
3. Measures taken to protect and improve all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene, to prevent air, land and water pollution, to overcome the adverse effects of urban development and industrialization, etc.;
4. Comprehensive schemes and specific measures, including vaccination programmes to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases and accidents in urban and rural areas;

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5. Comprehensive plans and specific measures to assure to all age groups and all other categories of the population, in particular those in rural areas, adequate health services, including adequate medical attention in the event of sickness or accident;

6. The main features of existing arrangements for the provision of medical care and methods of financing them.

C. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to health, in particular statistics on infant mortality, number of doctors per inhabitant, number of hospitals and hospital beds, etc.

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