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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER XXV

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

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\* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter XXV of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1981. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/36/3/Rev.1).

1. The Economic and Social Council considered the question of the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its first regular session of 1981 under agenda item 3.
2. For its consideration of the item, the Council had before it the reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 of the Covenant, as well as a number of other documents. For particulars concerning the documentation, see document E/1981/64, section II and annex III.
3. The Council, at its 4th meeting, on 14 April 1981, allocated the item to the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which had been established by the Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 and its decisions 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and 1981/102 of 6 February 1981.
4. The Working Group held 19 meetings, from 14 to 29 April. A number of informal meetings were also held during the session. For the report of the Working Group on this item, see document E/1981/64.

#### ACTION BY THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

##### Review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group

5. At its 19th meeting, the Working Group submitted its recommendations to the Council on the review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Working Group in draft decision I. 1/ For action by the Council, see paragraph 9 (a) below.

##### Reports called for under article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

6. At the same meeting, the Working Group proposed that the Council should request States parties to the Covenant that had not yet submitted their reports as called for under article 16 of the Covenant to do so as soon as possible. The proposal was submitted to the Council as draft decision II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 9 (b) below.

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1/ The programme budget implications of the draft decision were circulated under the symbol E/1981/64/Add.1.

Provisional agenda for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of  
Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International  
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Bureau for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts  
on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights

7. At the same meeting, the Working Group adopted the draft proposals by the Bureau on the provisional agenda for the Working Group and on the Bureau of the Working Group for 1982 and submitted them to the Council as draft decisions III and IV, respectively. For action by the Council, see paragraph 9 (c) below.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

8. At its 15th, 18th and 19th meetings, on 6 and 8 May, the Council considered the draft decisions recommended by the Sessional Working Group in its report (E/1981/64, para. 37). The Council also had before it a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft decision I (E/1981/64/Add.1).

9. At the 19th meeting, on 8 May, the representative of Barbados proposed that, in draft decision II, the words "and Council resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976" be inserted after the words "in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant". The Council then took the following action on the draft decisions:

(a) Draft decision I was adopted; for the final text, see the annex below, Council decision 1981/158;

(b) Draft decision II was adopted, as orally amended; for the final text, see the annex below, Council decision 1981/159;

(c) Draft decisions III and IV were adopted; for the final texts, see the annex below, Council decisions 1981/160 and 1981/161, respectively.

Future review of the composition, organization and administrative  
arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental  
Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on  
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

10. At the 15th meeting, on 6 May, the observer for the Netherlands <sup>2/</sup> proposed a draft decision which was subsequently circulated under the symbol E/1981/L.38 and which read as follows:

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<sup>2/</sup> In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

"The Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1981/64 and Add.1):

"(a) Decides to review the composition, organization, administrative arrangements and methods of work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its first regular session of 1982, in its Second (Social Committee);

"(b) Decides also to include in the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1982 a separate and priority item entitled 'Review of the composition, organization, administrative arrangements and methods of work of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights'."

11. At the 19th meeting, the observer for the Netherlands orally revised the draft decision as follows:

(a) In subparagraph (a), the words "in its Second (Social) Committee" were deleted;

(b) Subparagraph (b) was deleted.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Cyprus proposed that subparagraph (a) be amended to read as follows:

"Decides to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its first regular session of 1982."

13. The observer for the Netherlands and the representatives of Canada, Denmark, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made statements (see E/1981/SR.19).

14. Also at the 19th meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision, as orally revised and amended. For the final text, see the annex below, Council decision 1981/162.

ANNEX

Decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council  
under agenda item 3 a/

Decision 1981/158. Review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its 19th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council took note of the report of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights b/ and decided, in conformity with its decisions 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and 1981/102 of 6 February 1981, to incorporate the following into the methods of work of the Sessional Working Group, as set out in Council resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979:

Name

1. The name of the Group shall be the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Number of members

2. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1978/10, the number of members shall remain at 15 and the membership shall continue to be distributed equally among the geographical regions, subject to review when, in the opinion of the Council, an increase in the number of States parties to the Covenant makes such a review desirable.

Appointment of members

3. The members of the Working Group shall be appointed in accordance with paragraph 9 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 and subparagraph (a) of Council decision 1978/10, subject to further review if a situation arises in which a change seems to be necessary. The President of the Economic and Social Council shall, each year, appoint the members of the Working Group at the organizational session of the Council.

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a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1981 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplements Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1981/81 and Add.1 and 2).

b/ E/1981/64 and Add.1.

Time of meeting and reporting

4. The Working Group shall meet once yearly, starting one week before the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council, and shall submit its report to the Council for consideration at that session.

Duration of meetings

5. In principle, the duration of each session of the Working Group shall be three weeks, subject to review when the number of reports for consideration at any one session so warrants.

Amendments to the methods of work

6. Apart from those amendments to the methods of work set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/43 arising out of the recommendations made by the Working Group at its 1981 session, the existing system shall be maintained.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Working Group shall function in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/43 as amended by the present decision.

Review of the status of the submission of reports by States parties to the Covenant

8. A list of States parties to the Covenant shall be annexed to the report of the Working Group on each session, together with an indication of the status of submission of reports for consideration by the Working Group, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the methods of work set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/43.

Incorporation of the understanding reached on the role and participation of specialized agencies

9. The representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make general statements on matters relating to their field of competence at the end of the discussion by the Working Group of the report of each State party to the Covenant, and States parties presenting reports to the Working Group shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the general comments made by the specialized agencies.

Analytical summaries

10. The preparation of the analytical summaries authorized by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1978/9 of 5 May 1978 shall be suspended. The Working Group shall continue to be provided with summary records.

Decision 1981/159. Reports called for under article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its 19th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council decided to request States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights c/ that had not yet submitted their reports in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant and Council resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 to do so as soon as possible.

Decision 1981/160. Provisional agenda for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its 19th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council approved the provisional agenda for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR 1982 OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

1. Consideration of reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9

Documentation

Reports submitted by Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Any other reports received by the Secretary-General

2. Consideration of reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12

Documentation

Reports submitted by Panama and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Any other reports received by the Secretary-General

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c/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3. Consideration of reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 13 to 15

Documentation

Reports received by the Secretary-General

4. Consideration of the report of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Decision 1981/161. Bureau for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its 19th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council decided that the Bureau for 1982 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be constituted as follows:

Chairman: African States

Vice-Chairmen: Western European and other States

Asian States

Latin American States

Rapporteur: Eastern European States.

Decision 1981/162. Future review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

At its 19th plenary meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council, having considered the report of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, b/ decided to review the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Working Group at its first regular session of 1982.