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STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL
RIGHTS AND THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 65, entitled "Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 2049th and 2050th meetings, on 5 December 1973. The views expressed by representatives of Member States on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/SR.2049 and 2050).
3. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/9140 and Add.1) stating that, as at 30 November 1973, 50 States had signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 49 States had signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 17 States had signed the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 23 States had ratified or acceded to both Covenants; and 9 States had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol.
4. The item was introduced by the Director of the Division of Human Rights at the 2049th meeting, on 5 December.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

5. At the 2049th meeting, the representative of Bulgaria introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2096) sponsored by Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ecuador, Kenya, Madagascar, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Subsequently, Australia, the German Democratic Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic joined the list of sponsors.
6. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark introduced an amendment (A/C.3/L.2098) sponsored by Costa Rica, Denmark and Norway to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2096, proposing to replace the words "the said international instruments" contained therein by the words "the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights".
7. At its 2050th meeting, the Committee voted on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2096) and on the amendment thereto (A/C.3/T.2098). The voting was as follows:
 - (a) The amendment to operative paragraph 2 (see paragraph 6 above) was adopted by 49 votes to 1, with 55 abstentions;
 - (b) The draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2096) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 106 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see paragraph 8 below).

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III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1/

Convinced that the coming into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights will greatly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and will contribute to the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 3025 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, and in particular the hope expressed that Member States would find it possible to take appropriate action with a view to accelerating the process of ratification or accession to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Noting with appreciation that following its appeal some Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 3060 (XXVIII) of 2 November 1973 relating to the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Assembly invited States which had not yet done so to ratify, inter alia, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/

1. Reiterates its hope that such action on the part of Member States will be further continued;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 2788 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, to prepare, on the basis of reports from Governments, and submit to the Assembly at its next session a report on the measures taken or envisaged by Member States with a view to accelerating the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

1/ A/9140 and Add.1.

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