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

Second periodic 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)

#### Addendum

IRAQ\*

[1 October 1985]

#### ARTICLE 1: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

1. Information was provided in the initial report (E/1980/6/Add.14) concerning civil and political rights. In addition, information on the country's achievements for 1981 was transmitted to the Secretary-General for publication in the Yearbook on Human Rights inasmuch as this included data on areas relating to the achievement of economic, social and cultural development.

2. The revolution in Iraq has achieved many successes in the economic, social and cultural fields.

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\* The initial report submitted by the Government of Iraq concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant (E/1980/6/Add.14) was considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts at its 1981 session (see E/1981/WG.1/SR.12).

### Economic development

3. The Interim Constitution defined Iraq's course, stating in article 10 that social solidarity is the foremost foundation of society and that its implication is that every citizen shall fully perform his duty towards society and that society shall ensure the citizen his full rights and freedoms. Article 11 of the Constitution states that the family is the nucleus of society, and article 12 lays down the foundations for the path society is to follow, inasmuch as subparagraph (a) of that article provides for the establishment of the socialist system on scientific and revolutionary principles. It is well known that the socialist system ensures equality of opportunity and of working and living conditions for all citizens. In addition to the socialist path laid down for the country, the Constitution guarantees private ownership, inasmuch as article 16, paragraph (b), of the Constitution states that private economic ownership and individual economic freedom shall be ensured within the limits of the law and on the basis of non-investment in what contradicts or harms general economic planning. Under paragraph (c) private property may not be expropriated except in the public interest and in accordance with just compensation under the rules defined by the law. The Constitution also defines the ceiling for agricultural ownership.

4. National development plans have been distinguished by their comprehensiveness, and human and material resources are exploited and allocated in accordance with national aspirations so as to raise the level of man and to protect him from backwardness. During the 1970s, the country implemented two comprehensive five year plans, which were drawn up from a comprehensive national viewpoint. The development strategy in the country is aimed at maximum mobilization and optimal efficiency of all available resources and potentials within the national democratic and progressive human framework, in order to ensure a rapid and continual increase in the well-being of citizens in the context of democratic relations.

5. On this basis, the national economy took a great step forward during the past 15 years through the goals which the leadership of the Party and the revolution set for it. Material development was achieved in the major economic sectors through large-scale investments and high growth rates in the value of production, the domestic product and new fields for production activities and services. The national income increased considerably, from 812.5 million dinars in 1968 to 2,916.5 million in 1974 and 9,147 million in 1981. The average per capita income thus increased from approximately 109 dinars in 1970 to 1,161 dinars in 1980, an elevenfold increase over the figure for 1970.

### Social development

6. Under article 32, paragraph (a), of the Constitution, the State guarantees every capable citizen the right to work. This is required by the need for participation in the building of society and its protection, development and prosperity. These principles are reaffirmed in article 1 of the Labour Code (No. 151 of 1970), which states that work is a natural right which must be made available to every citizen capable of it, with equivalent conditions and equal opportunities for all without discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, language

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or religion, in return for wages consistent with the effort exerted and the quantity and quality of production. The law of Iraq guarantees the individual freedom in work, and contains no provisions that impose on anyone in Iraq the exercise of labour by force against his will. Iraq has ratified International Labour Convention No. 105 of 1957.

7. The State guarantees all citizens the right to work in return for a just wage and assures the participation of all workers in boards and committees dealing with labour issues, in addition to other rights, such as the right to trade union organization, the safeguarding of the rights of working women and the protection of workers from occupational hazards. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs exercises constant supervision through the State Organization for Labour and Occupational Training. Social security was provided for workers by the enactment of the Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act (No. 39 of 1981). In addition, the Workers' Cultural Organization is responsible for the cultural and national education of workers and the development of their trade union cultural awareness.

8. In the field of social welfare, the Social Welfare Act (No. 126 of 1980), contains a whole body of provisions for the welfare of members of society and for ensuring a decent and stable life for them through the allocation of allowances to families with no income and to low-income families.

#### Cultural development

9. With regard to the right to education, many achievements have been realized in order to guarantee the right of the citizen to education. The Compulsory Education Act (No. 118 of 1976) was enacted on the basis of the principles set forth in the political report of the Eighth Regional Conference. Under this Act, primary education became compulsory and free of charge for all children, both male and female over the age of six years. The Act on the Comprehensive National Campaign for the Compulsory Eradication of Illiteracy (No. 92 of 1978) was also enacted. Under this Act, an illiterate was deemed to be any person between the ages of 15 and 45 who could not read and write, and such persons were obliged to join the National Campaign for the Eradication of Illiteracy.

10. Summarizing the above, we may state that all these measures have ensured for the Iraqi people their freedom and economic development. The Iraqi Constitution stipulates that the people are the source of power, inasmuch as article 2 lays down the principle of the people as the source of power and its legitimacy, and this principle plays a direct part in the course of public life and the monitoring of acts of authority. This principle is further enshrined in article 47 of the Constitution, which provides that the National Assembly shall be composed of the representatives of the people from all political, economic and social sectors and that the formation, mode of membership, working procedure and powers of the Assembly shall be defined by a special act, namely, the National Assembly Act. The first Assembly was constituted in the tenth month of 1980.

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Equality of rights and duties

11. With regard to equality of rights and duties, the basic principle governing this matter is set forth in article 19 of the Interim Constitution, which provides that citizens are equal before the law, without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, language, social origin or religion. Paragraph (b) of this article lays down the principle of equal opportunities for all citizens within the limits of the law, while article 30, paragraph (b), of the Constitution stipulates that equality in filling public posts shall be guaranteed by law. The equality of men and women is laid down as a constitutional principle in article 19, paragraph (a), mentioned above.

12. With regard to paragraph 3 of article 1 of the Covenant, which stipulates that the States parties shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination and shall respect that right, Iraq, as one of the States which suffered under colonialism, regards the right of the peoples to self-determination as a sacred right enshrined in the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of which Iraq was one of the original signatories. It regards this right as one of the imperative norms of international relations: all members of the international community must therefore respect it and be bound by it and must regard any conduct contrary to it as null and void. Iraq has translated its commitment to this principle by the position which it has adopted and by many actions and has defined its main features in all international forums and conferences, proceeding from Iraq's belief in the principles of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Iraq has adhered to the principles of this Movement since its foundation, and it participated in the Bandung Conference, which defined the five principles of peaceful coexistence. It has also participated in all the conferences of heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries. It is well known that the final communiqué issued by the Belgrade Conference in 1961 contains the basic principles of the Movement, including the right of peoples to self-determination, their right to independence and to freedom to determine the forms and methods of their economic, social and cultural development and the requirement that these principles must be the sole basis for all international relations.

13. Proceeding from these principles, Iraq has given strong support to all liberation movements throughout the world and has been and is an active member of the United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

14. On other levels, its firm position on the question of Palestine, which is the primary and central Arab issue, is based on national and humanitarian considerations and considerations of principle and on the natural right of peoples to self-determination and freedom. Iraq strongly supports the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people and its right to self-determination and to establish its own independent State in its territory and in its homeland in Palestine, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Iraq supports the struggle of the Palestinian people to attain its inalienable rights.

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15. Moreover, Iraq has always stood by all colonized peoples and has helped them in their just struggle for independence and liberation, and it helps and supports liberation movements throughout the world, in Asia, Latin America and Africa, particularly in the African continent where some peoples are still suffering colonial domination, racist and inhumane practices and the practices of apartheid inflicted by the racist régime in South Africa. Iraq strongly supports the independence of Namibia and the right of the Namibian people to self-determination without any foreign intervention and pursuant to United Nations resolutions on the subject. It supports the African people in South Africa in its opposition and resistance to the apartheid régime and, accordingly, boycotts and condemns the South African régime and does not maintain any relations with it. Iraq has fully implemented the oil embargo against South Africa.

16. Iraq has given concrete expression to these positions in all international conferences and forums by co-sponsoring all the relevant resolutions and voting in favour of them.

17. On this basis, Iraq's position is always on the side of the right of peoples to self-determination. This is in addition to Iraq's constant support for the establishment of a new international economic order that would guarantee the developing countries their rights and their development.

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

##### Introduction

18. The revolution of 17 to 30 July 1968 has accorded steadily increasing attention to the family, inasmuch as it is the foundation stone of the structure of a civilized society free from social and physiological ills. For this reason, the Government of the Iraqi revolution has enacted many laws and regulations to uphold the family and protect mothers and children. These guarantee the rights of the family as a whole, beginning with the formation of the family through the marriage bond, throughout the existence of the marital tie and even in the event of the dissolution of that tie, in addition to guaranteeing the rights of children from birth up to the attainment of legal majority. These guarantees are set forth in the Personal Status Act (No. 188 of 1959), as amended, which is accompanied by health legislation relating to mothers and children and designed to build a healthy and happy family.

19. Many laws have been enacted on the subject of expectant mothers, children and their vaccination against disease, in addition to legislation enacted by the Government of the blessed revolution in the social fields guaranteeing women and men the right to work on an equal footing in all fields and guaranteeing their rights during and after employment. This legislation gives women maternity leave, as is customary internationally. The laws and regulations seek to regulate working hours and type of work according to sex and age. The social welfare laws provide a subsistence allowance to persons who are unable to work and guarantee families with no income and low-income families a monthly subsidy which ensures them a decent life.

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20. The Government of the revolution has also enacted a law extending social welfare to the handicapped, in addition to those covered by the above-mentioned Welfare Act. This was set forth clearly in the political report of the Ninth Regional Conference issued by the Regional Command of the Arab Baath Socialist Party in Iraq, which states that the human being is the most sacred goal of the Party and the revolution, that struggle and work must be the watchwords for the development of the spiritual and material life of the individual and society, and that it is essential to strive to build a new human being, well-integrated, sound in body and mind, free and happy, deeply committed to the interest of the homeland and the nation and their major issues, culturally and socially evolved, active, productive and innovative, capable of carrying out difficult and delicate assignments, having a love of life and, at the same time, prepared to sacrifice even his life for the homeland and in the interest of society.

21. The Party has accorded great importance to the full liberation of Iraqi women and their establishment on a footing of equality with men as regards human worth. In accordance with this vision, the Party has realized that the process of women's liberation at the objective level is not a question of legislation or the mere organization of women but a process essentially related to the structure of the fundamental régime, its social philosophy and the degree of its civilizational advancement. To the extent of the general evolution achieved by society, objective opportunities will be provided for the liberation of women, commensurate with the extent of liberation and progress achieved by society. Women have attained equal opportunities in the areas of employment, education, legislation, and political, professional and trade union activity. They have entered factories, occupied civil service posts, joined military and security organizations and participated effectively in elections and in membership of the National Assembly, to which 32 women have been elected. Thus, Iraqis today live in a society which ensures them protection from exploitation.

22. The State ensures every citizen opportunities for work, and Iraq has thus become one of the advanced States in the international community and one which adheres to all international legislation, including that relating to the protection of human rights, the guaranteeing of the dignity of all citizens, regardless of sex or religion, as laid down in many articles of the Iraqi Constitution and in other Iraqi legislation. The Government of Iraq has therefore created for all citizens a society free from social, health and economic ills, proceeding from its concept of the Iraqi citizen as an irreplaceable national resource of society whose welfare must be ensured so that he may proceed to a bright and radiant future.

#### 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

23. Article 11 of the Constitution of Iraq provides that: "The family is the nucleus of society. The State shall guarantee its protection and support and shall ensure care for mothers and children."

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24. Article 13 of the Act on the Office of the Public Prosecutor provides that the Office of the Public Prosecutor may be represented before courts of personal status or civil courts in cases relating to minors and to legally incompetent, absent or missing persons, divorce, divorced persons, permission for polygyny, desertion of the family and the expulsion of children and any other case in which the Office of the Public Prosecutor deems it necessary to intervene in order to protect the family and children.

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

25. The State guarantees the right of women and men to marry with their full consent to establish a family, and measures have been taken to abolish customs, laws and practices affecting the right to choose a spouse.

26. The Personal Status Act deals with forced marriage and forcible prevention of marriage (interdiction). The principle of the conclusion of contracts, including the marriage contract, is that they may not be concluded without the basic element of consent. Coercion eliminates this basic element and, accordingly, a marriage contract concluded by coercion is deemed null and void, if consummation has not taken place. Article 3 of the Act states that a marriage contract concluded by force shall be deemed null and void, provided that consummation has not taken place. It imposes a criminal penalty on any person who exerts such coercion and on any person who prevents the marriage of a person eligible to marry, under the provisions of the Act (i.e., any person who has reached 18 years of age and is of sound mind), the spouse of his or her choice (i.e., interdiction). The Act imposes a criminal penalty on any person who contravenes this provision and makes a distinction in the extent of the penalty between two types of relatives.

27. The first type are first-degree relatives, including the father and mother in relation to their children and children in relation to their parents. The penalty for offenders in this category is detention for a period not exceeding three years and a fine, or either of these two penalties.

28. The second category, not included in the first category, includes brothers, paternal uncles, grandfathers, brothers' sons, paternal uncles' sons and other relatives. The penalty for this category is detention for a period of not less than 3 years of imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 years.

3. Right to housing

29. With regard to the right to housing and measures taken to protect tenants by ensuring them control over rents and legal safeguards, the Personal Status Act deals with the right of a divorced wife to housing, inasmuch as article 1 of Revolution Command Council Decision No. 77 of 1983 provides that:

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"A court which is seized of a husband's application for divorce from a wife or for dissolution of a marriage shall, upon the wife's request, issue a judgement permitting her to live after the divorce or the dissolution of the marriage without her husband in the house or apartment where she lived with him, if it belongs to him, and such judgement shall be included in the judgement for divorce or dissolution of the marriage."

30. Article 2 of the Personal Status Act (No. 188 of 1959), as amended, provides for the safeguarding of the rights of a divorced woman to live in the house which she occupied before the divorce for a period of three years free of charge and in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Law.

4. Measures taken to facilitate the establishment of a family, such as allowances, housing allowances and the provision of housing

31. The Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act (No. 39 of 1971) deals, in paragraphs 81, 83 and 84, with the question of measures to facilitate the establishment of a family. The Act provides for direct and indirect social services, such as the establishment of day-care centres and kindergartens, and housing construction. The first to benefit under this legislation are insured workers and retired workers covered by social security in the various categories and their wives, children, parents and other dependants.

32. The Labour Code (No. 151 of 1970), as amended, provides in article 20 that workers must be provided with healthy living conditions if the workplace is situated in a remote undeveloped region.

33. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 747 of 1977, grants allowances for wives and children to workers in government departments and the socialist sector, such allowances being regarded as a right to which a worker is entitled by reason of his continuation in his post.

34. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1517 of 1979, provides every insured worker who marries with an advance equivalent to 15 months' gross remuneration, the minimum amount being 500 dinars and the maximum 1,000 dinars. This is an interest-free loan. Employees of the State and the socialist and mixed sectors are given a marriage advance repayable in instalments over five years from the date of its receipt.

B. Maternity protection

35. Article 33 of the Constitution provides that the State shall undertake to protect public health through continuous expansion of medical services provided free of charge, in the areas of prevention, treatment and medicaments in urban and rural areas.

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## 1. Principal laws

36. As for the principal laws dealing with maternity protection, article 6 of the Public Health Act (No. 89 of 1981) states that maternal and child welfare and family health shall aim at fulfilling the duty of society and the State towards mothers and children from the point of conception.

## 2. Pre-natal and post-natal protection and assistance

37. Pre-natal and post-natal protection are provided, including the provision of health services and other benefits for mothers, regardless of marital status.

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38. The above-mentioned Public Health Act devotes the following group of articles to maternal and child welfare and family health. Article 7 states that the Ministry of Health shall endeavour to achieve its objectives in the field of maternal and child welfare and family health by the following means:

(a) Country-wide coverage by health centres in order to ensure maternal and child welfare and family health;

(b) Conduct of the necessary medical examinations for those contemplating marriage, in order to determine their fitness and good health, and issuance of the health certificate;

(c) Physical and mental preparation of the wife to assume her future role and responsibilities as a mother;

(d) Monitoring of the health of expectant mothers and their unborn children through periodic examinations, and nutritional education;

(e) Family guidance with a view to allowing a reasonable period of time to elapse between one pregnancy and another, as is required by the health of the mother, the child and the family;

(f) Periodic examinations of children in order to monitor their growth and safeguard their health, and the provision of guidance to mothers on the feeding required by children during their growth period;

(g) Compulsory periodic vaccinations for citizens in accordance with directives to be issued by the competent health authorities.

39. By article 8:

(a) The approval of the health authorities must be sought in order to open a day-care centre, in accordance with directives to be issued for that purpose;

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(b) The health authorities shall, from time to time, exercise supervision over day-care centres to ensure that they continue to meet the required standards and to ascertain the continued integrity of those employed there.

40. A Consultative Council for Maternal and Child Welfare has been established, composed of specialists in this field, and a number of decisions have been issued in this regard.

41. Pre-natal and post-natal care is provided through the implementation of the Maternal and Child Welfare Plan of Action and the relevant directives issued by health institutions. These institutions provide full care and health services for mothers.

42. The General Federation of Iraqi Women operates day-care centres for the benefit of nursing mothers in all factories and workplaces so that, during working hours, mothers may nurse their infants for one hour in the morning. Every hospital has a day-care centre for the children of working nurses.

43. The State engages in informational activities, subsidizes the basic foodstuffs which play a significant part in raising the standard of nutrition, such as imported flour, sugar, eggs, milk and meat, and sees to it that customs duties on foodstuffs are low by comparison with those on primary consumer commodities.

44. The State is endeavouring to develop an in-country Nutrition Research Institute in order to undertake periodic studies and research on vulnerable population groups so as to determine their needs and make proposals for raising their nutritional level.

45. The State has extended to all schools at the compulsory primary level a programme whereby all children are given nutritional assistance. There is a similar programme in most maternal and child welfare centres and day-care centres where there are mothers and children who may be suffering from mild or moderate malnutrition. These same centres undertake educational activities for expectant and nursing mothers.

46. Nutrition has been introduced into school curricula at all levels - kindergarten, primary, intermediate and preparatory. The subject is also studied in certain colleges, including those of agriculture, education, medicine, nursing and pharmacy, and in certain branches of nursing. Specialized departments have been opened for the teaching of the subject in the Advanced Health Institute and the Institute of Specialized Medicine; the Department of Advanced Public Health Studies also teaches the subject.

47. The Nutrition Research Institute runs continuing courses open to all of those active in the fields in which nutrition plays a role, such as kindergarten teachers, day-care centre supervisors, hotel workers, maternal and child welfare workers, and hospital nutritionists.

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3. Special protection and assistance accorded to working mothers

48. The subject of special protection and assistance accorded to working mothers, including paid leave, leave with social security benefits and guarantees against dismissal during a reasonable period before and after childbirth, is discussed below.

49. The Labour Code (No. 151 of 1970) provides, in articles 80 to 82, that a woman worker shall be entitled to be absent from her employment for a period of one month preceding the estimated date of her confinement as stated in a medical report. She shall be deemed absent on maternity leave without pay, and the provisions of the Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act shall apply to her with respect to sick leave, health care and maternity leave. The Labour Code also prohibits requiring pregnant women to perform night work, overtime or arduous or hazardous work, and in all cases their working hours must not exceed seven hours a day. A nursing mother is allowed two nursing periods twice a day of not less than half an hour each. Such periods shall not be deemed to be part of the hours worked. Under article 75, paragraph (b), of the Labour Code, the period of maternity leave is included in the term of service.

50. The Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act (No. 39 of 1971), as amended, states, in articles 45 to 48, that working women covered by the Act shall enjoy the rights and compensation provided for therein. Thus, they receive leave for a period of one month on full pay prior to the estimated date of confinement and are given leave for a period of six weeks after confinement on full pay. This period may be set at nine months on 75 per cent of the average pay in difficult cases. Insured working women are subject to care, treatment and periodic pre-natal and post-natal check-ups free of charge and must comply with the medical directives issued concerning them. The above-mentioned Act places working men and women on an equal footing with regard to rights and compensation relating to sickness, accidents and other matters and gives women pension rights after 25 years of service, while for men the term is at least 30 years of service.

51. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1534 of 13 November 1984 gives insured working mothers in all government departments and organizations in the socialist sector the right to special maternity leave not exceeding six months during which such mothers can care for their children under the age of four years. A mother may enjoy such leave four times during the term of her employment. Maternity leave is regarded as part of the term of employment for the purposes of pensions and social security.

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4. Specific measures in favour of working mothers who are self-employed or participating in a family enterprise
5. Specific measures designed to help mothers to maintain their children in the case of their husbands' death or absence

52. With regard to assistance to working women who are self-employed or participate in a family enterprise, especially in agriculture or in small crafts and trades, including guarantees against loss of income, and in so far as concerns helping mothers to maintain their children in the case of their husbands' death or absence, Act No. 39 of 1971 states, in articles 60, 66 and 72 to 74, that a man's immediate family shall, in the event of his total disability or death, be entitled to a disability pension totalling 80 per cent of the basic pension. Upon the insured worker's death, his pension rights are transferred to the eligible survivors. However, if a worker is not covered by the provisions of the Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act, neither his heirs, his mother or his spouse has any rights, and this case is covered by the provisions of the Social Welfare Act (No. 126 of 1980).

53. The Social Welfare Act states, in chapter II, article 13, that a mother shall receive a family welfare allowance to provide for her children in the event of the death or absence of her husband if she is widowed or divorced and has a minor child living with her. If she remarries, her child is entitled to the allowance, except where the child of a divorced woman is transferred to the custody of his father. The welfare allowance is also paid to a minor orphan (Directives No. 1 of 1980 concerning Family Welfare Beneficiaries and Directives No. 2 of 1981).

54. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 747 of 1977 provides for the transfer of children's allowances to a working mother following the death of her husband.

### C. Protection of children and young persons

#### 1. Principal laws

55. Iraqi legislation and the practical implementation thereof have established equality as to rights among all individuals in Iraq, including children. The situation with regard to the rights, protection and welfare of children is described below.

56. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the international community, states that every child, without exception, shall be entitled to a given name and a family name and that children shall be accorded all means of protection from practices which may foster any kind of racial or religious discrimination; children are equal in rights, and race, colour, sex, language, religion, social origin or wealth shall not be a cause of discrimination between one child and another. This is stated in article 19 of the Constitution.

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57. A Child Welfare Board was established in Iraq, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, by Revolution Command Council Decision No. 272 of 16 February 1982. It is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministries of Education, Health, Culture, Information and Planning at the level of director-general, experts and specialists, members of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth and the General Federation of Iraqi Women, and specialized experts selected by the Chairman of the Board and the Office of the Secretariat. This Board aims at translating the principles of the Party and the revolution relating to the raising of a new generation into general lines of state policy in respect of children by ensuring their sound development in the health, educational and social fields. Under its terms of reference, the Board is responsible for drawing up state policy for the care and development of youth, co-ordinating plans of action drawn up by the scientific authorities in this field, submitting proposals and recommendation of their implementation, developing the services provided in the field of child welfare and development, amending and developing legislation to ensure greater attention to children, co-ordinating and participating in conferences and seminars convened by international, Arab and national bodies, exchanging studies on children with the competent authorities within and outside the country, and submitting proposals concerning co-operation agreements concluded between Iraq and Arab and other countries in the field of child welfare and seeking the assistance of national and foreign expertise in this area. The decisions of the Board are subject to approval by the Vice-President of the Republic, and the related financial requirements are financed from the State budget.

58. Under the Day-Care Centre Regulations (No. 42 of 1977), as amended, day-care centres for children were opened with all the requisite health and psychological conditions and recreational facilities to make mothers feel confident about their children during working hours in the knowledge that they are receiving attention from educational specialists.

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

59. Children in Iraq enjoy the advantages of social protection, and it is not permissible to expose children to traffic in persons. Article 5 of the Control of Prostitution Act (No. 54 of 1958), and articles 393 to 399 of the Criminal Code, (No. 111 of 1979) affirm this rule and lay down deterrent penalties for any person who engages in the practice of traffic in children.

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60. With regard to children separated from their mothers or deprived of a family, the Social Welfare Act deals with this aspect in chapter III, in which it is stipulated that those in sound health are to be admitted to state homes by age group. Such homes are of three types:

- (a) State homes for children aged from 1 day to 4 years;
- (b) State homes for children aged from 4 years to 12 years;
- (c) State homes for young persons aged from 12 years to 18 years.

In these state homes, all the requisites of social welfare are provided through the supplying of cultural, educational, health and recreational services to the inmates in order to give them a sound preparation and upbringing for the future. These children and young persons are enrolled in primary, intermediate and secondary schools near the homes where they live. Specialized social researchers working in these homes study their conditions and visit their families and their schools. In addition, Directives No. 4 of 1978 concerning Residential Care Centres (State Homes) contain details relating to all matters involving the admission of children to those centres. Also relevant are Directives No. 1 of 1981 concerning State Homes for Children, Minors and Young Persons, issued by the State Organization for Social Welfare.

61. The Social Welfare Act devotes a special chapter (chap. IV) to handicapped children. Under this chapter, centres have been established which reflect the great expansion of the provision of social care for such children, as follows:

- (a) A diagnostic centre for the handicapped;
- (b) A centre for the care of the physically handicapped;
- (c) A centre for the psychologically and mentally handicapped;
- (d) A centre for the care of the blind;
- (e) A centre for the care of the totally disabled;
- (f) A centre with sheltered workshops and production co-operatives for the handicapped.

62. These centres perform the functions of diagnosis, classification, care, rehabilitation and the provision of social and health services and have specialized units attached to them, such as institutes for the care of the blind, the mentally retarded, the deaf, the dumb, those suffering from cerebral palsy and the physically handicapped. There are also centres with sheltered workshops and co-operatives for the handicapped, whose purpose is to integrate the handicapped in society through work and the utilization of additional manpower within the framework of the state production plan.

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63. To those handicapped persons who are capable of working and who have reached 15 years of age the revolutionary Government has given an opportunity to work in state departments and the socialist sector by Revolution Command Council Decision No. 207 of 1980 and also Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1091 of 30 September 1984. Legislation has been enacted providing benefits and facilities for the handicapped. This includes Directives No. 1 of 1983, concerning Free Transport Passes for the Handicapped and Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1618 of 6 December 1981, which permits physically handicapped pupils over the statutory age to be admitted to the first intermediate class and the fourth preparatory class (general and occupational) in secondary schools.

4. Provisions governing work by children and young persons

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 psychological development, and penalties imposed for violations of such measures

64. The Labour Code prohibits categorically the employment of young persons under 15 years of age and does not allow them to enter workplaces. The Minister for Labour may proscribe the employment of young persons under 16 years of age in certain industries and occupations to be defined in directives issued by him (art. 86). The Labour Code also stipulates that the hours of work of young persons shall be interrupted by a rest break of more than one full hour. For the purposes of establishing the rest break, young persons shall not be made to work continuously for more than four hours (art. 87). In all cases where young persons are employed, the young workers concerned shall be referred to the specialized medical authority for examination and the issuance of a medical check-up certificate once a year (art. 89), and they may not be employed unless they are certified physically capable and fit from the health point of view to do the work. Young persons may not be employed in jobs that may cause occupational diseases or poison hazards, in accordance with the directives to be issued by the Labour Bureau after consultation of the competent authorities. Young persons may not be employed in jobs involving oppressive or harmful conditions or in night work or overtime work. The daily period of work for a young person 16 years of age may not exceed seven hours, and his annual leave period may not be less than one full month (Regulations Governing the Employment of Young Persons (No. 37 of 1982, arts. 1 and 2)).

65. In workplaces where young persons are employed, the Regulations Governing the Employment of Young Persons must be clearly displayed, and a special register of young workers must be kept, listing their name, age, the work assigned to them and the medical reports on them. This register shall be subject to scrutiny, checking and inspection by labour inspection boards and the competent trade union organizations on an ongoing basis. Violations of these provisions are punishable under articles 25 and 90 of the Labour Code.

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66. The employment of young persons in shoe dyeing is prohibited, and the proprietors of shoe dyeing businesses must terminate the employment of young workers employed by them, in accordance with the provisions of the Welfare of Young Persons' Act (No. 76 of 1983). The labour inspection boards are entrusted with the task of supervising this process, and any person who violates these provisions is liable to legal penalties (Directives on the Prohibition of the Employment of Young Persons in Shoe Dyeing (No. 8 of 1979)).

67. Juvenile delinquents aged 9 to 15 are cared for through the Boys' Rehabilitation School. There is also the Young Persons' Rehabilitation School, which cares for delinquents between the ages of 15 and 18. These schools ensure that the young inmates are enrolled in a school (primary, intermediate or secondary level) near the institution in which they are detained, in order to enable them to continue their studies, and also provide education, recreational and sports programmes within the institution itself (Regulations on the Young Persons' Rehabilitation School, No. 10 of 1982). There is also the Surveillance Centre for the detention of juvenile delinquents during the period of their trial, instead of detention in a police station, under the Surveillance Centre Regulations (No. 6 of 1971) and the Reform School Regulations (No. 31 of 1964).

68. The Welfare of Young Persons' Act (No. 76 of 1983) aims at promoting the welfare of young persons in order to reduce juvenile delinquency by protecting them from it, treating them and conditioning them socially in accordance with the moral values and principles of society from a humane viewpoint and providing after-care to young persons as a means of ensuring their integration in society and preventing recidivism, with the participation of the mass organizations and in co-operation with the competent authorities in drawing up the public plan for the welfare of young persons and following up its implementation. The Act is regarded as an integrated system based on scientific principles designed to achieve protection, treatment and after-care for this population group.

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Number of young persons employed in the private sector in  
Iraq, by type of economic activity and sex, 1983

Activity code	Type of economic activity	Number of young persons employed		Total
		Male	Female	
01	Agriculture and fisheries	2	-	2
02	Mining	6	7	13
03	Manufacturing industry	10 538	2 023	12 561
04	Water, electricity and gas	1	-	1
05	Construction and building	814	117	931
06	Wholesale and retail trade	4 404	56	4 460
07	Transport and communications	14	-	14
08	Finance and insurance	21	-	21
09	Community services	6 078	5	6 083
010	Total	21 878	2 208	24 086

Number of young persons employed in the private sector, by  
occupational groups and sex, 1983

Occupational classification code	Occupational group	Number of young persons employed		Total
		Male	Female	
0/1	Technicians and specialists	70	1	71
2	Legislators and administrators	-	-	-
3	Clinical workers	38	2	40
4	Salesmen/women	2 261	53	2 314
5	Service workers	1 125	14	1 139
6	Agricultural workers	1	-	1
7/8/9	Production workers	18 383	2 138	20 521
	Total	21 878	2 208	24 086

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ARTICLE 11: RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

A. General and specific measures taken to ensure an adequate standard of living and to improve the living conditions of the population

69. The past years - those following the revolution of 17 July 1968 - have seen radical political, economic and social changes whose consequences have been reflected in the evolution of the standard of living in the following major respects:

(a) A rise in the standard of living of the poorer classes of the population and increased social justice with the narrowing of the wide divergence in standards of living, the wide gap between various population groups having been reduced;

(b) Concentration on raising the standard of living from the social point of view, that is to say through action in such areas as health, education, social welfare and housing;

(c) The State has guaranteed employment opportunities to all citizens, and any citizen may find a place of work in the various state sectors;

(d) The State has promulgated a comprehensive Social Welfare Act guaranteeing families with no income and low-income families a monthly subsidy that ensures them a decent life. The State has also enacted a law extending social welfare to the handicapped in addition to those already covered by the Social Welfare Act. The Labour Code, the Labour Regulations and the service directives stipulate that there should be an assured income in cases of individual unemployment.

70. The leadership of the Party and the revolution has accorded great importance to wage levels, national income and per capita income rates. The developments that have taken place in per capita income rates and per capita share of private consumption are described below.

71. Average per capita share of national income rose from about 109 dinars in 1970 to 1,161 dinars in 1980, an increase of 1,052 dinars. In other words, per capita share of national income for 1980 was 11 times that for 1970. The average annual compound growth rate for this indicator during the period in question was 26.7 per cent. In 1980, average per capita share of private consumption was about five times greater than it had been in 1970. The average annual compound growth rate for this indicator during the period in question was 17.4 per cent.

B. Right to adequate food

1. Measures to promote the right of everyone to adequate food

72. The State attaches great importance to the provision of food for the individual Iraqi. It ensures the availability of the basic foodstuffs and is drawing up a detailed plan for that purpose. In doing so, the State takes account of the following considerations:

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(a) Individuals are to be ensured their necessary quota of basic foodstuffs on the basis of full coverage of the needs of the individual and of the population as a whole, including migrants. The available statistical data indicate an increase in the amounts of such foodstuffs imported in order to achieve an appropriate standard of living for citizens;

(b) The State subsidizes basic foodstuffs, such as wheat, sugar, flour, vegetable oils and milk for children, by itself meeting the difference between the officially established prices and the real purchase cost. When purchase prices fall, the importing agencies may, as a result, make a certain profit, fixed prices remaining unchanged;

(c) Through state control of imports, the import plan ensures that the needs of the limited-income segments of society can be met by making substitutes available as well as imported foodstuffs of such great variety as to suit the needs of the different income groups;

(d) The State grants subsidies to producers of commodities, such as cereals, and the state budget assumes the cost of such subsidies so that they do not affect consumer prices. For example, the agricultural producer can obtain flour on the local market at a low price and sell his entire output of wheat at a state-subsidized price;

(e) Product prices are established by the State on the basis of their classification into basic, quasi-basic and luxury goods. It allows for low profit margins, not exceeding 7 per cent, on basic goods and for flexibility in establishing profit margins for the other two groups at levels that vary in accordance with the importance of each item;

(f) The State provides many services, either free of charge or at reduced prices, in the fields of education, school supplies, health, internal transport and drinking-water supply for villages and rural areas;

(g) Customs tariffs are established in such a manner as to grant exemption from or a reduction in customs duties on many goods, including raw materials, children's requisites, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, in order to make such items available at moderate prices whether for intermediate or final consumption.

2. Measures taken to develop or reform existing agrarian systems in order to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources

73. The State has enacted a number of laws and regulations to promote the achievement of the above goal, chiefly by bringing more agricultural land, both reclaimed and otherwise, under cultivation, regulating land tenure, and protecting agricultural production. These laws include the following (the list is indicative rather than exhaustive):

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(a) Act No. 35 of 1983, concerning the leasing of agricultural land, whether reclaimed or otherwise, that is surplus to the needs of farmers in various areas of the country, in accordance with rules carefully formulated to ensure suitable crop rotation and to promote the production of strategic and industrial crops and the optimum utilization of the agricultural land and agricultural machinery available;

(b) Act No. 112 of 1983, concerning the preservation and protection of reclaimed land and irrigation and drainage installations;

(c) Decision No. 732 of 1980 and the amendments thereto concerning the assignment of professional agronomists and graduates of the agricultural and veterinary institutes and colleges, in order to encourage scientifically-trained agricultural personnel active in the field of production and to provide them with material and moral support.

74. Besides the aforementioned Acts and Decisions, enacted by the revolution to protect agricultural production, and the Agrarian Reform Acts are, most notably, Act No. 17 of 1970 and the Autonomous Area Agricultural Tenure Regulation Act (No. 95 of 1975).

75. The latter two Acts gave landless farmers an opportunity to acquire tracts of land to cultivate themselves, together with access to material support and extension services.

3. Measures taken to improve methods of production and the quantity and quality of food produced, and the promotion of agricultural research

76. A State Board for Applied Agricultural Research has been newly established and comprises 11 research centres. They have been provided with specialist personnel and with the research resources available. At the end of 1984, their first scientific congress was held and the results of studies and research promoting the country's agricultural development plan were reviewed. Research was carried out in all fields of specialization, particularly those having applicational aspects.

4. Food conservation

77. A number of warehouses have been established in the different governorates for various storage purposes, such as refrigeration, freezing and regular storage, in order to conserve domestic and imported meat and vegetable products and other perishable products, such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides, vaccines etc.

78. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is responsible, every year, for agricultural pest control over areas estimated at between 7 and 8 million dunums, and it processes and sorts cereals and provides storage for seed in order to reduce damage caused by agricultural pests and diseases. Such activities are carried out by the official agencies of the Ministry or by the farmers themselves after being provided with the necessary materials.

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79. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has also introduced agricultural machinery into all stages of agricultural production and into the handling of all basic agricultural crops, and it has been possible to reduce losses incurred in the harvesting of basic crops. The Ministry has been involved in efforts to improve the transportation of the harvest from field to collection centre and from there to silos, so that it can reach the storage sites at the proper time and the losses incurred at these stages can be reduced.

80. Further, Act No. 112 of 1983 was promulgated with the goal of promoting soil conservation, the utilization, upkeep and maintenance of irrigation and drainage networks, the conservation of reclaimed land and the erection of a number of dams and weirs on tributary rivers in order to improve water distribution and water control.

#### 5. Measures taken to improve food distribution

81. Iraq is not a country that suffers from a shortage of food. The State Organization for Cereals purchases the entire output of wheat, rice and barley and imports such cereals from abroad. They are stored in purpose-built silos located in close proximity to the centres of production. Thus, the State has complete control of the process by which the major foodstuffs are received from areas of production and delivered to centres of consumption through direct and indirect distribution outlets.

82. The government sector controls the importation and distribution of the major foodstuffs and of other items, such as barley, tea, coffee, milk, vegetable oils, vegetables, detergents and soaps, the State Food Trade Enterprise being responsible for regulating the importation and distribution processes.

83. Merchants in private enterprise operate under the direction and control of the State, engaging in distribution activities in the country's various regions and governorates and to its furthest outposts on the basis of uniform prices set by the government trading organizations.

84. Retail traders linked with the trading organizations are geographically dispersed, preventing abusive practices in violation of the laws and regulations in force.

85. As for the improvement of road communications, the State has, of course, paved rural roads with various materials and by a variety of means so that, over the period 1975-1981, the total length of paved roads reached 15,611 kilometres. Roads of a total length of 12,711 kilometres are under construction, not counting 1,242 kilometres of modern high-speed highways between the main governorate centres and Iraq's international borders. Centres of agricultural production have thus, to a large extent, been linked to the centres of consumption in the major cities and district and subdistrict centres, with the aim of enabling farmers and agricultural producers to deliver their produce, particularly fruit and vegetables, to market centres and heavily populated areas of consumption.

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86. The State has sold a large number of 1- to 2-ton capacity field vehicles (pick-up trucks) to farmers at reduced prices. It is evident that this measure has led to agricultural produce, particularly fresh produce, reaching markets in good condition and that it has affected the supply of such produce in market centres. The cultivation of vegetables under cover has expanded in the past two years because of the support provided by the State to this type of agricultural activity, so that most of the basic vegetables are now available to the consumer in most seasons of the year. The State has also provided purchase price support for the most important basic crops and has assumed the obligation of taking delivery of all cereals, wheat, barley and rice. The State has undertaken, in the event that there is a surplus to market needs, to purchase basic vegetables, such as potatoes, tomatoes, garlic and onions, and to pay remunerative prices to producers in order to encourage them to continue producing.

87. The policy of subsidizing major items such as flour, tea, sugar etc. has, moreover, led to their being available to citizens at low prices.

6. Measures taken to improve food consumption levels and nutrition

7. Measures taken to reduce food adulteration and contamination and to improve the quality and safety of food

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

88. The State takes it upon itself to see to it that wholesome food is available and to supervise food production and drinking water sources from the point of view of hygiene. Accordingly, it undertakes the following:

(a) The State engages in informational activities, subsidizes those basic foodstuffs that play a significant part in raising the standard of nutrition, such as imported flour, sugar, eggs, milk and meat, and sees to it that customs duties on foodstuffs are low in comparison with those on primary consumer commodities;

(b) The State is endeavouring to develop an in-country Nutrition Research Institute in order to undertake periodic studies and research on vulnerable population groups so as to determine their needs and make proposals with a view to raising their nutritional level;

(c) The State has extended a feeding programme to all schools at the compulsory primary level. It is free of charge and provides all children with nutritional assistance. There is a similar programme in most maternal and child welfare clinics and welfare centres where there are mothers and children who may suffer from mild or moderate malnutrition. These same centres undertake educational activities for expectant and nursing mothers;

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(d) The State subsidizes meals served to workers in factories;

(e) Laws have been enacted concerning the responsibility of the Central Inspection and Control Board of the Ministry of Planning for the establishment of the necessary quality standards and norms for foodstuffs on the basis of the advances made in the subject at the international and Arab levels and of what is found acceptable, from the practical and scientific viewpoints, by a Supreme Council of Experts and Specialists in Food and Nutrition. The Ministry of Health is also endeavouring to safeguard food hygiene and proper food distribution, storage and marketing at all levels, and to protect the health of the consumer;

(f) Information on the principles of food hygiene is disseminated through radio and television broadcasts, the local press and other information media;

(g) Food and nutrition have been introduced into school curricula at all levels - kindergarten, primary, intermediate and preparatory. The subject is also studied in certain colleges, including those of agriculture, education, nursing and pharmacy, and in certain branches of nursing. Specialized departments have been opened for the teaching of the subject in the Advanced Health Institute and the Institute of Specialized Medicine, and the Department of Advanced Public Health Studies also teaches the subject;

(h) The Nutrition Research Institute runs continuing courses open to all of those active in the fields in which nutrition plays a role, such as kindergarten teachers, day-care centre supervisors, hotel workers, maternal and child welfare workers and hospital nutritionists.

### C. Right to adequate clothing

#### 1. Promotion of the right to adequate clothing

89. In order to ensure adequate apparel and articles of clothing, the State has paid particular attention to the availability of such basic articles and to their production by the socialist, mixed and private sectors, so that there is no shortfall in meeting the needs of the population either for outer apparel or underclothing.

90. Following the victory of oil nationalization in 1973, the State endeavoured, in accordance with the rise in citizens' income, to diversify the variety of articles of clothing available at suitable prices, so that such articles would be available to all citizens.

91. Despite the effectiveness in this field of the socialist sector in providing clothing for the majority of the population, state policy decrees that private enterprise should participate in importing clothing and fabrics. Use is made of private enterprise to meet the needs of citizens in keeping with their desires and tastes and to take account of differences in quality, style and colour in accordance with sex and age. The needs of citizens for traditional popular clothing and for up-to-date fashionable clothing are also met.

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92. The trading establishments belonging to the State anticipate demand and plan their purchases accordingly. In this regard, account is taken of the basic interests of consumers and not of commercial profit. This means that basic articles of clothing must be made fully available even at reduced profitability. If there should be a shortage, it must not be allowed to affect the group of basic goods, and certain sums must be reallocated from luxury goods to basic goods so that the latter may again become available. All of this is in keeping with the State's socialist outlook. The Ministry of Trade concludes commercial agreements with friendly States for the importation of various goods and materials, which are offered for sale at prices in keeping with citizens' incomes.

93. The State operates a special system of commodity priorities in which foodstuffs, clothing, pharmaceuticals and transportation equipment are given first priority in production, importation and distribution plans. Moreover, government institutions control the key sectors of a centrally-planned national economy in which one- and five-year plans are adopted in order to improve standards of living and enhance the welfare of the population.

94. The State exercises official legal and economic oversight, and the oversight reports are an important means of monitoring plans, rectifying deviations and taking legal steps against price speculators.

95. Iraq has a special system of administrative justice, inasmuch as there are specialized commercial courts, apart from the Trade Review Board, to investigate violations of the Trade Regulations Act (No. 20 of 1970), as amended.

2. Measures taken to improve the methods of production and distribution of articles of clothing
3. Scientific and technical methods used to achieve an adequate supply of articles of clothing
4. Extent of participation in international co-operation contributing to the promotion of the right to adequate clothing

96. The State is much concerned to improve the methods of production and distribution of articles of clothing and to increase the amount produced, and is endeavouring to do so. Throughout Iraq, the State is engaged in the following:

(a) Modernization of all textile, garment and ready-made clothing factories by installing modern and up-to-date equipment and introducing advanced technology in working, production, quality control and design methods;

(b) Establishment of a number of large-scale modern enterprises for the production of ready-made clothing in order to increase production and meet most of the country's needs for such clothing. Examples of such enterprises are the children's ready-made clothing factory in Mosul, the women's ready-made clothing factory in Sulaymaniyah and the men's ready-made clothing factory in Najaf. In

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addition, already existing factories, such as the State Garment Enterprise in Baghdad and the knitting factories in Kut, have been modernized. The capacity of these enterprises is of the order of 10 million pieces of various articles of clothing a year;

(c) In order to increase output in the event that it proves inadequate to meet citizens' needs, there is ongoing co-operation with a number of specialized international corporations for the expansion of production, the supply of modern equipment, the provision of know-how and technical advice, the employment of experts and technicians, training activities and the furnishing of patterns, models and designs. They include companies from Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia and China;

(d) As regards the private sector, the State supports factories and industrial establishments of a private character as well as providing them with technical supervision with a view to improving their products and meeting the needs of citizens for clothing and various kinds of cotton and woollen textiles;

(e) Increased imports of fabrics and clothing from abroad for distribution. The Ministry of Trade also supervises the importation process in the private sector in accordance with specified conditions and makes goods available at moderate prices in the government shops.

#### D. Right to housing

##### Introduction

97. No differentiation is made with respect to the right to housing of all classes of citizens. The legislature of Iraq has enacted laws and regulations on the matter, including the Workers' Housing Construction Act (No. 38 of 1941) and the amendments thereto, the Workers' Rental Regulations (No. 28 of 1947) and the amendments thereto, and the Regulations on the Sale of Housing to Workers and Civil Servants (No. 7 of 1955) and the amendments thereto. The State has also ensured that arbitrary rents are not imposed on citizens by means of the Rent Control Act (No. 6 of 1958) and the amendments thereto, the most recent of which was amendment No. 217 of 1970.

##### 1. Principal laws

98. The principal laws, regulations and agreements are as follows:

(a) Bulletin of legal enactments on the housing question, containing all the laws and decisions concerning ownership, etc.;

(b) The Housing Co-operative Federation Act;

(c) The Co-operative Societies Act for the Management of Residential Complexes (No. 49 of 1980);

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(d) Decision No. 1515 of 1980 concerning the Construction of Residential Buildings for the Staff of Government Departments;

(e) Procedures for subsidizing the financing of low-cost housing projects in Iraq.

2. Information on measures taken, including specific programmes, subsidies etc.

99. The State Housing Organization in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is one of the main institutions concerned with housing. It is an important agency of the socialist sector and has taken it upon itself to achieve the task entrusted to it of constructing residential units and complexes under the national development plans.

100. The Organization constructs large residential complexes provided with recreational facilities for families and individuals. It builds such complexes together with all the necessary services, such as schools, shops and health and social centres, and installs the related infrastructure, such as roads, drinking-water and sewer systems and electricity and telephone networks.

101. It is possible to obtain an idea of the approximate number of residential units completed or under construction in the period 1980-1984 from the fact that almost 29,000 residential units were completed and almost 30,000 were under construction in 1984 alone.

102. The State also distributes land to citizens and to members of co-operative housing societies at nominal prices and grants them interest-free credit for home-building purposes.

103. The State Housing Organization undertakes many housing studies with the ultimate goal of solving the housing crisis and providing adequate housing for individuals and families.

104. As the policy deemed most suitable, a country-wide public housing policy based on the joint effort of the citizen and the State has been adopted. In urban areas, the socialist sector and the co-operative societies provide 40 per cent of all housing needs, together with the physical and social infrastructure. In the countryside, the State distributes agricultural land to farmers, in accordance with the Agrarian Reform Act, in order to bring such land into use, and there the farmers build their own houses. The socialist sector builds all technical and social infrastructure in the countryside and 10 per cent of residential units.

105. There are also certain tax incentives for home building and special loans of determined amounts for home improvement.

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3. Information on the use of scientific and technical knowledge

106. There has been no international co-operation in this field over the period in question. Advances in building development and improvement have been restricted to those derived from studies conducted within the country and from the experience gained in the construction of housing projects using up-to-date building technology.

4. Measures taken to solve the special problems of housing, water supply and sanitary conditions in rural areas

107. All governorates are provided with one or more drinking water purification plants, their capacity depending on population density. Such plants are fed by surface water, that is to say, river water. The inhabitants of some governorates are dependent on reservoirs ancillary to the water purification plant or plants located there.

108. All districts and subdistricts are provided with water plants or reservoirs, whose capacity depends on local population density; they are fed by river and stream water.

109. Some villages and rural areas have reservoirs of varying capacity, some are supplied with water treated for drinking purposes by means of tanker vehicles, and some use water taken directly from natural sources. The results of chemical tests carried out in the laboratories of the Ministry of Health on the sources of water feeding the water plants and reservoirs indicate that such water is fit for human consumption. Most of the bacteriological tests of samples taken from water plants indicate that the water is fit for human consumption. All such occurrences as might lead to water intended for human consumption becoming unfit are handled by the water and sewerage departments in the governorates.

110. Given the population expansion, the State Organization for Water and Sewerage has made allowance in its programmes for the provision of safe drinking water to all citizens in cities, districts, subdistricts and villages. It has embarked on the construction of water plants of high purification capacity in urban centres and of varying purification capacities in district and subdistrict centres, in addition to combined plants in order to provide a large number of villages and rural areas with treated drinking water. The State Organization for Sewerage has embarked on improving the efficiency of water plants constructed some time ago. It repairs, maintains and keeps in operation equipment and machinery and installs sewerage systems in all parts of the country.

111. There is also a drinking water quality control section which submits reports on water plants and reservoirs in all governorates.

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ARTICLE 12: RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

A. Principal laws

112. The Department of Environmental Protection Services, a department of the State Organization for Health Services centre provided for in article 7 of the Organization's Statute (No. 2 of 1984), which was promulgated on the basis of article 11 of the Ministry of Health Act (No. 80 of 1983), draws up centralized health programmes and plans in the field of school health services, maternal and child welfare and family health. It also issues the relevant directives, which are drawn up on an annual basis. The departments of health in the governorates implement such directives through the maternal and child welfare centres, pre-natal care centres and such health centres as provide welfare services to mothers and children as part of their everyday activity. At the local level, these centres are supervised by the environmental protection services divisions of the health departments.

113. The Public Health Act (No. 89 of 1981) contains a special section, given in the articles quoted below, concerning maternal and child welfare and family health. Article 7 states:

"The Ministry shall endeavour to achieve its objectives in the field of maternal and child welfare and family health by the following means:

"(a) Country-wide coverage by health centres in order to ensure maternal and child welfare and family health;

"(b) Conduct of the necessary medical examinations for those contemplating marriage, in order to determine their fitness and good health, and issuance of the health certificate;

"(c) Physical and mental preparation of the wife to assume her future role and responsibilities as a mother;

"(d) Monitoring of the health of expectant mothers and their unborn children through periodic examinations, and nutritional education;

"(e) Family guidance with a view to allowing a reasonable period of time to elapse between one pregnancy and another, as is required by the health of the mother, the child and the family;

"(f) Periodic examinations of children in order to monitor their growth and safeguard their health, and the provision of guidance to mothers on the feeding required by children during their growth period;

"(g) Compulsory periodic vaccinations for citizens in accordance with directives to be issued by the competent health authorities."

114. Article 6 states that maternal and child welfare and family health shall aim at fulfilling the duty of society and the State towards mothers and children from the point of conception.

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115. Article 8 reads as follows:

"(a) The approval of the health authorities must be sought in order to open a day-care centre, in accordance with directives to be issued for that purpose;

"(b) The health authorities shall, from time to time, exercise their supervision over day-care centres in order to ensure that they continue to meet the required standards and to ascertain the continued integrity of those employed there."

B. Information on:

1. Measures taken to reduce the stillbirth rate and infant mortality

2. Measures taken for the healthy development of children

116. A Consultative Council for Mother and Child Welfare has been established, composed of specialists in this field, and a number of decisions have been issued in this regard.

117. Pre-natal and post-natal preventive care is provided through the implementation of the Maternal and Child Welfare Plan of Action and the relevant directives issued by the health institutions. These institutions provide full care and health services for mothers.

118. The General Federation of Iraqi Women operates day-care centres for the benefit of nursing mothers in all factories and workplaces so that, during working hours, mothers may nurse their infants for one hour in the morning. Every hospital has a day-care centre for the children of working nurses.

119. The State engages in informational activities, subsidizes those basic foodstuffs that play a significant part in raising the standard of nutrition, such as imported flour, sugar, eggs, milk and meat, and sees to it that customs duties on foodstuffs are low in comparison with those on primary consumer commodities.

120. The State is endeavouring to develop an in-country Nutrition Research Institute in order to undertake periodic studies and research on vulnerable population groups so as to determine their needs and make proposals for raising their nutritional level.

121. The State has extended to all schools at the compulsory primary level a programme whereby all children are given nutritional assistance. There is a similar programme in most maternal and child welfare centres and day-care centres where there are mothers and children who may be suffering from mild or moderate malnutrition. These same centres undertake educational activities for expectant and nursing mothers.

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### 3. Measures taken to protect the environment

122. Since their establishment in the mid-1970s, the departments of the environment have been studying the adverse situation produced by the industrial development that began at the outset of the 1960s. That situation has begun to threaten the surrounding environment with persistent pollution and to cause a deterioration in public health. The departments of the environment have, accordingly, established yearly plans to curb such pollution. Industries are classified according to the kinds of pollution to which they give rise and studies are prepared on possible courses of action to curb pollution whether in the solid, liquid or gaseous state. The departments of the environment have begun to co-operate with the other departments concerned in drawing up plans to rectify the environmental situation of those industries causing pollution. There is also co-ordination with other departments in establishing the environmental standards to be met by projects to be established in future. Among the tasks carried out by the departments of the environment, and particularly by the Environmental Engineering Division of the Department of Environmental Prevention Services, are the following:

- (a) Monitoring of drinking water quality:
  - (i) Determination of the quality of source water at the intake points to the drinking water purification stations;
  - (ii) Determination of the qualitative adequacy of drinking water purification plants and reservoirs;
  - (iii) Determination of the quality of the drinking water supplied by the water purification plants and reaching consumers through the distribution networks, in accordance with the requirements of Iraqi normative specifications and international standards;
  - (iv) Determination of the condition of the drinking water conduit system and its suitability from the point of view of human consumption;
  - (v) Survey of all water plants and reservoirs in all governorates;
  - (vi) Inspection and sampling of all water treatment plants in the city of Baghdad, for the purpose of bacteriological, chemical and physical tests, at least six times a year;
- (b) Survey of water sources with a view to:
  - (i) Establishing an accurate environmental map of water sources;
  - (ii) Formulating possible courses of action to safeguard water sources and those who use them through pollution control;
  - (iii) Contributing to the elaboration of specific principles for the water balance;

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- (iv) Elaborating national standards for sources of water supply when implementation of the five-year survey plan is completed;
- (v) Conducting a study of the properties of each individual water source and of the extent of its influence on, or the extent to which it is influenced by, other sources;
- (c) Monitoring of the properties of industrial runoff:
  - (i) Monitoring of the properties of industrial runoff and human waste on the Tigris between the narrows north of Al-Taji and south of the Wardiyah district, after the confluence of the Diyala with the Tigris;
  - (ii) Monitoring of the properties of Tigris river water and the effect of industrial runoff and sewer and drainage water on its quality;
  - (iii) Preparation and processing of information on the properties of various kinds of runoff, with a view to introducing a river conservation system and establishing new standards relating thereto;
  - (iv) Study of the possibility of devising means of treating industrial runoff, and examination of the question of combining types of runoff having similar properties for treatment in a single purification unit;
  - (v) Preparation of a study on standards for industrial runoff water in the light of the international regulations in force and of regional conditions, to be used for the revision and further development of the texts of the river conservation laws and standards currently in use;
- (d) Environmental reform:
  - (i) Assessment of the present environmental situation of, and submission of reports on, waste removal and final disposal methods;
  - (ii) In co-operation with the agricultural and veterinary authorities, assessment of the present environmental situation of, and submission of reports on, poultry farms and slaughterhouses in Baghdad Governorate, and monitoring of the implementation of Revolution Command Council Decision No. 188 of 7 February 1984 on combating the spread of kala-azar disease;
  - (iii) Assessment of the present environmental situation of, and submission of reports on, all car washes and lubrication garages in Baghdad;
  - (iv) Assessment of the present environmental situation of, and submission of reports on, all enterprises that cause pollution, such as brickworks, lime-kilns and stone-crushing and asphalt plants;
  - (v) Preparation of a study with a view to establishing national standards for solid wastes;

(e) Noise:

- (i) Preparation of a study on traffic noise in the public streets of Baghdad;
- (ii) Preparation of a study for the establishment of national standards;
- (iii) Preparation of studies on noise levels in industrial areas;
- (iv) Preparation of a study by conducting the necessary surveys on the effect of noise on schools, government departments, hospitals and dwelling houses;

(f) Air pollution:

- (i) Identification of the various kinds of gaseous pollutants to be found in cities as a result of different human activities (particularly those emitted by motor vehicles and those in localities where various kinds of solid fuels are used as a source of energy) by conducting surveys and by continual monitoring by the stations set up in a number of areas of Baghdad; and investigation of the adverse effects of those pollutants on the surrounding environment, through the preparation of studies of the results recorded by those stations, as a preliminary step in devising the necessary procedures for eliminating pollution;
- (ii) Greater attention to the preparation of studies with a view to the elaboration of national standards for gaseous pollutants.

4. Vaccination programmes to control epidemic and occupational diseases

(a) Vaccination programmes

123. Our departments of health have, in accordance with article 7, paragraph (vii) of the Public Health Act, provided children with the following basic vaccinations: BCG vaccine (against tuberculosis, DTP vaccine (against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), and three doses of poliomyelitis vaccine before children are issued with their civil status card (the personal identity card).

124. The Ministry of Health has adopted a national vaccination programme, according to the following schedule:

First week after birth	BCG vaccine
At two months	DTP vaccine and poliomyelitis vaccine
At four months	DTP vaccine and poliomyelitis vaccine
At six months	DTP vaccine and poliomyelitis vaccine

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At 13 months	First active dose of DTP vaccine, together with poliomyelitis vaccine
At 15 months	Measles, mumps and rubella virus vaccine
At age 4-6 years	Second active dose of DTP vaccine, together with poliomyelitis vaccine

125. All kindergarten and schoolchildren are also immunized on admission to kindergarten or elementary school for the first time with BCG vaccine, the first active dose of DTP vaccine and poliomyelitis vaccine. At the intermediate school level, all unmarried schoolgirls receive rubella virus vaccine. All workers employed in the storage, preservation, preparation and serving of food and those in water treatment and sewerage projects receive typhoid vaccine. All of those wishing to travel on pilgrimage to Makkah are vaccinated against meningitis. Those travelling to areas where yellow fever is endemic are vaccinated against that disease, in accordance with the international travel regulations. Expectant mothers are inoculated with tetanus toxin vaccine following the third month of pregnancy, in order to protect them and their unborn children against tetanus, and the same vaccine is given to those working in occupations where they are exposed to possible injury.

(b) Control of epidemics

126. In the field of epidemic control programmes, the Ministry of Health has issued its Directives Nos. 20 and 21 of 1983 on combating those communicable and endemic diseases covered by the Public Health Act. Epidemiological investigation teams and the relevant health authorities belonging to the Ministry of Health in the various parts of the country undertake epidemiological investigation and implement the sanitary measures for the control and prevention of communicable diseases covered by the above-mentioned regulations, such as quarantine, and observation and the treatment of patients. Measures are taken to protect those who have been in contact with disease, to trace cases of infection and to monitor the health situation of those infected.

127. In accordance with the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, intensive action is under way to implement programmes to control and reduce the rate of infant mortality from tetanus infantum, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, rubella and mumps. Programmes are also being implemented to combat acute diarrhoea by introducing the use of oral rehydration salts to treat cases of dehydration and by encouraging breast feeding and feeding during and after bouts of diarrhoea. Maternal and child welfare is being improved and expanded and the environment improved (safe and adequate drinking water, hygienic methods of garbage and waste disposal and personal cleanliness).

128. Stress is being placed on arousing public awareness by making use of the mass media and by associating mass organizations, other sectors and non-health government institutions with the planning and implementation of health programmes. Health surveillance programmes are being applied to those entering the country from

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abroad in search of work, with a view to the early detection of communicable diseases and the speedy implementation of measures to prevent and control them. The health agencies are also implementing a programme to combat rodents, insects and other vectors of disease, and they co-operate with veterinary authorities in all governorates for that purpose. No outbreak of any disease subject to the International Health Regulations has been recorded.

129. As for endemic diseases, the Endemic Diseases Division of the Department of Environmental Prevention Services has special programmes to combat malaria, bilharziasis, tapeworm, kala-azar and zoonotic diseases. It provides the necessary materials and supervision for the implementation of programmes and plans. In the field of medical entomology, tests are carried out in order to determine the types of insects involved and their sensitivity to toxins before insecticides are sprayed in affected areas.

#### (c) Occupational diseases

130. Each of the various divisions of the National Centre for Occupational Health and Safety mentioned in article 29 of the Statute of the State Organization for Health Services performs a specialized function. The Occupational Medicine Division supervises the provision of health services in the workplace, gives advice on occurrences of occupational diseases and supervises the consulting clinic attached to it. The Occupational Environment Division ensures the observance of healthy conditions in the working environment in the socialist, mixed and private sectors by studying chemical, physical and biological effects. The Occupational Safety Division ensures that occupational safety is observed in economic enterprises and that the occupational safety directives are applied (such as those relating to the protection of basic factors of production, the protection of workers from work-related hazards and product safety, whether goods or appliances. It carries out studies and research relating to occupational health and safety. The Inspection Division inspects economic enterprises in the socialist, mixed and private sectors in order to ensure that health services are available to workers in the workplace. The Information and Training Division endeavours to raise the level of occupational health and safety consciousness in economic enterprises by conducting courses and seminars, showing films and displaying posters. The Statistics Division prepares statistics on work-related injuries and occupational diseases in the socialist, mixed and private sectors.

131. Article 30 of the Statute concerns the Regional Training Centre for Malaria and Medical Entomology. Its various divisions carry out the specialized tasks described below.

132. The Division of Parasitology and Pathogenic Intestinal Micro-organisms undertakes training and scientific research on parasites, acarids, bacteria and pathogenic micro-organisms, and prepares and produces educational curricula and materials in its field of specialization.

133. The Medical Entomology Division undertakes training and scientific research on mosquitoes, arthropods, snails, and other animals that act as hosts and carriers of

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disease, and prepares and produces educational curricula and materials in its field of specialization.

134. The Division of Rodents and Animal Vectors of Disease undertakes training and scientific research on rodents and other mammals, reptiles, birds and animals that carry diseases that afflict man. It also produces educational curricula and materials in its field of specialization.

135. The Division of Malarial and Zoonotic Diseases undertakes training and scientific research on malarial and zoonotic diseases from the point of view of the epidemiology, suppression, treatment and control of those diseases and the prevention of their spread, and produces educational materials in the field of its specialization.

136. The Environmental Engineering Division undertakes training and scientific research on geographical exploration, on the utilization of equipment and machinery for the spraying of pesticides and on the amelioration of the natural and human environment, all within the context of its activities to combat arthropods, rodents and other pests. It produces educational materials in the field of its specialization. The Arthropod, Rodent and Laboratory Animal Breeding Division breeds and propagates arthropods, rodents and laboratory animals and prepares them for instructional and training purposes, carries out scientific research and study and endeavours to prepare and produce educational zoological curricula and materials. In addition, those diseases that follow catastrophes in both urban and rural areas of the country come within the purview of programmes for the prevention of accidents. There has been a workshop on this topic for the states of the region, held in Baghdad under the auspices of the World Health Organization.

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Annex I

LIST OF REFERENCE MATERIAL\*

1. Social Welfare Act (No. 126 of 1980).
2. State Organization for Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act (No. 39 of 1971).
3. Labour Code (No. 151 of 1970), as amended.
4. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 208 of 1980 concerning the Employment of the Handicapped.
5. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1090 of 30 September 1984 concerning the Employment of the Handicapped.
6. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 747 of 1977 concerning Marriage Allowances.
7. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1517 of 1979 concerning the Marriage Advance.
8. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1034 of 13 November 1979 concerning Maternity Leave.
9. Regulations governing the Employment of Young Persons (No. 37 of 1972).
10. Directives on the Prohibition of the Employment of Young Persons in Shoe Dyeing (No. 8 of 1979).
11. Welfare of Young Persons Act (No. 76 of 1983).
12. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 272 of 16 February 1982 concerning the Establishment of a Child Welfare Board.
13. Day Care Centre Regulations (No. 42 of 1977).
14. Directives No. 1 of 1980 concerning Family Welfare Beneficiaries.
15. Directives No. 2 of 1982 concerning Application Procedures for Family Welfare Benefits.

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\* The reference material is available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat in the original language, as received from the Government of Iraq.

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16. Directives No. 1 of 1981 concerning State Homes for Children, Minors and Young Persons.
17. Directives No. 4 of 1978 concerning Residential Care Centres (State Homes).
18. Article 5 of the Control of Prostitution Act (No. 54 of 1958).
19. Articles 393-399 of the Criminal Code (No. 111 of 1969).
20. Directives No. 2 of 1983 concerning the al-Hanan Institute for the Severely Handicapped.
21. Directives No. 1 of 1983 concerning Free Transport Passes for the Handicapped.
22. Revolution Command Council Decision No. 1618 of 6 December 1981 concerning Admission to Schools of Handicapped Pupils over the Statutory Age.
23. Regulations on the Young Persons' Rehabilitation School (No. 10 of 1972).
24. Surveillance Centre Regulations (No. 6 of 1971).
25. Reform School Regulations (No. 31 of 1964) concerning Delinquent Boys.
26. Regulations on the Welfare of Young Persons (No. 52 of 1964).

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Annex II

LIST OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THE STATE  
ORGANIZATION FOR WORKERS' PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The projects set out below are considered to be among those measures that facilitate the establishment of families. The list covers projects completed from the date of the entry into force of the Workers' Pensions and Social Security Act up to 31 December 1984. There are other projects under construction or in the planning stage.

1. Project for the construction of 912 dwelling-houses in Baghdad and Arbil Governorates.
2. Three schools in Baghdad.
3. Three co-operative markets in Baghdad.
4. Twenty-nine kindergartens in Baghdad and the provinces, together with all their furnishings and equipment.
5. Seven kindergartens throughout the various governorates of the country.
6. Five out of a projected six residential buildings in Basra Governorate.
7. Construction of 100 residential apartments in Kerbala.

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