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## COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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Item 18 of the provisional agenda

### STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 12 (XXXII) of 5 March 1976 concerning the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights took note of the fact that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had entered into force on 3 January 1976 and that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto had already been ratified by the required number of States and would enter into force on 23 March 1976. The Commission invited all Member States to consider the question of the ratification of the International Covenants on Human Rights in the near future, and requested the Secretary-General to inform the Commission at each session of any new developments with regard to ratification and implementation of the International Covenants. The present note was prepared in response to that request.
2. For the purpose of gathering relevant data on the matter, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 15 June 1976, invited all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice to send him before 30 November 1976 any information as to the steps they might have taken or envisaged with a view to ratifying or acceding to the International Covenants on Human Rights. As of 31 December 1976, the Secretary-General had received replies from the following Governments: Austria, Belgium, France, Guatemala, Italy, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela. The relevant passages of substantive replies are reproduced in annex I.
3. Since the adoption of the Commission's resolution, the International Covenants on Human Rights were ratified by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 20 May 1976 and signed by Panama on 27 July 1976, by Spain on 28 September 1976 and by Portugal on 7 October 1976. In addition, Canada, on 19 May 1976, the United Republic of Tanzania, on 11 June 1976, Zaire, on 1 November 1976 and Surinam on 28 December 1976, acceded to the Covenants. As a result, on 31 December 1976, 42 States had become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and 40 States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The list of States that had signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenants, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, may be found in annexes II and III.

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4. In addition, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made the declaration under article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which recognizes the competence of the Human Rights Committee to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the said Covenant. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway and Sweden had previously made such declarations. The Committee will become competent to exercise the functions provided for under article 41 when at least 10 States parties to the Covenant have made such a declaration.

5. Moreover, Canada on 19 May 1976, Zaire on 1 November 1976 and Surinam on 28 December 1976 acceded to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was also signed by Italy on 30 April 1976, by Panama on 22 July 1976, and by Venezuela on 15 November 1976. As of 31 December 1976, 15 States have become parties to the Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 23 March 1976. The list of States that had signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, may be found in annex IV.

6. After the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in accordance with the provisions of part IV (Articles 16-25) thereof, the Economic and Social Council, at its sixtieth session, considered the procedures for the implementation of that Covenant. In its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 (see annex V), the Economic and Social Council expressed its appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights, the specialized agencies concerned and other organizations of the United Nations system for their readiness to co-operate in the implementation of the Covenant. In accordance with article 17 of the Covenant, the Council established the following programme under which the States parties to the Covenant would furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 thereof: first stage, rights covered by articles 6-9; second stage, rights covered by articles 10-12; third stage, rights covered by articles 13-15. The Council requested the States parties to the Covenant, in reporting under this programme, to give full attention to the principles contained in parts I and II - articles 1 to 5 - of the Covenant.

7. The Council invited the States parties to the Covenant to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme by 1 September 1977, and reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter. The Council called upon the specialized agencies to submit to it reports on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities. The reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme should be transmitted by 1 December 1977, and the reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter.

8. The Council decided that: (a) a sessional working group of the Economic and Social Council, with appropriate representation of States parties to the Covenant, and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, should be established by the Council whenever reports were due for consideration by the Council, for the purpose of assisting it in the consideration of such reports; (b) representatives of specialized agencies concerned might take part in the proceedings of the working group when matters falling within their respective fields of competence would be considered.

9. Upon entry into force of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in accordance with the provisions of articles 28 to 32 thereof, the Secretary-General, in a note dated 20 May 1976, drew the attention of the States parties to that Covenant to the provisions concerning the establishment of the Human Rights Committee, and invited them to submit their nominations for membership of the Committee within three months. The States parties to the Covenant held their first meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 20 September 1976 and, in accordance with the provisions of articles 28 to 32 of the Covenant, elected the following 18 members of the Human Rights Committee: Mr. Mohamed Ben-Fadhel (Tunisia), Mr. Ole Mogens Espersen (Denmark), Sir Vincent Evans (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Bernhard Graefrath (German Democratic Republic), Mr. Manouchehr Ganji (Iran), Mr. Vladimir Hanga (Romania), Mr. Haissam Kelani (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Luben G. Koulishhev (Bulgaria), Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius), Mr. Andreas V. Mavrommatis (Cyprus), Mr. Fernando Mora Rojas (Costa Rica), Mr. Anatoly Petrovich Movchan (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Torkel Opsahl (Norway), Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo (Ecuador), Mr. Fulgence Seminega (Rwanda), Mr. Walter Surma Tarnopolsky (Canada), Mr. Christian Tomuschat (Germany, Federal Republic of) and Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas (Colombia).

10. The following members of the Committee were chosen by lot as those whose term would expire on 31 December 1978: Mr. Ole Mogens Espersen (Denmark), Mr. Mohamed Ben Fadhel (Tunisia), Mr. Bernhard Graefrath (German Democratic Republic), Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius), Mr. Fernando Mora Rojas (Costa Rica), Mr. Torkel Opsahl (Norway), Mr. Julio Prado Vallejo (Ecuador), Mr. Fulgence Seminega (Rwanda) and Mr. Christian Tomuschat (Federal Republic of Germany).

11. The Committee is scheduled to hold its first session from 21 March to 1 April 1977 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

12. In its resolution 31/86 of 13 December 1976 (see annex VI) concerning the Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights the General Assembly welcomed the entry into force of those instruments as a major step in the international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and invited once again all States to become parties to them. The Assembly, recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, stated that appropriate arrangements should be made to enable the Human Rights Committee to hold sessions at such intervals and of such duration as may be necessary for it to carry out in an efficient manner the functions entrusted to it under that Protocol and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Assembly endorsed the appeal to States made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 that they include in their delegations to the sessions of the Council at which reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are examined experts competent in the subject-matter of the relevant reports.

Annex I

EXCERPTS FROM SUBSTANTIVE REPLIES OF GOVERNMENTS  
RELATING TO RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]  
[15 November 1976]

"the Federal Government of Austria decided on 21 April 1976 to submit the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to the Austrian Parliament for parliamentary approval as required under the Austrian Constitution. Both aforementioned Covenants are presently being considered by the Austrian Parliament, with the view of their ratification."

BELGIUM

[Original: French]  
[24 November 1976]

"the procedure for approval of these international instruments by the Belgian parliament is now in progress."

FRANCE

[Original: French]  
[24 November 1976]

"studies are currently being made among the French administrations concerned with a view to France's accession to these Covenants."

ITALY

[Original: French]  
[28 October 1976]

"(1) The Italian Government approved on 7 September 1976 the bill for ratification and implementation of the Covenants;

(2) On 24 September, the bill was transmitted to the Senate of the Republic for consideration and approval."

LIBERIA

[Original: English]  
[October 1976]

"the question of the ratification of the International Covenant on Human Rights is claiming the urgent attention of the Government of Liberia."

LIECHTENSTEIN

[Original: French]  
[31 August 1976]

"the Government of the Principality has arranged to study the question of the possibility of the Principality's accession to the International Covenants..."

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]  
[15 December 1976]

"The bill concerning the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto has been presented to the Second Chamber of Parliament by Royal Message on 24 May 1976, accompanied by a detailed explanatory memorandum.

It is expected that discussion of the bill in the Second Chamber of Parliament will take place during the first half of 1977. Thereafter the First Chamber of Parliament will have to discuss the bill. Consequently it may be expected that the procedure of approval will only be accomplished by the end of 1977."

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]  
[9 November 1976]

"since the entry into force of the Covenants earlier this year the New Zealand Government has begun a closer examination of steps that will be required to implement the Covenants in New Zealand law. However, the fact that the Covenants cover the whole range of human rights means that extensive consultations must take place and may take some time to complete. No decisions have yet been taken on the steps which the New Zealand Government would need to take on this matter."

SENEGAL

[Original: French]  
[2 December 1976]

"the procedure for ratification by Sénégal of the two International Covenants on Human Rights and of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is now in progress in accordance with the constitutional rules in force and the instruments of ratification will be transmitted [to the Secretary-General] upon completion of the procedure."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

[Original: English]  
[12 July 1976]

"consideration is presently being given to Trinidad and Tobago either ratifying or acceding to the two Covenants referred to therein."

VENEZUELA

[Original: Spanish]  
[1 September 1976]

"extensive discussions are being held on the question of ratification of the Covenants prior to seeking the approval of the Congress of the Republic."

Annex II

LIST OF STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED, RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL  
RIGHTS

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	10 December 1975
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <sup>a/</sup>
Belgium	10 December 1968	
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	21 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Canada		19 May 1976 <sup>a/</sup>
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China <sup>b/</sup>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	9 January 1967	2 April 1969
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	23 December 1975
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	29 September 1967	6 March 1969
Egypt	4 August 1967	
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of	9 October 1968	17 December 1973

<sup>a/</sup> Accession

<sup>b/</sup> Signed on behalf of the Republic of China on 5 October 1967. See note concerning signatures, ratifications, accessions, etc. on behalf of China in Multilateral Treaties in respect of which the Secretary-General Performs Depositary Functions: List of Signatures, Ratifications, Accessions, etc. as at 31 December 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.V.7), preface, p. iii, and p. 95 note 2.

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Guinea	28 February 1967	
Guyana	22 August 1968	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland	30 December 1968	
Iran	4 April 1968	24 June 1975
Iraq	18 February 1969	25 January 1971
Ireland	1 October 1973	
Israel	19 December 1966	
Italy	18 January 1967	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Jordan	30 June 1972	28 May 1975
Kenya		1 May 1972 <sup>a/</sup>
Lebanon		3 November 1972 <sup>a/</sup>
Liberia	18 April 1967	
Libyan Arab Republic		15 May 1970 <sup>a/</sup>
Luxembourg	26 November 1974	
Madagascar	14 April 1970	22 September 1971
Mali		16 July 1974 <sup>a/</sup>
Malta	22 October 1968	
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <sup>a/</sup>
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
New Zealand	12 November 1968	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	
Philippines	19 December 1966	7 June 1974
Poland	2 March 1967	
Portugal	7 October 1976	
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 <sup>a/</sup>
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Spain	28 September 1976	
Surinam		28 December 1976 <sup>a/</sup>
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971



<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 <u>a/</u>
Tunisia	30 April 1968	18 March 1969
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 March 1968	12 November 1973
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968	16 October 1973
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 September 1968	20 May 1976
United Republic of Tanzania		11 June 1976 <u>a/</u>
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971
Zaire		1 November 1976 <u>a/</u>

Annex III

LIST OF STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED, RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <sup>a/</sup>
Belgium	10 December 1968	
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	21 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Canada		19 May 1976 <sup>a/</sup>
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China <sup>b/</sup>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	2 April 1969
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	23 December 1975
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
Egypt	4 August 1967	
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of	9 October 1968	17 December 1973
Guinea	28 February 1967	

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<sup>a/</sup> Accession

<sup>b/</sup> See annex II, note b.

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Guyana	22 August 1968	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland	30 December 1968	
Iran	4 April 1968	24 June 1975
Iraq	18 February 1969	25 January 1971
Ireland	1 October 1973	
Israel	19 December 1966	
Italy	18 January 1967	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Jordan	30 June 1972	28 May 1975
Kenya		1 May 1972 <u>a/</u>
Lebanon		3 November 1972 <u>a/</u>
Liberia	18 April 1967	
Libyan Arab Republic		15 May 1970 <u>a/</u>
Luxembourg	26 November 1974	
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mali		16 July 1974 <u>a/</u>
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <u>a/</u>
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
New Zealand	12 November 1968	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Poland	2 March 1967	
Portugal	7 October 1976	
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 <u>a/</u>
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Spain	28 September 1976	
Surinam		28 December 1976 <u>a/</u>
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 <u>a/</u>

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Tunisia	30 April 1968	18 March 1969
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	20 March 1968	12 November 1973
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 March 1968	16 October 1973
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 September 1968	20 May 1976
United Republic of Tanzania		11 June 1976 <u>a/</u>
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971
Zaire		1 November 1976 <u>a/</u>

Annex IV

LIST OF STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED, RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO THE  
OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL  
AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

<u>States</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of ratification or accession</u>
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <sup>a/</sup>
Canada		19 May 1976 <sup>a/</sup>
China <sup>b/</sup>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Ecuador	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 December 1967	19 August 1975
Guinea	19 March 1975	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Italy	30 April 1976	
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <sup>a/</sup>
Netherlands	25 June 1969	
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Senegal	6 July 1970	
Surinam		28 December 1976 <sup>a/</sup>
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	15 November 1976	
Zaire		1 November 1976 <sup>a/</sup>

<sup>a/</sup> Accession.

<sup>b/</sup> See annex II, note b.

Annex V

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX) of 11 MAY 1976

1988 (LX). Procedures for the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the entry into force on 3 January 1976 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a/

Expressing its appreciation to those States which have become parties to the Covenant,

Expressing the hope that at the earliest practicable time other States will become parties to the Covenant, with a view to making its application universal,

Noting the important responsibilities placed on the Economic and Social Council by the Covenant and expressing its readiness to perform these responsibilities,

Noting in particular that international assistance and co-operation are among the methods envisaged in the Covenant for the guaranteeing of the rights enumerated therein,

Having requested the Secretary-General to conduct on its behalf consultations with the States parties to the Covenant and the specialized agencies concerned, as envisaged in article 17 of the Covenant, and having received with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General thereon, b/

Expressing its appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights, the specialized agencies concerned and other organizations of the United Nations system for their readiness to co-operate in the implementation of the Covenant,

1. Establishes in accordance with article 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the following programme under which the States parties to the Covenant will furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 thereof:

First stage: rights covered by articles 6-9;

Second stage: rights covered by articles 10-12;

Third stage: rights covered by articles 13-15;

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a/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

b/ E/5764.

2. Requests the States parties to the Covenant, in reporting under the programme established under paragraph 1 above, to give full attention to the principles contained in parts I and II - articles 1 to 5 - of the Covenant;

3. Invites the States parties to the Covenant to submit to the Secretary-General, in conformity with part IV of the Covenant, and in accordance with the programme established under paragraph 1 above, reports on the measures that they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant, and to indicate, when necessary, factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of their obligations under the Covenant; c/

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit copies of the reports of the States parties to the Covenant to the Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the specialized agencies, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 2 (b), of the Covenant, copies of the reports, or any relevant parts thereof, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of these specialized agencies, in so far as these reports, or parts thereof, relate to any matters which fall within the responsibilities of the said agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments;

6. Calls upon the specialized agencies to submit to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the programme established under paragraph 1 above, and bearing in mind the provisions of article 16, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, reports on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities, as provided under article 18 of the Covenant, which reports may include particulars of decisions and recommendations on such implementation adopted by their competent organs; d/

7. Decides that States parties to the Covenant which submit reports under the Covenant need not submit reports on similar questions under the reporting procedure established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1074 C (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, to draw general guidelines for the reports to be submitted by States parties to the Covenant and specialized agencies;

9. Decides that:

(a) A sessional working group of the Economic and Social Council with appropriate representation of States parties to the Covenant, and with due regard

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c/ The reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme should be transmitted by 1 September 1977, and the reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter.

d/ The reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme should be transmitted by 1 December 1977, and the reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter.

to equitable geographical distribution, shall be established by the Council whenever reports are due for consideration by the Council, for the purpose of assisting it in the consideration of such reports;

(b) Representatives of specialized agencies concerned may take part in the proceedings of the working group when matters falling within their respective fields of competence are considered;

10. Appeals to States to include, if possible, in their delegations to the relevant sessions of the Economic and Social Council, members competent in the subject-matters under consideration;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to take all steps to ensure the effective performance by the Economic and Social Council of its responsibilities under the Covenant.

1999th plenary meeting  
11 May 1976



Annex VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31/86 of 13 DECEMBER 1976

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

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling its resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 3270 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, and in particular its belief that the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights will undoubtedly enhance the ability of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and thus contribute greatly to the co-operation of States in the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Convinced that the International Covenants on Human Rights constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaty in the field of human rights,

Expressing its appreciation to those States that have become parties to the above instruments,

1. Welcomes with deep satisfaction the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a major step in the international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Recognizes that such resources as may be necessary should be allocated to enable the Secretary-General to provide the appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto;

3. Recognizes that appropriate arrangements should be made to enable the Human Rights Committee to hold sessions at such intervals and of such duration as may be necessary for it to carry out in an efficient manner the functions entrusted to it under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto;

4. Endorses the appeal to States made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 that they include in their delegations to the sessions of the Council at which reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are examined experts competent in the subject-matter of the relevant reports;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

6. Invites once again all States to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto.

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