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Agenda item 4

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AND MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Article--* of the draft covenant on economic, social and cultural rights:
text adopted by the Commission at its 290th meeting,
on 12 May 1952

Article _____

1. The States Parties to the Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education, and recognize that education shall encourage the full development of the human personality, the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the suppression of all incitement to racial and other hatred. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial, ethnic or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society;
2. It is understood:
 - (a) That primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;
 - (b) That secondary education, in its different forms, including technical and professional secondary education, shall be generally available and shall be made progressively free;
 - (c) That higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit and shall be made progressively free;
 - (d) That fundamental education for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education shall be encouraged as far as possible.

* Article 28 of the draft Covenant as drawn up by the Commission at its seventh session.

/3. In the exercise
E/CN.4/666/Add.4

3. In the exercise of any functions which they assume in the field of education, the States Parties to the Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.
