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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 6 to 9, in accordance with the first stage of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit reports on the measures which they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized therein. All reports shall be submitted to the Secretary-General who shall transmit copies to the Economic and Social Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant. The Secretary-General shall also transmit to the specialized agencies copies of the reports, or any relevant parts therefrom, from States parties to the Covenant which are also members of those specialized agencies, in so far as those reports, or parts therefrom, relate to any matters which fall within the competence of the said agencies in accordance with their constitutional instruments.
2. Under article 17 of the Covenant, the States parties to the Covenant shall furnish their reports in stages, in accordance with the programme established by the Economic and Social Council. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the Covenant. Where relevant information has previously been furnished to the United Nations or to any specialized agency by any State party to the Covenant, it will not be necessary to reproduce that information, but a precise reference to the information so furnished will suffice.
3. As provided for under article 17 of the Covenant, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, established the following

programme under which the States parties to the Covenant were requested to 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.

4. By the same resolution, the Council invited 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 mentioned 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. Further, the Council decided that the reports on the rights included in the first stage of the programme (articles 6 to 9) should be transmitted by 1 September 1977, and the reports on the subsequent stages at biennial intervals thereafter (i.e., articles 10 to 12 by 1 September 1979, and articles 13 to 15 by 1 September 1981).

5. The Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982 for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties, shall meet annually for a period of three weeks, beginning two weeks before the first regular session of the Council. In accordance with its methods of work, approved by the Council in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979 and subsequently revised by the Council in its decision 1981/158 of 8 May 1981 and resolution 1982/33, the Working Group of Governmental Experts shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General; it shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on its activities and shall make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and by the specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Working Group when their reports are examined, to make statements on the reports submitted by their States and answer questions which may be put to them by the members of the Working Group.

6. In accordance with the programme established by the Council in resolution 1988 (LX), second periodic reports under the first stage (articles 6 to 9) were due on 1 September 1983 from the following 31 States parties which had submitted their initial reports under the first stage of the reporting procedure: Australia, Barbados, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mongolia, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist

Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia. Annex I below contains the list of references to the initial reports and the supplementary information, if any, submitted by the above-mentioned States parties, as well as the summary records of the meetings of the Working Group at which those reports and the supplementary information were considered.

7. In a note verbale dated 1 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the above-mentioned States parties the provisions of articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant, as well as the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1988 (LX). He transmitted to them the general guidelines for second periodic reports on articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant, drawn up by the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1988 (LX), and requested them to submit their second periodic reports under the first stage of the programme by 1 September 1983 for transmission to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1984. The general guidelines drawn up by the Secretary-General for second periodic reports under the first stage of the programme are reproduced in annex II to the present document.

8. The second periodic reports under the first stage of the programme (rights covered by articles 6 to 9) received from the States parties mentioned in paragraph 6 above will be issued as addenda to the present document.

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Annex I

ARTICLES 6 TO 9 OF THE COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS: CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIAL REPORTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER THE FIRST STAGE OF
THE REPORTING PROCEDURE

State party	Initial report	Summary records of the discussion
Australia	E/1978/8/Add.15	E/1980/WG.1/SR.12-13
Barbados	E/1978/8/Add.33	E/1982/WG.1/SR.3
Bulgaria	E/1978/8/Add.24	E/1980/WG.1/SR.12
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	E/1978/8/Add.19	E/1980/WG.1/SR.16
Canada	E/1980/8/Add.32	E/1982/WG.1/SR.1-2
Chile	E/1978/8/Add.10 and Add.28	E/1980/WG.1/SR.8-9
Colombia	E/1978/8/Add.17	E/1980/WG.1/SR.15
Cyprus	E/1978/8/Add.21	E/1980/WG.1/SR.17
Czechoslovakia	E/1978/8/Add.18	E/1981/WG.1/SR.1-2
Denmark	E/1978/8/Add.13	E/1980/WG.1/SR.10
Ecuador	E/1978/8/Add.1	E/1980/WG.1/SR.4-5
Finland	E/1978/8/Add.14	E/1980/WG.1/SR.6
German Democratic Republic	E/1978/8/Add.8 and Corr.1	E/1980/WG.1/SR.8
Germany, Federal Republic of	E/1978/8/Add.11	E/1980/WG.1/SR.10
Hungary	E/1978/8/Add.7	E/1980/WG.1/SR.7
Italy	E/1978/8/Add.34	E/1982/WG.1/SR.3-4
Jamaica	E/1978/8/Add.27	E/1980/WG.1/SR.20
Madagascar	E/1978/8/Add.29	E/1981/WG.1/SR.2
Mongolia	E/1978/8/Add.6	E/1980/WG.1/SR.7
Norway	E/1978/8/Add.12	E/1980/WG.1/SR.5
Philippines	E/1978/8/Add.4	E/1980/WG.1/SR.11
Poland	E/1978/8/Add.23	E/1980/WG.1/SR.18-19
Romania	E/1978/8/Add.20	E/1980/WG.1/SR.16-17
Spain	E/1978/8/Add.26	E/1980/WG.1/SR.20
Sweden	E/1978/8/Add.5	E/1980/WG.1/SR.15
Syrian Arab Republic	E/1978/8/Add.25 and Add.31	E/1983/WG.1/SR.2

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State party	Initial report	Summary records of the discussion
Tunisia	E/1978/8/Add.3	E/1980/WG.1/SR.5-6
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	E/1978/8/Add.22	E/1980/WG.1/SR.18
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	E/1978/8/Add.16	E/1980/WG.1/SR.14
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	E/1978/8/Add.9 and 30	E/1980/WG.1/SR.19 and E/1982/WG.1/SR.1
Yugoslavia	E/1978/8/Add.35	E/1982/WG.1/SR.4-5

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Annex II

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS ON ARTICLES 6-9
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS

Prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council
resolution 1988 (LX)

1. In accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant and with the programme set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX), the Governments of States parties to the Covenant are requested to submit their second periodic reports, by 1 September 1983, on the rights covered in part III, articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. As stated in articles 16 (1) and 17 (2) of the Covenant, States parties are invited to report on "the measures that they have adopted and the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized" in those articles, and to indicate any "factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of their obligations under these articles".
2. In the preparation of their second periodic reports, States parties are invited, in particular, to follow the same order of headings suggested in the general guidelines for the preparation of their initial reports on the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. However, information provided under each of those headings should concentrate especially on the following:
 - (a) Any new legislative or other measures adopted since the submission of the initial report to give effect to the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant and, in particular, developments regarding basic programmes and institutions which have taken place during the present reporting period;
 - (b) Any changes made or proposed with regard to laws, regulations and practices affecting the exercise of the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9;
 - (c) The extent to which effective progress has been made during the reporting period in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9 as a result of the enactment or modification of legislation, or as a result of collective agreements and court decisions;
 - (d) Factors and difficulties affecting the degree of realization of the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9;
 - (e) Replies to questions raised and observations made in the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts of the Economic and Social Council during the consideration of the initial report;
 - (f) Comments on matters arising from the consideration of reports submitted by specialized agencies, in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant, on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in articles 6 to 9;

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(g) Action taken as a result of the co-operation and dialogue with the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts subsequent to the consideration of the initial report.

3. Where relevant information has previously been submitted in the initial report or has been furnished to the United Nations or to a specialized agency, for instance, in reports submitted under articles 19 or 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, it will not be necessary to reproduce this information, but a precise reference to the information so furnished, preferably with indications of the relevant documents, will suffice.

4. It will be appreciated if copies of the principal laws, regulations, collective agreements and court decisions mentioned in the second periodic report are also forwarded.

5. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1988 (LX), the States parties are requested, in reporting on the rights covered by articles 6 to 9, to give full attention to the matters dealt with in parts I and II - articles 1 to 5 - of the Covenant.
