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SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 26 April 1984 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BENDIX (Denmark)

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by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9
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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX)
BY STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT CONCERNING RIGHTS COVERED BY ARTICLES 6 TO 9
(continued)

Report of Mongolia (E/1984/7/Add.6)

1. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) took a place at the table.
2. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia), introducing the second periodic report of Mongolia, said that Mongolian legislation guaranteed the right to work and receive just remuneration, the right to leisure, the right to material support and maintenance in old age and in the event of disability, sickness or loss of the breadwinner, and the right to participate freely in the administration of the State and society and to join public organizations. By strictly observing those constitutional rights, Mongolia had achieved further successes in raising the living standards of the people and creating an industrial-agrarian State.
3. Since the submission of Mongolia's initial report, no new legislation had been enacted, although a number of legal and administrative acts had been adopted to further develop laws already in force.
4. The report dealt at length with the planned nature of the Mongolian economy and the advantages it offered in ensuring steady economic growth through the full and rational utilization of manpower and other economic resources. In response to comments made by the Working Group during its consideration of Mongolia's initial report, the second periodic report covered such questions as remuneration, the wage rate system, and enterprise funds.
5. Since the submission of the initial report, the average monthly wage had increased steadily. The wages of certain categories of workers, including rural workers, engineers and power plant technicians, had been raised. The category of specialists receiving additional wages for working in the Gobi Desert areas had been broadened. Real per capita income had increased by 3.4 per cent in 1983 while, as a result of the socio-economic measures taken by the Government, the national product had increased by 5.8 per cent.
6. The management of employment in Mongolia was planned. The annual and five-year economic development plans established targets for creating new jobs in the sectors of the economy and for vocational training. In view of Mongolia's limited labour force, planning was of great importance. The country's population totalled slightly over 1.8 million, of whom about 65 per cent were under the age of 35. In 1983, overall manpower in the national economy had increased by 2.9 per cent. For obvious reasons, there was no unemployment in Mongolia. The Government strove to make optimum use of manpower, constantly improve vocational training and labour protection regulations, and ensure safe working conditions.

(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

7. Trade unions in Mongolia had a combined membership of 380,000, 57 per cent of members being industrial workers. Trade unions were active in agriculture, industry and construction, education and culture, transport and communications, trade and public catering. Each union had a central committee and there were more than 5,700 trade union groups of various sizes throughout the country. Trade unions enjoyed extensive rights in defending the rights of the working people. In 1978, the Constitution had been amended to give trade unions the right to put forward legislative initiatives through their central committees. In recent years, trade unions had initiated the drafting and adoption of over 200 legislative acts. They also participated actively in the formulation of national economic development plans and the distribution of material and technical resources. Finally, Mongolia took pride in the fact that it had brought about tremendous socio-economic changes for the benefit of workers, the elderly, the disabled, young people, women and society as a whole.

8. Mr. TEXIER (France) said that the report of Mongolia provided comprehensive information on the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. It would be useful to have more comparative statistical data showing the progress made since the submission of the initial report, however. Further general information on Mongolia would also be appreciated.

9. Referring to paragraph 7 of the report, he inquired whether Mongolian workers were paid on a weekly or a monthly basis and whether there were any delays in the payment of wages. He requested further information with regard to the settlement of labour disputes and the functioning of the labour dispute commissions, trade union committees and people's courts referred to in paragraph 19.

10. Paragraph 23 (c) of the report stated that the call-up or enlistment of the manual or non-manual worker for military service constituted a reason for cancelling the labour contract. He asked whether employers were obliged to rehire workers after they had completed their military service. He requested specific information on the wage rate scales referred to in paragraph 38 and the types of jobs which involved "piece-work" as referred to in paragraph 39 of the report. With regard to the table in paragraph 41, he asked what the difference was between the real income of the population and the money income of the population. Paragraph 49 of the report provided figures in Mongolian currency. It would be useful to know what was the exchange rate for the tugrik. Was all personal income taxable or only a part of it?

11. Referring to article 8 of the Covenant, he asked whether there was trade union pluralism in Mongolia or simply a central trade union. The report provided no information on the right to strike. Was that right recognized under Mongolian legislation? If workers disagreed with a decision taken by management, could they resort to a strike?

12. The progress made by Mongolia in implementing article 9 of the Covenant was evident. The information provided in that regard in the report would be easier to understand, however, if figures were given to show the increases in the various social benefits.

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13. Mr. KORDS (German Democratic Republic) expressed satisfaction at the remarkable progress made by Mongolia in its efforts to promote development and ensure social justice despite its economic problems. Mongolia was one of the few developing countries that had been able to implement all the provisions of the Covenant. Additional figures would give a better understanding of the situation in the country, however.

14. Paragraph 13 of the report stated that there was no need for any special job placement agency. What procedure was followed when a worker wished to change his place of work? Referring to paragraph 19, he asked what type of labour disputes were examined by the labour dispute commissions, trade union committees and people's courts. What was the relationship between the three bodies? Paragraph 23 (d) indicated that a labour contract could be annulled at the request of the trade union body. Under what circumstances would a trade union body make such a request?

15. Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUEÑO (Spain) requested statistical information on the number of working men and women in the Mongolian labour force, according to sector, and further information on the overall role of women in Mongolian life. Referring to article 23 of the report, she pointed out that the enlistment of workers for military service or the transfer of an employee to another job did not normally constitute reasons for cancelling a labour contract. Why was that the case in Mongolia? Paragraph 46 referred to a monthly allowance paid to mothers until their child reached the age of six months. Who paid that allowance and how much did it amount to?

16. Referring to article 9 of the Covenant, she requested further information on the types of pensions available under the social security system. Since members of the Working Group did not have the initial report of Mongolia, it was difficult to form a clear idea of the functioning of the social security system in Mongolia.

17. Mr. MITREV (Bulgaria) said that the report of Mongolia was very comprehensive and well-organized and gave a full picture of the implementation of articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. It was evident that the Mongolian Government was striving constantly to guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of its population. Mongolia was a model developing country which had made major achievements in the field of development.

18. He requested further information on the membership and functioning of the territorial labour organs referred to in paragraph 14 of the report. With regard to paragraph 23, he asked whether a worker could be reinstated in his job after completing military service. What was the usual duration of labour contracts in Mongolia? Paragraph 25 stated that between 1965 and 1980, the number of persons working in the sectors of the economy had increased by 46 per cent. How had that large increase come about? With regard to paragraph 55, did the percentages showing the increase in income indicate that manual and non-manual workers earned less than members of agricultural combines?

(Mr. Mitrev, Bulgaria)

19. The information on trade union rights showed that trade unions enjoyed very broad powers in Mongolia. The functioning of the trade union committees was particularly impressive. Further information on the activities of trade unions in Mongolia would be appreciated. In conclusion, he agreed with the expert from Spain that it was difficult to gain an overall picture without the initial report. The Working Group should consider that issue at a later date. Members of the Working Group should be provided with initial reports and the relevant summary records when they came to consider subsequent reports of States parties.

20. Mr. IIYAMA (Japan) said that it would have been helpful to have some statistics which made it possible to compare Mongolia's second periodic report with its initial report. Referring to paragraphs 13 and 14, he asked what the "territorial labour organs" were and what the total labour force amounted to. How were the labour surveys carried out? He wished to know the source of the 46 per cent increase in the number of persons working in the sectors of the economy, as referred to in paragraph 25. Since it could be assumed from paragraph 32 that enterprises did not participate in setting wages, what percentage of profits was allocated to workers and what guidelines were used in setting wage rates?

21. Since all countries had experienced some problems in fulfilling their obligations in recent years, due to economic reasons, why was there no reference to the difficulties experienced in ensuring that all workers received the additional remuneration referred to in paragraph 55?

22. Referring to the section on trade union rights, he asked whether workers could choose their trade union or could form a new one if they desired. How many trade unions were there in the country?

23. The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the expert from Denmark, said that Mongolia's report gave a good picture of a developing country's efforts to implement articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant. More demographic and macro-economic data, such as information on average life expectancy and whether there was a large aging population, were essential, however, to a better understanding of the situation in the country.

24. Referring to paragraph 23 (d), he asked on what grounds management could annul a contract and said that it was not clear to him why a trade union body, which should be defending employees, might request annulment of a contract. Regarding subparagraph (f) of the same paragraph, he asked whether a worker might be given another job in his own region if he did not want to be transferred.

25. Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) withdrew.

Report of Yugoslavia (E/1984/7/Add.10)

26. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mateljak (Yugoslavia) took a place at the table.

27. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia), introducing the second periodic report of Yugoslavia, said that the dominant form of ownership in Yugoslavia was social ownership, with the means of production managed directly by the workers. That system did not apply only to the economy, but also to other spheres of activity such as education, science, health and social services. Within their organizations, workers exercised their self-management rights through elected organs and by referenda. They were represented through their delegates in the assemblies of socio-political communities from local to federal level. There was also a private sector in the country's economy, mainly in agriculture where private farmers held about 85 per cent of the arable land. The remaining 15 per cent was socially owned, and consisted of large agro-industrial complexes.

28. His country's latest report contained information on new developments relating to the implementation of articles 6 to 9, as well as additional data required under the guidelines. He drew attention to the information regarding service in the Yugoslav People's Army, which was relevant to ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour. Yugoslav laws in that area complied with the requirements of the Convention as well as of the Covenant. In spite of the difficult economic situation, the rate of growth of employment in Yugoslavia's less developed areas showed a positive trend, especially in the economic sector. Steps were being taken by some republics to amend existing laws concerning safety and health conditions. The most significant changes since the initial report had occurred in the area of social security. There had been intense activity aimed at promoting the principle of distribution of income according to the results of the work performed, and some republics had introduced improvements in their laws guaranteeing the minimum personal income of workers.

29. Federal laws in the area relevant to articles 6 to 9 of the Covenant contained mainly basic principles, while the laws of the republics and autonomous provinces were more detailed, reflecting their specific conditions. His country was still facing serious development problems, which had been further aggravated by the present international economic crisis and had adversely affected its ability to implement the Covenant.

30. Mr. KORDS (German Democratic Republic) congratulated the representative of Yugoslavia on his country's efforts to implement the Covenant, taking account of its economic possibilities and its federal status. Referring to paragraphs 33 to 35, he asked what stage had been reached in the preparation and adoption of new safety regulations and requested more information on the reasons for the rise in the rate of occupational diseases. Regarding paragraphs 39 and 40, he asked for additional information on the work and role of trade unions in developing new legislation, particularly in relation to the social security system.

31. Mr. TEXIER (France) noted with appreciation that Yugoslavia's report had been extremely well-balanced and had not attempted to cover up the economic difficulties facing the country. It would be helpful to have a brief summary of previous legislation with regard to the implementation of article 6, even though there had been no changes. He expressed some surprise at the amount of space which the report devoted to the status of active servicemen. The statistical and other

(Mr. Texier, France)

information presented in section C on article 6 showed that a very real effort had been made to deal with the unemployment problem. He would appreciate more information on the international migration of Yugoslav citizens, particularly in view of the fact that many such citizens were currently working in France.

32. With regard to article 7, he would like more specific information on the communal assemblies referred to in paragraph 21, particularly their field of competence and their role in establishing the guaranteed personal income. He would also like more details on the reform referred to in paragraph 29, aimed at promoting more efficient machinery for the distribution of income and resources for personal income. He noted with approval that, as stated in paragraph 31, matters submitted by workers to labour inspectors were treated as confidential. Referring to the table on employment injuries and occupational diseases in paragraph 34, he noted that although, proportionally speaking, there had not been an increase in rates, an effort must still be made in that area. With regard to the rights referred to in paragraphs 37 and 38, he asked whether there had actually been no change or whether there had been some improvement in those areas since the previous report.

33. Turning to article 9, paragraph 42 (f) referred to the renewed evaluation of a worker's pension. He would like more statistics on the previous pension figures. Finally, he noted that real progress had been made in the basic pension and invalidity insurance rights referred to in paragraphs 43 to 45.

34. Mr. IYAMA (Japan) asked whether there were income disparities between the agricultural enterprises under private ownership and those under social ownership, and whether private ownership existed in any other sector in Yugoslavia. He requested more information on Yugoslavs working abroad (para. 16). Was there, for instance, any Government programme to monitor their situation and had Yugoslavia concluded any relevant bilateral agreements? He also wanted to know more about the general role of trade unions in Yugoslavia.

35. Mr. MITREV (Bulgaria) asked what was meant by the "structurally inadequate economic development" (para. 13) which was cited, together with dynamic demographic development, as having had a negative impact on employment. What was being done to overcome it?

36. It would be interesting to have the figures for increases in net per capita personal income, given in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report, translated into increases in real income. In paragraph 42 (e) and (f), the report added the principle of a worker's "past labour" as an element to be taken into account in calculating personal income: what was meant by past labour and how was it calculated?

37. Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUEÑO (Spain) said that she was especially interested in section C on article 6, which described Yugoslavia's employment problems and attempted solutions, because it depicted a situation similar to the employment situation in her own country, particularly with regard to structural unemployment and the unemployment of citizens returning from work abroad. She would like to

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(Mrs. Jimenez Butragueño, Spain)

have further details on the successful employment of probationers in Yugoslavia (para. 15), including, if possible, a copy of the text of the relevant Government programme, since Spain had recently set up a similar programme of temporary work. The report spoke frankly in paragraph 17 of real unemployment and she wondered how women in particular had been affected by it.

38. Regarding social security, paragraph 45 (f) cited the provisions of article 41 of the law governing invalidity pensions, which were clearly discriminatory in favour of women. She wondered what was the rationale for such discrimination.

39. Mr. JEMAIEL (Tunisia) asked why so many probationers had been employed in Yugoslavia (para. 15) at a time when the number of job seekers had been so high (para. 17). Were there any reasons other than the desire to promote the initial employment of young high-school graduates? Also, was there any agency to help Yugoslav citizens find jobs when they returned home after working abroad? His own country had set up agencies which provided returning workers with such services as retraining or financial aid to set up businesses.

40. Regarding social security benefits, he wondered what happened to individuals who reached retirement age without having completed the mandatory 15-year contribution period. Did they receive prorated pensions or nothing at all?

41. Mr. JATIVA (Ecuador) asked, regarding remuneration, whether there was any system for distributing profits to workers, especially those with large families. The report stated (para. 30) that trade unions had established special programmes for the protection of the standard of living of workers from the lowest income group, and it would be useful to have some information on those programmes, what workers they covered, and what the results had been.

42. The CHAIRMAN, said that the Working Group hoped that it would soon receive Yugoslavia's report on articles 13 to 15 of the Covenant.

43. Speaking as the expert from Denmark, he observed that the report of Yugoslavia under consideration showed clearly Yugoslavia's economic difficulties as a developing country. Those difficulties were reflected in the fact that, as indicated in paragraph 16, over 10 per cent of its citizens were working abroad.

44. He had found the introductory comments of the representative of Yugoslavia concerning article 6 of the Covenant particularly illuminating.

45. Regarding safe and healthy working conditions, he wondered whether there was any explanation for the trend towards an increase in both employment injuries and occupational diseases and for the static level of resulting deaths, since one would rather hope for a downward trend in those areas.

46. Mr. Mateljak (Yugoslavia) withdrew.

Report of Sweden (continued) (E/1984/7/Add.5)

47. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Saland (Sweden) took a place at the table.

48. Mr. SALAND (Sweden), replying to questions raised regarding his country's report, explained that Sweden had been compelled to make a reservation on article 7 (d) of the Covenant at the time of ratification because, under its internal legislation, all questions regarding remuneration had to be a matter of collective agreement freely negotiated between the parties involved.

49. One expert had asked why the report described the Act of Equality between Women and Men at Work (para. 5 of section I) as being aimed at "promoting" equal rights rather than at guaranteeing them. The Act had, as a matter of fact, two parts: one guaranteeing such rights and one promoting them. The first part contained a mandatory ban on discrimination by employers, violations of which could be brought before the Labour Court, which could prescribe compulsory compensation for moral or other injuries. The only exception to the ban was discrimination that was part of a conscious and systematic effort to promote equality at work (for instance, affirmative action programmes) or discrimination that resulted from overriding ideological or other special interests (for instance, the prohibition against female clergy in certain religions). The second part of the Act contained recommendations to employers to promote equal rights by special efforts to recruit women, for instance, or to improve working conditions generally. Those recommendations were not mandatory and could be supplemented or replaced by collective agreements. The Equal Opportunities Commission and the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman (para. 7 of section I) acted to implement the second part of the Act. The Ombudsman had three main duties: to inform the public about her work, to review complaints in her field and either negotiate with employers or take matters to the Labour Court, and to instruct the Equal Opportunities Commission to subpoena employers who failed to take the action recommended in the Act. Sweden's experience with the Act over the past four years had been good. In the first two years, 360 cases had been reported or initiated by the Ombudsman, of which 230 had involved suspected violations of the ban on discrimination and 130 had involved failures by management to take active measures. Most of the cases had been settled out of court.

50. Regarding the Labour Court, three professional judges, two representatives of employees and two representatives of management heard each case. The Court was competent to deal with judicial controversies but not to mediate. It interpreted collective agreements and dealt with breaches of laws or agreements against discrimination.

51. With regard to the steps being taken in Sweden to induce women to move into higher-paying jobs, that was a long process and the key to the problem was to be found in education and in family attitudes. Efforts were being made to direct girls into technical and scientific fields rather than the humanities in secondary schools and universities.

(Mr. Saland, Sweden)

52. Regarding the absence of any pay legislation in Sweden, remuneration was, as he had noted, determined through freely negotiated collective agreements. Such negotiations had been centralized since the 1930s. There was no minimum wage legislation, for the unions themselves opposed it, their position being that the minimum wage tended to introduce rigidity and become a maximum wage. Whenever the Government tried to intervene to correct the outcome of a yearly negotiation - in the interests of controlling inflation, for instance - there were outraged cries from both sides of industry.

53. The Government's role was in fact to ensure the best possible living standard for all its citizens and that depended not only on wages but also on State and municipal funding to areas of need, on taxes, income redistribution, health care and other factors affecting the net purchasing power of citizens. That social responsibility had been assumed by successive Swedish Governments and the country had come to be known as a welfare State. There were many safety nets and a bottom line had been established below which people qualified outright for social assistance. In cases involving non-payment of debts, there were rules governing property seizure. Any figure cited for an average wage must, of course, be compared with real purchasing power, but the normal hourly wage was about Skr 30 to 40 or \$US 4 to 5.

54. Those cases where collective agreements provided for a working week of less than 40 hours tended to be in sectors where the work was unusually well paid, for instance night work or underground or dangerous work. Thus, even with the shorter working week, the monthly income remained higher than average. There was an ongoing debate in Sweden as to whether the normal working week should be 40 hours. The country's largest labour organization had made the 30-hour week its long-term goal. At no time, however, had the proposed aim been to use the reduction in hours to alleviate unemployment, a point which the unions had consistently refused to discuss.

55. With regard to occupational safety and the Work Environment Act, some experts had asked what sanctions, if any, existed for breaches of occupational safety regulations. The relevant supervisory bodies, the National Occupational Safety Board and the Labour Inspectorate, had access to all places of work and could visit them for inspection purposes on their own initiative or at the suggestion of the safety delegates of the undertaking concerned. Roughly 60,000 such visits had been made in 1983. If a breach of the regulations was found, the employer was ordered to take corrective action or discontinue the offending practice. If he failed, either intentionally or otherwise, to comply, the employer was liable to a fine or, for very serious breaches, to a maximum of one year's imprisonment.

56. He was unable to provide additional data on industrial accidents for the period 1980-1983. Figures for the period 1955 to 1980, however, showed a steady decline from 425 to 124 fatal accidents, suggesting that there was a constant trend towards fewer fatalities.

(Mr. Saland, Sweden)

57. One expert had asked what was meant by the term "psychological work environment" in paragraph 2 of section B on article 7 of the Covenant. The Work Environment Act did not define that concept but, from the Act's provisions on the need to adapt the work environment to physical and mental aptitudes, he deduced that it meant, for instance, atmospheric, acoustic and light conditions and perhaps the degree of monotony of the tasks performed.

58. In response to the request for statistics on Sweden's trade unions, the largest blue collar union was the Swedish Trade Union Confederation with over 2 million members and 24 national affiliated unions. It was the individual affiliates that negotiated and concluded contracts with employers' organizations. The Confederation had close ties to the Social Democratic Party and the ICFTU. The largest white collar union was the Central Organization of Salaried Employees, with over 1 million members and 20 affiliates. Finally, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations had 225,000 members and 26 affiliates.

59. With regard to social security, experts had asked who was covered by the different schemes and whether non-nationals enjoyed the same coverage as nationals. Sweden's basic national insurance scheme provided medical care, cash sickness benefits, maternity benefits and parental insurance. All Swedish nationals, whether resident or not, and all non-nationals residing in Sweden were covered by that scheme. Registration under the scheme was automatic and compulsory at the age of 16 years, the only exception being for self-employed persons, whose participation was optional. Parental insurance was paid for 6 months following the birth of a child and represented the same amount as the cash sickness benefit, i.e., 90 per cent of normal income. The insurance was paid to whichever parent stopped work to care for a newborn child, and was intended to offset that parent's loss of income. It could be split proportionately between two parents if they each took off part of the six-month period. Parents were finally starting to avail themselves of that scheme. The child allowance payable under the basic national insurance scheme was for a fixed amount and increased with the number of children.

60. With regard to pensions, the basic pension scheme was applicable only to Swedish nationals, except where a reciprocal agreement had been reached with the country of the non-national concerned. The pension was Government-financed and very small, only Skr. 28,000 a year, but those for whom it was the sole source of income, also enjoyed tax exemptions and housing allowances. Under the supplementary pension scheme introduced in 1960, a maximum pension of Skr. 95,000 a year was possible. Any national or non-national who had worked for a minimum of three years in Sweden was eligible for the supplementary pension, the maximum pension being payable after 30 years of employment. The scheme was entirely employer-financed. After the age of 60, recipients could gradually reduce their number of working hours and receive a prorated pension. If they did so, they received approximately 80 per cent of their pre-retirement income and also benefited from a tax abatement.

61. The report described Sweden's two unemployment schemes. All Swedish nationals were eligible for basic unemployment benefits, while trade unions operated

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(Mr. Saland, Sweden)

unemployment insurance schemes for their members under which both national and non-nationals were eligible. The latter schemes were similar to private insurance policies and were provided by private unemployment societies. Membership was voluntary and members paid contributions to the scheme. The amount of the benefit varied according to the contributions paid and the number of years worked.

62. Questions as to the relative size of Sweden's social budget were very difficult to answer since some items were financed by the municipalities from local taxes. In 1983 and 1984, the budget of the Ministry for Health and Social Affairs, most of which went on social spending, had been Skr. 70 billion out of a total Government budget of almost Skr. 300 billion.

63. Regarding questions about non-nationals residing in Sweden, over 400,000 aliens had been naturalized in Sweden since 1948. In 1982, out of a total population of 8.2 million, there had been 414,000 foreigners residing in Sweden while, in 1980, out of a total labour force of 4,300,000, 234,000 or 5.4 per cent had been non-nationals. In the period 1982-1983, unemployment among non-nationals had averaged 6 per cent as compared with 3.3 per cent for Swedish nationals. That difference could, however, be attributed partly to the fact that many non-nationals had been engaged in training and retraining activities, where they had accounted for 28 per cent of all trainees. If non-nationals became unemployed, they were eligible for the same benefits as nationals and their residence status was not affected.

64. With regard to the situation of refugees in Sweden, refugees other than economic refugees generally acquired a residence permit within a short time, at which point they became eligible for social security in the same way as other non-national residents. Until that permit was granted, they were given housing assistance and cash allowances to cover their living expenses.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that the Working Group had concluded its consideration of the report of Sweden.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.