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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS: 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

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly by its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 adopted and opened for signature, ratification or accession, 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, and expressed the hope that the Covenants and the Optional Protocol would be signed, ratified or acceded to without delay and would come into force at an early date. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its future sessions reports concerning the status of ratifications of the Covenants and of the Optional Protocol. In response to that request, reports on the status of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocol have been submitted annually to the Assembly since its twenty-second session in 1967.
2. Both Covenants and the Optional Protocol were opened for signature at New York on 19 December 1966. In accordance with their respective provisions, 1/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force on 3 January 1976, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force on 23 March 1976, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, having received the required number of ratifications or accessions, entered into force simultaneously with that Covenant on 23 March 1976.

* A/39/150.

3. By its resolution 38/116 of 16 December 1983, the General Assembly again invited all States that had not yet done so to become parties to both Covenants, as well as to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and invited the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-ninth session a report on the status of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol.
4. As at 1 September 1984, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 83 States, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 80 States and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 34 States. In addition, 9 States had signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 10 States had signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and 7 States had signed the Optional Protocol. The list of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol and the dates of their signatures, ratifications or accessions appear in annexes I to III of the present report.
5. Upon ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, or subsequently, the Governments of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant, recognizing the competence of the Human Rights Committee established under article 28 of the Covenant to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. The provisions of article 41 entered into force on 28 March 1979 in accordance with paragraph 2 of that article.
6. As regards the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of that Covenant, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982 and Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, held its sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 April to 4 May 1984. The Group was composed of the following members elected by the Council from among the States parties to the Covenant: Bulgaria, Denmark, Ecuador, France, German Democratic Republic, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Peru, Spain, Tunisia and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
7. At its sixth session, the Group of Experts considered reports submitted by States parties under the first, second and third stages of the programme established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976 concerning rights covered by articles 6-9, 10-12 and 13-15 of the Covenant. The Group submitted a report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1984 (E/1984/83), making suggestions and recommendations concerning issues arising from the consideration of reports submitted by States parties under the Covenant.

8. By its resolution 1984/9 of 24 May 1984, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, took note of the report of the Group of Experts (E/1984/83); called upon States parties to the Covenant to submit reports required under article 16 thereof, in accordance with the programme established by Council resolution 1988 (LX), and urged States parties to complete the entire cycle of initial reports before submitting second periodic reports; invited States parties to the Covenant to comply with the guidelines established by the Secretary-General concerning the form and content of reports and to take note of the relevant recommendations of the Group of Experts in preparing and submitting their reports; requested the specialized agencies, on the basis of experience gained in other bodies and of reports so far submitted and considered by the Group of Experts, to report on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities, in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant and paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1988 (LX); requested the Group of Experts to continue to consider including in its report to the Council brief summaries of the consideration of each country report; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1985 a report on the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Group of Experts and other bodies established in accordance with existing international instruments in the field of human rights in order to facilitate the review which the Council would undertake in accordance with its resolution 1982/33; and decided that the review should be conducted at an early stage during its first regular session of 1985 to allow enough time for a full discussion of that important matter, taking into account any recommendations which the Group of Experts might agree upon at its next session.

9. The Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1984 re-elected Bulgaria and Spain as members of the Group for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1985 and postponed to a later date the elections to fill the vacancies from the African, Asian and Latin American States.

10. As regards the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Human Rights Committee held its twentieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 24 October to 11 November 1983, its twenty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 March to 13 April 1984 and its twenty-second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 9 to 27 July 1984. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant and article 6 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee has submitted its annual report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, 2/ which covers the activities of the Committee at its twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second sessions.

Notes

1/ Article 27 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 49 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 9 of the Optional Protocol.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/39/40).

ANNEX I

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded
to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and
Cultural Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Afghanistan		24 January 1983 a/
Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	10 December 1975
Austria	10 December 1973	10 September 1978
Barbados		5 January 1973 a/
Belgium	10 December 1968	21 April 1983
Bolivia		12 August 1982 a/
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	21 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Cameroon		27 June 1984 a/
Canada		19 May 1976 a/
Central African Republic		8 May 1981 a/
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China b/		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Congo		5 October 1983 a/
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	9 January 1967	2 April 1969
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	12 December 1975
Democratic Kampuchea	17 October 1980	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		14 September 1981 a/
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Dominican Republic		4 January 1978 a/
Ecuador	29 September 1967	6 March 1969

Date of receipt of the
 instrument of ratification
 or accession

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Egypt	4 August 1967	14 January 1982
El Salvador	21 September 1967	30 November 1979
Finland	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
France		4 November 1980 a/
Gabon		21 January 1983 a/
Gambia		29 December 1978 a/
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of	9 October 1968	17 December 1973
Guinea	28 February 1967	24 January 1978
Guyana	22 August 1968	15 February 1977
Honduras	19 December 1966	17 February 1981 a/
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland	30 December 1968	22 August 1979
India		10 April 1979 a/
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	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	15 September 1978
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Japan	30 May 1978	21 June 1979
Jordan	30 June 1972	28 May 1975
Kenya		1 May 1972 a/
Lebanon		3 November 1972 a/
Liberia	18 April 1967	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		15 May 1970 a/
Luxembourg	26 November 1974	18 August 1983
Madagascar	14 April 1970	22 September 1971
Mali		16 July 1974 a/
Malta	22 October 1968	
Mauritius		12 December 1973 a/

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Mexico		23 March 1981 <u>a/</u>
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974
Morocco	19 January 1977	3 May 1979
Netherlands	25 June 1969	11 December 1978
New Zealand	12 November 1968	28 December 1978
Nicaragua		12 March 1980 <u>a/</u>
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	8 March 1977
Peru	11 August 1977	28 April 1978
Philippines	19 December 1966	7 June 1974
Poland	2 March 1967	18 March 1977
Portugal	7 October 1976	31 July 1978
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 <u>a/</u>
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		9 November 1981 <u>a/</u>
Senegal	6 July 1970	13 February 1978
Solomon Islands		17 March 1982 <u>c/</u>
Spain	28 September 1976	27 April 1977
Sri Lanka		11 June 1980 <u>a/</u>
Suriname		28 December 1976 <u>a/</u>
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 <u>a/</u>
Togo		24 May 1984 <u>a/</u>
Trinidad and Tobago		8 December 1978 <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>

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
United States of America	5 October 1977	
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	10 May 1978
Viet Nam		24 September 1982 a/
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971
Zaire		1 November 1976 a/
Zambia		10 April 1984 a/

a/ Accession.

b/ Following on the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, by a note addressed to the Secretary-General, received on 29 September 1972, stated:

"1. With regard to the multilateral treaties signed, ratified or acceded to by the defunct Chinese government before the establishment of the People's Republic of China, my Government will examine all their contents before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be recognized.

"2. As from 1 October 1949, the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chiang Kai-Shek clique has no right at all to represent China. Its signature and ratification of, or accession to, any multilateral treaties by usurping the name of 'China' are all illegal and null and void. My Government will study these multilateral treaties before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be acceded to."

The lists in annexes I to III therefore do not include the signature of the two Covenants and the Optional Protocol on behalf of the "Republic of China" on 5 October 1967.

c/ Date of reception of notification of succession.

ANNEX II

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Afghanistan		24 January 1983 <u>a/</u>
Algeria	10 December 1968	
Argentina	19 February 1968	
Australia	18 December 1972	13 August 1980
Austria <u>b/</u>	10 December 1973	10 September 1978
Barbados		5 January 1973 <u>a/</u>
Belgium	10 December 1968	21 April 1983
Bolivia		12 August 1982 <u>a/</u>
Bulgaria	8 October 1968	12 September 1970
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	19 March 1968	12 November 1973
Cameroon		27 June 1984 <u>a/</u>
Canada <u>b/</u>		19 May 1976 <u>a/</u>
Central African Republic		8 May 1981 <u>a/</u>
Chile	16 September 1969	10 February 1972
China <u>c/</u>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Congo		5 October 1983 <u>a/</u>
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	2 April 1969
Czechoslovakia	7 October 1968	23 December 1975
Democratic Kampuchea	17 October 1980	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		14 September 1981 <u>a/</u>
Denmark <u>b/</u>	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Dominican Republic		4 January 1978 <u>a/</u>
Ecuador <u>b/</u>	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
Egypt	4 August 1967	14 January 1982

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
El Salvador	21 September 1967	30 November 1979
Finland <u>b/</u>	11 October 1967	19 August 1975
France		4 November 1980 <u>a/</u>
Gabon		21 January 1983 <u>a/</u>
Gambia		22 March 1979 <u>a/</u>
German Democratic Republic	27 March 1973	8 November 1973
Germany, Federal Republic of <u>b/</u>	9 October 1968	17 December 1973
Guinea	28 February 1967	24 January 1978
Guyana	22 August 1968	15 February 1977
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Hungary	25 March 1969	17 January 1974
Iceland <u>b/</u>	30 December 1968	22 August 1979
India		10 April 1979 <u>a/</u>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	4 April 1968	24 June 1975
Iraq	18 February 1969	25 January 1971
Ireland	1 October 1973	
Israel	19 December 1966	
Italy <u>b/</u>	18 January 1967	15 September 1978
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Japan	30 May 1978	21 June 1979
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 Jamahiriya		15 May 1970 <u>a/</u>
Luxembourg <u>b/</u>	26 November 1974	18 August 1983
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mali		16 July 1974 <u>a/</u>
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <u>a/</u>
Mexico		23 March 1981 <u>a/</u>
Mongolia	5 June 1968	18 November 1974

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Morocco	19 January 1977	3 May 1979
Netherlands <u>b/</u>	25 June 1969	11 December 1978
New Zealand <u>b/</u>	12 November 1968	28 December 1978
Nicaragua		12 March 1980 <u>a/</u>
Norway <u>b/</u>	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	8 March 1977
Peru <u>b/</u>	11 August 1977	28 April 1978
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Poland	2 March 1967	18 March 1977
Portugal	7 October 1976	15 June 1978
Romania	27 June 1968	9 December 1974
Rwanda		16 April 1975 <u>a/</u>
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		9 November 1981 <u>a/</u>
Senegal <u>b/</u>	6 July 1970	13 February 1978
Spain	28 September 1976	27 April 1977
Sri Lanka <u>b/</u>		11 June 1980 <u>a/</u>
Suriname		28 December 1976 <u>a/</u>
Sweden <u>b/</u>	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Syrian Arab Republic		21 April 1969 <u>a/</u>
Togo		24 May 1984 <u>a/</u>
Trinidad and Tobago		21 December 1978 <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 <u>b/</u>	16 September 1968	20 May 1976
United Republic of Tanzania		11 June 1976 <u>a/</u>
United States of America	5 October 1977	
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	24 June 1969	10 May 1978

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Viet Nam		24 September 1982 <u>a/</u>
Yugoslavia	8 August 1967	2 June 1971
Zaire		1 November 1976 <u>a/</u>
Zambia		10 April 1984 <u>a/</u>

a/ Accession.

b/ Made the declaration under article 41 of the Covenant.

c/ See annex I, footnote b/.

ANNEX III

List of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and
Political Rights

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Austria	10 December 1973	
Barbados		5 January 1973 <u>a/</u>
Bolivia		12 August 1982 <u>a/</u>
Cameroon		27 June 1984 <u>a/</u>
Canada		19 May 1976 <u>a/</u>
Central African Republic		8 May 1981 <u>a/</u>
China <u>b/</u>		
Colombia	21 December 1966	29 October 1969
Congo		5 October 1983 <u>a/</u>
Costa Rica	19 December 1966	29 November 1968
Cyprus	19 December 1966	
Denmark	20 March 1968	6 January 1972
Dominican Republic		4 January 1978 <u>a/</u>
Ecuador	4 April 1968	6 March 1969
El Salvador	21 September 1967	
Finland	11 December 1967	19 August 1975
France		17 February 1984 <u>a/</u>
Guinea	19 March 1975	
Honduras	19 December 1966	
Iceland		11 August 1979 <u>a/</u>
Italy	30 April 1976	15 September 1978
Jamaica	19 December 1966	3 October 1975
Luxembourg		18 August 1983 <u>a/</u>
Madagascar	17 September 1969	21 June 1971
Mauritius		12 December 1973 <u>a/</u>
Netherlands	25 June 1969	11 December 1978

<u>State</u>	<u>Date of signature</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>
Nicaragua		12 March 1980 <u>a/</u>
Norway	20 March 1968	13 September 1972
Panama	27 July 1976	8 March 1977
Peru	11 August 1977	3 October 1980
Philippines	19 December 1966	
Portugal	1 August 1978	3 May 1983
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		9 November 1981 <u>a/</u>
Senegal	6 July 1970	13 February 1978
Suriname		28 December 1976 <u>a/</u>
Sweden	29 September 1967	6 December 1971
Trinidad and Tobago		14 November 1980 <u>a/</u>
Uruguay	21 February 1967	1 April 1970
Venezuela	15 November 1976	10 May 1978
Zaire		1 November 1976 <u>a/</u>
Zambia		10 April 1984 <u>a/</u>

a/ Accession.

b/ See annex I, footnote b/.
