



Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
Agenda item 14 (g)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2012/L.24)]

2012/29. Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/37 of 14 December 2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012, by which the Assembly launched the intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and recognizing in this regard that a long-term solution to the problem of the backlog of reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹ can be found in this context,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions² and the request contained therein for additional meeting time,

Concerned about the persistent backlog of reports of States parties awaiting consideration, which prevents the Committee from fully discharging its responsibilities under the Covenant and Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 in an efficient and timely manner,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, in particular its decision to consider, on a temporary basis, periodic reports over two meetings, with a view to increasing the number of reports of States parties considered by the Committee in order to reduce the current backlog, and encouraging sustained efforts by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods,

1. *Decides* to approve, as a temporary measure and without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the extension of

¹ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 2 (E/2012/22).*



the second annual session of 2013 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by one week and the first annual session of 2014 by one week, for a total of two extra weeks of meeting time, to be used for the consideration of reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹ with a view to reducing the backlog in the consideration of those reports, and also decides to approve the participation of up to ten members of the Committee in both pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013, in order to prepare for the consideration of extra reports;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to improve the efficiency of its working methods and to include in its reports to the Economic and Social Council information on the impact of the measures adopted by the Committee to address the backlog.

*48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012*
