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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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DRAFT INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Text of Articles relating to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
adopted on 7 May 1951

Article

The States Parties to the Covenant recognize:

1. the right of everyone to education;
2. that educational facilities shall be accessible to all in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination enunciated in paragraph 1 of Article 1 of this Covenant;
3. that primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;
4. that secondary education, in its different forms, including technical and professional secondary education, shall be generally available and shall be made progressively free;
5. that higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit and shall be made progressively free;
6. 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;

7. 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;
8. the obligations of States to establish a system of free and compulsory primary education shall not be deemed incompatible with the liberty of parents to choose for their children schools other than those established by the State which conform to minimum standards laid down by the State;
9. in the exercise of any functions which the State assumes in the field of education it shall have respect for the liberty of parents to ensure the religious education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Article

Each State party to the Covenant which, at the time of becoming a party to this Covenant, has not been able to secure in its metropolitan territory or other territories under its jurisdiction compulsory primary education, free of charge, undertakes, within two years, to work out and adopt a detailed plan of action for the progressive implementation, within a reasonable number of years, to be fixed in the plan, of the principle of compulsory primary education free of charge for all.

Article

The States parties to the Covenant undertake to encourage by all appropriate means the conservation, the development and the diffusion of science and culture.

They recognize that it is one of their principal aims to ensure conditions which will permit everyone:

1. to take part in cultural life;
2. to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.