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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT
ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Initial reports submitted by States parties
under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

Addendum
AZERBAIJAN*

[4 January 1996]

* The information submitted by Azerbaijan in accordance with the guidelines concerning the introductory part of the reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.41/Rev.2)

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200. In accordance with article 45 of the Constitution of the Azerbaijani Republic, the citizens of Azerbaijan are guaranteed freedom of artistic, technical and artistic creation. This is ensured by the wide development of scientific research, the activity of inventors and rationalizers, and the development of literature and art. The State establishes the material conditions necessary for this, supports voluntary associations and creative groups and organizes the application of inventors' and rationalizers' proposals in the national economy and other spheres of life. At the same time this article of the Constitution confirms the position under which authors' copyrights and the patent rights of inventors and rationalizers are protected by the State.

201. On 23 June 1994 the Parliament of the Azerbaijani Republic adopted an "Act on the Principles of State Policy on Science and Scientific and Technical Activity". The Act laid down legal provisions for ensuring implementation of State policy in these respects. It details the principles and priorities of scientific and technical policy and the procedure for funding scientific and technical activities, including financing by means of State allocations. It defines measures for protecting the legal rights of scientists and their social welfare, and for providing material and moral incentives to encourage creativity as well as steps taken to train scientific staff and scientific teaching personnel.

202. Under the auspices of the State Committee for Science and Technology of the Azerbaijani Republic a Patent and Licensing Board has been set up which drafts statutory regulations to protect the rights of inventors and patentees in the sphere of industrial property, keeps a State register of patent documents, and issues them on behalf of the Azerbaijani State. Azerbaijan is cooperating with international organizations. The World Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office regularly provide assistance on methods to help the Republic establish a patent system. This assistance is provided under the AIKO and TASSIS programmes.

203. With a view to giving effect to the right of every individual to enjoy protection of the moral and material interests that arise in connection with any scientific, literary or artistic works of which he

is the author a series of legislative decisions have been taken, particularly a Cabinet Decree of 29 October 1992 which regulated the amounts of copyright fees for the public performance of literary or artistic productions. A Cabinet Decree of 1 February 1995 laid down the amounts of the emoluments payable for fulfilling orders to write plays, music, musical dramas and literary productions for public performance or for the right to the first public performance of unpublished works. At the present time a series of bills are being made ready for adoption on the publication of scientific, literary and artistic productions.

204. On the basis of the Computerization Convention and Programme of the Azerbaijani Republic, developed under the aegis of the State Committee on Science and Technology, infrastructures are being put into place step by step that will make it possible to use information gathered for various purposes without any restriction of access. Databases on science, technology, legislation and privatization have been set up and are being maintained in working order by scientific departments of the State Committee. A communications centre has been established that makes it possible to exchange information from practically anywhere in the world. The unhindered exchange of information is provided for in all the international agreements concluded. Bills are being prepared on information and information relationships and on the protection of information and copyrights.

205. At the present time in the Azerbaijani Republic State systems of scientific and technical information and information on the social sciences have been put together and are in operation; they constitute an organizational and functional complex that serves activities connected with the purposeful and systematic collection, processing, storage and supplying of information. The systems are made up of the Republic's scientific and technological information body - the Azerbaijan Scientific and Technical Information Research Institute and its peripheral centres that serve the Republic's enterprises and organizations in the various regions and also of its scientific information body for the social sciences - the Institute of Social and Political Research and Information of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijani Republic. The main purpose of the State scientific and technical information system is to ensure that citizens, enterprises, organizations and associations and all the structures of society are given access to the information they need in the most efficient and effective way. With a view to providing an information service on scientific research and development projects carried out in the Republic and the scientific theses submitted, a State Centre for the Registration of Scientific Research Proceedings and Theses has been established.

206. Inasmuch as unpublished research papers are an important source of technical and scientific information, a system has been set up in the Republic for the depositing of research and development papers not published in the generally available press but presenting considerable scientific and practical interest. Placing the papers deposited on the same footing as published work makes it possible to fix priorities in the Republic's research and development activities and to use the possibilities of this system in the presentation of theses. Dissemination of information on deposited articles, reviews, monographs, collected papers and the proceedings of conferences, meetings and symposia of a narrowly specialized nature and also on material covering a wide spectrum is carried out by publishing bibliographical indexes and reference journals.

207. With a view to effective utilization of scientific and technical information on the environment as an essential precondition for scientific and technical progress, implementation of a policy designed to solve environmental problems, rational management of the use of primary and secondary resources and the involvement of international

institutions in the consideration of environmental problems connected with the Caspian Sea, the publication and dissemination of an information bulletin "Infoterra" have begun.

208. Automated databases have been established and are in operation containing information on a number of the subjects already mentioned: legislative instruments in regard to the economy; the terminology used for aspects of market entrepreneurship; conversion products; secondary resources obtained as a result of technological cycles in a number of branches of the economy. These databases permit a search for both current and retrospective data to meet the information needs of users.