

E/1990/5/Add.48  
5 September 2001

ENGLISH  
Original : FRENCH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Substantive session of 2001

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  
BENIN\*

[5 February 2001]

\* The information submitted by Benin in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.85).

\* \* \*

406. The Beninese Centre for Scientific and Technical Research and the Beninese Copyright Office also contribute to the cultural life of the country. The former was established by Decree No. 86-24 of 29 January 1986, as a public body with legal personality and financial autonomy. This Centre, which is responsible for promoting the sciences nationally and conducting research, had its powers strengthened by Decree No. 92-331 of 26 November 1992, which approves its new statutes, particularly in its article 5, which empowers the Centre to organize, stimulate, promote, coordinate and monitor the execution of scientific and technical research programmes at national level.

407. The Centre is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research. Its National Scientific Committee has an advisory role in all matters relating to scientific and technical research referred to it by the Director General of the Centre. The National Scientific Committee's task is to assist the Centre and the sectoral research committees or other interdisciplinary bodies attached to it.

408. The Centre has three technical directorates. It organizes research activities through the national research networks, structures whose task is to promote scientific research activities conducted in specific sectors of the national economy and scientific and technological development.

409. Article 5 of Decree No. 92-332 of 26 November 1992 approving the new statutes of the Centre confers on it the task of publishing and disseminating the results of the research undertaken. Similarly, article 22 covers the Directorate of Documentation and Publicity and the Directorate of Scientific Information and Training. In cooperation with

the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Centre helps to implement a dynamic policy of international scientific cooperation (art. 8 (5) of Decree No. 92-331).

410. The Centre has set up a national programme to support research, enabling projects submitted by successful candidates in the annual competition for research proposals to be financed. It manages a Third World Academy of Sciences Prize programme which each year rewards one young Beninese researcher for his work.

411. The Centre has set up and runs a scientific forum programme which offers researchers a chance to present the results of their work to colleagues, and publishes a biannual review entitled *Carrefour de la Recherche*.

\* \* \*

418. The State grants ad hoc subsidies and facilities for the organization of activities by learned societies, professional associations, unions of workers and other organizations and institutions engaged in scientific research and creative activities. In 1997 300 million CFA francs from the national budget were earmarked for unions of workers. There is provision for the same amount in the 1998 budget.

419. As regards international cooperation, the Government has ratified cooperation agreements with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and regional and national copyright bodies. It also grants facilities to assist writers, artists and others involved in scientific research or creative activity in obtaining mission orders, authorizations for absence and service passports, to enable them to participate in international scientific and cultural conferences, seminars and symposiums.

420. As for shortcomings, the adverse factors and difficulties encountered include failure to ensure full application of legislation in this field. Of the ten or so laws envisaged in the cultural policy framework, only two have been enacted.