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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 2006

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

**Fifth periodic reports submitted by States parties
under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant**

FINLAND* ** ***

[10 October 2005]

* The fourth periodic report concerning rights covered by articles 1 to 15 (E/C.12/4/Add.1) was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-fourth session (see E/C.12/2000/SR.61-63, E/C.12/1/Add.52) in November 2000.

** The information submitted by Finland in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.59/Rev.2).

*** In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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2. Right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

2. (a) and (b) Measures taken to ensure the application of scientific progress for the benefit of everyone and to promote the diffusion of information on scientific progress

625. The purpose of the Government's scientific policy is to enhance scientific research and to ensure the positive development of the quality of such research, its effects and international visibility. In 2004, the Government carried out an overall assessment of the structures of scientific research.

626. In accordance with the Government's political programme, financing for research and development will be gradually increased in 2003 to 2009. The increase is meant to

strengthen basic research and its infrastructure, and to extend and internationalise the training of researchers and increase their mobility. The spending on research and development in Finland is among the highest in the OECD countries, when measured by its share of GNP (3.4% in 2004). Also the share of public spending on RD in Finland is among the highest at the international level.

627. A Government Bill (HE 259/2004) concerning, among others, inventions made at universities has been submitted to Parliament in 2004, with a view to intensifying the use of results of research. The relations between science and society have been enhanced with a particular programme of action, and the preparation of a strategy for the development of the careers of researchers has been started. Access to scientific publications has been enhanced by a recommendation.

6. International contacts and cooperation

628. The Ministry of Education provides financial support for one independent cultural institute in Finland (Hanasaari in Espoo) and eleven abroad (Paris, London, Berlin, Tallinn, Copenhagen, Antwerpen, Stockholm, St Petersburg, Madrid, Oslo and Budapest), the purpose of which is to make contacts and enhance cooperation between Finnish cultural and scientific communities and their equivalents in the host country. Some of the institutes also work to increase awareness of the possibilities for studies in Finland.

629. Finnish participation in cooperation with other Nordic countries and EU Member States and other countries is active and is constantly increasing. The Government's Science and Technology Policy Council adopted strategic guidelines for the internationalisation of Finnish science and technology in November 2004.

630. The agreement on the accession of Finland to the Agreement on European Southern Observatory entered into force in July 2004. Upon Finland's accession, Finnish researchers have a possibility to use high-quality equipment and instruments and better possibilities to affect and participate in high-level international cooperation.