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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Substantive session of 2000

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

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

Addendum  
FINLAND\* \*\*

[22 July 1999]

\* The third periodic report concerning rights covered by articles 1 to 15 (E/1994/104/Add.7) was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its fifteenth session (see E/C.12/Sr.37, 38 and 40) in 1996.

\*\* 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).

The appendices referred to in the present report are available for consultation in the Committee's secretariat.

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2. (a-b) Political objectives in the scientific field

474. The most important political objectives in the area of science set by the Ministry of Education in 1997, included more effective researcher education, development of researcher careers, improved operational conditions for the best research units and, in general, an emphasis on high quality, internationalization of research and increasing contacts between research institutes and business from the point of view of the national innovation system.

475. Based on a government decision, financing of research has been increased by means of a programme which aims at enhanced operation of the national innovation system to the benefit of the economy, business enterprises and employment. The programme was launched in connection with the first supplementary budget proposal in 1997.

6. International cooperation

476. The Academy of Finland conducted a general review of the state and standard of Finnish science in 1997. Based on this review, Finnish research is of a high standard in terms of international comparison. The work of units and research groups in many fields, such as physics,

mathematics, space research, molecular biology, biotechnology, genetics, cellular biology and ecology, is very high by international standards.

477. Participation in joint projects in Europe and in research programmes within the EU have contributed to internationalization.