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

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

Addendum
GEORGIA* **

[19 June 2001]

* The initial report submitted by the Government of Georgia was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session in 2000 (see E/C.12/2000/SR.3-5 and concluding observations E/C.12/1/Add.42).

** The information submitted by Georgia in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.90/Rev.1).

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Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress

271. According to information supplied by the Georgian Academy of Sciences, a number of legislative steps have been taken during the reporting period to protect and nurture science, and to ensure the unimpeded enjoyment of the benefits of scientific progress. The most important development is probably the establishment of a legal foundation for the protection of intellectual property. The principal statutes regulating this field were passed in 1999. These statutes have in turn paved the way for greater efficiency in the work of the various components of the system to protect intellectual property.

272. The following statutes were passed in 1999: the Copyright and Associated Rights Act, the Patents Act, the Layout of Integrated Microcircuits Act, and the Intellectual Property (Border Measures) Act.

273. Another very important statute that has been adopted is the Crop Varieties and Quality Seed and Planting Stock (Authorized Propagation) Act.

274. Questions relating to the development and use of scientific works are regulated by the Copyright and Related Rights Act, chapter III of which contains a detailed list of the restrictions on the free use of works (including scientific works) by their creators and other persons involved (arts. 21-30). The same statute protects scientific copyright. Among other things, the Copyright and Related Rights Act lists the scientific works to which copyright does and does not apply (arts. 5 and 6), secures the exclusive rights of the publisher (art. 14), and formulates personal economic and moral rights arising from scientific work (art. 17).

275. It should be noted that harassment of an individual in connection with his or her scientific work is an offence under article 156 of the Criminal Code.

276. In order to illustrate what measures have been taken in practice to foster science in Georgia (defining science in the broadest sense), we cite here a list of the presidential decrees and orders that have some bearing on this issue:

- Presidential decree validating the conditions for the award of presidential bursaries to young scientists (September 1997);
- Presidential order on funding for the establishment of the Athens Georgian-Greek Research Institute at I. Djavakhishvili State University in Tbilisi (September 1997);
- Presidential decree on State support for specially gifted children and young people (October 1997);
- Presidential decree awarding presidential bursaries to young scientists (November 1997);
- Presidential decree on organizing Georgian-themed exhibitions and scientific and cultural events in the United States of America in 1998-1999.

277. The Georgian Academy of Sciences began to establish international contacts with foreign academies and scientific centres in 1991. At the same time the Academy's various institutes were authorized to make individual arrangements with foreign partners to undertake joint scientific research. The Academy of Sciences has already concluded cooperation agreements and agreements on exchange of scientists with the academies of Azerbaijan, Armenia, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. Cooperation is being pursued with other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States under the Treaty on the International Association of Academies of Sciences, which brings together the academies of the countries of the former USSR. Where countries outside the former Soviet Union are concerned, the Georgian Academy of Sciences has concluded agreements with scientific societies such as the British Academy, the Royal Society in London, the academies of sciences of Austria, Hungary, and Poland, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities,

the Italian National Council for Scientific Research, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and others.

278. Individual Georgian institutions and scientific centres have also concluded partnership agreements with their counterparts abroad. Thus, agreements have been concluded between the Abastumani Astrophysics Observatory and Tbilisi State University, on the one hand, and the University of Western Ontario (Canada), on the other; the Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and the Université de la Méditerranée (France); the Palaeontological Institute and the Botanical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences; and the Institute of Physiology and the Los Angeles Oncological Institute (United States of America).

279. During the reporting period Georgian academics participated in other forms of joint research and international contacts; the cost being met by foreign partners or through grants. The British Academy and the Royal Society, for example, aware of the Georgian Academy's financial limitations and notwithstanding Georgia's obligations under the agreement, bore all the costs associated with the visit of the Georgian academics.

280. The attendance of Georgian academics at various international conferences, symposiums and congresses has been made possible by similar means. Compared with the late 1980s, for example, the number of Georgian academics travelling abroad has increased considerably. Whereas in 1989 some 300 Georgian academics went on visits abroad, in 2000 approximately 180 such visits were made by the Academy's mathematicians and physicists alone. On average, almost as many again travel abroad from other departments of the Academy. The most frequent destinations are Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, although Georgian academics have visited more than 20 countries all over the world.

281. Regarding the contribution made by Georgian academics to international science, it is worth recalling such famous names as the mathematicians I. Muskhelishvili and I. Vekhua, the physicist A. Tavkhelidze, the physiologist I. Beritashvili, the psychologist D. Uznadze, and others. Recent breakthroughs made by Georgian academics include the discovery of two prehistoric *homo erectus* skulls (so-called *homo ergaster*) estimated to be 1.7 million years old. The skulls were found at an archaeological site west of Tbilisi. This find is significant for the international scientific community because it proves that humans settled in Europe twice as long ago as was previously thought. It also confirms that prehistoric humans entered Europe from Africa via the Caucasus. To follow up this discovery, the Georgian Academy of Sciences has launched an international project for interdisciplinary research at the site where the early hominids were discovered. This project is scheduled to run from 2000 to 2005. It is hoped that German, American and other foreign academics will participate alongside their Georgian colleagues.

282. It is regrettable to report that the financial prospects of the Georgian Academy of Sciences have not improved during the period 1997-2001. Spending is down in nearly all areas - utilities, office and transport overheads - not to mention research. Spending on new apparatus and capital repairs has been dropped from the budget altogether.

283. During the same period staff numbers at the Academy have declined from 10,389.5 to 6,878.5 staff units (33.8 per cent). The number of employees at the Academy has halved since 1994.