

E/C.12/PRY/3
26th February 2007

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 2007

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

**Second and third periodic reports to be submitted by States parties under
articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant**

PARAGUAY* ** ***
[Period 1994-2006]

* The initial report submitted by the Government of the Paraguay (E/1990/5/Add.23) concerning the rights covered by articles 1 to 15 of the Covenant was considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its 14th session in 1996 (see documents E/C.12/1996/SR.1, 2 and 4).

** The information submitted by Paraguay in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.24).

*** 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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B. Dissemination of scientific progress

625. For purposes of promotion and dissemination of scientific and technological advances Paraguay has the National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT), established under Act 1028 of 31 January 1997 (the General Science and Technology Act) to facilitate the organization of science and technology in view of the importance of the two subjects in the social and economic development of a modern country. The concept of CONACYT is based on the most modern principles of this type of management, namely the creation of a body for the administration and coordination of the sector (CONACYT): multidisciplinary and representative participation of the different agents in a system comprising science, technology and innovation (State, academic institutions, research and development institutions, enterprises and workers): and the introduction of tax incentives for investment in research and development.

626. CONACYT established its Council in July 1997. The National Accreditation Agency (ONA) was created in 1998 under Executive Decree No. 20660/98 attaching it to CONACYT as the body ensuring transparency and independence in the recognition of quality at national and international levels.

627. Subsequently the National Congress adopted Act 2279/03 (Act amending and expanding the articles of the General Science and Technology Act (No. 1028/97)). This Act establishes the National Systems for Science, Technology, Innovation and Quality.

1. Composition of the National Science and Technology Council

628. In accordance with Act No. 2279/03 the membership of CONACYT consists of 14 titular and 14 alternate councillors representing the following institutions and sectors:

- The Technical Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of the Republic (STP);
- The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, through the intermediary of the National Technology and Standardization Institute (INTN);
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- The Ministry of Education and Culture;
- The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare;
- The State universities;
- The private universities;
- The Paraguayan Industrial Union (UIP);
- The Paraguay Rural Association (ARP);
- The Production, Industry and Commerce Federation (FEPRINCO);
- The Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises;
- The central trade union bodies;
- The Scientific Society of Paraguay; and
- The Paraguayan Association for Quality.

2. Legal framework for the promotion of scientific and technological advance

629. The following is the text of articles 1, 2 and 3 of Act No. 2279/03, which refer to the functions of CONACYT.

- *Article 1. Concerning the institution of the systems:* The present Act establishes the National System for Science, Technology and Innovation (SNCTI), comprising all the bodies, public and private national institutions and physical and legal persons engaging in or concerned with scientific, technological and innovative activities. The National System for Quality, comprising all the public and private national institutions and physical and legal persons conducting activities relating to quality, is also hereby established. The *National Science and Technology Council CONACYT* may establish other national systems in specific areas of science and technology

when progress in a particular field and the importance of that progress for the scientific and technological development of the country renders such a measure desirable.

- *Article 2. Concerning competence.* The National System for Science, Technology and Innovation shall have competence to stimulate and promote scientific and technological research; the generation, dissemination and transfer of knowledge; invention, innovation, scientific and technological education, the development of national technologies and management in the fields of science, technology and innovation. The National System for Quality shall have competence to promote scientific and technological research in the area of quality and the application and dissemination of accreditation, metrology and standardization services and the system of evaluation of conformity.
- *Article 3. Concerning science, technology, innovation, quality and development policy.* The development of scientific, technological and innovative activities within the country, and the development of activities in the sphere of quality, shall be orientated in accordance with specific policies and programmes stimulated by the public sector and, where appropriate, duly coordinated with the private sector, such policies to be in line with the social and economic development policy of the country. The national policies on science, technology and innovation and those on quality shall be developed on the basis of programmes which shall preferably be intersectoral and multidisciplinary.

3. Functions of CONACYT

630. The functions of the National Science and Technology Council shall be as follows:

- (a) To formulate and propose to the National Government national policies in the fields of science, technology and innovation and that of quality for the country in harmony with the economic and social development policy of the State and, in coordination with the institutions concerned, to supervise and assess the implementation of those policies and strategies;
- (b) To match national efforts in the scientific, technological, innovative and quality fields with those being conducted in other countries, promoting networks of research and development in those fields;
- (c) To select, approve, supervise and evaluate research financed by FONACYT to ensure that it is conducted within the framework of the national policy for science, technology and innovation and that for quality formulated by CONACYT;
- (d) To advise the authorities of State on all matters related to the fields of competence of CONACYT;
- (e) To determine the criteria and/or principles in the fields of science, technology, innovation and quality to be incorporated in the formulation of national policies;

- (f) To regulate and implement the policy of allocation of the resources of FONACYT for the pursuit of the aims of the national policy for science, technology and innovation and that for quality;
- (g) To promote the dissemination of scientific, technological, innovative and quality activities and to effect their ordering and systematization;
- (h) To promote standardization and evaluation of the conformity of processes, products and services and the generation, use and application of technology;
- (i) To foster programmes of training and specialization of the human resources necessary for the development of the National System for Quality and the National System for Science, Technology and Innovation;
- (j) To provide incentives for the generation, use, dissemination and application of culturally, socially and environmentally sustainable knowledge in the scientific, technological, innovation and quality spheres;
- (k) To establish and maintain relations with similar public and private bodies in other countries and to facilitate the participation of representatives of the country in congresses or other types of scientific or technical activity and to support exchanges, cooperation and reciprocal transfers of information in the areas of competence of CONACYT;
- (l) To coordinate and support the activities of national public bodies, civil associations and non-governmental organizations in its areas of competence;
- (m) To promote rationalization and transparency in the management and use of public and private resources destined for scientific research, technological development, innovation and quality;
- (n) To define concepts related to its areas of competence in accordance with criteria established and accepted at international level;
- (o) To set up standing or ad hoc committees for the treatment and study of specific themes, and for the evaluation of specific projects, within its areas of competence;
- (p) To take part in activities, committees or collegiate bodies of any type or designation with links to official bodies concerned with science, technology, innovation and quality;
- (q) To promote the development of science, technology, innovation and quality; through incentive mechanisms directed at institutions, enterprises and individuals;
- (r) To authorize the conclusion of conventions, agreements, contracts and other like instruments relating to the fulfilment of its objectives;
- (s) To administer its budgetary resources, performing the managerial operations necessary to that end;
- (t) To draw up the rules and decisions relating to the functions of CONACYT;
- (u) To fix the amounts to be charged for the provision of services and to update them periodically;
- (v) To fix additional and special remunerations for the officials of CONACYT, to be paid out of FONACYT funds;
- (w) To approve the annual report of activities, the financial statement and balance sheet for the previous year, the draft budget, duly justified, and the work plans the execution of which the budget allocated to CONACYT permits;

- (x) To designate the members of the Council and the officials who, together with the President of CONACYT, are required to sign financial instruments, authorizations and other documents;
- (y) To perform other operations necessary for the attainment of the purposes of CONACYT.

4. National Policy on Science and Technology

631. Paraguay has a National Policy on Science and Technology, which was approved by the Executive under the terms of Decree No. 19007 dated 15 October 2002. The aims of the National Policy on Science and Technology are: to improve, increase and make more efficient the nation's efforts in the area of science and technology, promoting greater participation by the private sector and local authorities. On that basis the objectives making up that policy rest on the following guiding principles:

- The development of science and technology is one of the fundamental supports of the social, economic and cultural development of the country; consequently policy on science and technology must be in line with the long-term social and economic policies.
- The strengthening of the nation's technological and scientific capacity contributes to the assignment to science and technology of its proper role in a modern country.
- Research projects must be classified by level of priority viewed in the light of the country's needs.
- The institutional adaptation of the sector shall be directed to the strengthening of local capacity for innovation and the use of scientific and technological advances for the benefit of society. In particular, CONACYT must be strengthened as the directing body in the National System for Science and Technology.
- Coordination and linkages between the agents and institutions in both the public and private sectors participating directly or indirectly in scientific and technological activities is necessary for the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies. In particular, linkages between universities and enterprises are of particular importance for the attainment of the objectives of improving productivity, competitiveness and quality.
- The stimulation and rationalization of government programmes concerned with research and development should be translated into basic lines of action of CONACYT.
- The allocation of resources from the public budget to research through FONACYT in a sustained manner and in increasing amounts is an obligation on the State. The establishment of mechanisms with appropriate competence and relevance for the management of the Fund should be envisaged.
- One of the mechanisms for the enhancement of national public financing of science and technology should be directed to securing financial participation in projects by the private sector, local governments and/or institutions of other countries within the framework of international cooperation.

- Public and private investment in activities of increasing intensity in knowledge generation will be favoured and fostered.

632. It should be emphasized that there is no restriction on the right of access to information.

5. Measures to ensure the application of scientific progress

633. Promulgation of Act No. 1028 dated 31 January 1997 (General Science and Technology Act), under which CONACYT was established; Decree No. 19007 dated 15 October 2002 in which the Executive officially approved the National Policy on Science and Technology; and Act No. 2279 dated 7 November 2003 amending and expanding Act No. 1028/97 (General Science and Technology Act).

634. Among the concrete activities taken for the effective implementation of the National Plan, mention may be made of the following:

- The signature of project PAR/02/005 (Institutional strengthening for the development of science, technology, innovation and quality in Paraguay) between UNDP and CONACYT.
- Finalization of the collection of data from science and technology institutions for purposes of the establishment of science and technology indicators, using 2001 as the base year, under project AE/149/01.
- Signature of the interinstitutional agreement between CONACYT and the Secretariat for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic.
- Organization of the conference on “Science, technology and society” under the responsibility of Dr. José Antonio López Cerezo of the University of Oviedo (Spain).
- Organization of the international seminar on “Science, technology, society and globalization”.
- Implementation of project PAR 02 M15 (Strengthening of national dialogue on the information society).
- Signature of the interinstitutional agreement between CONACYT and the Brazilian Enterprise Support Service (SEBRAE).
- Support for the regional forecasting conducted under the Andrés Bello convention (CAB) for the period 2005-2015, using the DELPHI Platform, designed to determine trends in science and technology within the area of the member countries of the CAB.
- Formulation of the final proposal for the CONACYT / Inter-American Development Bank project entitled “Programme of support for the development of science, technology and innovation” (PR 126).
- Formulation and implementation of Project Genesis, phases I and II: regional incubation and innovation system in Paraguay; BM – InfoDev.
- Establishment of the national and regional platform for the launching of the activities of project BIOTECH I UE-MERCOSUR.

- Establishment of the “Pierre and Marie Curie” junior science prize with national coverage (CONACYT – MEC).
- Establishment of the RECYT – MERCOSUR prize on a regional basis with the participation of scientists from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- Conclusion of cooperation agreements with universities in both the public and private sectors with a view to establishing the mechanisms necessary to permit accompaniment of scientific progress in the different fields of knowledge.

635. It is equally important to point out that the National Government is encouraging and developing international and cooperation contacts regarding tasks in the fields of science and technology with the participation of the National Chancellery within the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements concluded or other instruments in which CONACYT participates in proper form and within the ambit of its terms of reference.

636. The participation of scientists and/or authors in conferences, seminars or symposia takes place in the context previously referred to and also within the framework of projects receiving resources from financial cooperation agencies or from resources available in the general budget of expenditures and, in particular cases, from national, regional or international associations of professionals.

637. As regards the specific activities of the National Science and Technology Council relating to the implementation of this article of the Covenant during the year 2005, see Annex VII (Report on the activities of CONACYT in 2005).

International cooperation

638. International cooperation plays a highly important role in the effective implementation of all the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, particularly in relation to support for the measures taken by the national government designed to guarantee the broad dissemination and scope of its programmes and projects in the field of development and social assistance. The institution of State responsible for receiving and taking action on offers of international cooperation in different areas is the Technical Planning Secretariat. That body has prepared a document setting forth in detail the contributions of the international cooperating agencies and the effective implementation of the articles of the Covenant. See Annex VIII (Role of international cooperation in the implementation of ESCRs).