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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  
PORTUGAL \*/

[17 May 1994]

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Article 15

955. Freedom of scientific research and creative activities is established in the Constitution, which states that creative activities and scientific research and technological innovation shall also be encouraged and supported by the State.

956. In this connection, chapter 15 of the basic law of the education system states that:

(a) The State shall guarantee the material and cultural conditions necessary for creative activities and scientific research;

(b) The necessary conditions shall be established in institutions of higher education for the promotion of scientific research and the conduct of research and development activities;

(c) Scientific research in higher education shall take into account the main objectives of the institution where it is conducted, without prejudice to an open attitude towards progress, knowledge and the solution of the problems of the country's social, economic and cultural development;

(d) The publication of scientific works shall be guaranteed, and the dissemination of new knowledge and developments in scientific thought, and of technological progress and cultural works shall be facilitated;

(e) The State shall encourage collaboration between public, private and cooperative bodies in order to stimulate the development of science, technology and culture, taking particular account of the interests of the community.

957. In this context, attention is drawn to the following measures:

- Regulations on the award of grants for scientific meetings in Portugal;
- Establishment of a working group to operate as a strategic planning unit for scientific research in higher education; the

goal is to prepare a draft of the new basic law of the National Institute of Scientific Research;

- Establishment of a working group to draw up an inventory of the opportunities of cooperation between the National Institute of Scientific Research and the African countries whose official language is Portuguese (PALOP);
- Establishment of a working group to study the organization of science clubs; such clubs would be concerned with exchanges of ideas, research and experience between higher education teachers/researchers and teachers at other levels of education and students, as well as with the use of other means of scientific exchange between different levels of education.

958. The function of the National Institute of Scientific Research (INIC) is to contribute to the development of scientific research, especially in higher education, with a view to the elaboration and introduction of plans for the training of the personnel required by the country's development, especially within the context of the higher education system. The research centres, apart from the astronomical observatory in Lisbon, operate under the auspices of the National Institute. A draft basic law on the reorganization of the Institute is awaiting ministerial approval.

959. Meanwhile, the Institute carries out the following main activities:

(a) Funding and coordinating its own research centres and/or joint research with university faculties; funding is based on the opinions offered by the scientific councils of INIC concerning the research activities in question and the proposed plans. At present, INIC has 125 research centres and two support services; there are 3,599 researchers operating under the auspices of INIC, including 1,274 holding doctorates;

(b) Funding research projects within and outside its own research centres; research contracts have been drawn up for the purpose of dual funding of higher education and to ensure that the scientific research projects submitted by university teachers who are not members of the INIC centres can have access to INIC support;

(c) Award of various types of scholarship in Portugal and abroad to teachers and researchers (see art. 13 above);

(d) Encouragement of collaboration between Portuguese and foreign scientific research institutions; in addition to scientific exchanges under agreements with several countries and scientific institutions, INIC is a member of the European Science Foundation and of several European networks and it participates in other scientific activities and in international workshops. Furthermore, with a view to the development of research, in addition to providing subsidies INIC also sponsors national scientific meetings and meetings organized in Portugal by international organizations;

(e) Subsidizing the publication of scientific or technical works; one of the Institute's functions is to promote and subsidize the publication of scientific and technical texts. This support can take two forms: subsidy in a proportion established case by case; and publication by the Institute itself;

(f) Provision of scientific and technical documentation and information services, and development of cooperation using international data bases and banks; through its specialized information service - the Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre - INIC offers the

following services to all national and foreign users: reference service; conversational retrospective research service; cataloguing and documentation service; and selective dissemination of information service.

960. The Institution has specialized support units in the shape of its scientific councils, whose function is to assess the scientific merits of written works and the scientific research initiatives or activities to be undertaken by INIC in specialized subjects.

961. As stated above, INIC was transferred to the Ministry of National Planning and Administration by the Decree-Law of 8 August 1989.

962. INIC has six scientific councils for the following subjects: exact sciences, natural sciences, engineering, health sciences, human sciences and social sciences.

963. The total cost of the research funded by INIC has increased considerably in recent years. In percentage terms, the biggest increases between 1984 and 1986 were under the following headings: study scholarships (+265.6%), research contracts (+248.4%), subsidiary bodies (+160%) and scientific exchanges (+144.9%).

964. Decree-Law No. 188/92 of 27 August dissolved the INIC and transferred its main functions provisionally to the National Board for Scientific and Technological Research (JNICT). This text lists the following functions:

(a) Support for research centres and related services operating under INIC auspices which have just been integrated in the universities under a specific multi-year contract programme;

(b) Support for the production and publishing of scientific and technical texts, ensuring continuity with the publishing activities of the INIC, mainly in the social and human sciences;

(c) Support for scientific research through the scientific and technical documentation and information services, in collaboration with national and foreign documentation and information centres and networks, in order in particular to maintain the accessibility of periodical publications in Portuguese libraries and keep them up to date;

(d) Participation in the negotiation and implementation of bilateral and multilateral covenants, treaties, conventions and agreements, and in international meetings on scientific and technical research and information, in order to ensure that the commitments entered into by the INIC are fulfilled;

(e) Promotion and holding of congresses, conferences and other scientific meetings, and provision of subsidies for researchers and teachers to participate in such events.

965. In addition, the Institute of Tropical and Scientific Research (IICT), in accordance with Decree-Law No. 3/87 of 3 January, is responsible for promoting scientific and technical research in tropical regions and for concluding scientific and technical cooperation agreements with tropical countries under the overall cooperation and research policy. The IICT has juridical personality and administrative and financial independence. It has 23 research centres (in six areas of research), where preparations are currently being made for the start-up of 260 research and development projects in cooperation with 43 tropical countries, including all the African countries whose official language is Portuguese. In addition to these projects, the IICT has introduced a number of training measures for its scientific and technical staff.

966. In accordance with article 13 of Decree-Law No. 3/87, the Institute of Portuguese Culture and Language has taken over responsibility for the development of teaching and dissemination of Portuguese Culture and Language, especially in universities and similar institutions in Portugal and abroad, and for organizing and operating the Portuguese lectureships abroad. Again in accordance with this Decree-Law, the Institute of Portuguese Culture and Language has juridical personality and administrative and financial independence.

967. The Department of Higher Education is responsible for awarding scholarships for study for the degrees of mestrado and doutoramento in education.