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***Revised general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by states parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights : . 17/06/91.  
E/C.12/1991/1. (Basic Reference Document)***

**Convention Abbreviation:** CESCR  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL  
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE FORM AND CONTENTS  
OF REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER  
ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT  
ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with article 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, established a programme under which the States parties to the Covenant would furnish in stages the reports referred to in article 16 thereof and the Secretary-General, at the Council's request, subsequently drew up an appropriate set of general guidelines. In response to the recent introduction of an entirely new reporting cycle and in the light of various perceived inadequacies in the approach reflected in the original guidelines, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its fifth session held from 26 November to 14 December 1990, adopted new guidelines.

2. The guidelines are intended to facilitate the preparation of reports by States parties. By following them as closely as possible, reporting officers will minimize the risk that their reports are deemed to be inadequate in scope and insufficient in detail. The guidelines also provide a uniformly applicable framework within which the Committee can work and enable it to demonstrate a consistency of approach from one report to another. They are also designed to reduce the amount of duplication of information requested by the various treaty bodies.

3. In adopting the revised general guidelines the Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring that the issues of principal concern were dealt with in a methodical and

informative manner and strongly urged all States parties to adhere to them as closely as possible.

4. The text of the revised general guidelines is contained in the annex to the present document.

## ANNEX

### Revised guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports to be submitted by States parties under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights\*

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#### Article 15 of the Covenant

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2. Please describe the legislative and other measures taken to realize the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, including those aimed at the conservation, development and diffusion of science. In particular, provide information on the following:

(a) Measures taken to ensure the application of scientific progress for the benefit of everyone, including measures aimed at the preservation of mankind's natural heritage and at promoting a healthy and pure environment and information on the institutional infrastructures established for that purpose.

(b) Measures taken to promote the diffusion of information on scientific progress.

(c) Measures taken to prevent the use of scientific and technical progress for purposes which are contrary to the enjoyment of all human rights, including the rights to life, health, personal freedom, privacy and the like.

(d) Any restrictions which are placed upon the exercise of this right, with details of the legal provisions prescribing such restrictions.

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4. What steps has your Government taken for the conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture? Please describe in particular:

(a) Measures at the constitutional level, within the national educational system and by means of the communications media.

(b) All other practical steps taken to promote such conservation, development and diffusion.

5. Please describe the legal, administrative and judicial system designed to respect and protect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity, in particular:

(a) Measures designed to promote enjoyment of this freedom including the creation of all necessary conditions and facilities for scientific research and creative activity.

(b) Measures taken to guarantee the freedom of exchange of scientific, technical and cultural information, views and experience between scientists, writers, creative workers, artists and other creative individuals and their respective institutions.

(c) Measures taken to support learned societies, academies of science, professional associations, unions of workers and other organizations and institutions engaged in scientific research and creative activities.

What difficulties have affected the degree of realization of this freedom?

6. Please describe the legislative and other measures by which your Government encourages and develops international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields, including measures taken for:

(a) The fullest utilization, by all the States concerned, of the facilities afforded by their adherence to regional and international conventions, agreements and other instruments in the scientific and cultural fields.

(b) Participation by scientists, writers, artists and others involved in scientific research or creative activity, in international scientific and cultural conferences, seminars, symposiums, etc.

What factors and difficulties have affected the development of international co-operation in these fields?

7. During the reporting period, have there been any changes in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the rights enshrined in article 15? If so, please describe these changes and evaluate their impact.

8. In case your Government has recently submitted reports relevant to the situation with respect to the rights contained in article 15 to the United Nations or a specialized agency, you may wish to refer to the relevant parts of those reports rather than repeat the information here.

9. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realization of the rights enshrined in article 15.