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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL  
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS  
Pre-sessional working group  
17-20 May 2005

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

**List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of  
the initial report of ALBANIA concerning the rights covered by  
articles 1-15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and  
Cultural Rights (E/1990/5/Add.67)**

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Please indicate the factors and difficulties that impede the State party's ability to implement its obligations under the Covenant.
2. Please indicate whether the State party has adopted a national plan of action for human rights in accordance with the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
3. Please provide information on court decisions containing references to the Covenant (core document, paras. 105 and 106).
4. Please provide information on the promotion of human rights education in the State party (report, para. 24).
5. Please indicate whether the State party supports the drafting of an optional protocol to the Covenant.

## **II. ISSUES RELATING TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts. 1-5)**

### **Article 2 (2) - Non-discrimination**

6. Please explain the "reasonable and objective legal grounds for discrimination" (ibid., para. 11). Does the State party have a definition of discrimination in its Constitution or in any other legislation?
7. Please describe any restrictions the State party's legislation places on the rights of foreigners (ibid., para. 12).
8. Please provide information on the grounds for expelling foreigners from the State party (ibid., para. 14).
9. Please clarify whether in the State party foreigners have the same right to education as citizens (ibid., para. 18).

### **Article 3 - Equal rights of men and women**

10. Please describe the status and competence of the Committee on Equal Opportunities (ibid., para. 38).
11. Please indicate whether there is a national plan of action on gender equality (ibid., para. 42).

### **III. ISSUES RELATING TO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT (arts. 6-15)**

#### **Article 6 - The right to work**

12. What is the current unemployment rate in the State party, and describe what is being done to reduce unemployment in the north-east (ibid., para. 61)?
13. What specific measures are being taken in the State party to reduce unemployment among women (ibid., para. 277)?

#### **Article 7 - The right to just and favourable conditions of work**

14. Please provide information on the activities of the labour inspectorates (ibid., para. 101) and on measures taken to reduce accidents in the workplace (ibid., paras. 137-143).
15. Please explain the wage structure for employees of the public administration (ibid., para. 107).
16. Please indicate whether the minimum wage in the State party is sufficient to provide an adequate standard of living for workers and their families.
17. Please provide information on measures to eliminate child labour (ibid., paras. 154 and 264-266).

#### **Article 8 - Trade union rights**

18. Please explain any restrictions on the right to strike in the State party (ibid., para. 156).
19. Please provide information about the judicial practice of terminating trade unions (ibid., para. 168).
20. Have any time limits been set for the continuation of the conciliation procedure before the right to strike may be exercised (ibid., para. 174)?

#### **Article 9 - The right to social security**

21. Please indicate whether there are any groups of people under the jurisdiction of the State party who are not entitled to social security, and what measures can be taken to ensure that they are covered by the social security system or by social assistance.

#### **Article 10 - Protection of family, mothers and children**

22. The report states that obligatory school education ends at the age of 14 or 15, while employment is permitted from the age of 16 (paras. 233-234). Please explain how teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 are occupied.

23. Please provide updated information and statistical data on the problems of domestic violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons in the State party, and on measures taken to combat such phenomena.

### **Article 11 - The right to an adequate standard of living**

24. Please provide court precedents and statistical data on cases relating to rehabilitation and compensation under the law “On innocence, amnesty and rehabilitation of ex-political convicts and persecuted persons”. Please indicate if such rehabilitation and compensation measures have ensured an adequate standard of living for those “persons having been found innocent, amnestied and eligible” and their families (ibid., paras. 21-23).

25. Please indicate whether the National Plan of Action for Nutrition and Nourishment has been adopted and what the objectives of the Plan are (ibid., para. 282).

26. Has the State party taken any measures to ensure access to an adequate food supply and a healthy diet for all persons under its jurisdiction (ibid., paras. 303 and 383)?

27. What categories of persons are considered to be “houseless” (ibid., para. 347)?

28. Is municipal housing being built for persons with low incomes (ibid., paras. 350 and 355)?

29. Please provide information on the policy and practice of forced evictions in the State party, and disaggregated statistics on forced evictions (ibid., paras. 352-362 and 369).

30. What are the prospects for providing all inhabitants with water supply and sanitation facilities (ibid., table 39)?

31. Has the new law on housing for the urban population been adopted, and what results have been achieved (ibid., para. 363)?

### **Article 12 - The right to physical and mental health**

32. Please explain how the privatization of pharmacies and dentistry services has affected patients, and whether medicines and services are available to all persons under the jurisdiction of the State party, in particular, the disadvantaged and marginalized groups (ibid., para. 378).

33. Please describe the results of awareness-raising measures taken with regard to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS (ibid., para. 479).

### **Articles 13 and 14 - The right to education**

34. Does the State party set minimum standards for private educational establishments (ibid., para. 506)?

35. Have the plans to introduce nine-year free compulsory education been implemented with regard to minorities (ibid., paras. 511 and 566)?
36. Please provide statistical information on drop-out rates among street children and children belonging to ethnic minority groups.
37. Please describe measures being taken to increase the number of female students (ibid., table 36).

**Article 15 - Cultural rights**

38. What mass media in the languages of national minorities exist in the State party?

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