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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1995

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

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

Addendum

GUATEMALA

[4 January 1995]

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132. With regard to 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, article 59 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala clearly stipulates that it is an essential obligation of the State to protect, develop and disseminate the national culture; to enact laws and make regulations tending to enrich, restore, preserve and recover it; to promote and regulate the scientific study of it; and to develop and use appropriate technology.

133. With respect to 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 promoting a healthy and pure environment and information on the institutional infrastructures established for that purpose, the State of Guatemala is a party to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It is also a party to the Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological, Historical and Artistic Heritage of the American Nation (Convention of San Salvador), the Central American Cultural and Educational Coordinating Office and the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of the Author in Literary, Scientific and Artistic Works.

134. Concerning measures taken to promote the diffusion of information on scientific progress, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, aware of the need to promote and disseminate information on scientific progress, has promoted various policies aimed at strengthening that dissemination, providing Radio Faro Cultural - which was about to go off the air - with a high-powered transmitter so that it can carry on broadcasting. Other institutions of vital importance to the country's cultural life have also been strengthened; reference may be made inter alia, to the preservation and protection of the Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Centre.

135. Concerning 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, the Ministry has never impeded such

progress. It should be pointed out that special care has been taken to enable all citizens to enjoy those rights, which are guaranteed by the Political Constitution of the Republic.

136. Concerning the legislative and other measures taken to realize the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic work of which he or she is the author, in particular, the practical measures aimed at the full implementation of that right, including provision of the necessary conditions for scientific, literary and artistic activities, the new draft law on copyright and related rights is now before Congress; it regulates all the contemporary problems in that area.