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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
JORDAN* **

[Original: Arabic]
[5 December 1997]

* The initial reports concerning rights covered by articles 6 to 9 (E/1984/6/Add.15), 10 to 12 (E/1986/3/Add.6) and 13 to 15 (E/1982/3/Add.38/Rev.1) submitted by the Government of Jordan were considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its first session in 1987 (see E/C.12/1987/SR.68) and at its fifth session in 1990 (see E/C.12/1990/SR.3032) respectively.

** The information submitted by Jordan in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.18/Rev.1).

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134. Legislative and other measures have been adopted by the Government to guarantee the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

135. The Government established the Higher Council for Science and Technology pursuant to Act No. 30 of 1987, which seeks to construct a national scientific and technological base for the furtherance and development of science and technology in order to achieve the objectives of socio-economic and cultural development in Jordan.

136. In 1970, the Royal Scientific Association was established by royal decree as a financially and administratively independent scientific institution with the aim of pursuing research work and scientific and technological development in connection with the development process in Jordan. It seeks to spread scientific and technological awareness in connection with the development process in Jordan.

137. Universities, particularly the University of Jordan, have devoted efforts to establishing the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications through the Scientific Research Regulation, which is applicable to them. This Regulation was issued by the Board of the University of Jordan pursuant to article 33 (b) of the University of Jordan Act No. 52 of 1972, in particular articles 1-12, which emphasize the legal measures and legislative acts relating to scientific research and its publication, copyright and the role of the University in developing the research process in the interests of knowledge and the advancement of knowledge. These articles stipulate as follows:

(a) Article 3, paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the Scientific

Research Regulation issued pursuant to article 33 (b) of the abovementioned University of Jordan Act stipulates that all measures and procedures shall be aimed at encouraging and advancing scientific research for the benefit of humanity and human development, as well as for the benefit of the human being as an individual, given that he constitutes the cornerstone of society. This Act respects human rights concerning the equal opportunities available for scientific research;

(b) Article 4 of the aforementioned Act highlights the measures and procedures approved by the University of Jordan and by which it operates concerning the publication of research information, as covered by paragraphs (a)-(h), which stipulate the practical stages of those measures;

(c) The University of Jordan places no restrictions on scientific research unless it subverts reason, such as the case of research which invites ethnic, religious or cultural fanaticism. Such is prescribed by "an institutional process consisting of members" elected by members of the teaching staff chosen by the Board of Deans for a renewable term of two years, as emphasized in article 5, paragraphs 1 and 2.

138. The Royal Scientific Association prepares books and publications in scientific and technological fields which help to convey scientific and technological information and concepts both adequately and efficiently. The Association cooperates with local, Arab and international institutions in exchanging information and expertise and conducting joint research.

139. The Higher Council for Science and Technology sponsors scientific and technological research institutions and units and provides the funding needed for scientific and technological research, services and activities in Jordan. The General Secretariat of the Council makes the results of funded scientific and technological projects available to the parties concerned in the private and public sectors by holding specialist workshops and issuing specialist leaflets in that connection.

140. The National Information Centre, which is concerned with the publication of information in and outside Jordan, has been established.

141. Universities and scientific academies are encouraged to establish scientific links with the development sectors in order to diffuse the elements of progress in science and technology.

142. Scientific magazines and periodicals issued by universities, research centres and other relevant institutions are published in order to diffuse scientific progress, offer examples of it and present the results of studies and research in that connection.

143. Legislative and other measures have been adopted to guarantee the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of moral and material interests arising out of any scientific, literary or technical work of his creation, as well as the protection of intellectual property rights arising out of such activities.

144. The University of Jordan studied the Scientific Research Directive No. 1 issued by the presidency of the University on 17 November 1973. Section I, paragraphs 1-7, and section II, paragraphs 1-21, affirm that the University devotes special attention to scientific research. The Directive moreover emphasizes that such research is a duty of members of the teaching staff and further institutes the right of a researcher to publish his scientific findings in such manner as he deems fit, provided that mention is made of the support provided by the University in that connection (section II, paragraph 3). Section II, paragraph 16, also underlines the financial return for the researcher.

145. All State and private universities in Jordan endorse the right of individuals to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. They also endorse the conservation, development and diffusion of scientific legacy and achievement, as well as pursuit of the use of scientific and technological progress for distinguished human purposes that serve human rights in the different walks of life based on the right of the individual to education. With a view to strengthening the role of universities in employing rights and duties in measures which safeguard scientific and intellectual freedoms, conditions and authorship, efforts were made to issue the following regulations and directives:

(a) The Teaching Staff Regulation;

(b) The Scientific Missions Regulation, which aims to improve the standard of academic and scientific performance within the framework of conditions and principles that include competence and ability;

(c) The Regulation concerning further education and grants for students in further education;

(d) The Regulation concerning the conferral of academic degrees, honorary degrees and diplomas;

(e) The Regulation concerning scientific research and ensuing directives relating to the promotion of scientific research, scientific publishing, scientific studies, patenting, the translation of scientific thought, the provision of travel subsidies to researchers, the diffusion of intellectual output and the publication of manuscripts concerning general knowledge.

146. The universities promote training and fieldwork with a view to acquainting other sectors with the resources which they have to offer. For information purposes, they also furnish company libraries with copies of scientific research theses produced by their students, together with the final dissertations of engineering and science students.

147. The universities hold special seminars and courses on scientific research. The University of Science and Technology has held special seminars on themes such as the medical drugs industry in the light of global changes, clinical pharmacology and the dynamic of medical drugs, physical and biological pharmacology, medical drugs and the chemistry of physical aftereffects, etc.

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150. The technological developments in various fields in general and in the field of communications and transport in particular have facilitated diffusion of the work produced by creative individuals, allowing it to be of universal benefit and to reach anywhere in the world. Jordan is fully aware that the recognition and protection of the rights of creative individuals should extend beyond the local sphere to the other countries which benefit.

151. The competent Jordanian authorities made amendments to the Copyright Protection Act to ensure that it conformed to the international agreements in this field. These amendments included the addition of new provisions to formulate protection of the rights of performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations, restrict the free use of works, increase the term of protection to 50 years after the death of the author, abolish any formal measures such as mandatory conditions of protection, as in conditions concerning

invention, and increase the penalties for anyone who infringes copyright.

152. As soon as the amendments are approved - at each one of their constitutional stages - Jordan will seek to take the steps required to accede to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations and the Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms Against Unauthorized Duplication of Their Phonograms.

153. Jordan is looking forward to obtaining the technical and administrative assistance needed to further work in the departments, offices and organizations connected with copyright and similar rights and enable them to undertake their assigned work in the best possible manner. This includes training the employees in such departments, familiarizing them with the experiences of the developed countries in this field and providing them with equipment and material that will facilitate their work and raise their standards of performance, such as computer equipment, transportation for the follow-up team, and means of communication whereby they can contact their counterparts in other countries with a view to information exchange.

154. Measures have been adopted by the Government to conserve, develop and diffuse science and culture, specifically constitutional measures adopted in the framework of the national education system through the communication media:

(a) Promulgation of the Education Act of 1993, which stipulates that education is compulsory and available free at the stage of basic education, Jordan being the first Arab country to have instituted this right of education for everyone;

(b) The provision of basic and secondary education for all pupils, regardless of sex or ethnic, cultural or social background, such that the rates of enrolment in education are now comparable to those in the developed countries.

155. The Higher Council for Science and Technology plays a considerable role in protecting the freedom of scientific research and creative activity through:

(a) The promotion of creative individuals and inventors;

(b) The national information system (NIS), which is operated by the Council's information centre with a view to linking all national institutions by means of an information network that helps decision-makers, planners, researchers and investors to take the appropriate development decisions. 156. Annex 24 contains the Patents Act.

157. Since its establishment, the Royal Scientific Association has devoted attention to the need to prepare the conditions required for scientific research activities by modernizing and developing technical research laboratories and workshops and updating scientific references. A substantial number of researchers and employees subscribed to the Association in 1997 and in previous years participated in various seminars, round tables, workshops and conferences in different scientific fields. The Association also prepared and organized a number of scientific seminars and symposia, the most significant of which have been the Science Weeks; in 1997, the fifth Jordanian Science Week took place.

158. The measures and directives in force guarantee the free exchange of scientific information, opinion and expertise among scientists and researchers in and outside Jordan.

159. Measures adopted to promote scientific associations, science academies, professional unions and labour unions which undertake scientific research and innovation include:

(a) The Higher Council for Science and Technology was established with the aim of coordinating scientific research activities between national and international institutions and providing the funding required for various research activities;

(b) Universities allocate a substantial proportion of their annual budget to the promotion of scientific research;

(c) Universities encourage researchers to take part in scientific conferences in and outside Jordan;

(d) Companies and institutions earmark a proportion of their profits and budgets for the promotion of scientific research;

(e) National institutions allow annual leave for distinguished research in the fields of science and culture. Some institutions and other organizations offer facilities and support to researchers for the publication of their work.

160. The Higher Council for Science and Technology concludes local technological cooperation agreements with various countries, as well as with regional and international organizations, covering:

(a) Joint scientific research;

(b) Workshops, seminars and conferences;

(c) Scientific exchange visits.

161. International assistance in the fields of science and technology has a direct impact on:

(a) The development of human capabilities, particularly research capabilities;

(b) The development of research facilities in the form of laboratories, equipment and materials.

162. Jordan receives a negligible amount of international assistance that is barely equivalent to 2 per cent of the overall spending on cultural activity and the promotion of creative individuals. It looks forward to securing material, moral, technical and administrative assistance in order to widen cultural contributions and raise the standard of performance.