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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  
KUWAIT

[Original: Arabic]  
[21 September 2002]

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**Article 15**

213. Regarding article 15, the State of Kuwait makes every effort to guarantee everyone the right to work in the cultural, literary and artistic fields, and encourages scientific research in every area. Kuwait has made these principles a cornerstone of society. The constitution, in article 14, clearly states that the State is responsible for the patronage of science, literature, the arts and scientific research. This constitutional principle aims to elevate individuals and society to higher levels, to nurture creativity and cultural potential, and to raise their awareness.

214. The task of supervising cultural activities in the State of Kuwait is entrusted to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature, in conjunction with the Ministry of Information and other non-profit organizations. In order to realize the objectives of disseminating culture, freedom of scientific research and encouraging creativity, the State of Kuwait has opted for a policy based on the two main aspects of cultural activity, namely the building of important cultural institutions and the provision of financial support to their activities, with the ultimate aim of building the human being.

215. Out of that conviction, institutions like the Ministry of Information, the National Council for Culture and Arts and Literature, the Kuwait Scientific Research Institute, the Kuwait Enterprise for Scientific Advances, the Kuwait Science Club, museums and other centres sponsoring culture were set up. They are all responsible for charting and supervising a cultural policy that, before any other consideration, provides opportunities to citizens with talent enabling them, as thinkers and writers and creators, to express their

views freely so long as that creativity is directed at the development and dissemination of culture.

216. The firm belief in the importance of scientific research and creativity in all their aspects have led the State of Kuwait to set up institutions charged with these activities. The National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature, which was formed by the Emiri Decree of 17 July 1973, is one of the most important bodies responsible for planning, supervising and executing all cultural activities. Article 2 of the decree provides for the development, enrichment and enhancement of creative thinking; the creation of the right atmosphere for artistic and literary contributions; the choice of the means to disseminate culture, to conserve heritage, carry out scientific studies, to encourage interest in fine arts; and the strengthening of ties with Arab and foreign cultural institutions. The article also lays the groundwork for a cultural plan based on objective studies taking into account the needs of the country.

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219. The Kuwait Enterprise for Scientific Advances also plays a significant role in this field, especially with publication of scientific works and periodicals. It has its own scientific advances prize for which it sets aside a special fund in support of science and literature and other creativity aspects (see annex 32 for a summary of the Kuwait Prize sponsored by the Enterprise).

220. In addition to the activities undertaken by other public institutions and organizations such as the University of Kuwait and private bodies to disseminate culture and science, a number of community service and continuing education centres, attached to the university, the Public Authority for Education and Applied Training as well as the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment, were set up.

221. The Kuwait Scientific Research Institute is another link in the chain. It undertakes to spread scientific and cultural awareness through scientific research and encourages Kuwaitis to be involved in scientific research. It also nurtures the spirit of research among young persons. One of the objectives of this institute within the framework of the fourth strategic programme for research, which was part of the 1995-2002 national plan, is to develop research to meet national needs and to enhance Kuwaiti human resources. By the year 2000, the institute is hoping to expand its research and training programmes to serve society and the public interest.

222. Non-profit and benevolent organizations also play a major role in providing cultural and scientific programmes aimed at nurturing individual talent and develop potential.

223. There are also continued cooperation and coordination among the various ministries and institutions involved in culture such as the Ministry of Information; the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature; the Writers and Cultural Societies' Association; the Kuwait national committee for UNESCO; the Ministry of Higher Education; the Higher Institutes for Music and Theatre Studies; the Kuwaiti Society for the Advancement of Arab Childhood; the Kuwait Enterprise for Scientific Advances; the

Kuwait Scientific Research Institute; the Kuwait Research and Studies Centre; and other cultural and scientific-oriented bodies in the country.