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

Third periodic reports submitted by States parties under
articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant in accordance with
the programmes established by Economic and Social Council
resolution 1988/4

Addendum
CYPRUS*

[2 May 1996]

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Measures aimed at promoting a healthy and pure environment

412. Cyprus is a developing country and protection of the environment is not a marginal problem but a priority problem. Environmental policy is applied by the Council of Ministers through the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment who is the Minister responsible for administering overall control and coordination over the protection and preservation of the environment, excluding town and country planning issues for which competence is vested with the Minister of the Interior and the Planning Council.

413. The laboratory of the Department of Agriculture carries out the following activities with the basic aim of advising farmers accordingly but at the same time having in mind the protection of human health and the environment:

(a) Pesticide residue analyses on various agricultural products in order to be able to advise farmers on the rational use of pesticides;

(b) Pesticide formulation control under the Pest Control Products Laws, which includes the registration, quality control and labelling of all pest control products used in Cyprus.

414. As far as the environmental protection and preservation of natural heritage in Cyprus are concerned, considerable progress has been achieved and an important number of measures are under formulation (see appendix H, documents 1-7).

415. The Public Health Villages Regulations, the Improvement Boards Villages Regulations as well as Municipal Regulations contain, inter alia, provisions which regulate and safeguard the environment for each citizen. Briefly, these provisions concern sanitary conditions, the protection of potable water, refuse disposal, the cleanliness of public and private places, the operation of food premises, the elimination of insects of medical importance. These provisions are implemented by the Ministry of Health in close cooperation with District Officers and Local Authorities.

416. The Department of Agriculture, which forms part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment has, as one of its basic aims, the provision of information, technical advice and training as

regards the latest scientific progress on agricultural practices. In order to achieve this aim the Department of Agriculture cooperates closely with the Agricultural Research Institute which is responsible for undertaking agricultural research and the transmission of its findings to the Department of Agriculture.

417. Mass communication media, group methods, personal contacts, lectures at the Agricultural Training Centres are used intensively by the Department of Agriculture. The Agricultural Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture has as a primary objective to advise, inform and train the rural population in new and improved farming techniques and methods. The Agricultural Extension Service consists of the Extension Section at headquarters and the six District Agricultural Offices.

418. At the same time, the Department of Agriculture implements development programmes and projects which aim, inter alia, at the encouragement and promotion of farm technological improvements. In addition, the specialized sections of the Department of Agriculture are in close cooperation with the District Agricultural Offices in order to ensure the successful implementation of the development programmes and projects. The most important of these programmes and projects which are under implementation are listed below:

- (a) Planning and Installation of Improved Irrigation Systems;
- (b) Encouragement of Forage Cultivation and Hay Making;
- (c) Soil Surveys and Plant Nutrition;
- (d) Improvement and Encouragement of New Plant Varieties;
- (e) Project for the Certification of Plant Propagating Stock;
- (f) New Methods for Pest Control;
- (g) Production of Certified Seeds;
- (h) Encouragement of Horticulture and Floriculture;
- (i) Genetic Improvement of Animal Production;
- (j) Integrated Livestock Development Projects.

419. There is no need for the Department of Agriculture to take any measures for the prevention of the use of scientific and technical progress for purposes which are contrary to the enjoyment of all human rights.

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422. The conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture are achieved mainly through the educational system and free-market as well as the free information structure of the country and by means of the communication media. In the whole educational system of Cyprus, science and culture maintain an important part of the syllabus. As far as science is concerned, the aim of the syllabus is to give to all students the opportunity to understand science and its applications in everyday practice so as to be able to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

423. With a view to further promoting the conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture, apart from the relevant subjects already in curriculum, a number of new programmes have been introduced like educational visits to museums, the organization of students' symposia within the framework of the UNESCO Associated Schools Projects, students' exchanges and school links and also a new subject called "Design Technology".

424. Research in Cyprus is effected by the University of Cyprus whose main objective, as stated in its charter, is the development of knowledge through teaching and research for the social and economic development of Cyprus. The research activities of the University of

Cyprus have grown significantly, after only two years of academic life. The university's research programmes cover a wide range of subjects that correspond to existing specializations and the university's departments. Around 75 research programmes have been initiated and around 30 have been proposed for the academic year 1994/95.

425. The Research Committee of the university is the body responsible for the enhancement of the university's research activities. The Committee consists of two representatives from each school and the head of external affairs and projects. The Research Committee coordinates the procedure of approval, preparation, undertaking and completion of research at the university, and its evaluation. In particular, the Research Committee:

- (a) Makes recommendations regarding the university's research budget;
- (b) Encourages and coordinates the submission of proposals for research programmes;
- (c) Evaluates the scholarly and financial suitability of the proposed research programmes;
- (d) Is responsible for the assessment and evaluation of research proposals that require financing from university funds and approves programmes that are submitted for external financing;
- (e) Submits a report to the Senate regarding the allocation of the research budget;
- (f) Is responsible for the periodic monitoring of the progress of the research programmes and evaluates the realization of their goals after their completion;
- (g) Is responsible for the implementation of the Senate's decisions regarding research.

426. In the 1993/94 university budget, an amount of 800,000 Cyprus pounds in direct and indirect costs was allowed for research.

427. In addition to the academic staff, the following categories of people participate in research at different levels;

- (a) Undergraduate students. The research work of these students is not usually expected to be original. However, students learn the methodology and techniques of carrying out research in their field;
- (b) Postgraduate students. The research work of these students is considered to be part of the research activity undertaken at the university;
- (c) Research assistants, who on appointment are already knowledgeable about their area of research, are employed in many programmes financed by the university.

428. At the University of Cyprus there are also research programmes which operate with external financing such as those funded by the European Union, thus strengthening the research work of the institution. The fields that have priority within the Fourth Framework Programme of the European Union are the following:

- (a) Information and communication technologies;
- (b) Environment;
- (c) Life sciences and technologies;

- (d) Non-nuclear energy;
- (e) Socio-economic research.

429. The University of Cyprus has prepared a number of research programmes that correspond to the above categories and which will be submitted for financing by the European Union. The university participates in the European Community's AVICENNE programme with a research programme submitted by the Natural Sciences Department on Environmental Pollution. The university is eligible for participation in the TEMPUS programme, which makes possible exchanges of academics and students among European universities. It already participates actively in the programmes MED-MEDIA and MED-CAMPUS, which cover various areas and involve other Cypriot institutions.

430. Within the framework of its scholarly contribution the academic staff of the university have published during 1993, more than 200 papers in international journals. The University of Cyprus is already known to the international scholarly community, through its publications in various international scholarly journals and through the participation and presentation of papers in international seminars, conferences and symposia of various organizations and higher educational institutions. Research cooperation has been established with many universities and research centres of Europe, United States of America and the Mediterranean.

431. The existing departments of the university do not yet cover all the needs of the Cypriot economy/society and important disciplines such as engineering, medicine, tourism have not yet been established. Nevertheless, there are many opportunities for establishing close relationships within the developing economic and research interests of Cyprus in these areas.

432. The University of Cyprus has the potential to substantially contribute to Cypriot society in research programmes, collaborating with various sectors of cypriot industry and commerce. Cypriot industry and government departments, State corporations and organizations (e.g. Cyprus Airways, the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority), as well as public corporations, can be helped through cooperation with the university. Research programmes contribute to the economy's vitality and assist companies and organizations in upgrading the quality of their products and services.

433. The university's departments and academic staff cooperate with various sectors of Cypriot society on research programmes that almost exclusively aim at the needs of Cyprus. Specific examples of some of these research programmes are as follows:

(a) The Department of Natural Sciences has begun work on studies concerning environmental pollution, the use of natural resources and alternative forms of energy in Cyprus;

(b) The Computer Science Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, is studying applications of information to medical diagnosis. The same department is also cooperating with the Meteorological Department of Cyprus on weather forecasting;

(c) The Economics Department is working on a study of an econometric model for the financial sector of Cyprus and the Cyprus economy in general;

(d) The Archaeological Research Unit, in collaboration with the Department of Economics and the Bank of Cyprus, is studying the economy of Cyprus through the ages;

(e) The Department of Public and Business Administration is studying the administration of computer information systems for the banking sector in Cyprus;

(f) The Department of Mathematics and Statistics cooperated successfully with the State radio (CyBC) for the timely forecasting of the results of the last presidential elections. The same department is also carrying out a study in collaboration with the Government Meteorological Service on rainfall in Cyprus;

(g) The Department of Greek Studies, Philosophy and History is involved in research programmes related to Cypriot history and letters. These include studies on the Middle Ages, Byzantine manuscripts of Cyprus, the Cypriot dialect, a new critical edition of the Chronicle of Leontios Machaeras, as well as a new annotated commentary of the stoic philosophers who worked in Cyprus;

(h) The Department of Education is undertaking programmes that concern the aspirations of parents and educators, the effectiveness of schools and the roles and training needs of headmasters;

(i) The Department of Foreign Languages and Literature is involved in an interdisciplinary programme in collaboration with other university departments on the role of Cyprus as a bridge between east and west.

434. The University of Cyprus will, in the future, be in a position to take advantage of opportunities that may arise through various bilateral cooperation agreements between Cyprus and other countries. These will foster cooperation with institutions abroad and contribute to the exchange of knowledge among academics. The university's objective is to gain recognition as a research centre and cooperate with other research institutions in the Mediterranean area. The continuous expansion of cooperation and extension of research programmes will enable the university to fulfil its objective as stated in its charter.

435. The Ministry of Education and Culture subsidizes the activities of learned societies and other organizations and institutions engaged in scientific research and creative activities. It also encourages them to undertake the organization of national and international seminars or conferences and offers them every possible support. Financial limitations and other economic and social priorities have affected the degree of realization of this freedom.

436. International contacts and cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields are effected through bilateral agreements between Cyprus and various countries (26 countries). These bilateral agreements concern scientific, cultural and educational matters and provide, inter alia, for:

(a) Scholarships for educational and training courses in the aforementioned fields;

(b) The organization of art and book exhibitions and of musical events;

(c) Educational visits and exchanges with other contracting parties.

437. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus encourages and subsidizes the participation of scientists, writers, artists and others in international scientific and cultural events. However, better international cooperation is adversely affected by financial limitations and increased travel costs.

438. During the reporting period, no changes have occurred in national policies, laws and practices negatively affecting the rights enshrined in article 15.

439. The Government of Cyprus in its effort to pursue the full realization of the rights enshrined in article 15 has taken full advantage of the assistance offered by the international organizations, in the form of training courses, scholarships, experts advice, etc.