

Original: ENGLISH

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
ARMENIA*

[14 July 1997]

* Information submitted by Armenia in accordance with the guidelines relating to the introductory parts of the reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.57).

* * *

284. According to article 36 of the Constitution: "Everyone is entitled to freedom of literary, scientific and technical creation, to benefit from the achievements of scientific progress and to participate in the cultural life of society. Intellectual property shall be protected by law." Article 11 provides: "Historical and cultural monuments and other cultural values are under the care and protection of the State."

* * *

295. In 1987 Armenia had over 100 research institutes and 200 design bureaux employing over 21,000 scientists. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union the number of such establishments has dwindled owing to the breakdown of previous scientific contacts and lack of financial and technical means. Today there is a trend towards reconstruction in this sphere, albeit with considerable changes in terms of activities and forms.

296. The Presidential Decree of 1993 has found practical reflection in various decisions on the funding of the National Academy of Sciences. This year the Academy will receive funds under a special budget heading, separate from the scientific sphere as a whole, which will cover both regular funding and the award of grants for research in specific areas.

297. In the summer of 1995, the Executive Board of UNESCO approved a programme of assistance to Armenia in the sphere of education, science, culture, communication, information and computer science. A small computer-aided printing press was presented to the National Academy of Sciences under this programme.

298. In 1993 and 1994 more than 200 Armenian scientists received grants from the George Soros International Scientific Foundation. Twenty per cent of the total amount of these grants was awarded to heads of various establishments of the National Academy by way of basic funding.

In 1995, the National Academy drafted and submitted to the Soros Foundation a longterm agreement on cooperation in the establishment of a scientific development plan. Funding for the plan is to be provided in equal parts by Armenia and the Soros Foundation.

299. The Catherine and John McArthur Fund (United States), which provides support for scientific research, has issued long-term grants to several Armenian scientists.

300. Intellectual property is placed under the protection of the State. The Ministry of Justice has a Patents Division which drafts normative acts on the protection of authors' copyright and industrial property, registers new patents and issues titles to protection under the copyright laws. Armenia is collaborating with international organizations in this sphere and particularly with WIPO.

301. In the nature conservation sphere, a new concept of ecological education has been developed. The following documents were adopted in 1991-1994: "Fundamentals of Armenian legislation on the environment"; Specially Protected Nature Zones Act; Air Protection Act; Land Code; Mineral Resources Code; Water Resources Code; Forest Resources Code.

302. Armenia is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; it participates in the Environment for Europe Programme and cooperates with EU and other countries, international banks and environmental organizations. In 1995, an agreement was concluded between the World Bank and the Armenian Government on the elaboration of a plan of action for restoring the ecological balance of Lake Sevan. The concluding stage of the reform process was marked by the adoption in 1995 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and the establishment of the Ministry of Ecology and Mineral Resources.