

E/1994/104/Add.4
17 October 1994

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Regular session of 1995

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

Addendum
UKRAINE

[19 September 1994]

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253. All citizens of Ukraine, legal entities, State bodies and local and regional government authorities are entitled under the Constitution of Ukraine to openness in scientific and technical information, which means that they can freely receive, keep, use and disseminate it during scientific, research, industrial, voluntary and other activities.

254. The right of free access to open scientific and technical information is also guaranteed by such pieces of legislation as the Information Act of 1992, the Scientific and Technical Information Act of 25 June 1993 and the Official Secrets Act of 21 January 1994.

255. The Scientific and Technical Information Act contains a section V on "State policy in the sphere of scientific and technical information", according to which the State, with the aim of forming and developing a national system of scientific and technical information, shall ensure that measures are taken to disseminate and improve the quality of information products and services, give financial support, including currency, for the acquisition of scientific and technical information by scientific and technical libraries and protect the parties involved in relations in the area of scientific and technical information from unfair competition and monopoly in any sphere of scientific information. The State shall promote openness and general accessibility of scientific and technical information.

256. Limitations on access to dissemination and use of information which is an official or other secret, and hence protected by law, are laid down in various acts. Scientific and technical information is covered by the right of ownership. Scientific and technical information which is covered by the right of private or other forms of ownership can be transferred to State ownership if its data, assets or records are handed over on a contractual basis. Information can be handed over for safekeeping or use, without the right of ownership being transferred. Scientific and technical information and the services provided by scientific and technical information bodies, and also enterprises, organizations, institutions and individuals that engage in scientific information activities, can be the object of trade relations.

257. The Scientific and Technical Information Act determines the conditions governing the provision of information products and services. Thus, State scientific and technical information bodies and services which organize the use of State scientific and technical information resources obtain and transfer such information on a non-profit-making

basis. Scientific and technical libraries financed out of the budget provide information free of charge. Surveys and analytical and factual works of reference prepared on the basis of evaluation, assessment and analysis of scientific and technical information are sold at commercial prices.

258. State scientific and technical information bodies and services and other information centres, firms, enterprises, institutions and organizations which set up scientific and technical information facilities out of their own resources provide information products and services on a commercial basis. The international exchange of scientific and technical information takes place in accordance with agreements concluded by Ukraine. Thus, on 26 June 1992, an agreement was signed on the international exchange of scientific and technical information between Ukraine and the Republic of Armenia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Georgia. Under the agreement, an intergovernmental scientific and technical information coordination council has been set up to arrange for the exchange of scientific and technical information between States and to set up information facilities for joint use.

259. With a view to establishing and developing a national system of scientific and technical information in Ukraine and expanding its international cooperation in this field, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted on 18 June 1993 a decision on Ukraine's becoming a member of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information. The Ukrainian Institute of Scientific, Technical and Economic Information has concluded bilateral agreements with information centres in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and China.