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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 2001

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

Fourth periodic reports submitted by States parties under
articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

Addendum

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Crown dependencies
(Isle of Man, Bailiwick of Guernsey and States of Jersey)* **

[30 January 2001]

* The second periodic reports concerning rights covered by articles 10 and 12 (E/1986/4/Add.27 and 28) and by articles 13 and 15 (E/1990/7/Add.16) submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its eleventh (1994) session (see E/C.12/1994/SR.33, 34, 36 and 37).

** The information submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.62).

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Isle of Man

332. The Isle of Man Government is committed to supporting and encouraging the growth of e-commerce and access to information communication technology (ICT) in the island and it recognizes that availability of access to training and education in these fields is vital. To this end, the Government has committed £500,000 during the current financial year (2000/01) and £750,000 for the 2001/02 financial year to the promotion of electronic communication and commerce and the use of the World Wide Web. Training on the latest developments in electronic communications is being provided through government initiatives in schools, the Isle of Man College, the Training Centre and for local businesses. Once access is gained to the Internet, communication

and access to information on the latest developments in science, and indeed all areas of human interest, become more freely available.

333. An E-Commerce Director post is to be created to take lead responsibility for all aspects of developing, promoting and implementing an e-commerce strategy for the Isle of Man. An e-commerce strategy will include a clear statement of intent designed to position the island as a leading international centre for e-commerce and the key objectives to be achieved relating to:

- (i) Economic development and diversification;
- (ii) Social inclusion and access to digital technology; and
- (iii) Development of Public Sector electronic communication interface and delivery of services.

Clearly, the E-Commerce Director will be responsible for monitoring developments in this area of scientific progress and ensuring that they are disseminated throughout the island's populace, and the remit includes the task of addressing the possibility of social exclusion with regard to access to this new technology.

334. All human rights, including the rights to life, health and personal freedom, are protected in the Isle of Man by legislative and other provisions, and any measures taken that restrict the enjoyment of these rights, whether or not they involve the use of scientific and technical progress, infringe those provisions.

335. There are provisions for the interception of communications in certain circumstances which might be construed as allowing scientific and technical measures to be used to contravene individuals' right to privacy. However, such actions are subject to obtaining a licence. An annual review is conducted by an independent commissioner on the award of such licences; this review is laid before Tynwald for the information of Members of the Legislature and the public.

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338. Educational provision with regard to science is made through the national curriculum, and is covered under article 13. It is worth noting that Isle of Man students sit external examinations set by United Kingdom examining boards. Scientific study at degree and postgraduate level is, by necessity, undertaken off-island, as there is no university on the island, but is supported by the Government through a system of grants. However, those undertaking their studies with the Open University are able to use the facilities at the Isle of Man College.

339. The measures taken with regard to the conservation and diffusion of culture are outlined in paragraphs 307 to 311 above.

340. There are no measures which limit the freedom to undertake scientific research and creative activity or the freedom to exchange of scientific, technical and cultural information, or to associate in learned societies, academies of science, professional associations, unions of workers and other organizations.

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States of Jersey

The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

578. The natural environment, landscape and biodiversity can be considered as an essential ingredient of cultural and “scientific” development. Under the Strategic Policy Review “2000 and Beyond”, the “Quality of Life” chapter included an objective “to recognize the full value of the Island’s important coast and countryside”.

579. Several approaches have been adopted to meet this requirement:

Update of the Island Plan - started in 1997 and ongoing;

Review of the Les Mielles “Special Area” status after 20 years of implementation. The review examines how best to carry forward holistic land use policies to ensure the character and natural and cultural importance of the area is protected;

Commissioning of a countryside character appraisal - cutting edge research to characterize the landscape, cultural and natural components of the island and outlying reefs and islets;

Production of a biodiversity strategy to conserve critical natural capital for future generations;

Establishment of a Ramsay* area on the south-east coast (agreed by the States on 9 November 1999).

580. Work is under way to improve fundamental understanding of the terrestrial and marine biodiversity of the island. Baseline surveys at both habitat and species level have been commissioned. The survey data provides the basic information for ongoing conservation management and prioritization of conservation objectives. Several PhD studentships have been provided to ensure primary research is undertaken into marine sediment processes which have

important implications for sea defence, pollution dispersion and environmental impact assessment of major development projects.

581. Considerable emphasis is placed on improving public awareness and access to the countryside and coastal areas, to educate all ages on the importance of our environmental heritage and gather support for increased efforts. More than 116 km of public footpaths are maintained as part of a round-island footpath network and more than 515 hectares of land are managed for conservation purposes by the States Environmental Services Unit. Two environmental interpretation centres are open throughout the summer tourism season and a third is scheduled for opening in summer 2000.