

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The States Parties to the present Protocol,

Considering that in order further to achieve the purposes of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Covenant) and the implementation of its provisions it would be appropriate to enable the Human Rights Committee set up in part IV of the Covenant (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) to receive and consider, as provided in the present Protocol, communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations of any of the rights set forth in the Covenant,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

A State Party to the Covenant that becomes a party to the present Protocol recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of any of the rights set forth in the Covenant. No communication shall be received by the Committee if it concerns a State Party to the Covenant which is not a party to the present Protocol.

Article 2

Subject to the provisions of article 1, individuals who claim that any of their rights enumerated in the Covenant have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies may submit a written communication to the Committee for consideration.

Article 3

The Committee shall consider inadmissible any communication under the present Protocol which is anonymous, or which it considers to be an abuse of the right of submission of such communications or to be incompatible with the provisions of the Covenant.

Article 4

1. Subject to the provisions of article 3, the Committee shall bring any communications submitted to it under the present Protocol to the attention of the State Party to the present Protocol alleged to be violating any provision of the Covenant.

2. Within six months, the receiving State shall submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy, if any, that may have been taken by that State.

Article 5

1. The Committee shall consider communications received under the present Protocol in the light of all written information made available to it by the individual and by the State Party concerned.

2. The Committee shall not consider any communication from an individual unless it has ascertained that:

(a) The same matter is not being examined under another procedure of international investigation or settlement;

(b) The individual has exhausted all available domestic remedies.

This shall not be the rule where the application of the remedies is unreasonably prolonged.

3. The Committee shall hold closed meetings when examining communications under the present Protocol.

4. The Committee shall forward its views to the State Party concerned and to the individual.

Article 6

The Committee shall include in its annual report under article 45 of the Covenant a summary of its activities under the present Protocol.

Article 7

Pending the achievement of the objectives of resolution 1514 (XV) adopted by the General Assembly of the United

Nations on 14 December 1960 concerning the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the provisions of the present Protocol shall in no way limit the right of petition granted to these peoples by the Charter of the United Nations and other international conventions and instruments under the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Article 8

1. The present Protocol is open for signature by any State which has signed the Covenant.

2. The present Protocol is subject to ratification by any State which has ratified or acceded to the Covenant. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Protocol shall be open to accession by any State which has ratified or acceded to the Covenant.

4. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States which have signed the present Protocol or acceded to it of the deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 9

1. Subject to the entry into force of the Covenant, the present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the tenth instrument of ratification or instrument of accession.

2. For each State ratifying the present Protocol or acceding to it after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification or instrument of accession, the present Protocol shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or instrument of accession.

Article 10

The provisions of the present Protocol shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

Article 11

1. Any State Party to the present Protocol may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate any proposed amendments to the States Parties to the present Protocol with a request that they notify him whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposal. In the event that at least one third of the States Parties favours such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of the States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval.

2. Amendments shall come into force when they have been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of the States Parties to the present Protocol in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

3. When amendments come into force, they shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted them, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Protocol and any earlier amendment which they have accepted.

Article 12

1. Any State Party may denounce the present Protocol at any time by written notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. Denunciation shall be without prejudice to the continued application of the provisions of the present Protocol to any communication submitted under article 2 before the effective date of denunciation.

Article 13

Irrespective of the notifications made under article 8, paragraph 5, of the present Protocol, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all States referred to in article 48, paragraph 1, of the Covenant of the following particulars:

- (a) Signatures, ratifications and accessions under article 8;
- (b) The date of the entry into force of the present Protocol under article 9 and the date of the entry into force of any amendments under article 11;
- (c) Denunciations under article 12.

Article 14

1. The present Protocol, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies of the present Protocol to all States referred to in article 48 of the Covenant.

B*The General Assembly,*

Considering that the text of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the text of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the text of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights should be made known throughout the world,

1. *Requests* the Governments of States and non-governmental organizations to publicize the text of these instruments as widely as possible, using every means at their disposal, including all the appropriate media of information;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate and wide circulation of these instruments and, to that end, to publish and distribute the text thereof.

*1496th plenary meeting,
16 December 1966.*

C*The General Assembly,*

Considering the advisability of the proposals for the establishment of national commissions on human rights or the designation of other appropriate institutions to perform certain functions pertaining to the observance of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

1. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request the Commission on Human Rights to examine the question in all its aspects and to report, through the Council, to the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their comments on the question, in order that the Commission on Human Rights may take these comments into account when considering the proposals.

*1496th plenary meeting,
16 December 1966.*

2214 (XXI). United Nations Children's Fund*The General Assembly,*

Taking the opportunity of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Children's Fund to congratulate Governments, organizations and individuals on their

support of and partnership with the Fund in its two decades of significant contribution to the well-being of children throughout the world and to international solidarity,

Recognizing the value of aid from the United Nations Children's Fund in helping developing countries accelerate and improve the operation of services benefiting children,

Noting with approval that the United Nations Children's Fund is helping Governments, as part of their national development plans and programmes, not only to protect their children and young people, but to ensure that they receive a suitable preparation for making their contribution to the economic and social progress of their countries,

Welcoming the fact that the training of national personnel in services benefiting children is now one of the major features of aid from the United Nations Children's Fund,

Commending the continued close co-operation between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the relevant technical and other agencies in the United Nations family,

Deeply concerned, however, at the magnitude of the unmet needs of children and youth in the developing countries and the ever-increasing demands on the resources of the United Nations Children's Fund,

Noting with approval the support in the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for an income goal of \$50 million to be reached by the end of 1969, at the close of the United Nations Development Decade,

1. *Endorses* the activities and objectives of the United Nations Children's Fund;

2. *Urges* Governments to increase their contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund and calls upon supporting organizations, groups and individuals to intensify their efforts so that the new income goal may be reached;

3. *Recommends* that Governments should include projects to meet the needs of children and youth in their over-all development plans.

*1498th plenary meeting,
19 December 1966.*

2215 (XXI). World social situation*The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming the solemn undertaking embodied in the Charter of the United Nations to promote economic and social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling its resolutions 1916 (XVIII) of 5 December 1963 and 2035 (XX) of 7 December 1965,

Noting again with deep concern that, despite past efforts, the world social situation is far from satisfactory,

Noting that progress in the achievement of the goals and objectives set for the United Nations Development Decade has been disappointingly slow,

Recognizing the importance of concerted practical action in the social field for attaining the goals of the United Nations Development Decade,