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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Management Segment

Item 20 (f)

Introduction of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

by

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Chair

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**10 June 2025
New York**



Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to present the report of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** on its 2024 sessions ([E/2025/22](#)).

In the report before you, the Committee recalls that, as of 27 September 2024, 172 States were parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and its Optional Protocol on individual communications had 29 States parties. These numbers have stagnated, and I would like to invite Members of this Council who have not yet ratified the Covenant, or its Optional Protocol, to consider doing so. I am pleased to note that St. Kitts and Nevis acceded to the Covenant in November 2024 to the Covenant. Cote d'Ivoire acceded the Optional Protocol in November 2024, Albania acceded the Optional Protocol in January 2025 (*thus, currently 173 and 31 States are parties to the Covenant and its optional protocol, respectively*).

Firstly, regarding **the reporting procedure**, the Committee considered thirteen State party reports in 2024. One of its main challenges is the very low level of reporting, along with a lack of meeting time. A considerable number of States parties have not yet engaged with the Committee or are overdue with reporting. The Committee still has a backlog of 49 reports pending review. If the Committee had more meeting time, more reports could be reviewed.

Secondly, under its **Optional Protocol**, the Committee continued the consideration of individual communications. Our report outlines the adoption of Views, and cases pending consideration, as well as those declared inadmissible or discontinued/withdrawn. The Committee also considered follow-up to Views. We regret the stagnation in ratification/accession, as well as the extremely limited number of States accepting the inquiry procedure under the OP-ICESCR.

Thirdly, regarding **substantive issues**, the Committee adopted its **Statement on Tax policy** and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural and continued to work on general comments, including notably the draft of the general comment related to sustainable development and the Covenant, for which we had a day of general discussion in 2023. Plans for two more general comments are still underway, one related to drug policies and the other to (armed) conflicts – as they relate to the enjoyment of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under the Covenant.

Fourthly, regarding the **treaty body strengthening process** I wish to highlight that, during its February 2025 session, the Committee has reaffirmed its decision to offer the simplified reporting procedure to all States parties who would like to avail themselves of it and has requested the Secretariat to draw up an implementation plan, within the parameters of available resources and with a view of introducing a **predictable review calendar**. This work is on-going, so for the time being, States should **continue reporting as per the regular procedure**.

Concerning resolution 68/268, the General Assembly unfortunately in December 2024 decided not to provide the necessary **resources** to strengthen the Treaty Bodies, who remain seriously underfunded. As of this moment, 10 June, the Committee has not been able to confirm the dates of its 78th session, starting early September this year, due to lack of funding.

I invite you to seize the occasion in the context of the treaty body strengthening process to make it possible for the Committee to have the capacity and regular budget resources it needs to fulfill its mandate and engage with all parties to the Covenant in a predictable manner.

To conclude, in the course of its work, the Committee has engaged with a wide variety of **stakeholders**, including States Parties, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society, and we are grateful to all for their engagement. The Committee has also met with other treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council with a view to achieving greater efficiency, effectiveness, harmonization of working methods and to review good practices, as encouraged by the General Assembly (Res 68/268 para. 9).

Thank you for your attention.
