

Costa Rica . . . . .	4th periodic report . . . . .	CERD/C/338/Add.4
Czech Republic . . . . .	13th and 14th periodic reports . . . . .	***
DR Congo . . . . .	10th and 11th periodic reports . . . . .	***
Finland . . . . .	13th and 14th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/320/Add.2
Italy . . . . .	10th and 11th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/317/Add.1
Kuwait . . . . .	13th and 14th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/299/Add.16
Lesotho . . . . .	7th -- 14th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/337/Add.1
Mongolia . . . . .	11th -- 15th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/338/Add.3
Peru . . . . .	12th and 13th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/298/Add.5
Portugal . . . . .	5th-8th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/314/Add.1
Republic of Korea . . . . .	9th and 10th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/333/Add.1
Rwanda . . . . .	*** . . . . .	***
Slovenia . . . . .	*** . . . . .	***
Sudan . . . . .	*** . . . . .	***
Syria . . . . .	12th -- 15th periodic reports . . . . .	CERD/C/338/Add.1/Rev.1
Yugoslavia . . . . .	*** . . . . .	***

## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (CESCR)

CESCR (Fact Sheet No. 16, Rev.1) was established in 1985 by a resolution of ECOSOC to monitor the effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which entered into force on 3 January 1976. CESCR met for the first time in 1987. The Committee meets twice a year (April and November) in three week sessions in Geneva. It is comprised of 18 independent experts elected by States parties for a four-year term; members may be re-elected. Under its reporting guidelines, the Committee has identified seven key objectives related to States' reporting obligations: ensuring a comprehensive review of national legislation, administrative rules and procedures, and practices; ensuring regular monitoring of the actual situation with respect to the Covenant rights; provision of a basis for government policies for implementation of the ICESCR; facilitation of public scrutiny of government policies with respect to implementation; provision of a basis on which both the government and the Committee can effectively evaluate progress; enabling the government to develop a better understanding of problems and shortcomings impeding realization of Covenant rights; and facilitation of the exchange of information among states parties in terms of both common problems and possible solutions in the realization of Covenant rights. In cases where states' reports are long overdue, the Committee may decide to consider the situation in the country concerned without a report and informs the government of that decision.

From time to time the Committee prepares "general comments" on the rights and provisions contained in the Covenant with the aim of assisting states parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations and to provide greater interpretative clarity as to the intent, meaning and content of the Covenant. At each of its sessions, the Committee holds a day of general discussion on particular provisions of the Covenant, particular human rights themes or other themes of direct relevant. Such discussions have focussed on: the right to food, the right to housing, economic and social indicators, the right to take part in cultural life, the rights of the aging and the elderly, the right to health, the role of social safety nets as a means of protecting economic, social and cultural rights, human rights education, the interpretation and practice application of obligations on states parties, and a draft optional protocol to the Covenant. The Committee seeks written information from non-governmental organizations and at each of its sessions sets aside one meeting to receive oral information from NGOs.

The provisional schedule of reports to be considered by the Committee is:

### April 1999

Bulgaria . . . . .	3rd periodic report . . . . .	E/1994/104/Add.16
Denmark . . . . .	3rd periodic report . . . . .	E/1994/104/Add.15
Iceland . . . . .	2nd periodic report . . . . .	E/1990/6/Add.15
Ireland . . . . .	Initial report . . . . .	E/1990/5/Add.34
Solomon Island . . . . .	*** . . . . .	***
Tunisia . . . . .	2nd periodic report . . . . .	E/1990/6/Add.14