

ECOSOC Resolution 1985/17, adopted in 1985, made several changes to the organization of the monitoring committee. The (renamed) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is now structured in the same manner as the Human Rights Committee, consisting of 18 nationals of States Parties to the Covenant, elected in their personal capacities (rather than governmental experts) for (overlapping) terms of four years. The first Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was elected at the 1986 spring session of ECOSOC, and its mandate will commence in the spring of 1987. Thus, the latest report received by ECOSOC (E/1986/49) is the last from a working group of governmental experts.

In its 1986 report to ECOSOC, the working group, wishing to assist the new Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, made a number of suggestions for improvements in regard to the submission, content and consideration of reports.

(B) ICCPR:

The Human Rights Committee is composed of 18 nationals of States Parties to the Covenant elected in their personal capacities by States Parties for a term of four years. It monitors State Parties compliance with the ICCPR. In addition, it receives, considers and adjudicates complaints from individuals concerning alleged breaches of the obligations in the Covenant by a state party which has ratified the Optional Protocol.

The Committee is required by the ICCPR to present a report each year to the General Assembly. The reports contain decisions of the Committee on Optional Protocol complaints as well as its comments on the implementation reports of states parties. Because of the UN's financial problems the Committee was required to cancel its fall 1986 session.

CANADIAN POSITION:

Canada acceded to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol in 1976 and considers them to be important human rights instruments. We generally take an active part in the debate on this item.

Canada has traditionally co-sponsored the standard resolution on the Covenants, introduced by one of the Nordic countries, and did so last year (Res. 41/119). The resolution was adopted by consensus.