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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
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ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

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

**List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of
the initial report of the Republic of Latvia concerning the rights referred to
in articles 1-15 of the International Covenant on Economic,
Social and Cultural Rights (E/1990/5/Add.70)**

I. General Framework within which the Covenant is implemented

1. Please provide examples of case law on economic, social and cultural rights in which the Latvian courts have provided legal remedies for violations of these rights and indicate if the CESCR has been invoked.
2. Please indicate whether the State Party has adopted a national plan of action on human rights in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993.
3. Please provide case law, where possible, of court decisions on coercive expropriation of real estate (para. 23 of the report).
4. Please provide updated information on the general trend relating to the number of shareholders in the process of privatization (para. 49 of the report).
5. Please indicate the measures being undertaken by the State party to address the polarization of society which has widened the gap between the rich and the poor (para. 53 of the report).

II. Issues relating to the General Provisions of the Covenant (arts. 1-5)

6. Given that the present report covers the period from 14 July 1992 to 1 January 2002 (para. 1 of the report), the State party is requested to update the statistical information contained in paras. 86, 91 and 92 (on article 3) of the report.

Article 1: Self-determination

7. Please provide information on the practical implementation of the Law on Privatization of Land in Rural Areas and the Law on the Land Reform in the Cities, especially with regard to the distribution of such lands, disaggregated according to the categories cited in para. 13 of the report.

Article 2.2: Non-discrimination

8. Please provide examples, if any, of court cases dealing with: i) racial discrimination (paras 57-58 of the report); and ii) granting of Latvian citizenship (para. 61 of the report).

Article 3: Equal rights of men and women

9. Please clarify the legal definition in the State party of equality between men and women, as provided for in article 3 of the Covenant. In this regard, please elaborate on the concept of gender equality as stated in para. 94 of the report.

III. Issues relating to specific provisions of the Covenant (arts. 6-15)

10. Given that the present report covers the period from 14 July 1992 to 1 January 2002 (para. 1 of the report), the State party is requested to update the statistical information contained in paras. 134, 150, 151, 160, 162, 173 (art.7); 213, 252, 264, 269, 270 (art. 9); 290, 326 (art.10); 385, 386, 397 (art.11); 430, 433, 435, 451, 454, 455, 472-4, 478, 479, 481, 484, 485, 489 (art. 12); 519, 523, 529 (art. 13) of the report.

Article 6 : the right to work

11. Please update the information provided in paras. 105-110 of the report.
12. Please describe the measures undertaken by the State party to encourage employers to hire persons with disabilities.
13. Please provide information on the impact of the national employment plan (para. 107) and the strategies taken to improve employment.

Article 7 : the right to just and favourable conditions of work

14. Please indicate if the “subsistence minimum” established by the State party under arts. 83 and 84 of the Latvian Labour Code is sufficient to provide a decent living for all workers and their families (para. 131 of the report).

15. Please provide information on measures taken to instruct employers on the labour safety protection measures (para. 159 of the report).
16. Please indicate whether the State party has considered ratifying the ILO Convention No.174 on major industrial accidents.
17. Please indicate what measures have been undertaken by the State party to address the high incidents of labour accidents. In this regard, please update the data provided in para. 160, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnic origin.
18. Please provide information on cases of discrimination with regard to the application for vacancies in the offices of civil servants, if any (para. 166 of the report).

Article 8 : Trade Union rights

19. Please identify the difficulties encountered, if any, in the implementation of the numerous laws regarding trade unions, their membership and operations.
20. Please provide information on whether there are any plans to reduce the minimum number of members for a trade union to be registered (para. 187 of the report).

Article 9 : Right to social security

21. Please indicate the categories of workers (i.e. employees and self-employed, domestic, part-time and other specific groups of workers) covered by social security and the benefits guaranteed to each category of workers so as to enable a comparison of persons covered and benefits granted. In this regard, the State party is requested to bring together information provided in the report on social security and social assistance, under articles 9, 10 and 11.
22. Please indicate the measures taken by the State party, whether through financial support, or access to health services, to assist mothers who are not entitled to benefits because they do not contribute to the compulsory contribution system.

Article 10 : Protection of the family, mothers and children

23. Please provide more information on the competence and activities of the Orphans' Court (para. 290 of the report).
24. Please indicate whether there has been any progress in the provision of the maternity benefit (para. 327 of the report).
25. Please indicate whether the State party has considered ratifying the ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour.

26. Please provide information on the legal framework to combat domestic violence, including spousal rape, and on measures taken to prevent acts of domestic violence, such as awareness-raising campaigns and restraining orders for abusive partners. Please also provide information on assistance provided to victims of domestic violence, including special shelters for battered women and children.
27. Please provide updated statistical data on the number of women and children who are trafficked to, from and in transit through the territory of the State party. Please also indicate whether there is a coordinated national approach to counter-trafficking programmes.
28. Please describe the impact of preventive and educational measures taken by the State party to address child abuse (paras 409 to 411 of the report).

Article 11 : the right to an adequate standard of living

29. Please indicate whether the State party has adopted an official poverty line.
30. Please provide a general overview of the extent to which equal access to adequate food is guaranteed in the State party, in particular for the disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and groups, including immigrants, ethnic minorities, children, the youth and older persons.
31. Please indicate the extent of homelessness and forced evictions in the State party. Please also provide information on the measures taken by the State party to address these issues, in accordance with the Committee's General Comments 4 & 7.
32. Please provide information on the number of persons currently classified as living in inadequate housing conditions.
33. Please provide information on the existence of any laws affecting the right to housing.
34. Please indicate the role of international assistance in the full realisation of all the rights enshrined in article 11. In this regard, please provide information, including statistics on a disaggregated basis, as to how this assistance benefits the various sectors in the State party.

Article 12 : the right to physical and mental health

35. Please explain the reasons behind the decrease in the government financing for healthcare (para. 430 of the report).
36. Please provide detailed information on the results of the reform of the health system which began in 1993 (para. 431 of the report), in particular, on equal access to health care and medical services for disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and groups.

37. Please indicate the causative factors for the insufficient number of medical personnel, which according to para. 489 of the report, is a serious problem in the State party. Please describe what measures are being implemented by the State party to address this situation.
38. Please indicate the causative factors for the problem of the poor quality of drinking water in many areas in the State party. Please describe what measures are being implemented by the State party to address this situation.
39. Please provide detailed information on measures taken to improve the sexual and reproductive health of women.
40. Please provide information on the legislation and practice, including disaggregated data, concerning persons with mental health problems or intellectual disabilities, with particular regard to: i) procedure for involuntary admission in psychiatric and mental health facilities; ii) cases in which medical treatment can be administered without the prior informed consent of the person; and iii) existing review procedure for detention on ground of mental disability.

Articles 13 and 14 : the right to education

41. How does the State party provide for free and compulsory primary education?
42. Please provide statistical information on literacy in the State party, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic origin.
43. Please provide statistical information on the school drop-out rates on a disaggregated basis (by age, sex, urban and rural areas, nationality and ethnic origin).
44. How does the State party monitor private education establishments, in particular their curriculae?
45. What has been the impact on members of linguistic minorities to enjoy the benefits relating to the right to education, in particular, the Russian speaking students, of the Education Law of 1998 which has made Latvian the compulsory language of instruction?
46. Please provide updated information on the problem described in para. 600 in the report regarding factors relating to the shortage of qualified teachers. In this regard, what are the effective measures undertaken by the State party to ensure the continuous supply of teachers for all levels of education, in particular, at the primary level?

Article 15 : Cultural rights

47. Please provide information on the initiatives taken by the State party in the form of cultural support and cultural consultation for the Russian speaking persons who consist of approximately 40% of the population of the State party.

48. Please provide information on the budgetary support for cultural establishments that provide services using minority languages.
