

Advancing knowledge-led development through the right to science in Africa

11 November 2019

Addis Ababa University - School of Law

ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO
SCIENCE THROUGH THE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS MECHANISMS

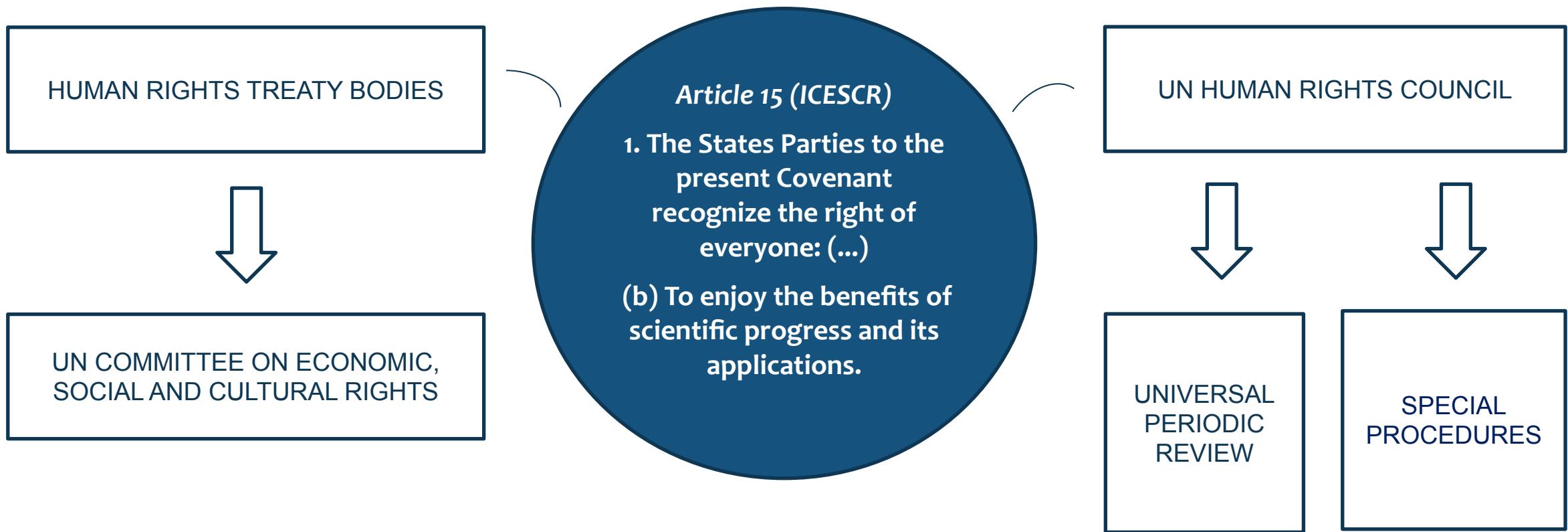
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THE RIGHT TO SCIENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



WHAT DO THE TREATY BODIES DO?

CONSIDERATION OF STATES PARTIES' REPORTS



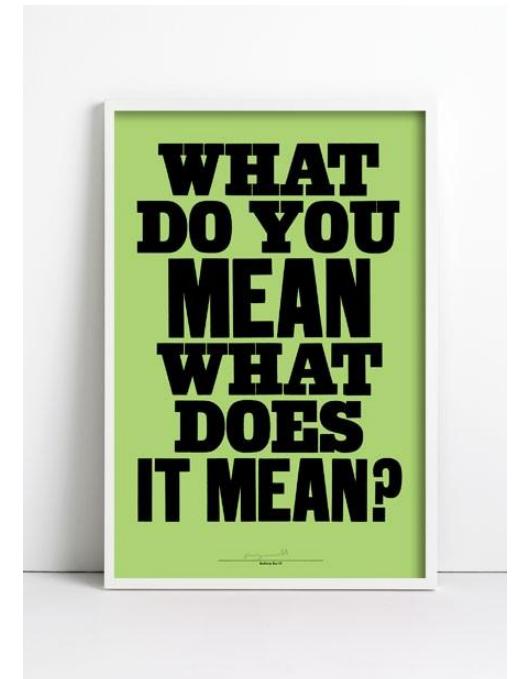
CONDUCT COUNTRY INQUIRIES



CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS

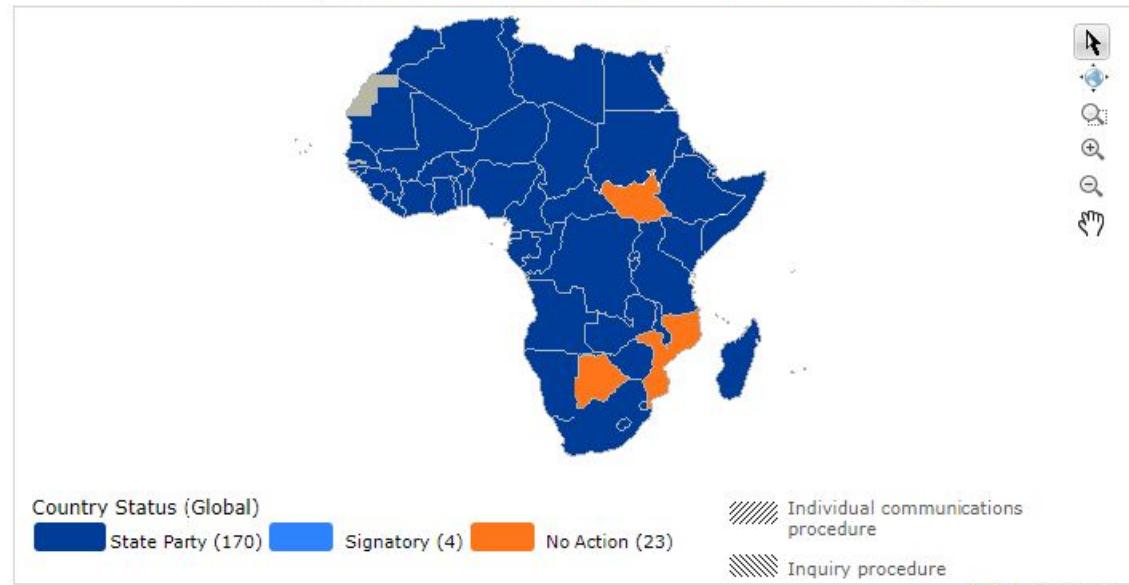


GENERAL COMMENTS



STATUS OF RATIFICATION: A FOCUS ON AFRICA

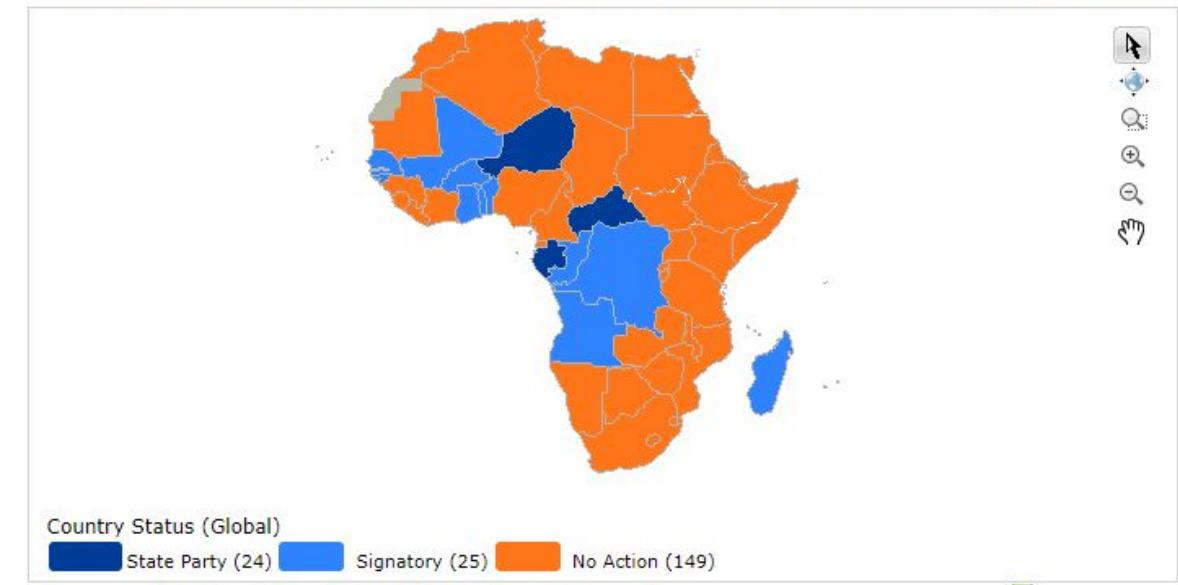
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



Note: Click [HERE](#) for the application of the treaty to overseas, non-self-governing, and other territories.
Click [HERE](#) for the list of international human rights treaties and optional protocols.

Note: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



Note: Click [HERE](#) for the application of the treaty to overseas, non-self-governing, and other territories.
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Note: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

UNPRECEDENTED BUDGETARY CRISIS



In April 2019, the Chairpersons of all ten UN human rights treaty bodies were informed that six of them were very likely to have sessions in 2019 cancelled as a consequence of some member States delaying payments due to the UN. The CESCR is among them and it had its session cancelled.

The UN General Assembly approves the UN regular budget every two years. All member States are required to contribute according to the «capacity to pay». The highest contributing member is the United Nations which pays 22% of the total; the smallest state pays 0.001%.

As of 30 April 2019, only 89 states out of 193 had paid their portion in full. The United States is not among them and its unpaid bill amounts to \$1.055 billion. (Source: Financial Situation of the United Nations» by Jan Beagle, 7 May 2019)

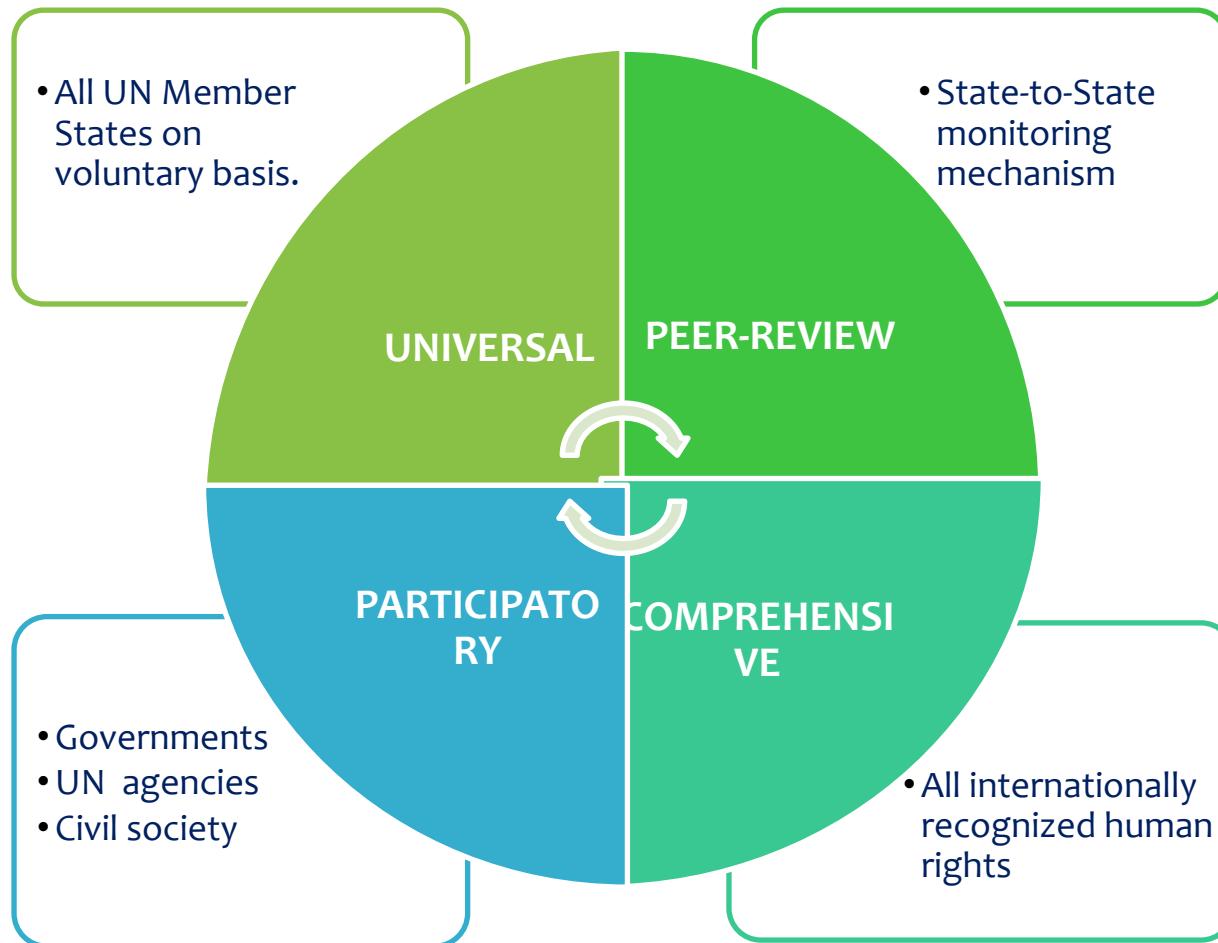
Travel expenses and Daily Substances Allowance (a consultancy-related per diem) are directly affected by the crisis, with adverse consequences for the treaty bodies, whose budget includes a significant component of travel and per-diem due to their experts being unpaid and mostly based outside Geneva.

THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.



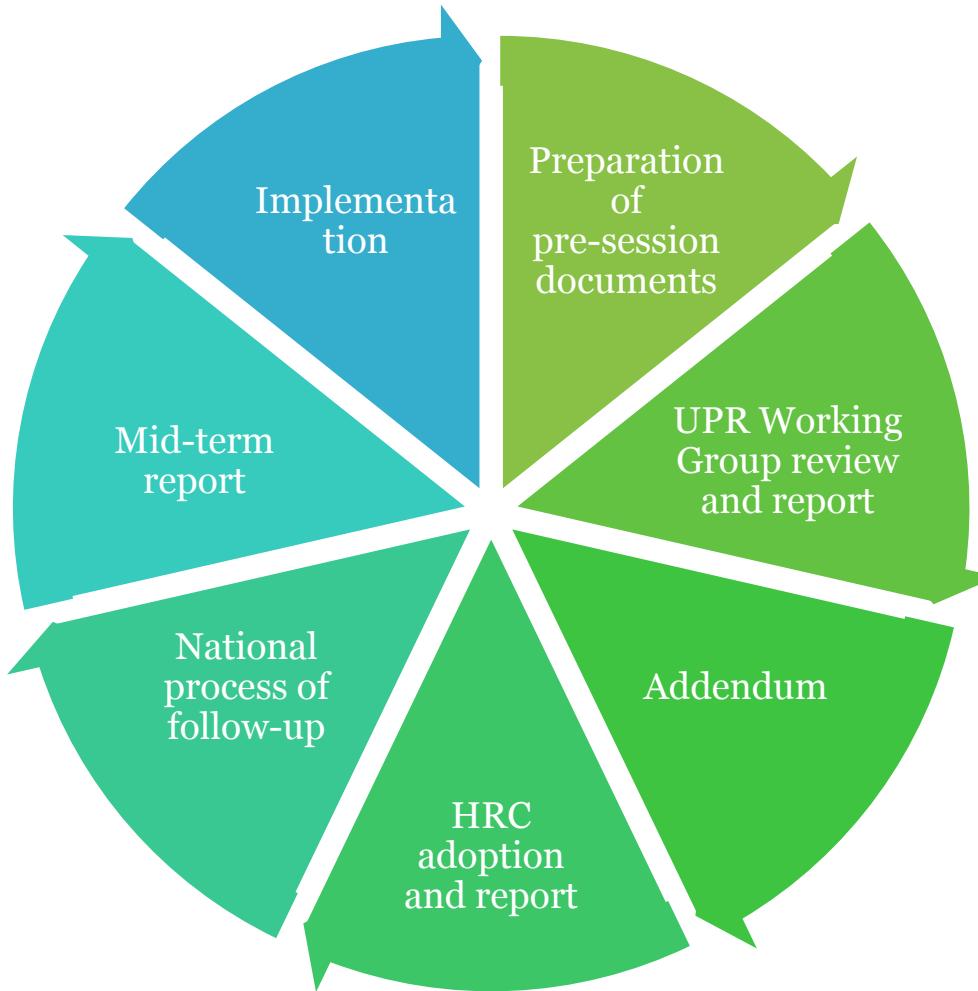
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



«Undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States»

A/RES/60/251

UPR : HOW DOES IT WORK?



3° UPR CYCLE OF ETHIOPIA (14 MAY 2019)



327 recommendations received

Kenya recommends to continue the national Growth and Transformation Plan, as it will increase the implementation of all human rights and especially economic, social and cultural rights. (Accepted)

No specific mention of right to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

HOW CAN THE CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGE MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE UPR?



SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.

WHAT DO SPECIAL PROCEDURES DO?

- Country visits
- Communications to States and others on documented violations or abuses
- Thematic studies and expert consultations
- Advocacy
- Annual report to the Human Rights Council
- Report to the General Assembly



COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL PROCEDURE: FOCUS ON ETHIOPIA

163.41. “Further strengthen cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council”

163.41. Noted. Ethiopia is committed to cooperate with the special procedures on a case-by-case basis.

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THANK YOU!

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