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Documentation of the Work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

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CONFERENCE A

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Committee Staff

Director	David Godoy
Chair	Emily Furlong

Agenda

- I. Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Refugees
- II. Addressing Workers' Rights for Sustainable Economic Growth
- III. Preserving Cultural Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Report Segments adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
CESCR/1/1	Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Refugees	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Addressing Workers' Rights for Sustainable Economic Growth
- II. Preserving Cultural Rights of Ethnic Minorities
- III. Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Refugees

The session was attended by representatives of 15 Member States. On the first session, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Refugees.” The delegates organized into one group and divided to write one report. The committee assigned different subtopics to several Member States and began working on developing their ideas and recommendations. By the second day, the Dais received a total of one proposal covering a wide range of sub-topics that aimed to protect economic, social and cultural rights to refugees. Such sub-topics included easy access to basic human rights, mechanized response, integration, resettlement, and protection of refugees in crisis. Throughout the next sessions’ formal and informal sessions, the committee worked as a unified and highly collaborative body, being successful in creating a cohesive document that allowed for the joint participation and input of all present Member States.

In the last session, one concise draft report segment had been approved by the Dais, with no further amendments proposed. The draft report segment represented a wide range of issues including protecting economic, social and cultural rights to refugees during crisis, transitions, resettlement, and adaptation to a new nation. Member States were able to work as a unified body, and during voting procedure, the draft report segment was approved by acclamation. Overall, the Dais was impressed with the level of cooperation that occurred throughout the week, as well as the standard of professionalism performed by the committee as a whole and the decorum of all delegations.



Code: CЕСCR/1/1

Committee: Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Topic: Protecting Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for Refugees

1 **I. Introduction**

2
3 **A. PROTECTION OF REFUGEES**

- 4
- 5 1. Refugees could reside in three categories with regards to their status of asylum. The recommended classification
6 system would categorize Member States into separate tiers: Crisis nation, Transit nation, and Host nation in
7 order to clarify each Member State's intent and ability to assist. The Crisis nation is the current Member State
8 experiencing a condition of emergency caused by a significant and perpetual violation of citizens' economic,
9 social, and cultural (ESC) rights, natural disasters, and war leading to great displacement while the Transit
10 nations are those Member States that could temporarily commit to the relocation process of the refugees. The
11 Host nations would be those states that can permanently integrate refugees into their societies. Refugees in Host
12 and Transit nations are often discriminated and vulnerable to dangerous circumstances that could impact their
13 physical well-being due to their cultural differences, religion, and/or socio-economic status. Article 2 of the
14 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) states the importance of every Member State to
15 respect all individuals within its territory while avoiding any forms of discrimination. In addition, the influx of
16 refugees has overpopulated state governments and has burdened their legal procedures to work ineffectively for
17 the refugee rights. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to Article 14 of the ICCPR to foster equal representation
18 before the court of law and to provide adequate time in facilities for preparation of refugee defense. It is also of
19 utmost importance to guarantee the rights specified in Article 14.3.D of the ICCPR to allow every refugee the
20 right to defend himself personally or through legal assistance without payment if he does not have sufficient
21 means to do so.
22
- 23 2. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), particularly Article 3, states that every person has the
24 right to life, liberty, and security. However, refugees experience a violation of these rights, as they encounter
25 prejudice and abuse in Transit and Host nations. Furthermore, refugees are often denied access through
26 international borders due to economic concerns. Yet, Article 13 of the UDHR underscores the right of every
27 person to move freely within state borders. CЕСCR supports this right of free movement for all.
28
- 29 3. Stateless persons are vulnerable to the denial of medical assistance such as the refusal of the admittance into
30 hospitals or treatment, and are often not provided with sufficient psychological support. Article 12 of the
31 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) endorses the right for everyone to
32 enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. In order to guarantee health, safety, and the
33 basic necessary goods, the *Geneva Convention* gathered to afford refugees a broad range of rights in their
34 country of asylum.
35
- 36 4. Article 11 of the ICESCR states the right of every person to obtain an adequate standard of living for
37 themselves and their families. However, refugees can be marginalized within their host and transit nations,
38 leaving them subjected to extremely poor conditions and lack of food, water, and shelter. The United Nations
39 (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to protect and support refugees. Subsequently,
40 the organization guarantees their human rights and security. In regards to housing, UNHCR works to coordinate
41 housing systems for refugees who are unable to independently provide themselves with adequate homes.
42

43 **B. RESETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS**

- 44
- 45 5. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) exemplifies resettlement as one of its
46 primary goals in dealing with refugee crisis situations. Articles 13 and 14 of the UDHR expresses the right of
47 refugees to leave any Member State and return after the crisis situation, as well as the right to seek and benefit
48 from asylum. This committee is concerned with current world refugee crises such as the four million people that

49 have fled Syria, as cited by UNCHR, leading to an increase in the dramatic need for basic protection of human
50 rights including but not limited to: shelter, economic growth, medical assistance, and education.

- 51
- 52 6. Article 17 of the 1967 *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* emphasizes the need to protect refugees from
53 discrimination of all kinds including racial, religious, gender, and nationality-based bias in higher practices, the
54 workplace and education facilities. CESCR recognizes the possibility of racism, xenophobia, and an overall fear
55 of refugees that can develop in Host nations to the unprecedented mass migration. The noted influx of refugees
56 creates noticeable pressure on a Host or Transit nation to meet the refugees' economic demands. The work
57 available in the Host and Transit nation may not always be enough to ensure that everyone, including citizens of
58 the Member States and refugees, have decent work. Member States with high unemployment rates, such as
59 Egypt, are unfortunately unable to adequately ensure economic rights of refugees. Therefore clarifying Member
60 States as Crisis, Transit, and Host nations would reasonably distribute the care of refugees.
- 61
- 62 7. Article 2 of the ICESCR highlights the necessity for the partnership between Member States that will ensure the
63 safety and livelihood of refugees when they leave their home state towards the goal of resettlement. CESCR
64 would like to highlight the positive contributions of refugees to Host nations and favors increasing cooperation
65 in a globalized world that can help Member States communicate well and initiate effective economic growth.
- 66
- 67 8. The creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) brought an innovative direction to addressing current
68 issues worldwide. CESCR draws specific attention to SDGs 4, 8, and 17 in the case of relocating refugees.
69 Quality education is fundamental for improving the quality of life. In reference to SDG 8, refugees can serve as
70 a positive contribution to areas lacking people in the workplace. With an assurance of legal documents such as
71 work permits, refugees can be a key element to economic growth. CESCR recognizes that such a complex issue
72 requires global collaboration across Member States, UN bodies, and other UN partners, such as Amnesty
73 International, UNCHR, the Host Community Support Platform (HCSP), and the Ministry of Planning and
74 International Cooperation (MOPIC), to successfully and efficiently address the topic.
- 75
- 76 9. The need to respect Member State's sovereignty without sacrificing efficiency in hosting those who are fleeing
77 crisis situations is crucial to the effectiveness of the resettlement process.
- 78
- 79 10. Protecting refugee children's rights during the long process of resettlement is essential. As stated in Article 8 of
80 the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), Member States undertake to respect the right of the child to
81 preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name, and family relations as recognized by law, without
82 unlawful interference. Article 22 of the CRC further implicates the importance of ensuring children's rights to
83 protection and humanitarian assistance. CESCR recognizes the necessity of families to stay together while
84 surviving international crisis, especially when children are introduced to Host or Transit nations.

85 **C. INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES INTO SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC NORMS**

- 86
- 87
- 88 11. Article 15 of the ICESCR asserts that cultural rights are fundamental rights for all. Such rights are necessary for
89 the enjoyment of all people's cultural lifestyle, and Article 15 is applicable with the cultural rights for refugees.
90 Family is a defining characteristic of countless cultures. UNHCR's Guidelines on Family Reunification, as well
91 as the regional Directive 2003/86 of the European Union, integrate all members of a refugee family into their
92 host nations with protection of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights.
- 93
- 94 12. Education of child refugees is a vital component of integration into a host country. Principle 23 of the UN
95 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (UN OCHA) Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
96 states that host nations should ensure that child refugees have access to education. In order to adapt to and thrive
97 in their new country, refugees need the means to achieve an effective transition into their host nations. Training
98 and teaching refugees how to adapt to their new country is vital to a refugee's integration process. CESCR
99 commends the work done by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), particularly in its provision of vocational
100 and life skill trainings to refugees in Myanmar. Since its inception in 2013, NRC's Vocational and Life Skills
101 Education program has fostered growth and the necessary abilities to be effective participants in society and in
102 their own lives.

- 104 13. The purpose of media awareness campaigns, such as the 2010 UNHCR campaign asking for increased empathy
105 with regards to the situation of refugees, is to illustrate the unjustified internalized prejudice against refugees.
106 CESCR recognizes the 2013 General Assembly (GA) resolution 67/297 emphasizes the need for public and
107 media awareness of work done by international organizations.
108

109 **D. MITIGATION OF ESC RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

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111 14. CESCR recognizes the success of various bodies' classification systems such as the Organisation for Economic
112 Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Country Risk Assessment Model (CRAM) and underscores the
113 expertise of various UN bodies such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UNHCR, and the UN
114 Human Rights Council (HRC) in recommending information and providing aid to Member States in need of
115 assistance. The committee looks forward to using the successful models and experiences of the aforementioned
116 organizations in its efforts to help prevent and respond to future refugee crises.
117

- 118 15. Moreover, the committee reaffirms the utility of preparedness in reacting to international crises and promotes
119 cooperation among regional Member States. Preparedness is fundamental to the maintenance of the refugee's
120 ESC rights throughout the process of their displacement. The more efficient and prepared the response by
121 Member States is, the greater their ability to re-establish the refugee's full access to their ESC rights.
122

123 **E. EASY ACCESSIBILITY TO ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF LIVELIHOOD FOR REFUGEES**

- 124
125 16. The accessibility to labor markets and the right to work are crucial in maintaining the economic rights of
126 refugees. CESCR would like to refer to Articles 23 and 26 of the UDHR, which highlights all individuals' equal
127 rights to employment, equal pay, and decent working conditions without any type of discrimination.
128

- 129 17. The full integration of women into the labor force is necessary to preserve the economic and social rights of all
130 refugees. CESCR reiterates Article 3 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination*
131 *against Women* (CEDAW), which encourages the full political, economic, and cultural participation of women
132 to ensure the enjoyment of certain human rights. Moreover, CESCR commends the work found in GA
133 resolution 69/154, which recognizes the vulnerability of women among refugees and displaced persons in
134 Africa. This committee would like to call attention to the vulnerability of women refugees throughout the world
135 that face discriminatory norms, which regulate women to the informal economic sector.
136

- 137 18. SDG 8 for decent work and economic growth has the stated goal to "achieve higher levels of economic
138 productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on
139 high-value added and labor-intensive sectors." CESCR views ensuring the economic rights of refugees as a way
140 to pursue this goal.
141

142 **II. Mandate**

- 143
144 19. CESCR monitors the implementation of the ICESCR through its process of receiving and reviewing reports
145 submitted by individual Member States on the status of ESC rights within its borders, as well as on what action
146 the Member State is taking to guarantee these rights to all people. CESCR also creates reports with
147 recommendations and guidance to help Member States fulfill these obligations.
148

149 **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

150 **A. PROTECTION OF REFUGEES**

- 151
152
153 20. The committee stands in compliance with Article 2 of the ICCPR, which states the importance of each Member
154 State to respect all individuals within its territory without distinction based on ethnicity, gender, language,
155 religion, political preference, nation, or social origin. Subsequently, in order to protect social rights,
156 governments could create legislation that safeguard the social protection of refugees within state borders,
157 especially during or within the after effects of a crisis. Therefore, Member States are encouraged to support the
158 legal protection of refugees and urges for the accompaniment of proper legal representation in all legal affairs.

159 The committee reassures the right for refugees to be treated equally in the process of law as well as the right to
160 have their cases assessed individually. It is hopeful for state governments to provide this legal assistance
161 without payment if the defendants do not have the sufficient means to do so.
162

- 163 21. Accountable measures by governments will ensure refugees are neither discriminated against nor impeded upon
164 in access to basic necessities. Police can play an effective role in safeguarding these rights. Governmental
165 training systems are encouraged to acquire cultural awareness in regards to the practices and values of refugees.
166 State officials will undergo cultural seminars pertaining to incoming cultures. Member States need to ensure
167 that their national legislative measures incorporate training programs catered to police systems to protect
168 refugees and guarantee adherence to Article 2 of the ICCPR. Inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) need to
169 be trained in practicing mediation efforts between refugees and nations in cases where tensions arise to ensure
170 refugees are protected. These mediation efforts would consist of resolving disputes between both parties in
171 order find an equally beneficial common ground.
172
- 173 22. In order to guarantee the non-discriminatory handling of refugees by police forces, CESCR stresses the
174 importance of the continuation of the UNHCR's oversight of the treatment of refugees in Host and Transit
175 states.
176
- 177 23. As a result of refugees not gaining health care access due to their lower socio-economic status and lack of legal
178 registration, Member States are encouraged to provide refugees with proper medical assistance including equal
179 access to all forms of health care. Refugees who cannot afford the necessary medical attention are encouraged
180 to be provided with free-of-charge or subsidiary health care. Our committee also believes in the necessity to
181 provide adequate psychological support with an understanding that many asylum seekers might suffer from
182 traumas or similar mental illnesses due to war, or other very vulnerable situations they may encounter.
183
- 184 24. Over time, and specifically in the past year, refugees have had no choice but to abandon their homes and jobs.
185 Given such tragedies, housing and a lack of income to provide proper nutrition have hindered the majority of
186 refugees. To address the housing and malnutrition issues facing many refugees in their new states of residence,
187 Member States ought to ensure that refugees are provided shelter, and are properly accommodated with basic
188 necessities such as housing, food, and water.
189
- 190 25. As a result of refugees being denied entry into other Member States that are not of their origin, border forces
191 should be prepared to alleviate and cope with the tensions caused by the borders' influx of refugees. In addition,
192 CESCR suggests fellow Member States open up their borders, in compliance with Article 13 of the UDHR,
193 particularly its mention on freedom of movement.
194

195 **B. RESETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS**

196

- 197 26. Resettlement serves as an essential step to protecting refugees. It is vital because it provides a baseline to
198 reintegration into society and normalizes their lives as soon as possible. Resettlement encompasses a wide range
199 of ESC rights, such as the right to education, the right to work, and the right to economic opportunities. The
200 benefits and advantages provided by refugees of all skill levels in the workforce will help ease the apprehension
201 often attributed to this group of people, and therefore these human rights should apply to all people regardless
202 of their citizenship status.
203
- 204 27. In order to better secure ESC rights to refugees, a system of classification could be created that would
205 distinguish each phase of the resettlement in order to safeguard the ESC rights of refugees. These Member
206 States could provide humane living conditions, primary and vocational education, work permits, and access to
207 information on both the process of immigration and the host destination. For example, in partnership with
208 UNCHR, Egypt has implemented a program that expedites the work permit process to allow refugees to work
209 while residing in Egypt. These Member States could facilitate several programs including pathways to
210 citizenship, degree evaluations, and language education, as further outlined in the integration section of this
211 report.
212
- 213 28. Education can improve overall prosperity and lead to an enhanced global understanding of cultural differences.
214 In accordance with SDG 4 and 8, both Host and Transit nations should prioritize providing quality education

215 and opportunities for decent work. With an increase of population, there is a greater demand for goods and
216 services leading to need for a more robust labor force. Refugees can often fill these jobs and positively affect
217 the economies of the Member States they reside in.

- 218
- 219 29. Once in the Host or Transit nation, refugees should retain their ability to voluntarily return to their home
220 Member State, once they are willing and able to. CESCER believes that is necessary to provide economic
221 assistance to those who wish to return to their state of origin.
- 222
- 223 30. In accordance with SDG 17, CESCER suggests the collaboration of Member States, UN partners, and bodies
224 such as Amnesty International, HCSP, and MOPIC in order to certify the efficient implementation of the
225 recommendations. For example, HCSP has previously worked with governments of Host nations to develop
226 comprehensive action plans, such as Jordan's National Resilience Plan, developed in 2014, that desired to
227 adequately prepare the Member State for the short and long-term effects of the current crisis.
- 228
- 229 31. Since the beginning of the Syrian refugee crisis six years ago, it has escalated to be the worst humanitarian
230 crisis since World War II, according to UNCHR. The need for bolder action in terms of investments and growth
231 that empower the refugees to create a self-sustaining and resilient environment for them to reside in is a crucial
232 aspect of successful resettlement. Member States can provide any amount of help in order to further empower
233 the self-dependency of refugees such as the pilot program successfully being implemented in the Republic of
234 Korea that offer programs accelerating integration.
- 235
- 236 32. Funding for the recommendations made by this committee can be attained on several levels. Each Member State
237 could be primarily responsible for funding country-specific refugee programs with possible assistance from
238 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional funding organizations, such as Amnesty International and
239 the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which can be involved not monetarily, but also provide
240 volunteer support. CESCER encourages donations and monetary assistance to be voluntarily given from states
241 that cannot classify themselves as a Host or Transit nation, or are otherwise willing to assist. If needed, loans
242 from the World Bank can be applied for on a short-term basis with a low interest rates.

243 **C. INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES INTO SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC NORMS**

- 244
- 245
- 246 33. The rights to education are for social rights; therefore it is important that education for refugees throughout the
247 international community is promoted and reinforced. Children of refugees under the age of twelve should enjoy
248 the right to essentially cost free education, spanning from pre-school to primary school. Some effective
249 measures can be considered regarding discrimination in the school setting and the continuation of schooling
250 beyond primary school. Such measures can include the provision to educational benefits on a non-
251 discriminatory basis, in relation to identities such as country origin, refugee status, minority status, and gender
252 status. Once students have completed primary school, it is important to implement a secondary school
253 scholarship fund designated for refugees upon completion of primary school, to encourage further education of
254 all people, including refugees, with the help of civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs. Higher education
255 should be available to refugees without the possibility of discrimination based on refugee status. CESCER
256 envisions the support of World Education as well as UNHCR and UNESCO in order to fund these efforts.
- 257
- 258 34. Refugees need support from their host nations to be adequately prepared to integrate economically and socially.
259 In previous refugee crises, it has proven difficult for refugees to maintain their native language in the host
260 country, as well as having the resources to learn the language of the respective Member State. The
261 implementation of numerous training systems for refugees can facilitate the integration of refugees into their
262 new country: training systems including language, vocational, residency, and international training systems to
263 foster integration and community support can be implemented to better help refugees' integration. Language
264 training is integral to aid in smooth transitions for refugees into host Member States. Proficiency in the national
265 language of a host country is a logical necessity for refugees in order to function in the given society. These
266 trainings should not suppress the refugees' home language, yet will prepare them to integrate economically and
267 socially in the host nation. Meanwhile, refugee professional development training allows for vocational
268 assimilation. Refugees unfamiliar with their new environment often struggle with finding adequate and
269 sustainable housing. Through residency trainings, a communal effort between refugees and local citizens can
270 help facilitate the access to housing for refugees.

- 271 35. CESCRC envisions media awareness through media campaigns, youth involvement, and digital archives enriched
272 by multimedia contents. Civilians can download documents regarding the current state of refugees to enlighten
273 the greater population on their status and struggle, alleviating the stereotypes and heightening sympathies.
274 Media campaigns can include but are not limited to, online documents and biographies, television, radio, and
275 print services.
276
- 277 36. Succinct refugee status determination (RSD) procedures will increase their access to fundamental benefits
278 provided by UNHCR. Member States should improve asylum practices by guaranteeing the access of asylum
279 seekers to fair and effective procedures, in accordance with international standards related to RSD, such as the
280 UN Protocol of 1967 and the 2004 UNHCR Code of Conduct. By strengthening technological procedure,
281 countries could expedite the RSD, performed by the hosting state or UNHCR, and help aid stateless people in
282 their journey from asylum seeker to refugee. The fluid transfer of documents among relevant state parties
283 accelerates the process, increases the organization, and lessens the amount of time that refugees are left with a
284 temporary status.
285
- 286 37. In order to promote the multi-cultural blend of ethnicities that coincides with refugee migration, intercultural
287 Ethnic Advisory Councils (EACs) could be installed among Member States. The advisory councils can be
288 groups created to represent ethnic minorities within the state. Specifically, the initial dialogue within the council
289 is critical to protecting the cultural rights and backgrounds of refugees. Sustaining their heritage because
290 language proficiency allows refugees to share their culture. In addition, these councils are responsible for
291 initiating cultural festivals to provide a platform of cultural expression for refugees.
292
- 293 38. Within the cultural and social aspect, it is important that refugees are reunited with family members. It is
294 important to consider that family members are kept together. We hope Member States continue to work closely
295 with NGOs or other IGOs in order to achieve these goals to reunite and support refugees as they have the
296 resources necessary to successfully reach separated family members.
297

298 **D. MITIGATION OF ESC RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

299

- 300 39. In order to better protect ESC rights during a crisis, programs that provide a response mechanism by evaluating
301 the risk of ESC rights violations could be implemented among Member States. This response mechanism can
302 work more effectively when supported by three pillars:
303
- 304 a. A refugee risk model, where Member States are classified according to their risk of violating ESC
305 rights during a refugee crisis occurring within their borders. A classification of 5 means there is a very
306 high risk of violating ESC rights, and a classification of 1 means there is a very low risk. Factors that
307 may contribute to a Member State's classifications include, but are not limited to, internal conflict,
308 famine and poverty, and economic instability.
309
 - 310 b. Other UN agencies such as UNHCR and HRC are welcomed to provide risk-mitigating
311 recommendations with the intent of lowering each Member States' risk of violating ESC rights during
312 a refugee crisis.
313
 - 314 c. By having an outlined response in place, Member States will be able to more efficiently and
315 successfully respect and protect the ESC rights of refugees. In order to outline intended policies and
316 measures that will protect the ESC rights during such a crisis, strategic response plans can be
317 personally drawn by each Member State in advance of a refugee crisis. The Member State's relation to
318 the state of refugee crisis, whether that is as a bordering state or a regional neighbor, can influence
319 their specific policy plans. Each plan can be flexible and adaptable according to the different protection
320 needs of each refugee crisis.
321

322 **E. EASY ACCESSIBILITY TO ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF LIVELIHOOD FOR REFUGEES**

323

- 324 40. In order to ensure economic rights of refugees, the right to work should be encouraged. The development of
325 employment policies that promote fair competition between refugees and local citizens will aid refugees in
326 becoming self-sufficient. Member States should encourage employment policies that consider the presence and

327 value of unskilled, skilled, and highly labor skilled refugees to fully take advantage of refugees with higher
328 labor skill levels. This will promote a faster transition into the labor force, and will aid refugees in not only
329 gaining employment, but also maintaining it. As a result, refugees will be able to further their professional
330 development, and secure economic stability. Other employment policies can include the availability of
331 psychological support and counseling for vocational training to refugee groups. Psychological counseling for
332 vocational training should exist throughout the process of moving from Transit nations to Host nations. In order
333 to create an effective strategy for psychological counseling for vocational training, a program can be developed
334 in partnership with UNHCR to assist Member States in implementing employment policies that reflect these
335 ideals. The UNHCR program for psychological counseling in vocational training should be available to all
336 Member States who choose utilize their services.

- 337
- 338 41. Full access to labor markets and the ability of vocational choice for refugees ensures they are able to work in
339 fields that are appropriate to their skill set and experience. Another important aspect of access to labor markets
340 and vocational choice is the ability to own property. In order to have full access to labor markets, refugees need
341 the ability to own property and use their property for economic purposes. This will help to ensure economic
342 stability for refugees, and has the possibility of benefitting the Host nation in certain economic areas. CESCR
343 encourages Member States to examine the possibilities of granting property rights to refugees within host
344 nations.
- 345
- 346 42. In 2015, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that only 50% of the female population
347 participated in the global labor force; however, women workers make significant contributions to the economic
348 growth of Member States. Increasing women’s participation in the economic sector furthers the ESC rights of
349 refugees, and enriches the labor force in Host nations. Employment policies should include the integration of
350 women in the labor force without unreasonable discriminatory practices on the basis of gender. The Committee
351 welcomes a partnership with UNHCR and the ILO to develop a special program that focuses on the integration
352 of women refugees into the labor force. The program should provide a specified type of counseling in regards to
353 vocational training, and educational initiatives that focus on women’s access to labor markets and property.
- 354
- 355 43. In many parts of the world there is a “refugee gap,” which means there is a disparity between refugees and
356 citizens. Refugees do not have adequate access to economic opportunities, and receive lower wages than other
357 populations, due to language barriers, work experience, and lack of education. Economic rights of refugees
358 should be expanded in order to become similar to those of citizens, and a review board could be established to
359 ensure progress in this regard. This can be accomplished through an evaluation of the status of economic and
360 labor rights among Member States, and can create a method of comparison between the economic rights of
361 citizens and that of refugees. This evaluation should include a comparison of the legal and practical rights of
362 refugees between Member States as it relates to psychological support for vocational training, the integration
363 women, access to labor markets, and property rights. In addition, the evaluation will include an assessment of
364 what action should be taken to advance economic rights for refugees in various Member States.
- 365
- 366 44. All refugees should have access to adequate housing and living conditions, as well as minimum wages
367 regardless of their place of origin, culture, respective religion, language, and gender, in order to better protect
368 ESC rights for refugees. Member States should consider granting refugees a minimum wage that is similar to
369 the minimum wage for citizens of the particular state. This will increase the rights of refugees and contribute to
370 a more productive economic sector in the Host nation. Furthermore, this Committee encourages Member States
371 to provide technological support that would help to expedite the process of obtaining these securities, as well as
372 informing refugees of their rights to these securities. The acquisition of housing for refugees could be expedited
373 through the increased use of technology to relay information about options and funding for housing.
374 Furthermore, technology in the work place could be utilized to establish a higher minimum wage for refugees
375 by increasing productivity and maximizing profits.