

## ECOSOC Decision 2003/242

### **Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights**

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2002/254 of 25 July 2002, in which the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to establish, at its fifty-ninth session, an open-ended working group of the Commission with a view to considering options regarding the elaboration of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and taking note of Commission resolution 2003/18 of 22 April 2003,<sup>1</sup> endorsed the Commission's request that the working group should meet for a period of 10 working days, prior to the sixtieth session of the Commission, with a view to considering options regarding the elaboration of an optional protocol to the Covenant, in the light, inter alia, of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commission on a draft optional protocol for the consideration of communications in relation to the Covenant,<sup>2</sup> comments and views submitted by States, intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations, and the reports of the independent expert to examine the question of a draft optional protocol to the Covenant.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> E/2003/23 (Part II), chap. I.B.

<sup>2</sup> E/CN.4/1997/105, annex.

<sup>3</sup> E/CN.4/2002/57 and E/CN.4/2003/53 and Corr.1.