

- [Courseware \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/courseware\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/courseware) [Course Info \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/info\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/info)
- [Discussion \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/discussion/forum\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/discussion/forum) [Wiki \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/course_wiki\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/course_wiki)
- [Progress \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/progress\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/progress)
- [Reading Materials \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/pdfbook/0/\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/pdfbook/0/)
- [Syllabus \(/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/3517b9300b554b118f11224b8c05eb10/\)](/courses/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/1T2014/3517b9300b554b118f11224b8c05eb10/)

Page: 3 of 5

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494 Fulfilling human rights and progressive realization

Rights – the Example of the Right to Health' in S. von Scharlemer (ed.), *Praxishandbuch UNO. Die Vereinten Nationen im Lichte globaler Herausforderungen* (Heidelberg: Springer Verlag, 2002), pp. 345–58. The Committee notes, for example, the commitment in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water (as outlined in the Millennium Declaration) and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation. During the periodic reporting procedure, the Committee will engage in a process of 'scoping' with the State party. Scoping involves the joint consideration by the State party and the Committee of the indicators and national benchmarks which will then provide the targets to be achieved during the next reporting period. In the following five years, the State party will use these national benchmarks to help monitor its implementation of the right to water. Thereafter, in the subsequent reporting process, the State party and the Committee will consider whether or not the benchmarks have been achieved, and the reasons for any difficulties that may have been encountered (see General Comment No.14 (2000), para. 58). Further, when setting benchmarks and preparing their reports, States parties should utilize the extensive information and advisory services of specialized agencies with regard to data collection and disaggregation.

This methodology was first conceptualized in 2002 primarily by Eibe Riedel, a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in a partnership between the University of Mannheim and the international NGO FIAN (Foodfirst Information and Action Network), using the right to adequate food as an example. Riedel provides the following summary of the four steps involved and of the advantages of the approach:

Eibe Riedel, 'The IBSA Procedure as a Tool of Human Rights Monitoring', paper prepared for a joint project between the chair of Professor Riedel and FIAN international (no date):

With regard to the first step, human rights indicators involve the State Party acceptance of relevant indicators as agreed upon through close cooperation with NGOs and relevant specialized agencies that contribute to the effective mainstreaming of human rights in their respective domains.

The next step, national benchmarks, are subsequently set by States Parties which enable a differentiated approach to the vastly differing situations in which most countries find themselves.

The third step, scoping, involves a discussion with the Committee of the State Party established benchmarks, in order to arrive at a consensus about them.

The previous three steps form the basis for the final assessment step that occurs during the dialogue stage between the State Party and the Committee in preparation for the drafting of the latter's Concluding Observations.

The advantage of this four-step IBSA-procedure lies in the truly cooperative and interactive spirit between States Parties, the Committee, specialized agencies, and NGOs wherein a more focussed and meaningful discussion can take place. This new approach is premised on the

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