LouvainX: Louv2.01x International Human Rights

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3.2 The use of indicators by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the IBSA methodology for monitoring compliance with economic and social rights

An even more ambitious view is that indicators could be used by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to breathe new life into its monitoring of the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, by a process through which each State party would identify its priorities with the Committee, and set well-defined objectives to be achieved by the time of the submission of its next report. The methodology is referred to as 'IBSA' since it involves four steps: (a) the choice of appropriate *indicators*; (b) the choice, at national level, of *benchmarks*, i.e. objectives to be realized within a defined time framework; (c) *scoping*, i.e. the discussion of those benchmarks between the Committee and the State concerned, with a view both to adopting objectives ambitious enough and to being realistic; (d) *assessment*, following the expiration of the time-period concerned, taking as a departure point whether the benchmarks agreed upon have been achieved. Already in its first general comment, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had referred to the usefulness of benchmarks being adopted by States parties to the Covenant, in order to enable monitoring of progress towards time-bound targets (see General Comment No. 1, *Reporting by State Parties* (1989), para. 6). This is also what the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights refers to, more explicitly, in the following general comments:

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