To: UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

From: Arthur J. Kendall, PhD

Re: Discussion on Article 15 of the ICESCR

Promoting and protecting the right to the benefits of science would do much to promote and protect the other rights in the UDHR and the implementing Conventions.

Doing and using science requires a population strong in literacy, numeracy, and careful critical thinking. Habits of articulating and questioning assumptions, careful gathering of evidence (akin to due diligence), and openness about process (akin to due process in legal settings) also help citizens in dealing with policy and social issues.

Methods from the social and behavioral sciences are critical in evaluating efforts to promote human rights, in documenting (non)compliance with human rights law, and in providing evidence in court proceeding to protect human rights.

*Dr. Kendall is a Political Psychologist who has specialized in the using social and behavioral science methods to study social and policy issues. He retired in 2001, from a Senior Mathematical Statistician position in the US Government Accountability Office. He provided guidance on research methods and statistics to social scientists, economists, and accountants in evaluating activities of the Executive and Judicial Branches of the US Government. Since retirement he helped start and continues to work on the Council of the AAAS Coalition of Scientific Societies for Human Rights. Until recently he was on the Advisory Board of the Society for Terrorism Research. He is a Functional Consultant with Statistics Without Borders.*