Intervention by Mr Waleed Sadi, Chair, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Having served on both the Human Rights Committee in the nineties and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights until now, I think I can speak objectively about the organic links that exist between the two sets of rights with some authority. Mr. Mohamed Abdel Moneim, a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights may have summed the inseparable nature of the rights articulated in the two human rights instruments when he aptly noted in one of his interventions on one periodic state report that the two Covenants are the two wings of the same bird without which the bird cannot fly. If we can agree that the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the genesis of the contemporary human rights process, one can easily detect how that mother of human rights dealt with both sets of human rights in a united and complementary manner. Take for example Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights that talked about the right to social security, and Article 23 that mentioned the right to work or Article 25 that dealt with the right to an adequate standard of health or Article 26 which called for the right to education or Article 27 which dealt with the right to cultural rights, they are reflected in the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights almost verbatim in conjunction and in an inseparable way from all the civil and political rights stipulated in the same Declaration. I can also speak from experience. Most of the rights dealt with in the Human Rights Committee had economic, social and cultural dimensions. The same goes for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Hardly any of the rights stipulated in the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could be examined in isolation from civil and political rights.