

C. Guide to the Guide

The format of the Guide is as follows:

1. Reproduction in bold-face type of the final text of the full article of the Covenant in its English version. Where an article is not composed of several paragraphs, the French version is reproduced immediately below; where there are several paragraphs, the French version follows the reproduction of each paragraph.

2. For most articles, reproduction in one centre column of the proposals, amendments and documents relating to the article in question at the time of the 'initial phase' (1947–1948). There are no Secretariat summaries of the discussions at that stage, but references to the summary records are given.

3. After the initial phase, the reproduction of the proceedings is further divided paragraph by paragraph and in two columns: A. Discussions; B. Proposals – Decisions. Whenever the text of the Guide is not a mere reproduction of UN documents, the printing is in italics and between square brackets []. After nearly every sentence of the summary of the discussions (Document A/2929 for the Commission on Human Rights and the relevant Reports of the Third Committee of the General Assembly) a reference to the precise paragraph of the summary record (E/CN.4/SR. . . . or A/C.3/SR. . . .) containing interventions of government representatives relevant to that sentence are inserted in the left column, in italics and between square brackets. The name of the government in question is also reproduced in an abbreviated form (see Annex I). Where an interesting comment was not summarized in the A/2929 or in the Reports of the Third Committee, an additional reference is given.

After an occasional general overview, the article is then dealt with paragraph by paragraph. The English version of the final text of the paragraph is reproduced in bold-face type followed by the French version in single format line. In most cases the paragraphs are further divided into sentences or even words. Excerpts of the text of the paragraph are reproduced in the middle, and in bold-face type between quotation marks. Other subtitles, also reproduced in bold-face type, but not between quotation marks, are taken from document A/2929 or from the Reports of the Third Committee. Only subtitles between square brackets and in italics are originally ours.

Below the subtitles one finds in the left column a reference to the session(s) – and between brackets the year(s) thereof – of the Commission on Human Rights or the Third Committee when the debates took place, and in the right column a reference to the session and, between brackets, the year of the Commission on Human Rights or Third Committee when the proposals and/or amendments were introduced. The texts on the right side are reproduced in chronological order and whenever possible opposite the summary of the discussions which relate to them.

In the right column (B. Proposals – Decisions) the proposals and amendments are reproduced with reference to the document symbol and to their authors, as well as the decisions taken, if any, with respect to

those proposals and amendments and the reference in italics and between square brackets to the precise paragraph in the summary records where that decision was taken. When the number of the article or paragraph discussed varies with respect to the final numbering, the final number is added between square brackets. If a roll call vote was taken, a reference is made to the Number of the roll call vote in the Tables reproduced in Annex IV for the Commission on Human Rights [*C.H.R. N° . . .*] and in Annex V for the Third Committee of the General Assembly [*G.A. N° . . .*].

4. At the end of each paragraph the voting on the paragraph as a whole is mentioned, and the text adopted at that stage is reproduced. Quite often, probably due to editorial changes, there are some minor differences between the text as it was adopted at that stage according to the summary record and the text which appears in the report.

5. At the end of each article, the voting on the article as a whole is mentioned without the text as adopted, because the final text is already reproduced at the beginning of each article and at the end of each paragraph for the intermediate stages.

6. At the end of each article a list of documentation on that particular article is added. These lists are taken from the A/2929 document itself, and are completed with the references to the A/2929 document and to the summary records and the reports of the Third Committee. These lists also mention the number each article had at the different stages of its elaboration.

7. The Guide is completed with a list of abbreviations (Annex I), a Bibliography on the International Covenants on Human Rights (Annex II), a Chronological List of principal documentation (Annex III) and the Tables of roll call votes in the Commission on Human Rights (Annex IV) and in the Third Committee of the General Assembly (Annex V).

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