**International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) – 1976**

**Rights Protected:**

* Right to self-determination (article 1)
* Ensuring equal rights of men and women (article 3)
* Right to work (article 6)
* Right to just and favourable working conditions (article 7)
* Right to form trade unions and the right to strike (article 8)
* Right to social security (article 9)
* Right to an adequate standard of living (article 11)
* Right to education (article 13)
* Right to take part in cultural life, to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting form any scientific literary or artistic production of which s/he is the author (article 15)

**State Obligations:**

* Ensure enjoyment of minimum essential levels of human rights (the ‘minimum core’ of rights) in all but very limited circumstances. In order for a State party to be able to attribute its failure to meet at least its minimum core obligations to a lack of available resources it must demonstrate that every effort has been made to use all resources that are at its disposition in an effort to satisfy, as a matter of priority, those minimum obligations.
* Minimum core requirements:
  + The minimum essential food which is sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe
  + Essential primary health care
  + Basic shelter and housing
  + Basic forms of education

**Overarching Obligations:**

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has employed the following analytical framework in setting out state obligations. This is sometimes known as the ‘tripartite typology’. According to the Committee, states parties have the following obligations:

* Respect – the obligation to respect requires governments to refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with enjoyment of ESC rights itself
* Protect – the obligation to protect requires governments to prevent third parties, such as corporations or paramilitaries from interfering in any ways with the enjoyment ofESC rights
* Fulfill – the obligation to fulfill requires governments to adopt the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of ESC rights)