



European  
Social  
Charter

Charte  
sociale  
européenne



02/09/2025

RAP/ Cha /CUW/11(2024)

## **1961 EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

**Answers to additional questions related to**

**11th National Report on the implementation of the European  
Social Charter**

**submitted by**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF CURAÇAO  
(Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands)  
Articles 1, 5, and 6**

**CYCLE 2024**



To the Council of Europe

The European Committee of Social Rights

The Deputy Executive Secretary

Mr Henrik Kristensen

### Netherlands in respect of CURAçAO

#### Introduction

This additional input on the article 6 paragraph 1 of the Charter is delivered on request of the Committee on Social Rights in Strasbourg on behalf of Curaçao. This request reached Curaçao, digitally, through the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands in Strasbourg.

This document is divided in paragraph A – E and the first paragraph A and B provide insights in the Joint Consultation in respect with digitalization (under paragraph A) and Joint Consultation in respect with green transition (under paragraph B). In both paragraphs consultations were held on a tripartite basis, in conformity with the ratified ILO Convention no 144 (on social dialogue and tripartite consultations) within the platform of the SER (Social Economic Council).

Subsequently, in the paragraph C and D two examples are given, where digitalization ('E-government' and 'Major Roll Out in Education') is addressed on a national level. Furthermore, the government owned Utilities (water & electricity) company, Aqualectra, serves as an example of far reaching green transition, as highlighted in paragraph C.

Moreover, not only green transition is firmly underlined by the government, but also effects of climate change for Curaçao is being analyzed and solutions are being proposed by the National Adaption Strategy Curaçao (short 'NAS-C'). This working group is under auspices of the Curaçao Meteorological Department and is in strict consultation with all ministries (Ministry of Public Health and Nature, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development Labor and Welfare), as elaborated upon in paragraph D.

Lastly this document finalizes with a short conclusion and expressing the wish of the government to remain committed to its treaty obligation and reiterating its respect for all honorable members of the European Committee of Social Rights, highly appreciating the opportunity to clarify to the Committee above and below to be mentioned issues.

#### A.Digitalization and joint consultation (article 6 paragraph 1 Charter)

The Social and Economic Council (SER)<sup>1</sup> which is functioning as an advisory and consultative body of employers, employees and independent members, seeks to make a contribution to the social prosperity by reaching a mutual consensus on important and relevant social-economic issues.

The SER also concentrates on international developments and as of 1987, this organ has, proactively, been advising the government on the implications of digitalization and green transition.

In its earlier publications, this platform underlined the importance of an inclusive labor market with equal chances for all, emphasizing topics as hybrid work and the influence of technology on decent work in the immediate future. Advantages and disadvantages of digitalization were both brought forward, though advocating for a balance between the efficiency of new technologies versus the inclusion and adaptability

Lastly, the SER presented a consultation tool to deal, appropriately, with digitalization and green transition such as an *educational/formation plan for work councils* (in Dutch language: 'ondernemingsraden'). So far, however, these work councils have not been anchored in the national laws.

The government, in alignment with the advices of the SER, has been working actively towards strengthening a more digital society. The focus within the government administration aims at improving digital services, the infrastructure and citizen skills. A key aspect of this effort is the '*Trias Digitalica*' framework which addresses access, support and digital skills development.

Key areas of the Focus is:

- a. Digital maturity: ensuring citizens and business in the Dutch Caribbean have knowledge, services and facilities to fully benefit from digital opportunities ([www.gobiernu.cw](http://www.gobiernu.cw)). An example is the modernization of government operations, services and citizen engagement through digital solutions: citizens apply through digital forms to obtain: catering permit, operating permit, work permit, request to achieve personal documents (id card, passport etc); This is called the *E-government*, which certainly remains an ongoing process and can be underscored as a firm first step into the road of digitalization

---

<sup>1</sup> Legal basis is laid down in PB 2010 no 87 and PB 2017 no 70 ([www.ser.cw](http://www.ser.cw)), but the Platform initiated in 1970;

- b. Digital Society within the Kingdom of the Netherlands through collaboration with Aruba, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands to establish strong digital foundation across the region. In this aspect also a framework for digital identity, including robust verification processes and data protection measures according digitalidentityindex.com;
- c. Trias Digitalica: (a) ensuring access to affordable internet (b) support with digital devices and internet usage (c) digital skills enhancing (literacy and safe online practices). The Trias Politica ensured, *a Major Tech Roll Out in Education* is being realized including handing out laptops for education personnel with security features like chips for tracking and remote deactivation, in accordance with the advices of the Social Economic Council, as already mentioned in this document.<sup>2</sup>

### B.Green transition and Joint Consultation (article 6 paragraph 1 Charter)

The SER advised has of the earlier year 2000, advised on green transition, emphasizing the importance of sustainability within the economic framework. The SER stands tall for sustainability which is to be achieved by investments in green energy, protection of the environment and tackling the effects of climate change <sup>3</sup>.

The SER moreover, strived and successfully to stimulate the government to create a more sustainable and resilient economy focussing on the energy transition, with an overall view to more inclusive welfare level (in Dutch: 'brede welvaart'<sup>4</sup>) and labor market.

The most important advices of SER on green transition are:

- 1.Raw materials transition: the Council repeatedly urges the government to use green energy, in reaction to middle and long term national strategies to facilitate a circulaire economy<sup>5</sup>;
2. Labor market: the Council encourages the government to strive for a future-proof labor market, specifically directed on agriculture and food security, water, soil, nature and the living environment. This resulted in working group, the NAS-C, elaborated upon in paragraph D.

### C.Utility company 'Aqualectra' and green transition: first example

---

<sup>2</sup> 'Curaçao Nu' (website), reporter Dick Dryer, 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2025, 'Digitalization education on Curaçao approaching milestone';

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the advice of the SER the Government instituted the National Adaption Strategy-Curaçao presided by the Department of Meteorological Issues to mitigate the challenges of climate changes through facilitating the green transition with scientific and sometimes creative solutions, please see paragraph D of this Document;

<sup>4</sup> 'Brede welvaart' meaning: a future oriented economy not primarily focusing on economic growth, but highlighting social and ecological aspects (such as a sustainable living environment);

<sup>5</sup> National Programme on Circulaire Economy 2020-2030 promoting the more sustainable use of raw materials;

Curaçao's government owned Utilities company is an example where the Government and its stakeholders, through joint consultations, embarked on a crucial digital transformation journey.

Curaçao is increasingly generating electricity from renewable sources, while simultaneously reducing energy costs, By 2027 more than 70% of the island electricity will be generated sustainably with fuel consumption for electricity decreasing by more than half. In 2012, only 9% of the islands's electricity came from renewable sources like wind and solar

Although, this energy transition also presents challenges such as a lack of clear legislation, digital vulnerabilities and a need to upskill the workforce. Policymakers, regulators and businesses are determined to work together to build a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy system for the island. Through the construction of new wind turbines, a solar park with battery storage (replacing the old wind park), Aqualetra aims to more than double this share in just three years<sup>6</sup>.

#### D.National Adaption Strategy Curaçao (short NAS-C) and green transition<sup>7</sup>: second example

Curaçao, as a Small Island Developing States (SIDS), faces significant climate change challenges, including rising sea levels, exetreme weather and water scarcity. In response, Curaçao is actively developing adaption strategies, including a Climate Strategy Roadmap and a Climate Impact Atlas, to mitigate these impacts and build resilience.

In line with the advices of the SER on this subject, the Government took serious measures by installing the governmental/inter ministerial working group, called the National Adaption Strategy Curaçao, presided by the Meteorological Department in order to mitigate the challenges of climate changes through facilitating the green transition with scientific and sometimes creative solutions. This initiative is strongly supported by the private stakeholders, NGO's and the visionaries amongst the local population and is still ongoing.

#### E. Conclusion

In conclusion, Curaçao remains committed to make ongoing efforts in its progress to achieve a smoothly transition to a green economy and an inclusive digitalization driven community, in both the government administration, the private sector and as of in the education (awareness) of the entire population on these subjects. Curaçao highly appreciates the granted opportunity given by your honorable Committee to give further explanation on the article 6 paragraph 1 of the ESC and Curaçao keeps looking forward to the continuation of a fruitful cooperation.

---

<sup>6</sup> Curaçao Chronicle, 'Curaçao boosts renewable energy and lowers electricity rates', 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2025;

<sup>7</sup> Curaçao: KlimaKòrsou-the Climate Atlas, International Panel on Deltas Coasts and Islands (IPDC), January 2025;

