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Among the recommendations made in General Comment No. 5 by the Committee on the Rights of Child is the establishment of a national human rights institution, independent from the Executive. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 25 June 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed

'the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, in the dissemination of human rights information, and education in human rights'

Help

It also encouraged 'the establishment and strengthening of national institutions, having regard to the "Principles relating to the status of national institutions" and recognizing that it is the right of each State to choose the framework which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level' (Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 25 June 1993, UN Doc. A/CONF.157/23, at para. 36).

These Principles are referred to as the "Paris Principles", as they were adopted in Paris as the outcome of a meeting convened there in 1991 by the French National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme) together with the United Nations Human Rights Directorate.

The Paris Principles define the key characteristics of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), including how their mandate should be defined and the tools they should have at their disposal. A national human rights institution is an officially established and State-funded national entity independent from the government, mandated to promote and protect international human rights standards at domestic level. It is an advisory body, but which has a strong expertise and a recognized moral standing, allowing it to influence debates on how the State can improve its human rights record and which measures should be taken to implement international human rights law. To improve your familiarity with the Paris Principles, please read the excerpts (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Materials__Paris_Principles_Final_.pdf) attached.





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