

# National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

August 2010

## Introduction

The [Development Policy Action Plan on Human Rights 2008-2010](#) issued by the German Federal Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ) sets out different steps to be taken to improve the realization of human rights through development cooperation. As well as integrating human rights into the priority areas of development cooperation, the Plan also calls for targeted support of human rights institutions on both the national and regional level. Included among these are the regional human rights courts such as the [American](#), [European](#) or [African](#) courts of human rights and National Human Rights Institutions ([NHRIs](#)).

This type of partnership between German development cooperation and NHRIs can work in two ways: German development cooperation might provide targeted support to NHRIs in the priority area „Good Governance“, and benefit from cooperating with NHRIs in other areas such as in health, environment or sustainable economic development.

The aims of this e-info tool are

- to introduce NHRIs as strategic partners for German development cooperation
- to highlight possible areas and methods of cooperation within German development cooperation
- to give examples of successful cooperation with NHRIs, drawn from the work of German and international development agencies.

This tool was elaborated by the GTZ-project [„Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation“](#) which supports the BMZ in implementing a human rights-based approach to development. The [German Institute of Human Rights](#), the German NHRI, assists in fulfilling this task.

The following e-info-tool has five parts:

1. What are National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)?
2. How do NHRIs work?
3. How do NHRIs differ from other institutions that work on human rights?
4. Options for cooperation
5. Resources



## 1. What are National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)?

Human rights are usually associated with international treaties and institutions at the global level such as the United Nations. This often diverts attention from the fact that the promotion and protection of human rights is first and foremost each individual state's obligation. Any state that ratifies a human rights treaty is obliged

- to take the necessary steps for implementing the treaty;
- to continuously monitor whether its actions are geared towards the realization of human rights and, if not,
- to adapt its laws, policies and measures to conform to its human rights obligations.

Whether and how human rights guarantees are implemented, is of the utmost relevance for individuals. This is evident, for example, with respect to an individual's access to justice, to basic health services and education as well as the ability to participate in public assemblies or to establish a non governmental association.

Judicial enforceability is a key aspect of all human rights obligations. However, it is becoming increasingly recognized that preventive measures - such as human rights education, human rights-oriented policy-making and its systematic monitoring are also of key importance. These tasks surely surpass the capacities of international treaty bodies (on those, see our [ABC of Human Rights](#)). Therefore, in 1993 the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights called for establishing human rights institutions on the national level. In the same year, the UN General Assembly adopted the [Paris Principles](#) on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

According to the Paris Principles, the core mandate of NHRIs is to advise policy makers and monitor national policies with regard to human rights compliance. NHRIs are thus an important link between the national and international level of human rights protection.

NHRIs use a number of means to be effective, such as research, policy advice to

governments, and human rights education. It is part of their *raison d'être* that they set their own priorities and cover the whole range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as guaranteed in the International Covenants on [Civil and Political](#) and [Economic, Social and Cultural](#) Rights.

### How NHRIs work

The Ugandan Human Rights Commission ([UHRC](#)) established a [right to health unit](#), following the [recommendation](#) of the UN-Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health after a visit to the country in March 2005. This unit advises the Ministry of Health on implementing a human rights-based policy in the health sector. It has elaborated training materials and carried out workshops for health personnel in order to support them in further orienting their work towards human rights. In addition, it conducts research on the epidemiology of neglected diseases, state policies and jurisprudence on the right to health.

As key national players, NHRIs can introduce international human rights debates into the domestic realm, and thus render them more tangible for the population and government alike. In addition, their geographical proximity enables NHRIs to monitor the national implementation of human rights obligations more closely. National Human Rights Institutions are thus positioned between civil society and the state, between the national and the international level, between academia and practice. They can thus function as an important interface and a forum for dialogue for different stakeholders.

### Accreditation

National Human Rights Institutions are accredited by the International Coordinating Committee (ICC), the international association of National Human Rights Institutions located in Geneva. The ICC accredits NHRIs based on the level of compliance with the Paris Principles. This accredited status is reviewed at least once every five years. Status „A“ requires full compliance with the Paris Principles. Institutions with status „B“ have not yet fully complied with the Paris Principles or have

not presented the corresponding documentation. They only only receive observer status within the ICC. Status „C“ implies that a national institution is not yet in compliance with the Paris Principles.

By refining its accreditation procedures, the ICC responds to the worldwide growth of NHRIs and the concomitant expectations regarding their independence, transparency and performance. „A“-accreditation of a NHRI increases its national and international legitimacy. It also entails the use of participation rights in diverse UN forums.

Worldwide, there are around [seventy NHRIs](#) accredited with „A“ status, with about forty of these in partner countries involved with German development cooperation. Around ten partner countries have NHRIs currently accredited with „B“ or „C“ status.

## 2. How do NHRIs work?

Although NHRIs are a specific type of institution, they may have different names. In some countries they are called „Institute“, in others „Commission“. Mandates may also be quite different. This is due to the fact that NHRIs are situated within a particular national context and evolve – in type and mandate - with respect to the specific national landscape. As a consequence, human rights institutions such as those in Senegal and the Philippines, which have been founded long before the Paris Principles, are now recognized as NHRIs.

The following section introduces the requirements regarding the mandate of NHRIs and the different types of NHRIs.

## Mandate of NHRIs

The [United Nations' Paris Principles of 1993](#) formulate minimum requirements for the organisation and functions of NHRIs: Mandates should be as broad as possible but at the same time specific in their purpose. Also, NHRIs need to be publicly funded but yet independent of the state.

While the Paris Principles leave sufficient room for the different forms a NHRI might eventually take, they emphasize that NHRIs' independence - in terms of finance and work - needs to be guaranteed. NHRIs' bylaws, for example, can be designed in such a way, that they grant only consultative rights to state entities represented on the board. Moreover, a NHRI must have a basis in law to prevent successive governments from dissolving it at will.

## Types of NHRIs

NHRIs can be conveniently classified in four different types. The official name of the NHRI does not necessarily correspond to the type it actually represents:

Committees: focus on policy advice, particularly to the government

Institute: focus on human rights education and research

Ombudspersons: focus on individual legal protection, for example receiving and processing of complaints. However, not all ombudspersons are necessarily NHRIs.

Commissions: typically perform a broad range of activities, including the examination of alleged human rights violations, human rights education and public campaigning. Some may also initiate or participate in judicial proceedings.

Although, what a particular NHRI does and how it works varies according to its type, the promotion of the implementation of international human rights obligations, policy advice, education and information will always constitute key areas.

## Key tasks of NHRIs

Promote the transformation of international human rights norms in domestic law

Promote the ratification of international treaties

Human rights research

Advise government and legislature on human rights policy issues

Human rights education and information

Cooperation with other human rights actors on the national, regional and international level

In addition, a majority of NHRIs have the mandate to receive and examine individual complaints on alleged human rights violations.

## NHRIs on the international level

NHRIs are recognized as independent actors by the international human rights protection system. Through their expertise on the national human rights situation, they also contribute to the international human rights protection system. For example: NHRIs may present their assessment of their countries' human rights situation in the framework of the examination procedure of the Universal Periodic Review, the UN treaty bodies and UN special procedures (see [Guidelines on the participation of NHRIs in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism](#), [Guidelines on NHRIs and UN treaty bodies](#) and [Guidelines on NHRIs and special procedures](#)). In doing so, they are supported by their International Committee's Office, the [ICC](#), as well as by the NHRI unit in the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (the [National Institutions Unit](#)).

### 3. How do NHRIs differ from other institutions that work on human rights?

NHRIs are a relatively new actor in human rights protection and promotion. Although they share some features with state as well as non-state actors working on human rights, they also differ significantly in other areas.

Overall, effective human rights protection needs a broad range of institutions and organisations. NHRIs depend particularly on an [independent judiciary](#) and an active civil society.

### State institutions charged with the implementation of human rights:

Most countries have a variety of state offices to deal with human rights. Besides constitutional courts, there may be human rights ministries (for example in Iraq and Yemen), human rights committees (such as for example in Tunisia), anti-discrimination units, but also representatives for specific human rights topics such as for persons with disabilities, migrants, gender equality (like in Germany for instance) etc. There may be corresponding units in specific ministries.

This type of institution or office is funded by the state, just like NHRIs. The difference lies in the state's scope of influence: With the exception of the courts, the majority of them are either part of the state or bound by state directives.

### Ombudspersons

A number of ombudspersons comply with the Paris Principles and are recognized as NHRIs. Usually however, ombudspersons have a mandate restricted by a specific theme, such as the Health Ombudsman in Great Britain or the Ombudsperson for Women in Egypt. In addition, ombudspersons are often subordinate to the executive or legislative state power.

Ombudspersons mainly handle individual complaints and attempt to solve those by mediation or arbitration – a competence they share with a number of NHRIs. The ICC may accredit them as a NHRI when the ombuds institution complies with the Paris Principles. This is the case for most Latin American NHRIs such as e.g. the Guatemalan Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos or the Bolivian Defensor del Pueblo.

### Human rights NGOs

Human rights NGOs are private, non-profit organisations without a public mandate or authority. As opposed to NHRIs, they usually deal with a limited range of thematic

issues or groups, such as the protection of women or children. They do not receive permanent public funding; however, individual projects may be sponsored by national or international funds. Whereas NHRIs stand between the state and civil society due to their mandate, NGOs use their role within civil society by engaging in, for instance, lobbying, education, victim defence or public advocacy.

### Principles for cooperation with NHRIs

Respect NHRIs' independence.

Don't divert NHRIs from their own priorities through cooperation.

Don't overstretch NHRIs' capacities through cooperation, but offer to contribute to them.

### Truth Commissions

Truth Commissions are non-judicial organs that examine and process past human rights violations. They have a restricted thematic mandate and, unlike NHRIs, they are not permanent. NHRIs can support truth commissions by demanding their establishment and independence and by collecting and providing relevant information for processing human rights violations (see for example the work of the [Kenyan NHRI in the aftermath of post-election violence](#)).

### 4. Options for cooperation

There are numerous possibilities to cooperate with NHRIs:

- development agencies can gain valuable information for programming and policy dialogue from NHRIs,
- development agencies can strengthen NHRIs,
- NHRIs can be partners in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of development programmes,
- development agencies can support NHRIs in establishing sector-specific knowledge and monitoring competencies.

NHRIs are independent and autonomous actors that need to be respected as such. Development agencies should therefore

observe some principles when cooperating with them.

Whereas [UNDP](#) regularly cooperates with NHRIs (see e.g. in [Timor Leste](#)), most bilateral development agencies do not as of yet. But there are notable exceptions. The [Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative](#) and the [British Council](#), for example, support human rights commissions in the British Commonwealth. They aim at institution building as well as cooperation with key governance institutions such as parliament or the media. Another example is the [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) who regularly provides advice to NHRIs.

### Strengthening NHRIs through development cooperation

During the accreditation or re-accreditation process, the ICC undertakes a thorough examination of the NHRIs. The ensuing recommendations highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each NHRI. In its 2009 [study on NHRIs](#) the UN-High Commissioner for Human Rights issued recommendations for NHRIs' work, based on a worldwide survey of NHRIs. Both sets of recommendations are useful starting points for development agencies when considering support to NHRIs.

A-accredited NHRIs might be supported in terms of their organisational structure, in relation to their overall management or with regard to specific areas of work. Development agencies should particularly respond to those aspects that have been identified by the ICC as worthy of improvement in the accreditation or re-accreditation procedure.

### Cooperation with NHRIs with B- or C-status

Development agencies can also support NHRIs if they have not yet been accredited with A-status. In these cases, the aim should be to enable the NHRI to meet the criteria for A-status accreditation.

There are a number of reasons as to why a NHRI may not be accredited with an A-status. Inadequate framework conditions, such as a missing legal basis, insufficient funding, a poorly designed mandate, or the lack of political independence, are often at fault. In such situations support is

necessary. Given that NHRIs' institutional weakness and political dependence are usually politically motivated, development partners can raise this topic in their consultations with the government to request more institutional and financial independence for the NHRI. Before engaging in cooperation however, other players should be consulted in order to avoid supporting biased, government-dominated NHRIs. A first source of information can be the [National Institutions Unit](#) at the Office of the UN-High Commissioner for Human Rights. Other international institutions that already cooperate with NHRIs can also be consulted, like [UNDP](#) and, for the Asia-Pacific region, the [Asia-Pacific-Forum](#). On the national level, representatives of civil society are often able to provide valuable information.

### **German development cooperation experiences**

In German development cooperation, the [German Development Service](#) (DED) has regular programmes with NHRIs, particularly in the context of peace and reconciliation processes. DED supported the Rwandan Human Rights Commission in their human rights education work and the Defensor del Pueblo of Bolivia in the establishment of an early warning system for conflicts. The Afghan Human Rights Commission is supported in the training of its staff. DED also advised the Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos of Guatemala in peace education and in its analytical and research work.

Among the other means to advance the work of NHRIs are integrated experts (CIM) or good governance programmes conducted by the GTZ.

Financial contributions by development partners must however not prompt the partner country to step back from its obligations towards funding its NHRI. This might increase the danger that the State dismisses NHRI recommendations as externally driven.

### **Promotion through international organisations**

The Office of the UN-High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) takes a key

role in the advancement of NHRIs. It provides advice to governments, particularly with regard to the establishment of new NHRIs – in the design of the mandate, through training programmes or a needs assessment. When advising NHRIs, the OHCHR cooperates closely with UNDP. Their experiences are reflected in a 2008 online [discussion on the experiences of different UN-organisations when supporting NHRIs](#). An [external study](#) of 2003 undertakes an evaluation of OHCHR's work in this area.

As the OHCHR concentrates its [advisory work](#) regarding the establishment of NHRIs, there is also a particular need to support already existing NHRIs in their strategic planning and gaining political leverage.

### **NHRIs as strategic partners in programme implementation**

The specific status of NHRIs makes them an independent interface and mediator between state and civil society. This position is ideal for generating discussion forums, which can be used by development agencies to strengthen good governance. NHRIs can also be important partners in programme implementation.

In Guatemala, the cooperation between the GTZ/SIDA programme on good local governance and the national NHRI, an Ombudsperson, resulted in the development of a [training course for municipal officers](#). The aim of the course was to increase their awareness of human rights and to improve human rights realization within public administration. In Kenya, cooperation between the [health programme of German development cooperation](#) and the Kenya National Human Rights Commission led to the latter being invited to a Ministry of Health working group on health financing. In addition, the Commission has taken on a more proactive engagement with the right to health. It implements training and conducts studies on the right to health, and is planning to discuss upcoming recommendations of the UN-treaty bodies on the right to health with the Ministry. In Peru, the German Development Service collaborates with the national NHRI, an Ombudsperson, to increase its

competencies in [championing environmental issues](#) with governmental bodies.

### Monitoring Mechanisms in NHRIs

The Ombudsman Office of the Egyptian [National Council for Human Rights](#) (currently supported by CIM) has introduced so-called mobile units in order to inform citizens about the possibility to submit complaints. Two vans are staffed with dedicated teams of lawyers who tour the country, including remote areas. Their main role is to raise citizens' awareness about human rights and to assist them in formulating their complaints and reaching solutions. Since the introduction of these mobile offices the amount of received complaints has multiplied. Today, they represent the main channel for complainants with more than 40% of all complaints received through the mobile units.

### NHRIs have relevant information

NHRIs work on diverse human rights topics relevant to their country and mostly deliver targeted, policy-oriented research. If established successfully, their independence in terms of finance and priorities facilitates advocating unpopular objectives. Hence, NHRIs may offer a realistic and comprehensive perspective as regards the human rights situation in their countries. NHRi information and reports can be used as an orientation, particularly in the preparation and planning of development cooperation programmes, but also in political dialogue and advisory services.

### NHRIs as critical observers

NHRIs play an important role in monitoring the implementation of a state's human rights obligations, for example with regard to the realization of the right to education, health or water. Development agencies can support NHRIs in establishing corresponding monitoring capacities.

As mentioned above, development agencies should, however, be careful not to distract NHRIs from their own priorities. If development cooperation supports NHRIs in broadening their functions and working areas, the funding of these additional

mechanisms must be secured in the long term.

Not only can NHRIs be supported in exercising their rights in the framework of [international state reporting systems](#), but they are also in a good position to monitor the [compatibility of development cooperation activities](#) with the state's human rights obligations.

### NHRIs in donor countries

NHRIs in donor countries may also contribute to the realization of human rights in development cooperation. It is part of their mandate to advise national policies, including development policy. Thus, the [German Institute for Human Rights](#) (DIMR) advises the GTZ and the BMZ through its cooperation with the GTZ-cross-sectoral project „Implementing human rights in development cooperation“. Its objective is to orient development cooperation more closely towards human rights standards and to implement human rights principles such as participation, non-discrimination and transparency. Besides publishing information tools on human rights for development cooperation practitioners, the DIMR carries out human rights training, qualifies agencies' staff as trainers and provides advice for development cooperation programmes. The [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#), as well as other Scandinavian NHRIs, also work in a similar fashion.

## 5. Resources

The following table gives an overview of NHRIs in partner countries involved with German development cooperation. The table provides links to institutional websites where available, or to the correspondent [regional association](#). The table also categorises the respective NHRIs according to the four types and its accreditation status, with weblinks to the respective ICC decisions.

## National Human Rights Institutions in partner countries involved with German development cooperation

(name, link, type, date of establishment, last (re-) accreditation-decision, status)

- [AFGHANISTAN Independent Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 2002, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [The People's Advocate of ALBANIA](#), Ombudsman, 1999, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of ALGERIA](#), Institute, 2001, [re-accreditation 2010](#), B
- [Human Rights Defender of the Republic of ARMENIA](#), Ombudsman, 2003, [accreditation 2006](#), A
- [The Commissioner of Human Rights of the Republic of AZERBAIJAN](#), Ombudsman, 2001, [accreditation 2006](#), A
- [BENIN Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1998, [accreditation 2002](#), C
- [Defensor del Pueblo de BOLIVIA](#), Ombudsman, 1997, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Institution of Human Rights Ombudsmen for BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA](#), Ombudsman, 1995, [re-accreditation 2009](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of BURKINA FASO](#), Commission, [re-accreditation 2007](#), B
- [National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of CAMEROON](#), Commission, 1990, [re-accreditation 2010](#), A
- [CHAD Commission nationale des Droits de l'Homme](#), Commission 1998, [re-accreditation 2009](#), B
- [Defensor del Pueblo de la República de COLOMBIA](#), Ombudsman, 1992, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Observatoire CONGOLAIS des Droits de l'Homme](#), Ombudsman, 2002, [accreditation 2005](#), A
- [La Defensoría de los Habitantes de COSTA RICA](#), Ombudsman, 1993, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [Defensor del Pueblo de la República de ECUADOR](#), Ombudsman, 1997, [re-accreditation 2009](#), A
- [National Council for Human Rights of EGYPT](#), Committee, 2003, [accreditation 2006](#), A
- [Procuraduría de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de EL SALVADOR](#), Ombudsman, 1991, [accreditation 2006](#), A
- [Public Defender of GEORGIA](#), Ombudsman, 1997, [accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of GHANA](#), Commission 1993, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [Procurador de los Derechos Humanos de GUATEMALA](#), Ombudsman, 1985, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos de HONDURAS](#), Ombudsman, 1995, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [HONG KONG Equal Opportunities Commission](#), Commission, 1996, [accreditation 2000](#), C
- [National Human Rights Commission of INDIA](#), Commission, 1993, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of INDONESIA](#), Commission, 1993, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [National Center for Human Rights of JORDAN](#), Institute, 2002, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [KENYA National Commission on Human Rights](#), Commission, 2002, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of MADAGASCAR](#), Commission, 1996, [accreditation 2006](#), C
- [MALAWI Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1995, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [MAURETANIA: Commission National des Droits de l'Homme](#), Commission, [accreditation 2009](#), B

- [Parliamentary Advocates & Center of Human Rights of MOLDOVA](#), Ombudsman, [accreditation 2009](#), B
- [Advisory Council on Human Rights of MOROCCO](#), Committee, 1990, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos MEXICO](#), Commission, 1999, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of MONGOLIA](#), Commission, 2001, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [The Office of the Ombudsman of NAMIBIA](#), Ombudsman, 1990, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of NEPAL](#), Commission, 2000, [re-accreditation 2010](#), A
- [Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de NICARAGUA](#), Ombudsman, 1995, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of NIGER](#), Commission, [dissolution in February 2010](#), status removed
- [NIGERIAN Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1995, [re-accreditation 2007](#), B
- [PALESTINE Independent Commission for Human Rights](#), Commission, 1993, [re-accreditation 2009](#), A
- [Defensoría del Pueblo de la República del PARAGUAY](#), Ombudsman, 2001, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [Defensoría del Pueblo del PERU](#), Ombudsman, 1993, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Commission on Human Rights of the PHILIPPINES](#), Commission, 1987, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [National Human Rights Commission of RWANDA](#), Commission, 1999, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [SENEGAL Committee for Human Rights](#), Committee, 1970, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [Protector of Citizens of the Republic of SERBIA](#), Ombudsman, 2005, [accreditation 2010](#), A
- [SOUTH AFRICAN Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1995, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [SRI LANKA Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1997, [re-accreditation 2009](#), B
- [Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of TANZANIA](#), Commission, 2000, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A
- [TIMOR LESTE Provedoria of Human Rights and Justice](#), Ombudsman, 2004, [accreditation 2008](#), A
- [TOGO National Commission for Human Rights](#), Commission, 1987, [re-accreditation 2007](#), A
- [TUNISIA: Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales](#), Commission, 1991, [accreditation 2009](#), B
- [UGANDA Human Rights Commission](#), Commission, 1995, [re-accreditation 2008](#), A
- [UKRAINIAN Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Ombudsman, 1998, [re-accreditation 2009](#), A
- [Human Rights Commission of ZAMBIA](#), Commission, 1997, [re-accreditation 2006](#), A

Update: 16.07.2010

### General resources

- Association of all NHRIs: [National Human Rights Institutions Forum](#)
- German Institute for Human Rights, Aichele (2010) [National Human Rights Institutions - An Introduction](#)

### NHRIs and the national implementation of international human rights treaties

- German Institute for Human Rights, Müller/Seidensticker (2007): [The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the United Nations Treaty Body Process](#)
- German Institute for Human Rights, Seidensticker (2004): [Examination of State Reporting by Human Rights Treaty Bodies: An Example for Follow-](#)

### Up at the National Level by National Human Rights Institutions

- EQUITAS/UNDP/et al. (2008): Equality for Women. A Handbook for NHRIs on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- General Comment N°2 (2002) on the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child
- General Comment N°10 (1998) on the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

### **Institution-building**

- OHCHR (1995): National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook for the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
- The International Council on Human Rights Policy has published two reports which include recommendations on establishment and work of NHRIs: National Human Rights Institutions: effectiveness and legitimacy (2004) and Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions (2005)
- ICHRP/Michelle Parlevliet (2006): NHRIs and peace agreements: establishing national institutions in divided societies

### **Diverse**

- UNDP (2009): Dignity & Justice for all of us includes reports on experiences of NHRIs from Eastern Europe and the CIS
- A report by Human Rights Watch (2008): Mexico's National Human Rights Commission. A critical assessment demonstrates why and how NHRI should tap the full potential of their competencies
- OHCHR (2008): Guidance Note on National Human Rights Institutions and Transitional Justice.
- The South African Centre for Conflict Resolution has initiated a research project on NHRIs and conflict resolution in Africa
- ICHRP/Maina Kiai (2007): The role of NHRIs in combating corruption.
- Human Rights Education Associates have offered a distance learning course on National Human Rights Institutions and might do so again on a regular basis.

### **Imprint**

Published by:  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Technische Zusammenarbeit  
(GTZ) GmbH  
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
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Eschborn, August 2010