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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Vienna, 14-25 June 1993
Meeting on national institutions
for the promotion and protection
of human rights

Letter dated 21 June 1993 from the Co-ordinating Committee
of national institutions, addressed to the President of
the World Conference on Human Rights, transmitting the
text of the resolution adopted on 21 June 1993

The Co-ordinating Committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights which met in Vienna have the honour to transmit to you the attached resolution, adopted on 21 June 1993, and request you to arrange for it to be circulated as an official document of the World Conference on Human Rights.

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,
meeting during the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna,

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance;

Recalling also that, in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States Parties have committed themselves to undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the effective implementation of the rights recognized in that Convention;

Noting, in particular, specific obligations undertaken by States Parties to protect children from all forms of abuse including economic and sexual exploitation, including but not limited to those obligations set out in Articles 11, 19, 32, 34, 35, 36, 39 and 42 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child;

Further noting that these obligations are already binding on the majority of Member States of the United Nations under international law;

Deeply concerned that notwithstanding these binding commitments the rights of many of the world's children continue to be grossly violated including, in particular, through prostitution and other forms of abuse and sexual exploitation;

Convinced that this concern is shared by many Member States of the United Nations, particularly those which have already established independent National Institutions concerned with the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and, other States (referred to in document A/CONF.157/PC/92/Add.2) which have indicated the need to do so;

Aware that many instances of child prostitution and other forms of abuse and exploitation escape prosecution because the offenders are not normally resident in or citizens of the child's State of residence.

THEREFORE RESOLVE:

1. To urgently prepare a Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically strengthening measures directed at the protection of children from prostitution and other forms of abuse and sexual exploitation, and to submit this Protocol for urgent consideration by Member States of the United Nations;
2. To call upon all Member States of the United Nations to accord this issue the highest priority and to respond urgently and effectively to the abuses which are occurring.

Co-ordinating Committee
on National Institutions
