

Statement of interpretation on Article 17

The wording of this article is less precise than that of the principle "Right of mothers and children to social and economic protection".

In this field, the Charter stipulates only that states shall take all appropriate and necessary measures, including the establishment or maintenance of appropriate institutions or services, which surely goes without saying since it would appear impossible otherwise to ensure the effective exercise of this right. However, the principle as formulated in Part I of the Charter incorporates an additional concept, for there the right is affirmed "irrespective of marital status and family relations".

In view of the very general character of Article 17, the Committee wished to make it clear that it expected to find in the government reports adequate information on general arrangements for the social and economic protection of mothers and children, economic assistance available to mothers before and after confinement, procedures for the establishment of paternity or maternity, maintenance arrangements for illegitimate children, guardianship, custody, the legitimation and inheritance rights of illegitimate children, the protection of unmarried mothers, the system of guardianship for orphans, the protection of homeless children, the measures taken in regard to adoption, and the treatment of juvenile delinquents.