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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Information presented by International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC)

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC),* reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

[English only]

The Amman Declaration and Programme of Action

The Eleventh International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights took place in Amman, Jordan from 5-7 November 2012 and was hosted by the Jordan National Centre for Human Rights (JNCHR), in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC). The focus of the Conference was “The human rights of women and girls: Promoting gender equality: The role of national human rights institutions.”

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) expressed their gratitude to the JNCHR for the excellent organization and warm hospitality they had enjoyed. Participants also thanked OHCHR, the ICC, and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions for their contribution to the organization of the Conference. They warmly thanked His Majesty Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein for his patronage of the Conference, which was opened by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Jordan. They further welcomed the statements of the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council and keynote speakers including the Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice as well as the fruitful contributions by NHRIs from all regions. The participation of UN agencies including, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was also welcomed.

Non-government organizations from around the world made a valuable contribution to the Conference, including the pre-Conference NGO Forum and Declaration, that greatly enhanced the Conference’s deliberations.

The Eleventh International Conference adopted the Amman Declaration and Programme of Action. Regional plans of action, elaborated by NHRI regional groups at the Conference, are annexed to this Declaration and Programme of Action. An annex of central instruments guaranteeing women’s and girls’ rights is also attached to this Declaration and Programme of Action.

Amman Declaration

The participants affirmed that women’s and girls’ rights are human rights, which are guaranteed in all human rights treaties. These human rights include political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights. Despite these commitments, the human rights of billions of women and girls are violated and denied.

The participants stressed the indivisibility and interrelatedness of human rights and recognized the interlinkages between a variety of violations of women’s human rights, as well as the distinct situation, needs and rights of girls. Poverty and inequality are significant factors that increase vulnerability to discrimination, hunger and gender-based violence. Patriarchal structures, systems and macro-economic choices devalue the lives and the contributions of women, who also suffer disproportionately from the ensuing militarization,

war, violence, unemployment and precarious employment. These choices impact negatively on women's and girls' time, health and safety and women and girls bear the brunt of austerity measures including through budget cuts on public services, such as health, education and social security. The worst impacts of the global and national financial crises are felt by those who are poor, the majority of whom are women and girls.

In accordance with their obligation to protect the human rights of women and girls as in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, States and multi-lateral bodies have an obligation to hold corporations that violate human rights accountable.

The participants recognized that still too many women suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and that some women are particularly vulnerable including : women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, Afro-descendants, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, women living in extreme poverty, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows, women in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, women who are otherwise discriminated against, including on the basis of HIV status, domestic and family violence, sex workers, women of diverse sex, sexuality, and/or gender, women who inject drugs or are otherwise dependent on drugs, and women victims of trafficking.

The human rights of women and girls are well articulated in a wide array of international treaties, declarations and political commitments at international, regional and national levels. NHRIs stressed that it is essential for Governments to fully and without delay implement the commitments and obligations which they have accepted.

The NHRIs assembled agreed to the following broad principles and areas of work:

1. Prioritize and mainstream the human rights of women and girls and gender equality throughout all their strategic planning, processes, policies, programmes and activities with a view to establishing sustainable interventions to achieve gender equality. This would also include developing and implementing training for NHRI members and staff on gender equality and reviewing their internal structures with a view to achieving gender equality at all levels and in all aspects of their work, including ensuring that NHRI workplaces are free of sexual harassment, violence and bullying. When required, NHRIs should seek technical assistance from specialist UN agencies, ICC, Regional Coordinating Committees or other institutions to support these efforts;
2. Strengthen coordination between NHRI women's and children's rights departments where they exist, or as relevant, cooperate with specialized institutions at the national level dealing with these issues and engage with organizations and stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including trade unions, UN agencies, non-State actors, civil society organizations, and regional- and inter-governmental organizations to promote and protect women's and girl's human rights and gender equality;
3. Monitor the States' fulfilment of their human rights obligations and, where the NHRI mandate permits, non-State actors' compliance with human rights standards, including those relating to the human rights of women and girls and gender equality. NHRIs should support efforts to ensure women's right of de jure and de facto or substantive equality with men, recognizing this may require special measures and differential treatment. These efforts can include integration of the human rights of women and girls and gender equality in Human Rights National Action Plans and other relevant laws and policies. The Beijing Platform for Action and its twelve areas of critical concern should serve as the guiding framework for assessing State action to ensure women's and girls' human rights;
4. Respond to, conduct inquiries into and investigate allegations of violations of women's and girls' human rights, including all forms of discrimination against women and

girls, gender-based violence, violations of economic, social and cultural rights, violations of reproductive rights and discrimination in public and political life, and identify systemic issues which may perpetuate these violations. These investigations and reports should result in recommendations to the State to meet their obligations to ensure women's and girls' human rights, and to combat impunity;

5. Facilitate women's and girls' access to justice, including judicial and non-judicial remedies, in accordance with their mandate;

6. Where NHRIs have quasi-judicial powers, exercise them fully to provide relief to the women and girl victims and press for administrative action against or the criminal prosecution of offenders;

7. Promote the realization of the human rights of women and girls, including as found in CEDAW, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and other human rights norms and standards, into national law and policies;

8. Encourage the withdrawal of reservations to such treaties with a view to strengthening the implementation of all human rights treaties;

9. Monitor and encourage the implementation of the recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures, resolutions of UN intergovernmental bodies, including the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) and the Commission on Population and Development; and recommendations accepted by States in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR);

10. Work with women human rights defenders, and devote particular attention to the gender-specific violations that women human rights defenders suffer for being women or because of the gender-specific causes that they defend, and promote their access to remedies in case of violations;

11. Forge strategic partnerships with UN agencies such as UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and OHCHR to strengthen cooperation with, and the capacities of, NHRIs to more effectively promote and protect women's and girls' human rights;

12. Undertake education, promotion and awareness-raising activities on the human rights of women and girls, gender equality and relevant international standards. Particular attention should be paid to eliminating prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women. NHRIs will work to eliminate stigma attached to women and girls who come forward when their rights are violated;

13. Develop guidelines, where applicable, relating to the human rights of women and girls and monitor State compliance with such guidelines;

14. Monitor and work with individuals and entities in the private sector and non-governmental sphere to ensure that they do not discriminate against women and girls;

15. Monitor the activities of businesses, from local to global, and report on any adverse impacts on women's and girls' enjoyment of their human rights;

16. Prioritize and promote the human rights of women and girls and gender equality through their engagement with all international and regional human rights mechanisms, and in their engagement with global processes such as the post-2015 development agenda, the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Review, the Beijing Platform of Action, and the Vienna Programme of Action;

17. Urge States to prioritize human rights, including those of women and girls, in their engagement with international financial and trade institutions, and in the negotiation of international agreements in these areas.
