



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**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.

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

## Annex

*[English only]*

### **The Amman Declaration and Programme of Action: Text of the Programme of Action**

#### **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 are also attached to this Declaration and Programme of Action.

## **Amman Programme of Action**

**The Preparatory Committee of the Conference selected themes for discussion, which** represented issues particularly relevant to the work of NHRIs in all regions. The Conference agreed to the following action points on these themes, to which NHRIs will give priority over the next decade, and beyond:

### **NHRIs and women's political and public participation**

1. Advocate for the removal of any discriminatory laws which inhibit women's ability to participate in public and political life;
2. Promote measures, including through education and the adoption of laws and practices, to eliminate traditions and social and cultural barriers and stereotypes that discourage or prevent women from exercising their right to vote or from otherwise participating in public, peace and political processes;
3. Provide assistance or support to women who face social and economic barriers to public and political participation, such as illiteracy, language, poverty, and impediments to women's freedom of movement, in order that these barriers may be overcome;
4. Encourage the adoption of temporary special measures to ensure that women are sufficiently represented in elected as well as appointed positions within the executive, legislative and judicial arms of Government, and work with political parties to adopt affirmative measures to support more women candidates;
5. Promote mechanisms to ensure that girls' voices are heard in matters affecting their well-being;

### **NHRIs and women's economic and social rights**

6. Monitor and report on States' compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women's economic, social and cultural rights, and to guarantee non-discrimination in the exercise of these rights. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring women's enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the context of austerity measures and other responses to the financial crises;
7. Support efforts to analyse whether States are spending the maximum of available resources on the progressive realization of women's economic, social and cultural rights through encouraging Government use of a gender perspective in their planning processes, and human rights and gender budgeting tools. NHRIs should share their findings with Parliaments as a contribution to decision making on budgeting and promote the use of human rights budgeting and gender budgeting tools by Parliaments;
8. Monitor and evaluate laws, public policies and budgets, including macroeconomic and trade policies, as well as poverty reduction strategies, population strategies and other strategies aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Declaration and Goals, and engage with relevant sectors, with a view to promoting the removal of provisions which are discriminatory against or have a discriminatory effect on women, and promoting corrective action, if and as appropriate;
9. Facilitate training of lawyers, prosecutors, judges, parliamentarians, and government officials on women's economic, social and cultural rights;
10. Support and facilitate access to remedies for women who have suffered violations of their economic, social and cultural rights, and advocate for the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in countries where necessary;

11. Undertake awareness raising activities with women to educate them about their rights and mechanisms at their disposal for claiming their economic, social and cultural rights;
12. Support efforts to monitor development assistance programmes to ensure that they do not discriminate against or disadvantage women and that they prioritize the achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' human rights;
13. Monitor or support efforts to monitor women's rights to decent work, including equal remuneration and equal access to education, training and professional development, as well as ensuring women's health, safety and well-being in all workplaces;
14. Monitor or support efforts to monitor women's unpaid work and provide recommendations for support to women who have caring responsibilities, such as ensuring adequate child care, paid parental leave and flexible working arrangements among other measures, while promoting equal division of labour in the home;

#### **NHRIs and violence against women and girls**

15. Encourage and aid the compilation of an evidence base (e.g., data, inquiries, research) on the nature, extent, causes and effects of all forms of gender-based violence, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address gender-based violence;
16. Promote and support the adoption of laws against domestic and family violence, sexual assault and all other forms of gender-based violence, in accordance with international human rights standards;
17. Support the adoption of National Action Plans to address violence against women that include provision for the National Action Plans to be independently monitored and evaluated;
18. Where their mandate permits, conduct training of judicial and law enforcement officers, medical professionals, and other public officials on responding to violence against women, gender equality and women's human rights;
19. Promote measures, including penal provisions, preventive and rehabilitation measures to protect women and girls subject to trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation;
20. Assist women and girl victims in accessing complaints procedures and remedies, including compensation and ensure the use of NHRIs' quasi-judicial powers to address complaints of violence against women and girls;
21. Develop programmes to prevent and combat sexual harassment, and measures to protect women from sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence in the workplace, schools, or in other institutions such as places of detention;
22. Establish or support adequately resourced critical services for victims of domestic and family violence, sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence, including refuges, specially trained health workers, rehabilitation, counselling and legal services, and ensure these services are accessible to particularly disadvantaged groups of women;
23. Promote implementation of the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);
24. Establish and support measures to address human rights violations experienced by women in situations of armed conflict, especially sexual violence, and to hold perpetrators of these violations accountable;

**NHRIs and women's health and reproductive rights**

25. Protect and promote reproductive rights without any discrimination, recognizing reproductive rights include the right to the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health, the right of all to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children, and on matters related to their sexuality, and to have the information and means to do so free from discrimination, violence or coercion, as laid out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

26. Encourage and aid the compilation of an evidence base (e.g., data, inquiries, research) concerning the exercise of reproductive rights and the right to sexual and reproductive health, including but not limited to cases of de jure and de facto discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health care information and services, forced sterilization, forced abortion, child marriage, forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, biased sex selection and other harmful practices;

27. Review national laws and administrative regulations relating to reproductive rights such as those governing family, sexual and reproductive health, including laws which are discriminatory or criminalize access to sexual and reproductive health services, and propose recommendations to assist States in meeting their human rights obligations;

28. Promote measures to ensure access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services and to remove barriers which hinder such access, and support the establishment of accountability mechanisms for the effective application of the laws and the provision of remedies when obligations have been breached;

**The Conference also agreed that the ICC should:**

29. Dedicate a session to the role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting women's rights in its annual general meetings;

30. Promote a pluralistic composition of NHRIs as required by the Paris Principles, as one that considers the context of gender, ethnicity or minority status, including within its sub-committee on accreditation. This includes, for example, ensuring the equal representation and participation of women in the NHRI;

31. Continue its advocacy for the independent participation of A-status NHRIs at the UN CSW, as encouraged by UN Human Rights Council Resolution 20/14, and encourage the ICC, its regional NHRI coordinating committees, and NHRIs to engage, together with their respective governments where appropriate, at the 57th session of CSW (4 to 15 March 2013) focused on the 'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;

**NHRIs may also take the following actions:**

32. Implement the regional NHRI action plans on promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls, using the Amman Declaration and Programme of Action as a framework, and supplementing it with specific regional initiatives and actions that will be reported on at regional NHRI network meetings and at ICC Conferences;

33. Translate this Declaration and Programme of Action into local languages and distribute it widely through press releases, websites, social media, civil society networks and other mechanisms to ensure broad national community awareness of the Declaration;

34. Organise national consultations that include all relevant stakeholders and partners to discuss the outcomes of the Conference and steps for the implementation of the Amman Programme of Action at the national level.