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CONSEJO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
Décimo período de sesiones  
Tema 2 de la agenda

**INFORME ANUAL DE LA ALTA COMISIONADA DE LAS NACIONES  
UNIDAS PARA LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS E INFORMES DE LA  
OFICINA DEL ALTO COMISIONADO Y DEL  
SECRETARIO GENERAL**

**El proceso actualmente utilizado por el Comité  
Internacional de Coordinación de las Instituciones  
Nacionales de Promoción y Protección de los Derechos  
Humanos para acreditar las instituciones nacionales  
conformes a los Principios de París**

**Informe del Secretario General<sup>\* \*\*</sup>**

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<sup>\*</sup> Los anexos del presente documento se distribuyen como se recibieron, en el idioma original únicamente.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Documento presentado con retraso.

## **I. INTRODUCCIÓN**

1. Este informe se presenta en cumplimiento de la decisión 2/102 del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en la que el Consejo decidió pedir a la Alta Comisionada para los Derechos Humanos que siguiera llevando a cabo sus actividades de conformidad con todas las anteriores decisiones aprobadas por la Comisión de Derechos Humanos y que actualizara los informes y estudios pertinentes. En el presente se exponen someramente los progresos realizados desde el anterior informe presentado al Consejo de Derechos Humanos sobre la acreditación de instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos (A/HRC/7/70), y debe leerse junto con el informe del Secretario General sobre las instituciones nacionales para la promoción y la protección de los derechos humanos (A/HRC/10/54), en el que se examinan posibles formas de aumentar la participación de las mencionadas instituciones en la labor del Consejo, entre otras cosas.

## **II. SUBCOMITÉ DE ACREDITACIÓN**

2. El Subcomité de Acreditación del Comité Internacional de Coordinación de las Instituciones Nacionales de Promoción y Protección de los Derechos Humanos tiene el mandato de examinar y analizar las solicitudes de acreditación y hacer recomendaciones a los miembros de la Mesa del Comité sobre la conformidad de los solicitantes con los Principios de París. El Subcomité está integrado por una institución nacional de categoría A acreditada por cada uno de los cuatro grupos regionales, a saber, África, América, Asia y el Pacífico y Europa. Los miembros del Subcomité son designados por los grupos regionales para un período renovable de tres años. El Subcomité designa por consenso a uno de sus miembros para ejercer la presidencia del Subcomité por un período renovable de un año. Desde diciembre de 2008, el Subcomité está constituido por representantes de las instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos del Canadá en representación de América, Rwanda en representación de África, la República de Corea en representación de Asia y el Pacífico y Alemania (Presidencia) en representación de Europa. La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH) participa en la labor del Subcomité en calidad de observador permanente y en tanto que desempeña las funciones de secretaría del Comité. El Subcomité expresó su reconocimiento por el alto grado de apoyo y profesionalismo del personal de la secretaría del Comité, concretamente la Dependencia de Instituciones Nacionales del ACNUDH.

3. En 2008, el Subcomité examinó las solicitudes de renovación de acreditación de las instituciones de derechos humanos de Albania, Alemania, Argelia, el Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Irlanda, Kenya, Luxemburgo, Malasia, Mauricio, Mongolia, el Níger, el Paraguay, la República de Corea, Suecia, Tailandia, Uganda y Venezuela (República Bolivariana de). El Subcomité examinó asimismo nuevas solicitudes de acreditación de las instituciones de Croacia, la Federación de Rusia, Maldivas, Qatar, el Reino Unido, Suiza, Timor-Leste y Ucrania, y llevó a cabo exámenes especiales de las instituciones del Afganistán y Nepal. A diciembre de 2008, el Comité había acreditado 64 instituciones nacionales de categoría A conformes a los Principios de París.

4. En el cuadro incluido como anexo I se indica la categoría de acreditación de las instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos hasta diciembre de 2008. En los anexos II y III figuran, respectivamente, los informes de abril y noviembre de 2008 del Subcomité de Acreditación.

### **III. MEJORA DEL PROCESO DE ACREDITACIÓN DEL COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DE COORDINACIÓN**

5. En su 17º período de sesiones, celebrado el 12 de abril de 2006, el Comité Internacional de Coordinación creó un grupo de trabajo encargado de examinar el proceso de acreditación y de elaborar un documento de debate para el Comité sobre este particular. Este grupo de trabajo, integrado por los miembros del Subcomité de Acreditación en esa fecha, elaboró un documento de debate en el que se analizaban tres aspectos: a) la composición del Subcomité, sus funciones y responsabilidades; b) el proceso de acreditación; c) los criterios decisivos o las normas mínimas establecidas para la acreditación. El documento se presentó al Comité en sus períodos de sesiones 18º y 19º. También se pidió a los miembros que formularan por escrito otras observaciones con miras a la elaboración de un documento final que se presentó al Comité y fue aprobado por éste en su 20º período de sesiones, celebrado en abril de 2008.

6. En el documento aprobado por el Comité en abril de 2008 se recogen varias medidas para mejorar su procedimiento de acreditación, a saber:

- a) Un proceso de recurso que garantizará mayor transparencia y el respeto de las garantías para las instituciones nacionales de derechos humanos que sean consideradas no conformes a los Principios de París.
- b) Un examen más riguroso de cada solicitud de acreditación, incluida toda la documentación y la declaración de conformidad que las instituciones de derechos humanos presenten antes del período de sesiones, además de un resumen pormenorizado preparado por la secretaría.
- c) La formulación de recomendaciones más específicas para cada institución (ya sea de categoría A o B) para garantizar la plena conformidad con los Principios de París, incluso antes del plazo de cinco años previsto para la revisión de las acreditaciones.
- d) Una mayor difusión de las recomendaciones del Subcomité y un mejor conocimiento de ellas por las instituciones de derechos humanos y otras partes interesadas, para que puedan participar de forma más activa en la labor de seguimiento de las Naciones Unidas o de los órganos de coordinación regionales de las instituciones en cada país. Los informes del Subcomité también se difunden en Internet ([www.nhri.net](http://www.nhri.net)).

7. En 2008, el Comité Internacional de Coordinación elaboró un nuevo reglamento para poder constituirse en asociación con arreglo a la legislación suiza. El reglamento, que se basa en las normas de procedimiento vigentes del Comité, fue aprobado en la Novena Conferencia Internacional de Instituciones Nacionales para la Promoción y Protección de los Derechos Humanos, celebrada en Nairobi del 21 al 24 de octubre de 2008. El procedimiento de acreditación definido en el reglamento establece en el artículo 12 que una vez que el Subcomité de Acreditación emita su fallo sobre la solicitud de acreditación, dicho fallo será considerado una recomendación sobre el estado de la acreditación y el fallo definitivo será tomado por la Mesa del Comité al término del proceso siguiente:

- a) La recomendación del Subcomité será primero remitida al solicitante.

- b) El solicitante podrá impugnar una recomendación enviando una impugnación escrita dirigida al Presidente del Comité a través de la secretaría del Comité, en el plazo de 28 días a partir de la fecha de recepción.
- c) Tras lo anterior, la recomendación será remitida a los miembros de la Mesa del Comité para que tomen una decisión. Cuando se haya recibido una impugnación del solicitante, la impugnación y todos los documentos pertinentes recibidos, tanto en conexión con la solicitud de acreditación como con la impugnación, también serán remitidos a los miembros de la Mesa.
- d) El miembro de la Mesa que no esté de acuerdo con la recomendación deberá notificarlo al Presidente de la Subcomisión y a la secretaría en el plazo de 20 días a partir de la fecha de recepción. La secretaría notificará con prontitud a todos los miembros de la Mesa la objeción planteada, y suministrará toda la información necesaria para su esclarecimiento. Si en el plazo de 20 días a partir de la recepción de dicha información una mayoría de los miembros de la Mesa notifica a la secretaría que tiene una objeción similar, la recomendación será remitida a la siguiente reunión de la Mesa para que se tome una decisión al respecto.
- e) Si una mayoría de los miembros no plantea ninguna objeción a la recomendación en el plazo de 20 días a partir de la recepción, la recomendación será considerada aprobada por la Mesa.
- f) La decisión de la Mesa sobre la acreditación será inapelable.

8. Las normas de procedimiento del Subcomité de Acreditación continúan vigentes y se incorporan al reglamento del Comité Internacional de Coordinación como anexo (art. 58).

9. El Subcomité siguió elaborando nuevos procedimientos durante el período que abarca el informe. Para su período de sesiones de noviembre de 2008, el Subcomité aprobó la práctica de transmitir los resúmenes preparados por la secretaría a cada institución antes del examen de su solicitud, habida cuenta de que cada institución disponía de una semana para presentar observaciones sobre el resumen. Todas las observaciones recibidas, junto con los resúmenes, se enviaron a los miembros del Subcomité. Los resúmenes y las observaciones se publicaron en el Foro de las Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos ([www.nhri.net](http://www.nhri.net)) tras la aprobación de las recomendaciones del Subcomité por la Mesa del Comité.

10. También, en su período de sesiones de noviembre de 2008, el Subcomité intensificó sus esfuerzos para incluir a los comités de coordinación regional en el procedimiento de acreditación. Se invitó a los comités de las cuatro regiones a participar en el período de sesiones en calidad de observadores, y el Subcomité acogió con agrado la presencia de un representante del Foro Regional de Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos de Asia y el Pacífico en el período de sesiones de noviembre. El Subcomité insta a todos los comités de coordinación regional a que participen en los próximos períodos de sesiones.

#### **IV. OBSERVACIONES GENERALES**

11. Manteniendo la práctica iniciada en su reunión de octubre de 2006, el Subcomité formuló nuevamente observaciones generales en relación con la acreditación. Ha formulado observaciones generales sobre cuestiones comunes o cuestiones de interpretación importantes para orientación de los miembros en lo referente al proceso de solicitud de acreditación o la aplicación de los Principios de París. Como se subraya en el documento aprobado por el Comité en su 20º período de sesiones, las observaciones generales, entendidas como "instrumentos de interpretación" de los Principios de París, pueden utilizarse para:

- a) Guiar a las instituciones cuando éstas se encuentren elaborando sus propios procedimientos y mecanismos a fin de garantizar la conformidad con los Principios de París;
- b) Persuadir a los gobiernos nacionales para que aborden o resuelvan las cuestiones relativas al cumplimiento por las instituciones de las normas establecidas en las observaciones generales;
- c) Orientar al Subcomité de Acreditación para la determinación de nuevas solicitudes de acreditación, solicitudes de renovación de acreditación o exámenes especiales.

12. La lista de observaciones generales aprobadas por el Comité se adjunta en el anexo II. La lista de observaciones generales no es exhaustiva y se seguirá completando a medida que el Subcomité examine otras solicitudes. Las observaciones generales formuladas por el Subcomité en sus períodos de sesiones de 2008 aún tienen que ser adoptadas formalmente por el Comité y están programadas para someterse a consulta y aprobación en el 22º período de sesiones, que tendrá lugar en marzo de 2009.

**Annex I**

**CHART OF THE STATUS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ACCREDITED  
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF  
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

In accordance with the Paris Principles and the ICC Sub-Committee Rules of Procedure, the following classifications for accreditation are used by the ICC:

- A:** Compliance with the Paris Principles;
- B:** Observer Status - Not fully in compliance with the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination;
- C:** Non-compliant with the Paris Principles.

**A status institutions**

<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>		
Afghanistan: Independent Human Rights Commission	A	October 2007 Placed under review Nov 2008 - A
Australia: Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission	A	1999 Oct 2006
India: National Human Rights Commission of India	A	1999 Oct 2006
Indonesia: National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia	A	2000 March 2007
Jordan: National Centre for Human Rights	A	April 2006 March 2007 October 2007 Will be reviewed in October 2010
Malaysia: Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)	A (see SCA report April 2008)	2002 April 2008 Will be reviewed in 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009
Mongolia: National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	A	2002 - A(R) 2003 Nov 2008

<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
Nepal: National Human Rights Commission of Nepal	A	2001 - A(R) 2002 - A A status placed under review April 2006; under review in March 2007 October 2007 Nov 2008 - A
New Zealand: New Zealand Human Rights Commission	A	1999 Oct 2006
The Philippines: Philippines Commission on Human Rights	A	1999 March 2007 October 2007
Timor-Leste: Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice	A	April 2008
Republic of Korea: National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea	A	2004 Nov 2008
Thailand: National Human Rights Commission	A	2004 Nov 2008
<b><i>Africa</i></b>		
Algeria: Commission Nationale des Droits de l'homme	A (see SCA report April 2008)	2000 - A(R) 2002 - A(R) 2003 April 2008 Will be reviewed in 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009
Egypt: National Council for Human Rights	A	Apr 2006 - B Oct 2006
Ghana: Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	A	2001 Nov 2008
Kenya: Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	A	2005 Nov 2008
Malawi: Malawi Human Rights Commission	A	2000 March 2007
Mauritius: Commission Nationale des Droits de L'homme	A	2002 April 2008
Morocco: Conseil Consultatif des Droits de L'homme du Maroc	A	1999 - A(R) 2001 October 2007 Will be reviewed in October 2010
Namibia: Office of the Ombudsman	A	2003 (A (R)) April 2006
Niger: Niger Commission Nationale des Droits de L'homme et des Libertés Fondamentales	A	2001 - A(R) 2002 - A Apr 2006 (reviewed) April 2008

<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
Rwanda: National Commission for Human Rights	A	2001 October 2007
Senegal: Comité Sénégalais des Droits de L'homme	A	2000 October 2007 Will be reviewed in October 2010
South Africa: South African Human Rights Commission	A	1999 - A(R) 2000 October 2007
Tanzania: National Human Rights Commission	A	2003 - A(R) 2005 - A(R) October 2006
Togo: National Commission for Human Rights	A	1999 - A(R) 2000 October 2007
Uganda: Uganda Human Rights Commission	A	2000 - A(R) 2001 April 2008
Zambia: Zambian Human Rights Commission	A	2003 A (R) Oct 2006
<b><i>The Americas</i></b>		
Argentina: Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación Argentina	A	1999 Oct 2006
Bolivia: Defensor del Pueblo	A	1999 - B 2000 March 2007
Canada: Canadian Human Rights Commission	A	1999 Oct 2006
Colombia: Defensoría del Pueblo	A	2001 October 2007
Costa Rica: Defensoría de los Habitantes	A	1999 Oct 2006
Ecuador: Defensor del Pueblo	A (see SCA report April 2008)	1999 - A(R) 2002 April 2008 Will be reviewed in 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2009
El Salvador: Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos	A	April 2006
Guatemala: Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala	A	1999 - B 2000 - A(R) 2002 April 2008
Honduras: Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos de Honduras	A	2000 October 2007



<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
México: Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos	A	1999 Oct 2006
Nicaragua: Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos	A	April 2006
Panamá: Defensoría del Pueblo de la República de Panamá	A	1999 Oct 2006
Paraguay: Defensoría del Pueblo de la República del Paraguay	A	2003 Nov 2008
Perú: Defensoría del Pueblo	A	1999 March 2007
Venezuela: Defensoría del Pueblo	A	2002 April 2008
<b><i>Europe</i></b>		
Albania: Republic of Albania People's Advocate	A	2003 - A (R) 2004 Nov 2008
Armenia: Human Rights Defender of Armenia	A	Apr 2006 - A(R) Oct 2006
Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)	A	Oct 2006
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina	A	2001 - A(R) 2002 - A (R) 2003 - A (R) 2004 Nov 2008: deferral of review to Oct/Nov 2009
Denmark: Danish Institute for Human Rights	A	1999 - B 2001 October 2007
France: Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de L'homme	A	1999 Oct 2006 review deferred to Oct 2007 October 2007
Georgia: Public Defender's Office	A	October 2007
Germany: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte	A	2001 - A(R) 2002 - A(R) 2003 Nov 2008
Great Britain: Equality and Human Rights Commission	A	Nov 2008

<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
Greece: National Commission for Human Rights	A	2000 - A(R) 2001 October 2007 Will be reviewed in October 2009
Ireland: Irish Human Rights Commission	A	2002 - A (R) 2003 - A (R) 2004 Nov 2008
Luxembourg: Commission Consultative des Droits de L'homme du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg	A	2001 - A(R) 2002 Will be reviewed in Oct/Nov 2009
Norway: Center for Human Rights	A	2003 A(R) 2004 A(R) 2005 A(R) April 2006
Northern Ireland (UK): Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	A	2001 - B April 2006 - B Oct 2006
Croatia: Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia	A	April 2008
Poland: Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection	A	1999 October 2007
Portugal: Provedor de Justiça	A	1999 October 2007
Russia: Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation	A	2000 - B 2001 -B Nov 2008
Spain: El Defensor del Pueblo	A	2000 October 2007
Sweden: Equal Opportunities Ombudsman	A*	1999 Requested a deferral in October 2007

\* In November 2008, the accreditation Status of Sweden lapsed due to merging of institutions into one NHRI, effective 1 January 2009.

#### **A Reserve status institutions\*\***

<b><i>Asia and the Pacific</i></b>		
Palestine: The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights	A(R)	2005
<b><i>Africa</i></b>		
Chad: Commission Nationale des Droits de L'homme	A (R)	2000 - A(R) 2001 - A(R) 2003 - A(R)

<b><i>Asia and the Pacific</i></b>		
Democratic Republic of Congo: Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme	A(R)	2005

\*\* NB: This classification is no longer used by the ICC.

### **B Status institutions**

<b>National institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
<b><i>Asia and the Pacific</i></b>		
Qatar: National Committee for Human Rights	B	Oct 2006 Nov 2008: deferral to March 2009
Sri Lanka: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka	B	2000 A status placed under review March 2007 Reviewed in October 2007
Maldives: Human Rights Commission	B	April 2008
<b><i>Africa</i></b>		
Cameroon: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms	B	1999 - A Oct 2006
Burkina Faso: Commission Nationale des Droits de L'homme	B	2002 - A(R) 2003 - A(R) 2005 (B) April 2006, March 2007
Nigeria: Nigerian Human Rights Commission	B	1999 - A(R) 2000 - A October 2006 (special review) Placed under review March 2007 October 2007
<b><i>Europe</i></b>		
Austria: The Austrian Ombudsman Board	B	2000
Belgium: The Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism	B	1999
The Netherlands: Equal Treatment Commission of The Netherlands	B	1999 - B 2004
Slovakia: National Centre for Human Rights	B	2002 - C October 2007
Slovenia: Republic of Slovenia Human Rights Ombudsman	B	2000
Switzerland: Federal Commission against Racism (FCR)	B	1998
Ukraine: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	B	April 2008

**C Status institutions**

<b>National Institution</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year reviewed</b>
<b><i>Africa</i></b>		
Benin: Commission Béninoise des Droits de L'homme	C	2002
Madagascar: Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme de Madagascar	C	2000 - A(R) 2002 - A(R) 2003 - A(R) Apr 2006 - status withdrawn Oct 2006
<b><i>Americas</i></b>		
Antigua and Barbuda: Office of the Ombudsman	C	2001
Barbados: Office of the Ombudsman	C	2001
Puerto Rico: Oficina del Procurador del Ciudadano del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico	C	March 2007
<b><i>Asia and the Pacific</i></b>		
Hong Kong: Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission	C	2000
Iran: Commission Islamique des Droits de L'homme	C	2000
<b><i>Europe</i></b>		
Romania: Romanian Institute for Human Rights	C	March 2007

**Suspended institutions**

<b><i>Africa</i></b>		
<b><i>Americas</i></b>		
<b><i>Asia and the Pacific</i></b>		
Fiji: Fiji Human Rights Commission	Suspended Note: Fiji resigned from the ICC on 2 April 2007	2000 Accreditation suspended in March 2007 for review in October 2007 Commission resigned from the ICC 2 April 2007
<b><i>Europe</i></b>		

## **Annex II**

### **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Geneva, 21 to 23 April 2008**

#### **Report and Recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC), the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (the Sub-Committee) has the mandate to consider and review applications for accreditation, re-accreditation and special reviews received by the National Institutions Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its capacity as the ICC Secretariat, and to make recommendations to the ICC members with regard to the compliance of applicant institutions with the Paris Principles. The Sub-Committee mandate is to assess compliance with the Paris Principles in law and in practice.
- 1.2.** In accordance with the Sub-Committee Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee is composed of representatives of each region: the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of Germany for Europe (chair), Morocco for Africa (replacing Rwanda)<sup>a</sup>, the Republic of Korea for Asia-Pacific and Canada for the Americas. The Sub-Committee convened from 21 to 23 April 2008. OHCHR participated as a permanent observer and in its capacity as ICC Secretariat.
- 1.3.** Pursuant to article 3(c) of the Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee considered applications for re-accreditation from: Algeria, Ecuador, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mauritius, Niger, Uganda, and Venezuela.
- 1.4.** Pursuant to article 3(c) of the Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee also considered applications for accreditation from Croatia, Great Britain, Maldives, Timor-Leste, and Ukraine.
- 1.5.** The Sub-Committee also discussed the re-accreditation of Luxembourg and Sweden and agreed to defer consideration of these applications to the fall 2008 session.

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<sup>a</sup> The Sub-Committee notes that for the consideration of the Commission National Consultative de Promotion et Protection des Droits de l'Homme of Algeria, Morocco did not participate in the discussion or the decision. The decision was made by the Sub-Committee with the participation of Rwanda.

- 1.6. In accordance with the Paris Principles and the ICC Sub-Committee Rules of Procedure, the different classifications<sup>b</sup> for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are:

- A: Compliance with the Paris Principles;
- B: Observer status - Not fully in compliance with the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination;
- C: Non-compliance with the Paris Principles.

- 1.7. Following the practice commenced at the meeting of the Sub-Committee in October 2006, the Sub-Committee continued to make General Observations in relation to accreditation. These General Observations have been formulated on common or important interpretative issues and are intended to be guidelines for NHRIs concerning the implementation of the Paris Principles. The list of General Observations is not exhaustive and will continue to evolve as the Sub-Committee further considers other applications. The compilation of all General Observations adopted by the ICC classified according to themes contained in the Paris Principles is attached as Annex 1 to this report. The General Observation developed by the Sub-Committee at its April 2008 session (attached as Annex 2) has yet to be adopted by the ICC. The revised General Observation 1.5 on “Cooperation with other human rights institutions” (attached as Annex 3) has yet to be adopted by the ICC.

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends the adoption of the General Observation attached as Annex 2.

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends the adoption of the revised General Observation attached as Annex 3.

- 1.8. The General Observations, as interpretive tools of the Paris Principles, may be used to:

- (a) Instruct institutions when they are developing their own processes and mechanisms, to ensure Paris Principles compliance;
- (b) Persuade domestic governments to address or remedy issues relating to an institution’s compliance with the standards articulated in the General Observations;
- (c) Guide the Sub-Committee on Accreditation in its determination of new accreditation applications, re-accreditation applications or special reviews:

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<sup>b</sup> The Sub-Committee notes that it has discontinued the use of the A(R) classification, pending formal adoption of the amendments to the rules of the ICC.

- (i) If an institution falls substantially short of the standards articulated in the General Observations, it would be open for the Sub-Committee to find that it was not Paris Principle compliant;
  - (ii) If the Sub-Committee has noted concern about an institution's compliance with any of the General Observations, it may consider what steps, if any, have been taken by an institution to address those concerns in future applications. If the Sub-Committee is not provided with proof of efforts to address the General Observations previously made, or offered a reasonable explanation why no efforts had been made, it would be open to the Sub-Committee to interpret such lack of progress as non-compliance with the Paris Principles.
- 1.9.** The Sub-Committee notes that in all applications considered reference could be made to General Observation "Interaction with the International Human Rights System" and encourages all NHRIs to interact consistently with the international human rights system (UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures mandate holders and Human Rights Council, including the UPR), providing information independently of the Government and later ensuring follow up action to recommendations resulting from that system (and to rely on the services of the ICC Representative in Geneva when necessary).
- 1.10.** The Sub-Committee notes that it received the "Guidelines for the Sub-Committee on Accreditation for the application of General Observations" (attached as Annex 4) approved in principle at the 20th session of the ICC in April 2008.
- 1.11.** The Sub-Committee notes that when specific issues are raised in its report in relation to accreditation, re-accreditation and special review, NHRIs are required to address these issues in any subsequent application or special review.
- 1.12.** In accordance with the ICC Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee encourages all accredited NHRIs to inform the ICC at the first available opportunity about circumstances that would negatively affect their ability to meet the standards and obligations of the Paris Principles.
- 1.13.** When the Sub-Committee is to consider particular issues within a specified time-frame, the outcome of the review may affect the accreditation status.
- 1.14.** As provided for in the "Decision Paper on the Review of ICC Accreditation Procedures for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) March 2008" (attached as Annex 5) adopted by the ICC at its 20<sup>th</sup> session in April 2008 (Decision Paper), the results of the accreditation review will first be communicated to the affected NHRI with a time frame of 30 days to respond to the issues addressed by the Sub-Committee members. At the expiration of the 30 days, the report will be sent to the ICC voting members.

- 1.15. As provided for in the Decision Paper, the recommendations from the April 2008 session of the Sub-Committee will be communicated to all ICC voting members, and those members will be asked to adopt them by email within 20 days. All approved recommendations are final decisions. Unapproved decisions are referred for consideration at the next ICC meeting.
- 1.16. As provided for in the Decision Paper, in cases where the Sub-Committee considers a recommendation that would serve to remove accredited status from an applicant institution, the applicant institution is informed of this intention and given the opportunity to provide in writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The concerned institution retains its “A” status during this period.
- 1.17. The Sub-Committee continued to consult with relevant NHRIs and regional coordinating bodies, whenever necessary. This procedure was applied in several cases during the present session. Prior to the session, all concerned NHRIs were requested to provide a name and phone number in case the Sub-Committee needed to contact the Institution. In addition, OHCHR desk officers and, as appropriate, OHCHR field officers were available to provide further information, as needed.
- 1.18. The Sub-Committee would like to acknowledge the high degree of support and professionalism of the staff of the ICC Secretariat (OHCHR National Institutions Unit) which has been essential for the Sub-Committee to conduct its activities.

## 2. ADOPTION OF NEW PROCEDURES

- 2.1. In the ongoing effort to be more transparent, the Sub-Committee continued to develop new procedures.
- 2.2. The Sub-Committee agreed, commencing with its next session, to share the summaries prepared by the Secretariat with each NHRI before the consideration of its application and to give that NHRI one week to comment on the summary. All comments received, together with the summaries, are to be then sent to the members of the Sub-Committee. Once the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are adopted by the ICC according to the procedures, the summaries and the comments will be posted on the NHRI Forum ([www.nhri.net](http://www.nhri.net)). The summaries are prepared only in English, due to current financial constraints.
- 2.3. The Sub-Committee also considers information received from civil society. The Sub-Committee agreed to share that information with the concerned NHRIs.

## 3. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - RE-ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

### 3.1. **Algeria: Commission Nationale Consultative de Promotion et Protection des Droits de l'Homme**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee informs the Commission of its intention to recommend to the ICC **status B**, and gives the Commission the opportunity to provide, in



writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The Commission retains its “A” status during this period.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The Commission has not provided a current annual report but only a compilation of activities covering the period from 2002 to 2004.
- (2) The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Establishment of national institutions” to stress the importance of establishing national institutions in a constitutional or legal text.
- (3) The Chair and the members of the Commission are appointed and dismissed without a clear and transparent process. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Selection and appointment of the governing body”.
- (4) The Sub-Committee encourages the Commission to interact effectively with the United Nations Human Rights system, especially the Treaty Bodies and the following up of the recommendations at the national level, in line with General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.

The Sub-Committee will provide the summary prepared by the Secretariat to the Commission.

### **3.2. Ecuador: Defensoría del Pueblo**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee informs the Defensoría of its intention to recommend to the ICC **status B**, and gives the Defensoría the opportunity to provide, in writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The Defensoría retains its “A” status during this period.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It refers to General Observation “Cooperation with other human rights institutions” and stresses the need for the NHRI to cooperate with other institutions, such as NGOs, established for the purpose of promoting or protecting human rights.
- (2) It also refers to General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System” and stresses that the Defensoría should generally make an input to and participate in these human rights mechanisms and following up at the national level to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights system.

The Constitution of Ecuador is currently under review. This revision should in no way negatively affect the independence and effectiveness of the Defensoría del Pueblo of Ecuador.

The Sub-Committee will provide the summary prepared by the Secretariat to the Defensoría del Pueblo of Ecuador.

### **3.3. Guatemala: Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Procuraduría be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It refers to General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.
- (2) The Procurador should not be required to obtain prior authorization from a judge in order to carry out investigations and should have unannounced and free access to all public premises.

The enabling legislation does not provide for re-election of the Procurador. However, the current Procurador was elected a second time.

### **3.4. Malaysia: National Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee informs the Commission of its intention to recommend to the ICC **status B**, and gives the Commission the opportunity to provide, in writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The Commission retains its “A” status during this period.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The independence of the Commission needs to be strengthened by the provision of clear and transparent appointment and dismissal process in the founding legal documents, more in line with the Paris Principles. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Selection and appointment of the governing body”.
- (2) With regard to the appointment, the Sub-Committee notes the short term of office of the members of the commission (two years). It refers to General Observation “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”.
- (3) It further refers to General Observation “Ensuring pluralism” to highlight the importance of ensuring the representation of different segments of society and their involvement in suggesting or recommending candidates to the governing body of the Commission.
- (4) The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.

The Sub-Committee will provide the summary prepared by the Secretariat to the Commission.

### **3.5. Mauritius: National Human Rights Commission**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It refers to the General Observation “Selection and appointment of the governing body”, in particular to the importance of having in the founding legal documents a broad and formal consultation process in the selection and appointment of members.
- (2) It also refers to General Observation “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies” to highlight the need to entrench transparent and objective criteria for the dismissal of the Commission members in the founding legal documents.
- (3) It further refers to General Observation “Staffing by secondment” to highlight the importance of amending the legislation to allow the Commission to recruit its own staff.

**The Sub-Committee will again consider these issues at its spring 2010 session.**

### **3.6. Niger: Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The need for additional financial resources. It refers to General Observation “Adequate funding”.
- (2) It also refers to General Observation “Encouraging ratification or accession to international human rights instruments”. The Sub-Committee therefore encourages the entrenchment of this function in the enabling legislation of the National Institution to ensure effective protection of human rights.
- (3) It further refers to General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.
- (4) It urges the CNDHLF to comply with Article 20 of Decree No 99-530/PCRN/MJDH of 21 December 1999 by establishing regional antennas of the CNDHLF.

### **3.7. Uganda: Human Rights Commission**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It encourages the Commission to issue public reports on all delicate and critical human rights incidents within the country.

### **3.8. Venezuela: Defensoría del Pueblo**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Defensoría be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It urges the Defensoría del Pueblo of Venezuela to strengthen its efforts to encourage ratification or accession to international human rights instruments and refers to General Observation “Encouraging ratification or accession to international human rights instruments”.
- (2) It also encourages the Defensoría to strengthen its engagement with civil society and refers to General Observation “Cooperation with other human rights institutions”.
- (3) It encourages the Defensoría to continue to interact with the International Human Rights System and stresses the importance of following up at the national level to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights system.

### **3.9. Luxembourg: Commission Consultative des Droits de l’Homme**

The Sub-Committee agreed to defer the consideration of the re-accreditation of the Commission Consultative des Droits de l’Homme of Luxembourg until the fall 2008 session of the Sub-Committee, pending the adoption of the new law regarding the national Institution. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Deferral of re-accreditation applications”.

### **3.10. Sweden: Ombuds-Institutions of Sweden**

In support of the ongoing effort to merge the existing human rights institutions in Sweden, the Sub-Committee agreed at its October 2007 session to defer the consideration of the re-accreditation of the national human rights institution of Sweden until the current Sub-Committee session. The NHRI of Sweden requested a further deferral. The Sub-Committee decided to defer the re-accreditation application to its fall 2008 session. According to General Observation “Deferral of re-accreditation applications”, if the documents required supporting the re-accreditation of the NHRI of Sweden are not received before the fall 2008 session of the Sub-Committee, the accreditation status of the NHRI of Sweden will lapse.

#### 4. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

##### 4.1. Croatia: Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Ombudsman be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It highlights the importance for the Ombudsman to cooperate with the other Ombuds-institutions to ensure coherence and effectiveness of the national human rights protection system.
- (2) It refers to General Observation “Human rights mandate” and urges the mandate of the Ombudsman to be broadened to include promotion of human rights.
- (3) It also refers to General Observation “Adequate funding”, in particular the importance of having sufficient and sustainable funding for the realisation of the organization’s mandate.
- (4) The Sub-Committee encourages the Commission to interact effectively with the United Nations Human Rights system, in line with General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.
- (5) It further refers to General Observation “Ensuring pluralism”, in particular with regard to ethnic minorities.
- (6) It encourages the Ombudsman to strengthen the accessibility of the institution by opening regional offices, in conformity with article 3 of its Standing Orders.

##### 4.2. Maldives: Human Rights Commission

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status B**.

The Sub-Committee notes that the founding legal documents of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives provide that all members of the Commission must be Muslim. The Sub-Committee recommends that this requirement be removed in order for the Commission to be considered to be compliant with the Paris Principles.

The Sub-Committee notes that in practice the Commission has been generally effective in fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights.

The Sub-Committee also notes the following:

- (1) It refers to General Observation “Human Rights mandate”, in particular to expand the mandate of the Commission to cover all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- (2) It also refers to General Observations “Selection and appointment of the governing body” and “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”, in particular the need to ensure a substantiated and transparent dismissal procedure in the founding legal documents.
- (3) The Sub-Committee encourages the Commission to interact effectively with the United Nations Human Rights system, in line with General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.
- (4) The Commission lacks sufficient office space which limits its ability to hire staff to fill the existing high vacancy.

#### **4.3. Timor-Leste: Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Provedoria be accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It refers to General Observation “Adequate funding”, in particular to allocation of funds for adequate accommodation, and ensuring the gradual and progressive realization of the improvement of the organization’s operations and the fulfilment of its mandate.
- (2) It also refers to General Observation “NHRIs during the situation of a coup d’etat or a state of emergency”, in particular highlighting the importance for the Provedoria to continue to be vigilant and independent in the exercise of its mandate.
- (3) The Sub-Committee encourages the Commission to interact effectively with the United Nations Human Rights system, in line with General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”.
- (4) The Provedoria should not be required to provide prior written notice to access, inspect and examine any premises, documents, equipment and assets (per article 42 of the Law 7/2004). The Provedoria should have unannounced and free access to all public premises.

#### **4.4. Ukraine: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status B**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The Commission failed to submit a recent annual report as part of the accreditation requirements. The annual report provided to the Sub-Committee by the Commission is for the year 2004.

- (2) The Commission failed to submit a copy of its budget as part of the accreditation requirements. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “Application process”, in particular subparagraph c).
- (3) It also refers to General Observation “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”, in particular highlighting the importance of engaging with the Treaty Bodies in a fully independent manner.
- (4) It further refers to General Observation “Selection and appointment of the governing body” and General Observation “Ensuring pluralism” to ensure that social forces (of civilian society) are engaged in the process.

#### **4.5. Great Britain: Equality and Human Rights Commission**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that consideration of the application for accreditation of the Commission be deferred to the Sub-Committee spring 2009 session.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission was established in October 2007 and has been operational for six months. The effectiveness of the Commission and its compliance with the Paris Principles could not be determined in the present session.

The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation “More than one national human rights institution in a state” developed by the Sub-Committee at its April 2008 session.

The Sub-Committee will provide the summary prepared by the Secretariat to the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

### **Annex III**

## **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **Report and Recommendations of the Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation**

**Geneva, 3-6 November 2008**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** In accordance with the Statute of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC), the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (the Sub-Committee) has the mandate to consider and review applications for accreditation, re-accreditation and special or other reviews received by the National Institutions Unit of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its capacity as the ICC Secretariat, and to make recommendations to the ICC Bureau members with regard to the compliance of applicant institutions with the Paris Principles. The Sub-Committee assesses compliance with the Paris Principles in law and in practice.
- 1.2.** In accordance with the Sub-Committee Rules of Procedure, the Sub-Committee is composed of representatives of each region: the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of Germany for Europe (chair), Morocco for Africa (replacing Rwanda), the Republic of Korea for Asia-Pacific and Canada for the Americas. The Sub-Committee convened from 03 to 06 November 2008. OHCHR participated as a permanent observer and in its capacity as ICC Secretariat. In accordance with new procedures, regional coordinating bodies of NHRIs were invited to attend as observers. The Sub-Committee welcomed the participation of a representative of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs.
- 1.3.** The Sub-Committee notes the new ICC Statute adopted at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the ICC on 21 October 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya (attached as Annex 1). The Sub-Committee applied these new procedures to its work in the current session, as set out below.
- 1.4.** Pursuant to article 10 of the Statute, the Sub-Committee considered applications for accreditation from Great Britain (Equality and Human Rights Commission), Qatar, Russia, and Switzerland (Commission fédérale pour les questions féminines).
- 1.5.** Pursuant to article 15 of the Statute, the Sub-Committee also considered applications for re-accreditation from: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Thailand.
- 1.6.** Pursuant to article 17 of the Statute, the Sub-Committee reviewed certain issues regarding the NHRIs of Afghanistan and Nepal.



1.7. In accordance with the Paris Principles and the ICC Sub-Committee Rules of Procedure, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are:

- A: Compliance with the Paris Principles;
- B: Observer status - Not fully in compliance with the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination;
- C: Non-compliance with the Paris Principles.

1.8. The Sub-Committee formulated General Observations (attached as Annex 3).

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends the adoption of General Observations attached as Annex 3, provided that, should any member of the ICC Bureau request that one or more of the General Observations be referred to the ICC22 Bureau meeting, that/those General Observation(s) shall be considered by the ICC Bureau at ICC22 in March 2009.

1.9. The General Observations, as interpretative tools of the Paris Principles, may be used to:

- (a) Instruct institutions when they are developing their own processes and mechanisms, to ensure Paris Principles compliance;
- (b) Persuade domestic governments to address or remedy issues relating to an institution's compliance with the standards articulated in the General Observations;
- (c) Guide the Sub-Committee on Accreditation in its determination of new accreditation applications, re-accreditation applications or other review:
  - (i) If an institution falls substantially short of the standards articulated in the General Observations, it will be open for the Sub-Committee to find that it was not Paris Principle compliant;
  - (ii) If the Sub-Committee has noted concern about an institution's compliance with any of the General Observations, it may consider what steps, if any, have been taken by an institution to address those concerns in future applications. If the Sub-Committee is not provided with proof of efforts to address the General Observations previously made, or offered a reasonable explanation why no efforts had been made, it would be open to the Sub-Committee to interpret such lack of progress as non-compliance with the Paris Principles.

1.10. The Sub-Committee notes that in all applications considered reference could be made to the General Observation 1.4 "Interaction with the International Human Rights System" and encourages all NHRIs to interact consistently with the international human rights system (UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures mandate

holders and Human Rights Council, including the UPR), providing information independently of the Government and later ensuring follow up action to recommendations resulting from that system (and to rely on the services of the ICC Representative in Geneva when necessary).

**1.11.** The Sub-Committee notes that in all applications considered reference could be made to the General Observation on 2.6 “Adequate funding”. Provision of adequate funding by the State should, as a minimum include:

- (a) The allocation of funds for adequate accommodation, at least its head office;
- (b) Salaries and benefits awarded to its staff comparable to public service salaries and conditions;
- (c) Remuneration of Commissioners (where appropriate); and
- (d) The establishment of communications systems including telephone and Internet.

Adequate funding should, to a reasonable degree, ensure the gradual and progressive realisation of the improvement of the institution’s operations and the fulfilment of their mandate.

Funding from external sources, such as from development partners, should not compose the core funding of the NHRI as it is the responsibility of the State to ensure the NHRI’s minimum activity budget in order to allow it to operate towards fulfilling its mandate.

Financial systems should be such that the NHRI has complete financial autonomy. This should be a separate budget line over which it has management and control.

**1.12.** The Sub-Committee notes that when specific issues are raised in its report in relation to accreditation, re-accreditation and other review, NHRIs are required to address these issues in any subsequent application or other review.

**1.13.** The Sub-Committee encourages all accredited NHRIs to inform the ICC Bureau at the first available opportunity about circumstances that would negatively affect their ability to meet the standards and obligations of the Paris Principles.

**1.14.** When the Sub-Committee declares its intention to consider particular issues within a specified time-frame, the outcome of the review may lead to a recommendation which may affect the accreditation status. In the event additional issues arise during the course of the review, the Sub-Committee will so notify the NHRI.

**1.15.** As per article 12 of the Statute, where the Sub-Committee on Accreditation comes to an accreditation decision, that decision shall be considered an accreditation status recommendation, with the final decision being taken by the ICC Bureau after the following process has occurred:

- The recommendation of the Sub-Committee shall first be forwarded to the applicant;
  - An applicant can challenge a recommendation by submitting a written challenge to the ICC Chairperson, through the ICC Secretariat, within twenty eight (28) days of receipt;
  - Thereafter the recommendation will be forwarded to the members of the ICC Bureau for decision. If a challenge has been received from the applicant, the challenge together with all relevant material received in connection with both the application and the challenge will also be forwarded to the members of the ICC Bureau;
  - Any member of the ICC Bureau who disagrees with the recommendation shall, within twenty (20) days of its receipt, notify the Chair of the Sub-Committee and the ICC Secretariat. The ICC Secretariat will promptly notify all ICC Bureau members of the objection raised and will provide all necessary information to clarify that objection. If within twenty (20) days of receipt of this information a majority of members of the ICC Bureau notify the ICC Secretariat that they hold a similar objection, the recommendation shall be referred to the next ICC Bureau meeting for decision;
  - If a majority of members do not raise objection to the recommendation within twenty (20) days of its receipt, the recommendation shall be deemed to be approved by the ICC Bureau;
  - The decision of the ICC Bureau on accreditation is final.
- 1.16.** As provided for in the Statute, in cases where the Sub-Committee considers a recommendation that would serve to remove accredited status from an applicant institution, the applicant institution is informed of this intention and given the opportunity to provide in writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The concerned institution retains its “A” status during this period.
- 1.17.** The Sub-Committee continued to consult with concerned NHRIs, where necessary, during its session. Prior to the session, all concerned NHRIs were requested to provide a name and phone number in case the Sub-Committee needed to contact the Institution. In addition, OHCHR desk officers and, as appropriate, OHCHR field officers were available to provide further information, as needed.
- 1.18.** The Sub-Committee acknowledges the high degree of support and professionalism of the staff of the ICC Secretariat (OHCHR National Institutions Unit).

## **2. ADOPTION OF NEW PROCEDURES**

- 2.1.** The Sub-Committee continued to develop its procedures in the ongoing effort to advance the principles of rigour, transparency, and fairness of the accreditation process.
- 2.2.** The November 2008 session of the Sub-Committee was open to NHRI regional coordinating committees to attend as observers. All four committees were invited to participate. A representative of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs attended the session. The Sub-Committee encourages the participation of all regional coordinating committees in future sessions.
- 2.3.** The Sub-Committee shared the summaries prepared by the Secretariat with the concerned NHRIs before the consideration of their applications and they were given one week to comment on them. All comments received, together with the summaries, were then sent to the members of the Sub-Committee. Once the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are adopted by the ICC Bureau, according to the procedures, the summaries and the comments and the statement of compliance will be posted on the NHRI Forum ([www.nhri.net](http://www.nhri.net)). The summaries are currently only prepared in English, due to current financial constraints.
- 2.4.** The Sub-Committee considered information received from civil society. The Sub-Committee shared that information with the concerned NHRIs and considered their responses.
- 2.5.** The Sub-Committee agreed, commencing with its next session, to consider only that information from civil society that is received by the National Institutions Unit at least four (4) months prior to the next session of the Sub-Committee.

## **3. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - NEW ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS**

### **3.1. Great Britain: Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the EHRC be accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee acknowledges the EHRC met all of the mandatory requirements set out in General Observation 6.6 “More than one National Institution in a State”. It emphasizes the importance of further developing cooperation between the EHRC, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. It also refers to General Observation 1.5 “Cooperation with other human rights institutions”.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) In the current effort to unify the different anti-discrimination and equality legislation, it is important that the views of the EHRC be considered. It recommends that:

- (a) The functions of the EHRC be expanded to give it an explicit mandate to protect human rights, including the power to receive and determine complaints on human rights violations;
- (b) The EHRC's mandate be expanded to include explicit powers regarding the harmonisation of national legislation with international human rights instruments and principles, and the encouragement of their ratification and implementation. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 1.3 "Encouraging ratification or accession to international human rights instruments";
- (c) The Equality Act include a specific reference to pluralism with regard to the appointments process. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observations 2.1 "Ensuring pluralism" and 2.2 "Selection and appointment of the governing body";
- (d) The grounds for dismissal of a Commissioner be more clearly defined. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.9 "Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies".

The Sub-Committee also notes the requirement for the Minister's consent in relation to the following issues: payment of Commissioners; the numbers, terms and conditions of staff appointments; and the appointment of investigating commissioners. The Sub-Committee emphasizes that this relationship should not negatively influence the EHRC's ability to function independently. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 1.6 "Recommendations by NHRIs".

### **3.2. Qatar: National Committee for Human Rights (NCHR)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that consideration of the application of the NCHR be **deferred** to the March 2009 Sub-Committee session **while keeping its current accreditation B Status**.

The Sub-Committee notes that insufficient information was provided for it to make a determination and encourages the NCHR to seek advice and assistance from OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs.

### **3.3. Russia: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHR)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the OCHR be accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It recommends that the OCHR engage systematically with the international human rights system as well as the European human rights system. The Sub-Committee emphasizes the importance of General Observation 1.4 "Interaction with the international human rights system";

- (2) It encourages the continued interaction of the OCHR with civil society organizations;
- (3) It encourages the OCHR to institutionalize the cooperation with the regional human rights institutions of the subjects of the Russian Federation and refers to General Observation 1.5 “Cooperation with other human rights institutions”. The Sub-Committee acknowledges the existence of the Coordination Council;
- (4) It refers to General Observation 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body” and in particular the need for the appointment process to be transparent;
- (5) It refers to General Observation 1.6 “Recommendations by NHRIs”.

### **3.4. Switzerland: Commission fédérale pour les questions féminines (CFQF)**

**Recommendation:** After consideration of the application of the CFQF, the Sub-Committee is not satisfied that the CFQF is in compliance with the Paris Principles and recommends that the application be **deferred**, to allow the CFQF to take such steps as necessary to expand its powers. The Sub-Committee encourages the CFQF to also consider consolidating together with other existing human rights commissions in Switzerland into a comprehensive NHRI with a broad mandate in line with the Paris Principles.

## **4. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - RE-ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS**

### **4.1. Albania: People’s Advocate (PA)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the People’s Advocate (PA) be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It recommends that the mandate of the PA be strengthened to include human rights promotion and refers to General Observation 1.2 “Human rights mandate”;
- (2) It refers to the importance for the PA to be accessible as requested by the Paris Principles and in this regard recommends the establishment of a permanent regional presence, for example through regional offices;
- (3) It refers to the need for the PA to systematically interact with the international human rights system and further refers to General Observation 1.4 “Interaction with the International Human Rights System”;
- (4) It stresses the importance for the PA to have a transparent appointments process, based on a broad advertisement of the vacancy and a broad consultation. It further refers to General Observation 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body”.

The Sub-Committee notes with concern the lack of dialogue and follow up by the Parliament to the work of the PA despite the provisions contained in the Law on the People’s Advocate.

#### **4.2. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Human Rights Ombudsman (HRO)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that consideration of the application for re-accreditation of the HRO **be deferred**.

In support of the ongoing effort to merge the existing human rights institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Sub-Committee agreed to defer the consideration of the re-accreditation of the national human rights institution of Bosnia and Herzegovina until the October/November 2009 session of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 6.2 “Deferral of re-accreditation applications”, in particular to stress the timeframe contained in the General Observation and adopted by the ICC.

#### **4.3. Germany: German Institute for Human Rights (GIHR)**

The Sub-Committee reviewed this application in the absence of the German representative on the Sub-Committee.

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the GIHR be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It refers to the importance for the GIHR to further broaden its mandate to include complaint handling functions;
- (2) It stresses the importance of ensuring pluralism at all levels in the GIHR on a more permanent and formal basis and in a manner distinct from the length of the contracts of the staff in particular with regard to gender balance and ethnic diversity. It also underlines the need to clarify the contradiction between articles 9(1) and 11(3) of the GIHR Statutes in order to ensure that the Board of Trustees provides a written explanation for rejecting an application for General Membership or for expelling a member. In this context the Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism”;
- (3) While article 24(2) of the GIHR’s Statute provide that the German Government’s representatives on the Board of the Trustees have no voting rights, article 24(1) indicates that two of the GIHR’s Trustees must be members of the German’s Bundestag’s Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. The Statute does not exclude these representatives from voting on decisions made by the Board of Trustees. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.3 “Government representatives on national institutions”.

The Sub-Committee expresses its concern that the GIHR is founded by a Motion of the Bundestag (Motion 14/4801). Notwithstanding the fact that the Motion was unanimously adopted and that the GIHR is functioning independently and effectively under this arrangement, the Sub-Committee reiterates the need for an NHRI to be established in a constitutional or legal text and therefore recommends the adoption of a stronger legal basis

for the Institute. It refers to General Observation 1.1 “Establishment of national institutions”.

It also highlights the need for the GIHR to broaden its mandate to include the protection functions as contained in General Observation 1.2 “Human rights mandate”.

#### **4.4. Ghana: Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the CHRAJ be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The CHRAJ’s most recent annual report is for the year 2005. This made it more difficult for the Sub-Committee to review the CHRAJ. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 6.7 “NHRI Annual Report”;
- (2) It highlights the desirability of ensuring that the composition of the Council of State explicitly includes members of civil society and other social forces and, in this regard, refers to General Observation 2.1 “Ensuring Pluralism”.

#### **4.5. Ireland: Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the IHRC be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The process for appointing Commissioners adopted by the Government in 2006 ought to be formalized in the IHRC’s enabling legislation to guarantee ongoing transparency. It refers to General Observation 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body”;
- (2) The grounds for dismissal of a Commissioner ought to be more clearly defined. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.9 “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”;
- (3) The IHRC should be able to independently conduct its affairs without undue interference from the Government. This could include having direct accountability to Parliament. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.10 “Administrative regulation”.

The Sub-Committee notes that under Section 22 of the IHRC’s enabling legislation, its financial grant is determined by the Minister for Justice with the consent of the Minister for Finance.



The Sub-Committee expresses deep concern about plans to significantly reduce the IHRC's budget for 2009. This would undermine the IHRC's capacity to carry out its mandate effectively and threatens its financial autonomy. The Sub-Committee urges that this plan be reconsidered. It refers to General Observation 2.6 "Adequate funding".

#### **4.6. Kenya: National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the NCHR be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It highlights the need for the NCHR to have financial autonomy, including by submitting its budget directly to Parliament;
- (2) It stresses the importance for the NCHR to receive adequate funding in order to hire the necessary staff and to be able to establish a permanent regional presence, for example through regional offices. It refers to General Observation 2.6 "Adequate funding";
- (3) It underlines the need to entrench in the mandate of the NCHR the encouragement of ratification or accession to international human rights instruments and refers to General Observation 1.3 "Encouraging ratification or accession to international human rights instruments".

#### **4.7. Luxembourg: Commission Consultative des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee informs the CCDH of its **intention to recommend to the ICC Bureau status B**, and gives the CCDH the opportunity to provide, in writing, within one year of such notice, the documentary evidence deemed necessary to establish its continued conformity with the Paris Principles. The CCDH **retains its "A status" during this period**.

The Sub-Committee acknowledges that the Draft Law of 2008 (*Projet de Loi No. 5882*) was unanimously adopted by the Chamber of Deputies on 22 October. The Sub-Committee further acknowledges the CCDH is developing an internal regulatory document.

The Sub-Committee considers the following issues need to be addressed:

- (1) Neither the Règlement de 2000 nor the *Projet de Loi* imposes any legal requirements to ensure the pluralism of the institution's membership and staff composition. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.1 "Ensuring pluralism";
- (2) Article 4 (1) of the *Projet de Loi* establishes the exclusive authority of the Government to nominate members of the CCDH without consultation. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.2 "Selection and Appointment of the Governing Body";

- (3) The grounds for dismissal of the CCDH's members are not specified in the *Projet de Loi*. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.9 "Guarantee of Tenure for Members of Governing Bodies";
- (4) None of the CCDH's members occupies a permanent full-time position. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.8 "Full-time Members";
- (5) The CCDH's annual budget for non-post expenditures has been set for the past 3 years at 12,500 EUR. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.6 "Adequate funding". There is also no indication that the CCDH exercises budgetary autonomy;
- (6) The *Projet de Loi* does not provide CCDH members with functional immunity. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.5 "Immunity";
- (7) The CCDH should further develop relationships with civil society. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 1.5 "Cooperation with other human rights institutions".

#### **4.8. Mongolia: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the NHRC be re-accredited **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It stresses the need for adequate funding provided by the state and refers to General Observation 2.6 "Adequate Funding";
- (2) It acknowledges that the NHRC is seeking to secure premises that are separate from government offices and which are accessible, including for persons with disabilities;
- (3) It stresses the importance for the NHRC to establish a permanent regional presence, for example through regional offices;
- (4) It expresses its appreciation to the NHRC for having carried out its mandate in a difficult and volatile political and security related situation and stresses the need for the NHRC to be vigilant in monitoring, promoting and protecting human rights. It refers to General Observation 5.1 "NHRIs during the situation of a coup d'état or a state of emergency";
- (5) It recommends that the appointments process be transparent and that consultation and engagement with civil society be enhanced. It refers to General Observation 2.2 "Appointments procedure";
- (6) It notes the requirement to provide the Sub-Committee with a translated executive summary of the annual human rights report. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 6.7 "NHRI annual report".

#### **4.9. Paraguay: Defensoría del Pueblo (DP)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the DP be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) Salaries of staff members of the DP are lower than those of civil servants performing similar tasks in other institutions of the State. The Sub-Committee emphasizes the need to allocate a sufficient amount of resources for activities. It refers to General Observation 2.6 “Adequate funding”;
- (2) It encourages the DP to interact consistently with the international human rights system, in particular the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures Mandate Holders and Human Rights Council, including the UPR. It refers to General Observation 1.4 “Interaction with other human rights institutions”;
- (3) It also encourages the DP to consistently interact with civil society and refers to General Observation 1.5 “Cooperation with other human rights institutions” in this regard.

#### **4.10. Republic of Korea: National Human Rights Commission (NHRCK)**

The Sub-Committee reviewed this application in the absence of the Korean representative on the Sub-Committee.

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the NHRCK be re-accredited with **status A**.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The NHRCK is considered a “central government institution” under the National Fiscal Act and as such does not enjoy complete functional autonomy from the Government. This is in contrast to “independent institutions”, which are constitutionally entrenched;
- (2) Under article 5 of the founding Act, the process of appointing Commissioners, on nomination from the President, the National Assembly or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, does not provide for formal public consultation in the recruitment and scrutiny of candidates nor for the participation of civil society. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observations 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism” and 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body” and encourages the adoption of procedures that ensure a broad and transparent appointment process. This should be done through public advertisement and a broad consultation procedure;
- (3) It acknowledges the action taken during the recent Candle Light Vigils and encourages the NHRCK to consider issuing public statements and reports through the media in a timely manner to address urgent human rights violations;

- (4) It stresses the need for the NHRCK to have more autonomy to appoint its own staff in a manner that does not unnecessarily delay the fulfilment of the NHRCK needs. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.7 “Staff of an NHRI”.

The Sub-Committee expresses its concern about the recent proposal to place the Commission directly under the Office of the President and subsequent interventions in the Commission’s financial and administrative affairs. It refers to General Observation 2.10 “Administrative regulation”.

#### **4.11. Sweden: Equal Opportunities Ombudsman (EEO)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the accreditation status of the EEO lapse.

The Sub-Committee on Accreditation has been informed that legislation consolidating the four current ombuds-institutions will come into force and effect on 1 January 2009.

As per General Observation 6.2 “Deferral of re-accreditation applications”, the Sub-Committee recommends the lapse of the accreditation status of the EEO. It invites the new institution to apply for accreditation.

#### **4.12. Thailand: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommends that the NHRC be re-accredited status A.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) The NHRC is located at the Anti-Money Laundering Office, which is heavily guarded by police forces. The Sub-Committee acknowledges that the NHRC is seeking to secure separate premises. It recommends that accessibility be further enhanced by establishing permanent regional presence, for example through regional offices. It refers to General Observation 2.6 “Adequate Funding”;
- (2) The Sub-Committee emphasizes the need for broad consultation in the nomination and selection of Commission members, including with civil society and vulnerable groups. It refers to General Observations 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism” and 2.2 “The selection and appointment of the governing body”;
- (3) The NHRC’s permanent staff members are seconded from various government ministries. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observations 2.4 “Staffing by secondment” and 2.7 “Staff of an NHRI”;
- (4) The UN Human Rights Committee expressed its concern that many of NHRC’s recommendations to the relevant authorities have not been implemented and given serious follow-up. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 1.6 “Recommendations by NHRIs”;

- (5) The grounds for dismissal of a Commissioner ought to be more clearly defined. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.9 “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”.

## **5. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - REVIEWS UNDER ARTICLE 17**

### **5.1. Afghanistan: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee confirms the **status A** accreditation of the Commission.

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- (1) It expresses its appreciation to the AIHRC for carrying out its mandate in a difficult and volatile political and security related context and encourages the AIHRC to continue its vigilant role in monitoring, promoting and protecting human rights. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 5.1 “NHRIs during the situation of a coup d’état or a state of emergency”;
- (2) It recognizes the need for the international community to continue to engage and support the AIHRC in order to ensure it receives adequate funding, until such time when the State will be able to cover the AIHRC’s adequate funding. The AIHRC should ensure the coordinated, transparent and accountable management of funding.

The Sub-Committee expresses its concern over any attempt to undermine the effectiveness and independence of the AIHRC, in particular through financial or budgetary constraints and/or amendments of its legal structure. Any reform, particularly to the appointment process, should only aim at enhancing the AIHRC’s independence, transparency and effectiveness.

### **5.2. Nepal: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

**Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee confirms the **status A** accreditation of the NHRC.

The Sub-Committee acknowledges NHRC's response to the concerns it raised in October 2007, particularly with regard to the issue of financial autonomy. Having completed its review, it also reiterates the comments it made in its October 2007 report regarding adequate funding and selection and appointment of the governing body.

In the course of the review, the Sub-Committee noted that the NHRC legislation has not yet been adopted by the Parliament and therefore it encourages the NHRC to promote the development of legislation in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

The Sub-Committee encourages the NHRC to increase its cooperation with statutory institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as civil society organizations. It refers to General Observation 1.5 “Cooperation with other human rights institutions”.

**The Sub-Committee will again consider these issues at its October/November 2009 session.**

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