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

Information presented by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF),** 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.

* National human rights institution with “A”-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

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

Annex

[English only]

APF Action Plan on the Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality¹

The Amman Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted at the 11th International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions on the Promotion of Human Rights on the theme of Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Amman, Jordan, on the 5th to 7th of November 2012. Subsequent to the adoption of the Declaration, member institutions of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) adopted the ‘APF Action Plan on the Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality’ as their implementation plan for the Declaration’s Programme of Action. The text of the APF Action Plan follows.

The APF reaffirms its:

- Commitments made at APF 16 in 2011 to mainstream gender equality into APF objectives and work; and
- Commitments towards the implementation of the Advisory Council of Jurists recommendations in relation to gender.

APF member institutions agree to:

1. Continue advocacy for independent participation rights for A-status NHRIs at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly;
2. Monitor the State Party’s implementation of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol and engage in the periodic examinations, reporting processes and development of general recommendations under the treaty, as well as engage in the communication and inquiries process under the Optional Protocol, where appropriate;
3. Engage with the UPR and monitor the State’s implementation of the recommendations on women and girl’s rights that have been accepted in the UPR;
4. Mainstream women’s and children’s issues in engagement with all Treaty Bodies and Special Procedure Mandate Holders to promote the human rights of women and girls and follow up the State’s implementation of recommendations relating to women and girl’s human rights;

¹ The APF comprises 19 national human rights institutions: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Australian Human Rights Commission; National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh; National Human Rights Commission of India; Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM); Jordan National Centre for Human Rights; National Human Rights Commission of Korea; Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM); Human Rights Commission of the Maldives; National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia; Myanmar National Human Rights Commission; National Human Rights Commission of Nepal; New Zealand Human Rights Commission; Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights; Philippines Commission on Human Rights; National Human Rights Committee of Qatar; Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand; Timor-Leste Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice.

5. Engage with regional intergovernmental bodies such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the League of Arab States (LAS), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on issues relating to human rights of women and girls;
 6. Monitor the promotion and protection of the full range of women's human rights at the national level;
 7. Work closely with specialised commissions for women and children, where they exist, ensuring that their work on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls is complementary and mutually supportive;
 8. Work in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and other civil society organisations to promote and protect women's and girl's human rights;
 9. Give particular attention to the needs and problems of women who are human rights defenders or who suffer discrimination because of the human rights issues they raise;
 10. Encourage States to adopt and implement a national human rights action plan, which should mainstream and prioritise the rights of women and girls;
 11. Promote the implementation of international treaty commitments into domestic legislation, policy and practice;
 12. Monitor the promotion and protection of the full range of women's economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights at the national level using benchmarks such as the Millennium Development Goals and the UNDP's Gender Empowerment Index to assess the progress made by States;
 13. Strengthen APF member institutions' capacities (particularly to support them in undertaking points 4 to 6) by developing and implementing a blended learning training programme on the human rights of women and girls and the role of NHRIs;
 14. Provide good practice case studies on the promotion and protection of women and girl's human rights to the APF for a possible compilation;
 15. Strive for gender equality across all levels of governance, leadership and staff positions in NHRIs and ensuring that NHRI workplaces are free of sexual harassment, violence and bullying; and
 16. Report on these actions and developments at APF annual meetings starting from 2013.
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