



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/7/NI/5
21 February 2008

Original: ENGLISH

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Seventh session
Agenda item 9

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED FORMS OF INTOLERANCE, FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

**Information presented by the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Greek National
Commission for Human Rights, the French Consultative Commission of Human Rights,
the Jordanian Centre for Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights¹**

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council has received the following communication², which is reproduced below in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, Rule 7(b), which states that “Participation of national human rights institutions shall be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005”.

¹ The submitting National Human Rights Institutions have “A status” accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

² Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

ANNEX

Second Arab – European Human Right Dialogue meeting for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NIs), 21 – 23 October 2007, Copenhagen

The second Arab-European human rights dialogue for national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (NIs) held in Copenhagen was devoted to the theme of discrimination. The meeting was organised by the DIHR (Danish Institute for Human Rights) and the NCHRJ (National Center for Human Rights of Jordan). Representatives from European and Arab NIs and academic institutions participated in the meeting. A list of participating institutions is annexed.

Recalling the recommendations of the 2002 Copenhagen Meeting for NIs on Racism, Intolerance and Xenophobia and the 2006 Santa Cruz Meeting for NIs addressing migration.

Reaffirming that the NIs in the European and Arab regions should conform to the Paris Principles adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 48/134, 20 December 1993, and should continuously strengthen their role as independent NIs promoting and protecting human rights. As part of this role, the NIs should work to eliminate all forms of discrimination affirming that the principle of non-discrimination is fundamental to the protection and fulfilment of human rights.

Emphasizing that discrimination in this declaration is defined in accordance with the definitions of ICERD and CEDAW as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment, exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental rights in the political, economic, social and cultural or any other field of public life.

Underlining that as NIs we have an obligation to move beyond non-discrimination towards a vision encompassing an inclusive society that guarantees full and equal access to human rights, recognizes and respects the diversities and differences of identities based on gender, origin, religion and beliefs and acknowledging that we are all equal.

Noting that the Arab and European dialogue meeting has identified severe challenges with regard to discrimination in both regions.

Declaring that the NIs from the two regions agree to develop and strengthen regional and cross-regional collaboration aimed at exchanging experiences and good practices that support NIs in their endeavours to promote and protect human rights at the national level.

Recommendations

The participants agree to commit themselves to:

1. Work towards securing national legal frameworks promoting and protecting human rights. In order to accomplish this and while recalling the Berlin Declaration of 2006 on the role of NIs and treaty bodies, we should work to:
 - a. ensure that our respective states ratify international human rights treaties and remove reservations contrary to the principle of non-discrimination, and
 - b. promote that states open for individual complaints handling under ICERD and CEDAW.
 - c. ensure consistency between international human rights law and national legislation through the implementation of the recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures in national law.
2. Play a key role through joint research and analysis in developing a knowledge base necessary to develop indicators and criteria that can be utilised to:
 - a. document and publicise facts,
 - b. monitor and report human rights violations resulting from discrimination,
 - c. contribute to developing national strategies and plans comprising activities to be implemented in collaboration with strategic partners and aiming at raising awareness, educating and training relevant stakeholders.
3. Work with strategic partners and stakeholders including civil society organisations, local and central government agencies (municipalities, ministries and state organisations), private business sector, judiciary, parliament, academia and the media.
4. Work to ensure free and effective assistance for victims of discrimination and promote the creation of easily accessible complaints handling mechanisms guaranteeing everyone to obtain redress for violations of prohibition against discrimination.
5. Work together in order to explore opportunities for common activities and interventions aimed at ending discrimination and protecting human rights in both regions. Furthermore, to explore the institutionalisation of the NIs Arab-European Network with the aim of strengthening collaboration.

The List of participants:

Country	Name of Institute	Names of Participants
Denmark	The Danish Institute for Human Rights	Mr. Morten Kjaerum, Ms. Birgitte Kofod Olsen, Ms. Kristine Yigen, Ms.Mette Appel Pallesen, Ms. Lis Dhundale, Ms Eva Marie Lassen, Mr.Morton Winston, Ms. Birgit Lindsnaes, Ms. Mandana Zarrehparvar, Mr. Anders Buhelt, Ms. Lone Lindholdt, Mr. Fergus Kerrigan, Mr.Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, Ms. Trine Pertou Mach
Sweden	Raoul Wallenberg Institute	Mr. Rolf Ring, Ms. Hanna Johnsson
Norway	Norwegian Centre for Human Rights	Mr. Njål Høstmælingen
Norway	The Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud	Ms. Beate Gangås [
France	National Consultative Commission of Human Rights	Mme. Cécile Riou-Batista
Netherlands	Non-discrimination Law Faculty of Law - Dep. of Public Law	Prof. Hendrika Holtmaat

Greece	Greek National Commission for Human Rights	Mr. Kostis Papaioannou,
Finland	Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University	Ms. Katarina Frostell
Sweden	The Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination	Ms. Katri Linna, Mr. Jamal Nijim
	International Service for Human Rights, Geneva	Mr. Chris Sidoti
Palestine	Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights	Ms. Randa Saniora, Dr. Camille Mansour
Egypt	National Council for Human Rights in Egypt	Dr. Salah Amer
Algeria	The Consultative committee for the development and protection of human rights in Algeria	Ms. Rihab Farida Al-Mouloda Hsees, Ms. Zaitoun Bayah

Morocco	The consultative council for human rights in Morocco	Mr. Mohammed Mustafa Raissouni, Mr. Idris Ajbali
Qatar	The national commission for human rights in Qatar	Mr. Jaber Hweil, Ms. Ghada Darweesh
Tunisia	Commission for human rights and fundamental freedom in Tunisia	Mr. Moncer Rouissi, Dr. Mohamed Habib Slim
Saudi Arabia	Commission for human rights in Saudi Arabia	Dr. Khalid Sulieman Alobaid, Mr. Ali Hasan Almestneer
Yemen	Ministry of human rights in Yemen	Mr. Ali Saleh Tayseer, Mr. Adel Mohammed Ahmed Il-Yazeedi
Jordan	National Center for Human Rights – Jordan	H.E. Shaher Bak, Ms. Bushra Abu Shahout
