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4 November 2011

Dear Mrs. Høgdah,

As Secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), I am writing to inform you of the recommendations that the ICC Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) has made regarding the re-accreditation of your institution, which was considered at the SCA's session in Geneva from 25-28 October 2011.

In accordance with article 12 of the ICC Statute (attached herewith), your institution may challenge the recommendations by submitting a letter to the ICC Chairperson, through OHCHR National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this letter.

Thereafter, the recommendations will be forwarded to the members of the ICC Bureau for approval. If a challenge from your institution is received, the challenge together with all relevant materials will also be forwarded to the ICC Bureau. The decision of the ICC Bureau on accreditation will be considered final. The report will be made public following adoption by the ICC Bureau.

Please direct any future correspondence on the recommendation to [vstefanov@ohchr.org](mailto:vstefanov@ohchr.org), copied to [sshahidzadeh@ohchr.org](mailto:sshahidzadeh@ohchr.org), [Nfellow3@ohchr.org](mailto:Nfellow3@ohchr.org) and [nliza-doyen@ohchr.org](mailto:nliza-doyen@ohchr.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Afarin Shahidzadeh".

Afarin Shahidzadeh  
Secretary ICC Sub-Committee on Accreditation  
Deputy Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section

Ms. Kristin Høgdah  
Director of National Institution  
Norwegian Centre for Human Rights  
St. Olavs plass  
P.O. Box 6706  
NO-0130 Oslo, Norway

## Report and Recommendations Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)

Geneva, 25 – 28 October 2011

### **SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS - RE-ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS (Art. 15 of the ICC Statute)**

#### **Norway: Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR)**

**Recommendation:** The SCA informs the NCHR of its intention to recommend to the ICC Bureau that the NCHR be accredited with **B status**, and gives the institution 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 NCHR retains its **A status** during this period.

The SCA notes:

During the 2009 Universal Periodic Review of Norway, the NCHR submitted a stakeholder report in which it requested that the Norwegian Government review the work, organizational structure and resource base of the NCHR. The Norwegian Government responded positively to this request and initiated a comprehensive review in collaboration with the NCHR in early 2010.

The NCHR has a dual role as a department of the University of Oslo and a NHRI, and the SCA understands that the University of Oslo intends to terminate the NCHR's role as a NHRI by the end of 2012. The NCHR, in collaboration with the Norwegian Government, intends on developing a strategy for follow-up and establishment of a Paris Principle compliant NHRI.

The SCA notes that the NCHR, as presently constituted, is not fully Paris Principle compliant, but given the stated intention of the NHRC to develop a strategy for the establishment of a Paris Principles compliant NHRI before the end of 2012, the SCA wishes to provide guidance to the NCHR and the Norwegian Government for matters to consider in developing the strategy.

The SCA recommends that:

1. An inclusive and consultative process to ensure broad support for a new NHRI should be initiated by the Government without delay. The process should include the NCHR, civil society groups and other stakeholders;
2. Irrespective of the institutional model chosen, the new national human rights institution must be established in conformity with the Paris Principles, in particular be established by an Act of Parliament, or preferably by Constitutional provision;
3. The legislation should ensure that the new NHRI is an independent body with the necessary resources and capacity to fulfil a broad mandate to both protect and promote human rights;
4. Without delay and in close consultation with the NCHR, the Norwegian government should develop a strategy for the interim period with clear commitments to uphold as a minimum, the current level of NCHR work until a new NHRI has been established. That portion of the existing budget earmarked for the NHRI should go directly to NHRI work;
5. In the interim period, the NCHR should make every effort to continue the NHRI work it undertakes particularly in relation to conducting human rights monitoring, documentation and advocacy, and to enhance its current knowledge base, work methods, and independent functioning.



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF  
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ICC)

<p><b>Art. 12</b></p>	<p>Where the Sub-Committee on Accreditation comes to an accreditation recommendation, it shall forward that recommendation to the ICC Bureau whose decision is final subject to the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The recommendation of the Sub-Committee shall first be forwarded to the applicant;</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ 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;</li> <li>▪ 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 at least four members of the ICC Bureau coming from not less than two regional groups notify the ICC Secretariat that they hold a similar objection, the recommendation shall be referred to the next ICC Bureau meeting for decision;</li> <li>▪ If at least four members coming from two or more regional groups 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;</li> <li>▪ The decision of the ICC Bureau on accreditation is final.</li> </ul>
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