UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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AGENDA ITEM 2
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Statement by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for
the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the ICC)

4 March 2013

Mr. President,
Madam High Commissioner,

On behalf of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion
and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) I wish to you thank you, Madam High Commissioner, for
your efforts to promote and protect human rights across the world.

The ICC and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continue to work in
partnership to support the establishment and strengthening of independent and effective National
Human Rights Institutions (NHRI s) in line with the United Nations Paris Principles.

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of three significant NHRI milestones:

- The 1993 Vienna Declaration and Program of Action affirmed the ‘important and
  constructive role’ played by NHRI s and called on each State to establish one.1
- 1993 also saw the UN General Assembly endorse the Paris Principles as the international
  minimum standards for NHRI s.
- Third, and of no small consequence to us, 1993 marked the ICC’s establishment as the
  international NHRI network. Since this time, NHRI s have grown in both number and
  importance, as recognised in the resolutions and decisions of this Council and by the General
  Assembly.

In this anniversary year, the ICC will strengthen its work to support the implementation of the
strategy priorities that it shares with OHCHR.

While the role of NHRI s is not prominent in your report, we know that you appreciate the
importance of NHRI s in taking forward our shared strategic priorities. We are your natural partners
and work in close cooperation with you and your country offices on a wide range of issues,
including:

- The establishment and strengthening of effective, independent national human rights
  institutions, with broad mandates and core functions in line with the Paris Principles;

- In light of your focus on the promotion of gender equality and women’s human rights, we
  would like to recall the Amman Declaration and Program of Action on NHRI s, women rights
  and gender equality, we urge all members states and all stakeholders to take a close look at
  the provisions therein as they represent important, concrete and implementable proposals;

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1 Part I, paragraph 36.
• The establishment of new Special Procedures mandates, commissions of inquiry and fact finding missions; and

• The second round of the Universal Periodic Review.

Finally, as highlighted in your report, the ICC and its members remain committed to actively contribute to the treaty body strengthening process. We expect the process to continue to be conducted in an open and transparent manner, with participation from all stakeholders, including NHRIs.

Thank you Mr. President.